

Request for Proposals – Services

CONSULTANT – DATA COLLECTION ON CHILD AND ADOLESCENT CENTRED NUTRITION INDICATORS (CAN-I) IN KENYA

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

The purpose of this RFP is to engage services of a qualified organisation with strong expertise in qualitative and quantitative data collection in the food systems space to support development and testing of a set of indicators for understanding youth engagement in food systems in Africa.

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. For all dates, the deadline is 23:59 CET.

RFP issue date	3 February 2026
Deadline for Bidders to submit questions	13 February 2026
Deadline for GAIN to respond to clarifications	20 February 2026
RFP closes - deadline for submission	6 March 2026
Contract award - subject to negotiation & due diligence checks	24 March 2026
Planned contract signature date	31 March 2026
Date by which all work is to be completed	30 November 2026

III. THE OPPORTUNITY

Africa has the youngest population in the world, with a median age of 19.7 years as of 2020. Around 60% of the population was under 25, and more than a third aged between 15 and 34 years old. This age group plays a critical role in agrifood systems, which are essential for livelihoods and nutritional outcomes across the continent. However, the cognitive growth and development of these young people is influenced by changes in nutrient requirements, during which undernutrition and overweight/obesity impact the development of physiological systems and compromise linear growth, physical maturation and neurological development. Further, the life phase of young people also coincides with times of unprecedented change in their food environments, food systems and food security, a period when optimal nutrition is essential for adolescents' growth and development.

Agrifood systems represent a key entry point for youth employment, with on-farm agriculture providing jobs in rural areas and off-farm agrifood activities offering employment opportunities in urban areas. Improving the inclusion of young people through paid employment in agrifood systems could make a trillion-dollar difference in the global economy and significantly improve nutrition outcomes for whole communities. Realising this potential, however, requires a rights-based approach to better understand determining factors, perceptions, drivers and barriers within their food systems, and how this can be measured. This approach places the right to adequate food and nutrition at the centre of the methodology and considers young people's own experiences of nutrition linked to their environment, food production, economic and political systems. Developing measurement indicators which support adolescent self-efficacy and agency by establishing what adolescents see as critical areas of nutrition measurement is critical in the design, implementation, and evaluation of child and adolescent-centred nutrition strategies in the shorter term.

[The Global Child and Adolescent-Centred Nutrition Indicators \(CAN_I\)](#) developed by the Young and Resilient Research Centre (Y&R) at Western Sydney University (WSU) provide researchers, NGO's, clinicians and policy makers the ability to measure a child's environment as a determinant of adequate nutrition, continuing growth and positive health outcomes. By doing so, they offer a deeper understanding of youth centred measurement of agency, empowerment and priorities across the agrifood system.

Phase 1 of these indicators was applied in Australia but did not fully capture the broad range of issues related to the lives and experiences of all adolescents globally, particularly the information and voices of the most vulnerable adolescents. In response to these limitations, WSU undertook the validation of CAN_I indicators across LMIC in the South Asia Pacific region, which laid the foundation for harmonisation process of these indicators across geographic locations, while allowing for adaptation across diverse contexts and settings. GAIN has partnered with WSU to build on this and test the CAN_I indicators in an African context and develop a new context specific subset of indicators on youth engagement in policy, with a focus on youth empowerment as relates to livelihoods in food systems.

The overall project aims:

- To validate the existing CAN_I indicators in Africa and expand to an older youth age bracket of 18-35 years.

- To develop a specific subset of CAN_I indicators related to youth employment or employment readiness in agrifood systems in Africa.
- To create an indicator toolkit specific to indicators related to youth employment or employment readiness in agrifood systems in Africa.
- To select a subset of core CAN_I indicators of high relevance for youth leadership and engagement in policy and advocacy as relates to food, for use in youth centred programming and policy.
- Consult relevant policy actors to understand their perspectives on the new CAN-I indicator subset and which they find the most useful, why and how, reflecting these perspectives in the final outputs.

To achieve the project objectives a variety of methods will be undertaken, including distributed data generation through participatory workshops that use a range of interactive activities to gather both qualitative and quantitative data. GAIN seeks a consultant to lead these activities and collect data for the validation of CAN_I indicators. WSU will provide them with training on the specific approaches to be used.

GAIN proposes to validate these indicators in Nairobi and Nyandarua Counties, Kenya. These counties were selected due to their strategic relevance and their ability to provide a diverse perspective across urban and rural settings. The counties also meet key selection criteria, including the availability of established youth networks through SUN Business Network, high labor force participation and absorption of adolescents and youth, and strong institutional goodwill and stakeholder commitment to engaging young people in food systems. However, GAIN welcome the service provide to propose alternative counties with justification based on their experience and networks in food systems.

Specifically, the consultant's work will include:

- **Step 1** – Four participatory half-day workshops (2 urban, 2 rural), each including 15-20 youth, to assess the potential social domains relevant to the adolescent's environment, as guided by the socio-ecological model and how gender and other determinants interact with each other. **Output:** *Data worksheets and facilitator reflection/context report collected, translated to English, and digitized* [Initial indicator development work conducted by GAIN and WSU]
- **Step 2** - Two participatory intergenerational workshops (1 urban, 1 rural), each with 4-8 sector organisational stakeholder representatives and 10 young people to review proposed CAN-I indicators (existing and new), identify a subset of the indicators to monitor, and a process for collecting data to measure the indicators, **Output:** *Verbatim transcript of discussions translated into English, worksheets collected, translated to English, and digitized*
- **Step 3** – Toolkit is developed by GAIN based on steps 1 and 2
- **Step 4** – Two participatory half-day workshops (1 urban, 1 rural) with 8-10 youth co-researchers (identified by the consultant) to identify opportunities for piloting the toolkit in Kenya and plan data collection activities. **Output:** *Data collection plan and proposal developed in partnership with youth co-researchers.*
- **Step 5** – With youth co-researchers, and recruiting other data collection staff if needed, undertake data collection activities, including training interviewers and recruiting respondents. Data collection is expected to include a survey with up to 250 respondents, plus 25 individual interviews. As this stage is defined through Steps 1-4, the consultant will

need to be somewhat flexible in planning; if the eventual work deviates significantly in scope from the initial plan, the budget can be renegotiated. **Output:** *Quantitative (survey) datasets and interview transcripts, verbatim transcribed and translated into English*

In each workshop, the consultant will guide the participants through the activities, stimulate discussion around different topics through group discussions, and encourage sharing of responses. They will capture participants' input, decisions made and provide reporting on the output.

As part of this work, the consultant shall provide the following services:

- Work closely with GAIN and WSU to prepare a detailed workplan for the participatory workshops, including deliverables and timeline.
- Provide expert input into the CAN_I activities, adapting and mapping them against the current program and cultural needs.
- Provide expert input into the design of data collection methodologies and tools, customise them to local contexts.
- Translate all materials from English into local languages, where applicable, in preparation for workshop facilitation.
- Prepare and submit the study protocol for ethical review to a relevant institutional review board (IRB) or research ethics committee; follow-up with the IRB to ensure review and approval, as needed.
 - To work in partnership with GAIN and WSU in developing a plan to identify target youth groups and to select a representative sample of young people aged 18 to 34 years from these groups.
 - Undertake the selection and recruitment of the participating young people in line with agreed-upon inclusion criteria
- Provide expertise on the local language, culture, and customs, as it pertains to the project activities and objectives.
- Travel to study sites, as needed, to prepare for and facilitate CAN_I indicator participatory activities.
- Liaise with local government and other stakeholders as needed to prepare for the participatory workshops and data collection activities.
- Participate in facilitator training webinars led by WSU.
- Organize all logistics for in-person participatory workshops and data collection, including team staff, supervision, transport, venues, catering and necessary allowances; including local translators if required.
- Lead face to face participatory workshops by facilitating activities such as food environment mapping, games, and worksheets, enabling participants to express their perspectives on youth employment within agrifood systems.
- Implement data collection, with attention to both adherence to study protocols and resource efficiency. Ensure high-quality audio recording of all interviews and entry of all quantitative data.
- Safely and confidentially collect, store, and back-up the collected data using appropriate hardware and software.
- Conduct Quality assurance and Quality Control (QA/QC) procedures on all collected data (quantitative data, audio files, and transcripts).
- Clean the data recorded and provide a cleaned database with all responses, as well any additional field notes and forms into Word documents.

- Transcribe all audio recordings of interviews into verbatim English-language transcripts (Microsoft Word documents)
- Safe and secure storage of hard copy data, in line with IRB requirements
- Maintain communications with GAIN, WSU, youth co-researchers, youth representatives, or other key stakeholders, in order to ensure smooth and timely data collection operations; during and beyond participatory workshops, maintain good relations with groups and individuals involved in the project directly or indirectly.
- Participate in regular project meetings with GAIN and project partners and be available for ad-hoc communications as needed.
- Produce interim and final deliverables according to the workplan, including providing detailed reports of all methods used for data collection as well as final cleaned and labelled data and qualitative interview transcripts.

Note that the scope of the work does not include data analysis or reporting on results, which will be undertaken by GAIN / WSU.

DELIVERABLES & TIMESCALES

The expected deliverables, and indicative timescales, are as follows:

Deliverables	Date (estimated)
Approved plan for identification of target youth groups and schedule for all work	7 April 2026
A finalized and agreed upon study protocol and data collection tools (drafts of these will be provided by WSU; the consultant is not expected to develop them fully, just to review and provide expert input, customizing them to local contexts) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data collection tools reviewed and translated, if need be • Consent / assent forms developed and translated • Protocol reviewed and submitted to IRB 	15 April 2026
Initial list of participants recruited for the Step 1 participatory workshops, logistics for Step 1 workshop planned	30 April 2026
IRB approval obtained, if needed	30 May 2026
Step 1 workshops completed; output data and report provided	15 June 2026
Step 2 workshops completed; output data and report provided	31 July 2026
Step 4 workshops completed; data collection plan agreed upon with GAIN, youth co-researchers and any other data collectors needed for piloting indicators recruited	30 September 2026
Step 5 Pilot data collection completed A draft brief report on the CAN_I data collection All data: Audio recordings, interview or FGD transcripts, survey data, and notes (in English), and all consent forms	15 November 2026
Final report, responding to GAIN/ WSU comments	30 November 2026

EXPECTED EXPERTISE

It is expected to contract a firm/organization, as opposed to an individual. The consultant organization must have significant (at least 10 years) prior experience with:

- Organising and facilitating participatory research activities with young people.
- Organizing and managing rigorous field data collection in Kenya on topics such as youth engagement, public health, social sciences, economics, sociology, food, and nutrition.
- Use of qualitative data collection methods, such as focused group discussions or unstructured interviews and behavioral observations, with knowledge of the techniques needed to ask context-appropriate non-scripted questions and shift interview style as needed during interviews.
- Ability to learn and use appropriate data-collection software for surveys
- A track record of successful collaboration with NGOs and/or research organizations
- Experience in rigorous data management, such as properly recording data and metadata in the field using appropriate technology, transcribing, annotating, cleaning, storing and backing up, formatting, de-identifying, and safely transferring.
- Experience with preparing protocols for ethical clearance (IRB) in Kenya
- Understanding of the youth engagement ecosystem in Kenya. Ideally the applicant would have a network of youth groups on which to draw.
- Experience with transcription and translation of qualitative interviews and have a network of experienced transcribers and translators on which to draw.
- Team leaders must possess excellent project management, planning, organizational, time management, data management and communication skills.
- English language fluency and skills in relevant local languages in Kenya.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

The expected budget range for this work is 15,000 – 30,000 USD. Bids above this range will not be accepted.

Only organizations legally registered in Kenya are eligible to apply.

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: Leonard Mulei, Senior Research Associate, Nourishing Food Pathways

Email address: lmulei@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 contact's email address. The subject heading of the email should be 'CAN_I Data Collection in Kenya'. All submitted documents must be viewable using the Microsoft Office suite of applications or as PDFs. Your submission should not exceed 30MB.

Your submission must include the following:

Technical proposal:

A brief submission, of no more than 6 pages, including relevant qualifications and prior experience as well as the planned approach to the work, which should include:

- An introduction to your organisation and its expertise in participatory research on topics related to food system transformation. Your bid must make clear which organisation will be awarded the contract if your bid is successful
- A description of how they would undertake selection of youth groups and how they would identify a random sample of participants within those groups; it should also include the name of the IRB proposed and the consultant's experience with them.
- How the consultant will ensure inclusive engagement of GAIN, its partners and other stakeholders relevant for this assignment.
- Understanding and experience, including short descriptions of two relative examples of comparable work
- Roles and responsibilities of the team involved, including brief profiles of their expertise (CVs can be included in annex and do not count towards the page limit)

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
- 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**
 - Demonstrate a clear understanding of the project objective and deliverables as outlined in Section II.
 - Propose appropriate, rigorous, and creative plan to recruit young people to participate in the CAN_I indicator development workshops assess the contribution of the programme
- **Demonstrate strong expertise relevant to the RFP:**
 - Evidence of experience delivering on similar prior assignments
 - Demonstrated expertise in participatory research and on food systems topics
- **Comprehensiveness of work plan and reasonableness of proposed time frame**
 - A feasible work plan to ensure successful completion of deliverables.
 - Identifies possible challenges and include creative approaches to addressing them.
- **Detailed budget and cost-effectiveness of proposed approach**

- Evidence of cost-effective approaches to undertaking the scope of work within the proposed budget.
- **Management and personnel plan:**
 - A clear approach to coordinating participatory research activities
 - 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.

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 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.

Signed By:	
Print Name:	
Job Title:	
For and on Behalf of (Company Name):	
Date:	