

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

WOMEN AND NUTRITION: WOMEN IN NUTRITIOUS FOODS VALUE CHAINS

Issued by

The Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN)

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I. PROJECT BACKGROUND AND SCOPE OF WORK

1. ABOUT GAIN

The Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) is a Swiss-based foundation launched at the UN in 2002 to tackle the human suffering caused by malnutrition. Working with both governments and businesses, we aim to transform food systems so that they deliver more nutritious food for all people.

At GAIN, we believe that everyone in the world should have access to nutritious and safe food. We work to understand and deliver specific solutions to the daily challenge of food insecurity faced by poor people. By understanding that there is no “one-size-fits-all” model, we develop alliances and build tailored programmes, using a variety of flexible models and approaches.

We build alliances between governments, local and global businesses, and civil society to deliver sustainable improvements at scale. We are part of a global network of partners working together to create sustainable solutions to malnutrition. Through alliances, we provide technical, financial and policy support to key participants in the food system. We use specific learning, evidence of impact, and results of projects and programmes to shape and influence the actions of others.

Headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, GAIN has representative offices in The Netherlands, the United Kingdom, and the United States. In addition, we have country offices in Bangladesh, Benin, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, Pakistan, Tanzania, and Uganda. Programmes and projects are carried out in a variety of other countries, particularly in Africa and Asia.

2. BACKGROUND

GAIN is issuing this Request for Proposal (RFP) and will be the administrative lead organisation for this RFP.

In 2022, GAIN launched the Nourishing Food Pathways (NFP) program, aimed at accelerating progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), specifically emphasizing SDG2 (Zero Hunger). NFP is designed to facilitate inclusive and cohesive transformation within food systems across ten countries (Mozambique, Ethiopia, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Indonesia, Kenya, Nigeria, Tanzania, Benin, and India).

One of the workstreams under NFP is focused on aligning and increasing private sector finance for food system transformation. This includes working with Development Finance Institutions (DFIs) to incentivise them to invest in nutrition, and strengthen the broader ecosystem, improving awareness, capacity, and commitment among investors to support the development of nutrition as an investment theme.

DFIs are already committed to investing in women as part of the 2X Challenge, an initiative launched at the G7 Summit 2018 as a bold commitment to inspire DFIs/International Financial Institutions (IFIs) and the broader private sector to invest in the world's women. Our goal is to highlight how investing in nutrition has a significant positive impact on women and is therefore in alignment with the 2X Challenge.

Within our global food system and agrifood value chains, women play a significant role in food production, processing, and distribution. 36% of women globally and over 65% of women in certain regions such as sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia earn their living from the agriculture sector¹.

The purpose of this RFP is to engage an expert consultant to conduct a comprehensive analysis of the impact on women by investing along nutritious value chains within Low- and Middle-Income Countries (LMIC) in Latin America, Sub-Saharan Africa, and South Asia. The assignment's objective is to analyse women's involvement across different segments in identified value chains (including dairy, fruits and vegetables, aquaculture, poultry

¹ FAO. 2023. The status of women in agrifood systems. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc5343en>

and fortified flours, amongst others), showcase investment opportunities in (preferably women-led) Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) involved in these value chains, and assess how these investments align with the 2X criteria. These outputs will serve as invaluable resources to aid DFIs' decision-making regarding potential investments in nutrition, emphasizing alignment with organizational goals, and gender inclusivity. Interested consultants are encouraged to submit proposals outlining their capabilities, approach, and dedication to achieving these objectives.

3. SCOPE OF WORK AND DELIVERABLES

The successful applicant shall present the following services:

- Conduct a comprehensive analysis of nutritious value chains in Latin America, Sub-Saharan Africa, and South Asia where women play a significant role. In each region, up to two nutritious foods value chains (e.g., dairy, fruits and vegetables, aquaculture, poultry and fortified flours) will be selected and analysed to assess the gender impact (on women as actors throughout the value chain) and how investing in SMEs in these value chains aligns with the 2X criteria.
- Provide detailed reports for each value chain, and one or two case studies of investable SMEs with positive gender impact in each of the value chains per region - outlining the analysis, and gender impact assessment.

3.1. OBJECTIVES

The Consultant shall work with GAIN to analyse women's roles and impact within nutritious value chains (e.g., dairy, fruits and vegetables, aquaculture, poultry, and fortified flours) in Latin America, Sub-Saharan Africa, and South Asia, focusing on two value chains per region. The study should evaluate gender impact, how investing in these value chains impacts women as actors in the value chain and aligns with the 2X Challenge. The study should furthermore showcase one or two case studies of investable SMEs within these value chains with high gender impact.

3.2. DELIVERABLES

The consultant will work with GAIN to:

- Conduct preliminary consultations with GAIN's involved team members and understand how this work fits within their activities under the NFP programme.
- Perform a desk review and/or key informant interviews to identify which value chains (e.g., dairy, fruits and vegetables, aquaculture, poultry, and fortified flours) should be prioritized as the most impactful on women in the three regions.
- Provide detailed recommendations on prioritized value chains, emphasizing gender inclusivity, and DFI investment potential. The study should employ well-defined criteria for selecting value chains in the regions where sizeable SMEs operate within nutritious value chains, with potential for being invested by DFIs.
- Perform a gender impact analysis highlighting the involvement and empowerment of women at various stages of the value chain, in line with the 2X Challenge.
- The identified viable SMEs operating within nutritious value chains should have a substantial scale to attract investment from DFIs.
- Produce a draft report outlining – 1) Nutritious value chains with significant impact on women as actors throughout the value chain, highlighted in terms of 2X criteria; 2) Roles of women in different stages of value chains; and 3) Case studies of one to two investable SMEs in each of the value chain per region.
- Present main findings to GAIN and revise the draft report to a final report based on feedback.

3.3. PROPOSED TIMELINE

The engagement is expected to commence by December 2023 and is anticipated to be completed by April 2024.

3.4. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS AND CRITERIA FOR PROPOSAL SELECTION

The consultant shall be an individual consultant or institution with the following expertise:

- Proven experience in conducting similar consultancy assignments
- Strong understanding and working knowledge of gender-lens investing and the 2X Challenge
- Technical experience in gender impact analysis
- Working knowledge of food systems
- Excellent communication skills in English, both oral and written

II. INSTRUCTIONS FOR RESPONDING

This section addresses the process for responding to this solicitation. Applicants are encouraged to review this prior to completing their responses.

1. CONTACT

Please direct all inquiries and other communications to the contact below. Responses will not be confidential except in cases where proprietary information is involved.

- Yuvika Pharaswal, Innovative Finance, GAIN India
- Email: ypharaswal@gainhealth.org

2. BUDGET

Applicants are required to provide GAIN with a detailed fee percentage proposal. The final budget amount will have to be approved by the organisation prior to starting the project.

3. FORMAT FOR PROPOSAL

The proposal needs to be formatted as follows:

- Technical Proposal in pdf (word or ppt format as preferred) of maximum 10 pages excluding Appendixes. The proposal shall include:
 - o Relevant background of the consultant (i.e., similar prior engagements, collaborations with relevant actors, etc.)
 - o Proposed team with relevant expertise and role
 - o Detailed approach
 - o Expected workplan and timeline to meet deliverables
 - o References
- Financial Proposal:
 - o Budget
 - o Detailed budget justification
- Offer of services (see template attached under IV)

4. SUBMISSION

Originals should be submitted as follows:

An electronic copy containing the documents preferably in pdf along with all the required information including the fee proposal should reach GAIN at the address mentioned below:

Email copy:

- Yuvika Pharaswal
- ypharaswal@gainhealth.org
- Please include 'Gender and Nutrition' as reference in the email subject line

5. DEADLINE

Completed proposals should be submitted to GAIN before 23:59 Central European Time on **October 27, 2023**.

6. UNACCEPTABLE

The following proposals will automatically not be considered or accepted:

- Proposals that are received after the RFP deadline at the specified receiving office.
- Proposals received by fax.
- Incomplete proposals.
- Proposals that are not signed.

7. REVISIONS

Proposals may be revised by electronic mail and confirmed by hard copy provided such revision(s) are received before the deadline.

8. ACCEPTANCE

GAIN will not necessarily accept the lowest cost or any of the Proposals submitted. Accordingly, eligibility requirements, evaluation criteria and mandatory requirements shall govern.

9. COMPLETION

- Proposals must be submitted on official letterhead of the lead organisation or firm and must be signed by a principal or authorising signatory of the lead firm or organisation.
- In case of errors in calculating overall costs, the unit costs will govern.
- It is the applicant's responsibility to understand the requirements and instructions specified by GAIN. In the event that clarification is necessary, applicants are advised to contact the responsible person at GAIN under section II. point 1., prior to making their submission.
- While GAIN has used considerable efforts to ensure an accurate representation in this Request for Proposal (RFP), the information contained in this RFP is supplied solely as a guideline. The information is not warranted to be accurate by GAIN. Nothing in this RFP is intended to relieve applicants from forming their own opinions and conclusions with respect to the matters addressed in this RFP.

- By responding to this RFP, the applicant confirms its understanding that failing to comply with any of the RFP conditions may result in the disqualification of their submission.

10. RIGHTS OF REJECTION

GAIN reserves the right to reject any or all submissions or to cancel or withdraw this RFP for any reason and at its sole discretion without incurring any cost or liability for costs or damages incurred by any applicant, including, without limitation, any expenses incurred in the preparation of the submission. The applicant acknowledges and agrees that GAIN will not indemnify the applicant for any costs, expenses, payments or damages directly or indirectly linked to the preparation of the submission.

11. REFERENCES

GAIN reserves the right, before awarding the Proposal, to require the applicant to submit such evidence of qualifications as it may deem necessary, and will consider evidence concerning the financial, technical and other qualifications and abilities of the applicant.

12. RELEASE OF INFORMATION

After awarding the Proposal and upon written request to GAIN, only the following information will be released:

- Name of the successful applicant.
- The applicant's own individual ranking.

III. TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THIS SOLICITATION

1. NOTICE OF NON-BINDING SOLICITATION

GAIN reserves the right to reject any and all bids received in response to this solicitation and is in no way bound to accept any proposal. GAIN additionally reserves the right to negotiate the substance of the successful applicants' proposals, as well as the option of accepting partial components of a proposal if deemed appropriate.

2. CONFIDENTIALITY

All information provided as part of this solicitation is considered confidential. In the event that any information is inappropriately released, GAIN will seek appropriate remedies as allowed. Proposals, discussions, and all information received in response to this solicitation will be held as strictly confidential.

3. RIGHT TO FINAL NEGOTIATIONS ON THE PROPOSAL

GAIN reserves the right to negotiate on the final costs, and the final scope of work of the proposal. GAIN reserves the right to limit or include third parties at GAIN's sole and full discretion in such negotiations.

4. EVALUATION CRITERIA

Proposals will be reviewed by the Selection Team. The following indicate a list of the significant criteria against which proposals will be assessed. This list is not exhaustive or 100% inclusive and is provided to enhance the applicants' ability to respond with substance.

Applicants are required to submit the following information, conforming to the guidelines given in this section:

- Understanding of the scope of work:
 - Proposal shall demonstrate a clear understanding of the project objective and deliverables as outlined in Section I.
- Demonstrate a clear understanding of the technical requirements of this RFP:
 - Providing detailed technical documentation of the proposed strategy.
 - Evidence of experience delivering solutions using the proposed information technology platform.
- The creative and methodological approaches required to implement each of the parts of the scope of work.
- Comprehensiveness of work plan and reasonableness of proposed time frame:
 - Proposal shall include a feasible work plan to ensure successful completion of deliverables.
 - The work plan details how activities will be coordinated.
- Detailed budget and cost-effectiveness of proposed approach:
 - Evidence of cost-effective approaches to undertaking the scope of work within the proposed budget.
 - Proposal shall identify possible challenges and include creative approaches to addressing them.
- Management and personnel plan:
 - The team members working on this project shall have the relevant qualifications and overall experience required to successfully implement the project.
 - Roles and responsibilities of each team member shall be clearly defined. GAIN shall have one main contact person clearly identified in the proposal.
- A duly completed offer of services.

GAIN reserves the right to contact the individuals and contractor(s) in order to verify the information provided as part of the Proposal.

5. REVIEW PROCESS

The review process will involve a Review Panel with participants selected by GAIN.

6. LIMITATIONS WITH REGARD TO THIRD PARTIES

GAIN does not represent, warrant, or act as agent for any third party as a result of this solicitation. This solicitation does not authorise any third party to bind or commit GAIN in any way without GAIN's express written consent.

7. COMMUNICATION

All communication regarding this solicitation shall be directed to appropriate parties at GAIN. Contacting third parties involved in the RFP, the review panel, or any other party may be considered a conflict of interest and could result in disqualification of the proposal.

8. FINAL ACCEPTANCE

Award of a Proposal does not imply acceptance of its terms and conditions. GAIN reserves the right to negotiate on the final terms and conditions including the costs and the scope of work when negotiating the final contract to be agreed between GAIN and the applicant.

9. VALIDITY PERIOD

The offer of services will remain valid for a period of 60 days after the Proposal closing date. In the event of award, the successful applicant will be expected to enter into a contract subject to GAIN's terms and conditions.

10. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Subject to the terms of the contract to be concluded between GAIN and the applicant, the ownership of the intellectual property related to the scope of work of the contract, including technical information, know-how, processes, copyrights, models, drawings, source code and specifications developed by the applicant in performance of the contract shall vest entirely with GAIN.

11. SCOPE OF CHANGE

Once the contract is signed, no increase in the liability of GAIN or in the fees to be paid by GAIN for the services resulting from any change, modification or interpretation of the documents will be authorised or paid to the applicant unless such change, modification or interpretation has received the express prior written approval of GAIN.

IV. OFFER OF SERVICES

1. Offer submitted by:

(Print or type business, corporate name and address)

2. I (We) the undersigned hereby offer to GAIN, to furnish all necessary expertise, supervision, materials, and other things necessary to complete to the entire satisfaction of the Executive Director or authorised representative, the work as described in the Request for Proposal according to the terms and conditions of GAIN for the following prices:
- a) Click or tap here to enter text.
 - b) Click or tap here to enter text.
 - c) Click or tap here to enter text.
 - d) Click or tap here to enter text.
3. I (We) agree that the Offer of Services will remain valid for a period of sixty days (60) calendar days after the date of its receipt by GAIN.
4. I (We) herewith submit the following:
- (a) A Proposal to undertake the work, in accordance with GAIN's requirements specified.
 - (b) A duly completed offer of services, subject to the terms herein.

OFFERS WHICH DO NOT CONTAIN THE ABOVE-MENTIONED DOCUMENTATION OR DEVIATE FROM THE PRESCRIBED COSTING FORMAT MAY BE CONSIDERED INCOMPLETE AND NON-RESPONSIVE.

Date this day of Click or tap here to enter text. in Click or tap here to enter text.

____ Click or tap here to enter text.

Signature (applicant)

____ Click or tap here to enter text.

Signature (applicant)