

Request for Proposals – Services

Literature Review on Job Creation and Improved Livelihoods in Food Systems

Issued by

The Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN)

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GAIN's procurement is conducted based on our procurement principles, including "a focus on ethical and sustainable procurement which requires us to take note of our legal and ethical commitments... in our procurement and supplier management."

We require all our partners, suppliers and service providers to familiarise themselves with our [Code of Conduct](#) (Code) and to adhere to either our Code or to their own equivalent code or set of behaviours.

This is addition to any relevant clauses and provisions in our contractual terms.

We also expect our partners, suppliers, and service providers to proactively inform GAIN, via the mechanisms detailed in the Code, of any breaches, potential or perceived breaches of its provisions.

Any supplier or service provider found to be in violation of these principles will be excluded from this process and may be barred from responding to future opportunities.

I. Introduction

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. We currently have a presence and conduct programming activities in Bangladesh, Benin, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, Pakistan, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda.

II. Background & timescales

GAIN is developing a dedicated approach to job creation and improved livelihoods because transforming food systems for nutrition requires more than increasing the supply of nutritious foods—it also requires improving people’s ability to afford them. Millions of people remain unable to access healthy diets due to low and insecure incomes. Nutritious food value chains already employ large numbers of people, particularly through micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), yet opportunities to intentionally improve job quality, incomes, and livelihoods within these systems are often underutilised. At the same time, the World Economic Forum’s *Future of Jobs Report* highlights agriculture as one of the top-growing industries globally, with the potential to create an estimated 35 million new jobs by 2030. This presents a significant opportunity to shape how these jobs are created and who benefits from them.

By taking a more intentional, evidence-based approach to job creation and improved livelihoods, GAIN aims to maximize its impact across nutritious food value chains. Creating new jobs, improving existing employment, and strengthening livelihoods—especially for women, youth, and marginalized groups—can increase incomes, enhance job quality, and contribute to improved diets. This approach builds on GAIN’s existing work with MSMEs, value chains development, and women and youth engagement. It aligns with its mission and strategy, and ensures that nutrition outcomes are reinforced by inclusive economic opportunities.

The purpose of this RFP is to engage services of a qualified organisation or individual to provide a literature review, summarizing the existing evidence on job creation, including entrepreneurship, and improved livelihoods in food systems in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). We are specifically interested in approaches that reach youth, women and vulnerable groups (e.g. PWDS). The literature review is one activity contributing to the approach development.

A qualified organization or individual can apply for both this RFP and a second RFP 'Job Creation Pathways Framework Development' if they have the required skillset.

Set out below is the proposed timescale for this procurement. It is a guide and whilst the GAIN does not intend to depart from the timetable, it reserves the right to do so at any stage.

RFP issue date	Friday 23 rd January 2026
Deadline for Bidders to submit questions	Thursday 29 th January 2026
Deadline for GAIN to respond to clarifications	Thursday 5 th February 2026
RFP closes - deadline for submission	Friday 6 th February 2026
GAIN clarifications, evaluation & governance	Monday 9 th – Wednesday 11 th February
Contract award - subject to negotiation & due diligence checks	Thursday 12 th February 2026
Planned contract signature date	Monday 16 th February 2026
Date by which all work is to be completed	June 2026

III. The Opportunity

We are looking for a qualified organisation or individual to provide a rigorous review of academic and grey literature on job creation and livelihood development in food systems (production to retail) in low- and middle-income contexts. The review should include a focus on gender and youth, assess the strength of evidence of the existing literature, identify indicators to measure progress and impact, and look into transferable lessons on the subject from other sectors.

The literature review should aim to answer the following research questions:

1. Which segments of the value chain are most targeted for job creation in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs)?
2. What job creation approaches have been implemented within nutritious food value chains in LMICs, and what evidence exists on what works, what does not, and under what conditions?
 1. What approaches for youth employment (ages 18–35) have demonstrated positive employment, income, and job quality outcomes, and what contributes to their success or failure?
 2. How do approaches differ between jobs created within enterprises (both large and SMEs), and through entrepreneurship?
3. What evidence exists on job creation approaches that effectively include women and other vulnerable groups (e.g., people with disabilities, internally displaced persons), and which types of jobs are most suitable and attractive for these groups?
4. What key success factors, risks, and unintended consequences are identified in the literature for job creation and livelihoods interventions in food systems?
5. What indicators and metrics are used to measure job creation, job quality, and livelihood outcomes in food systems, and how robust is the evidence supporting them?

6. What lessons from other sectors with more advanced job creation evidence bases are transferable to nutritious food systems, and under what conditions are they applicable?

Deliverables & Timescales

The outputs include:

3. An inception report, including refined methodology, timeline, and integration plan (one week after signing of contract)
4. A full report and synthesis (March 2026)

- Co-author a GAIN discussion paper (May 2026)
- A Lunch and Learn for GAIN Staff (June 2026)

Budget

The budget for this RFP will not exceed 10,000 USD. Bidders are encouraged to propose efficient and realistic budgets that maximise value for money. The final selection will prioritise the quality of the proposed approach and deliverables.

Contract Governance

The contract will be issued for four months, with an option of early termination related to performance. Regular update meetings will be held with GAIN staff.

Payment Profile

Partial payments will be made related to key deliverables.

IV. Instructions to bidders

This section is designed to ensure that Bidders are provided with the necessary information to understand and respond to the requirements and ensure that a consistent level of information is obtained from each Bidder and provide a structured framework for the evaluation of Proposals.

Bidders should read these instructions carefully before completing their submission.

GAIN contact

The following individual is the nominated contact for this RFP.

- **Name/role:** Kris Woltering (Research Associate)
- **Email address:** rfp@gainhealth.org

Queries and clarifications

- Bidders are to direct any questions regarding the RFP to the GAIN contact in writing via email.
- It is the Bidder's responsibility to ensure safe receipt of communication.
- No other member of GAIN staff should be contacted in relation to this RFP unless directed to do so by the GAIN contact.
- GAIN may choose to convey responses to submitted questions and queries to all Bidders so that each is equally informed.

- GAIN may amend the RFP documents by issuing notices to that effect to all Bidders and may extend the closing date and time if deemed appropriate.

Preparing your response

- Bidders must obtain, at their own responsibility and expense, all information necessary for the preparation of Bids.
- Bidders should notify GAIN promptly of any perceived inconsistency, or omission in this RFP, or any of its associated documents.

Submitting your response

The Proposal and any accompanying documents must be in English

Bidders must submit their Proposal in the following way:

Email to rfp@gainhealth.org . The subject heading of the email should be Literature Review on Job Creation and Livelihoods in Food Systems. All submitted documents must be viewable using the Microsoft Office suite of applications. Your submission should not exceed 30MB.

Your submission must include the following:

Technical proposal:

A submission, of no more than 10 PowerPoint slides or 10 sides of A4, including

- An introduction to your organisation. Your bid must make clear which organisation will be awarded the contract if your bid is successful
- The individual/team who will be completing this work supported by brief bios of qualifications and experience.
- Approach and methodology, including timescales and milestones
- Understanding of the assignment and relevant experience, including two examples of comparable work

Writing sample:

As the quality of writing and synthesis is critical to this assignment, bidders must include a writing sample (published, or unpublished work) demonstrating their ability to present information in a clear, well-structured manner. The sample should be solely or primarily authored by the proposed lead consultant for this assignment

Financial proposal:

- Detailed budget (see Notes on Budget below)
- Signed Offer of Services (see section V: Offer of Services below)

Notes on submissions

- Bidders should not include in their submission any extra information which has not been specifically requested in the RFP for example, any sales literature etc.
- No Proposal may be modified after the deadline for receipt.
- GAIN may request additional information from Bidders to assist further evaluation of Proposals.

Notes on budget

- As a donor funded organisation, GAIN is committed to achieving value for money in all our procurements.
- Submitted rates and prices are to be deemed include all costs, insurances, taxes, fees, expenses, and other things necessary for the performance of the requirement.
- Any charge not stated in the Proposal as being additional, will not be allowed in any resultant contract.
- We are looking for full cost disclosure: there must be an appropriate breakdown of costs to allow for price visibility.
- All rates and prices submitted must be in United States Dollars, and any contract arising from this RFP will be in United States Dollars.

Notes on evaluations

- GAIN may choose to shortlist Bidders at any stage of the process.
- 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.
- Bidders should note that GAIN may award a Contract on the basis of the original Bid received and may, at its absolute discretion, undertake any or all of the following processes:
 - shortlisting
 - taking up references
 - undertaking presentations or meetings
 - 5. entering into a dialogue with one or more Bidders.

Evaluation criteria

The following indicates a list of the significant criteria against which proposals will be assessed. This list is not exhaustive and is provided to enhance the applicants' ability to respond to this Opportunity.

Understanding of the scope of work

- Proposal shall demonstrate a clear understanding of the project objective and deliverables as outlined in Section II.
- Demonstrate a clear understanding of the technical requirements of this RFP:
- Evidence of experience with rigorous literature reviews.
- Demonstrate a good understanding of evidence and approaches to create jobs in Africa and South Asia, as well as the development partners and private sector actors involved in doing so.
- Demonstrate a good understanding of the specific challenges faced by women, youth, people living with disabilities and displaced people, and approaches to specifically reach and empower these groups.

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.

V. Terms and conditions

This section constitutes the full conditions of this RFP and participation in the process automatically signals that the Bidder accepts the conditions.

Jurisdiction

Any Contract resulting from this RFP shall be governed by Swiss law.

Late Proposals

Any bid received after the deadline may be rejected at GAIN's absolute discretion.

Disclaimers

Bidders will not be compensated for costs incurred in preparing proposals, submitting revised proposals or in participation in any meeting or presentation.

This RFP does not commit GAIN to any course of action, it is not an offer or a contract and does not commit GAIN to contract for any of the services detailed within the RFP.

GAIN reserves the absolute right to:

- accept or reject any or all Proposals with or without notice or reason
- accept or reject any proposal in whole or in part
- accept a proposal other than the lowest priced
- negotiate with any, all or none of the Bidders
- modify or cancel this RFP

Acceptance of Proposals

GAIN is under no obligation to accept the lowest priced Proposal, or any Proposal, and reserves the right to reject any Proposal which is incomplete, conditional, or not complying with the RFP documents.

A Proposal may be for all or part of the Requirement and may be accepted by GAIN either wholly or in part.

A Proposal will not be accepted, in whole or in part, unless and until GAIN has signed a Contract in writing to the successful Bidder. GAIN reserves the right to:

- amend the terms and conditions of the procurement process
- cancel the evaluation and award process at any stage

require the Bidder to clarify its Proposal in writing and/or provide additional information. Failure to respond adequately may result in the Bidder not being selected.

Amendments

Prior to the final date for submission of Proposal, GAIN may issue amendments to clarify, modify or add to the procurement documents. A copy of each amendment will be issued to each Bidder and shall become part of the RFP.

Validity of Proposals

Proposals submitted in response to this RFP are to remain valid for a period of not less than 90 days from the RFP closing date.

Withdrawals

Proposals may be withdrawn at any time prior to the RFP closing date and time by written notice to the Company.

Interpretation of Requirements

Bidders are responsible for ensuring that they have all the information required for the preparation of their tenders and that they satisfy themselves about the information and correct interpretation of terminology used in the tender documentation.

Bidders must also ensure that they are fully conversant with the nature and extent of the obligations to be accepted by them if their tender is accepted.

Assumptions

Any assumptions that have been made in responding to this RFP should be outlined in the Bidders response documents.

Confidentiality

Except as required for the preparation of this Proposal, Bidders must not, without GAIN's prior written consent, disclose to any third party any of the contents of the RFP documents. Bidders must ensure that their employees, consultants, and agents also are bound and comply with this condition of confidentiality.

Feedback to unsuccessful Bidders

GAIN appreciates that significant time and resource goes in to preparing a tender response, and we try to ensure that feedback is provided to all unsuccessful Bidders.

Please note however that GAIN does not share detailed scoring information with unsuccessful Bidders.

Inconsistencies and omissions

Bidders must promptly advise the Company in writing of any inconsistencies and omissions they discover in the RFP.

RFP documents

Bidders must destroy all copies of the RFP document if unsuccessful within 30 days of being notified they have not been successful (either issued by GAIN or created by the Bidder).

Disclaimers

Whilst the material in this RFP and the Information has been prepared in good faith, it does not purport to be comprehensive, nor has it been independently verified.

Neither GAIN nor their advisors, their respective directors, officers, members, partners, employees, other staff or agents makes any representation or warranty (express or implied) as to the accuracy, reasonableness or completeness of the Information; or accepts any responsibility for the information contained in the Information or for their fairness, accuracy or completeness of that Information nor shall any of them be liable for any loss or damage (other than in respect of fraudulent misrepresentation) arising as a result of reliance on such Information or any subsequent communication.

Collusive behaviour

Any Bidder who:

- fixes or adjusts the amount of their Response by or in accordance with any agreement or arrangement with any other party; or
- communicates to any party other than GAIN the amount or approximate amount of its Responses or information which would enable the amount or approximate amount to be calculated (except where such disclosure is made in confidence to obtain quotations necessary for the preparation of the Response or insurance or any necessary security); or
- enters into any agreement or arrangement with any other party that such other party shall refrain from submitting a Response; or
- enters into any agreement or arrangement with any other party as to the amount of any Response submitted; or
- offers or agrees to pay or give or does pay or give any sum or sums of money, inducement, or valuable consideration directly or indirectly to any party for doing or having done or causing or having caused to be done in relation to any Response, any act or omission.

shall (without prejudice to any other civil remedies available to GAIN and without prejudice to any criminal liability which such conduct by a Bidder may attract) be disqualified.

VI. Offer of services

I/we agree to supply the required services described within this Request for Proposal, for the sum of:

Sum in figures:

Sum in words.....

I/we the undersigned confirm that I/we are able to furnish all expertise, supervision, materials, and any other things necessary to complete, to the entire satisfaction of the Executive Director or authorised representative, required services described within this Request for Proposal, according to GAIN's terms and conditions.



I/we agree that any obvious errors in pricing or errors in arithmetic that may be discovered by GAIN in examination of the priced Specification submitted by me/us shall have no effect on the amount of this offer unless GAIN shall otherwise decide.

I/we understand that the lowest or any tender will not necessarily be accepted.

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.

I/we confirm that I/we have read the [GAIN Code of Conduct](#) and understand my/our duties under the Code.

I/We confirm that I/we have no actual, potential or perceived conflicts of interest which apply to this procurement OR that I have notified GAIN in writing of any actual, potential or perceived conflicts of interest which apply to this procurement.

I/We confirm that we will use the following organisational and payment details, if our Bid is successful:

Company name (including any trading names)	
Registered Company address, including postal code and country	
Company Registration Number	
Tax Identification Number (TIN) - if not applicable, please put N/A	
Business Identification Number (TIN) - if not applicable, please put N/A	
Company contact phone number	
Company contact email address	
Bank where account is held (name of the bank)	
Name on the payment bank account (individual/company name)	
Bank Account Number	

Swift/BIC Number - if not applicable, please put N/A IBAN Number - if not applicable please put N/A	
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Signed by:	
Print Name:	
Job Title:	
For and on behalf of (Company name):	
Date:	