

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS - SERVICES

# CONSULTANT – EVALUATION DESIGN FOR THE INITIATIVE ON CLIMATE ACTION AND NUTRITION (I-CAN)

**Issued by**

**The Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN)**

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GAIN's procurement is conducted on the basis of 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.

## 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.

## BACKGROUND

The purpose of this RFP is to engage services of a qualified organisation with strong expertise in evaluative research in the food systems space to: (1) design the methodology for an eventual evaluation of I-CAN progress and achievements, to be used in the future, and (2) undertake a ‘light touch’ interim assessment of I-CAN progress to date.

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.

<b>RFP issue date</b>	23 January 2026
<b>Deadline for Bidders to submit questions</b>	10 February 2026
<b>Deadline for GAIN to respond to clarifications</b>	16 February 2026
<b>RFP closes - deadline for submission</b>	28 February 2026
<b>Contract award - <i>subject to negotiation &amp; due diligence checks</i></b>	15 March 2026
<b>Date by which all work is to be completed</b>	15 June 2026

## THE OPPORTUNITY

The Initiative on Climate Action and Nutrition (I-CAN) is a multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral flagship initiative which aims to accelerate transformative action to address the critical nexus of climate change and nutrition. I-CAN was launched in November 2022 by the Government of Egypt, as COP27 President. The core partners include WHO, FAO, GAIN, SUN and UNEP.

The vision for I-CAN is that by 2030, I-CAN will have connected the climate and nutrition worlds at the critical decision points, shifted mindsets of both communities, expanded the space for action at the nexus, accelerated action in both domains, and advanced both sets of outcomes faster than they would have advanced in I-CAN's absence. I-CAN believes that by treating climate and nutrition as an integrated agenda, we can achieve greater efficiency, effectiveness, and impact, built on the principle of ensuring that single-purpose policymaking and programming become dual-purpose, win-win, and systemic interventions.

I-CAN has led a programme of activities under five strategic pillars for pursuing climate-nutrition integration:

1. Pillar 1: Provide targeted support to strengthen national policies for integrated country action
2. Pillar 2: Build a strong alliance of countries advancing action
3. Pillar 3: Improve data on the opportunities for joint action on nutrition and climate, and track progress to 2030 and beyond
4. Pillar 4: Mobilize finance to address nutrition and climate together

### **Pillar 5: Become the 'go-to' place to connect and amplify efforts to integrate nutrition and climate**

The I-CAN theory of change is included in Annex.

The current programme of work under I-CAN is expected (though not yet confirmed) to be at least a five-year programme, ending in 2029. In that year, GAIN intends to conduct an evaluation of the extent to which I-CAN contributed to its aims and offer recommendations for strengthening its future and future similar initiatives. To be well prepared for undertaking this work in 2028-2029, and to ensure we are collecting any data between now and 2029 that will be needed for it, GAIN seeks an experienced service provider to design a methodology for that eventual **five-year evaluation**. They are not expected to conduct the assessment at this point, merely to propose the methodology.

Specifically, the service provider should:

- Review the programme design and existing documentation (theories of change, logic models and results frameworks, assumptions, annual reports and other relevant documents).
- Discuss with GAIN staff (and partners where relevant) the programme's aims, activities and intended outcomes, seeking to understand both what should be captured in an evaluation and the challenges and opportunities for conducting the eventual evaluation
- Design a proposed approach to assessing the contribution of the initiative and present it to GAIN and I-CAN partners
- Once the approach is agreed with GAIN and I-CAN partners, develop a detailed methodology and data collection tools, as needed

- Provide an indicative workplan and budget for conducting the eventual evaluation using these methods

(Note that there is no expectation that the service provider would be the one to actually carry out the eventual evaluation; a separate RFP for that work will be issued when relevant).

Secondarily, the service provider will conduct a '**light touch**' **interim assessment** of what can be said about I-CAN contributions to towards its intended outcomes to date; this can draw on the methods proposed for the eventual evaluation where feasible, but it is expected to draw primarily on secondary data sources (e.g., not undertaking extensive external interviews, surveys, or similar). Specifically, the service provider should:

- Based on their proposed five-year evaluation methodology (above), propose a light-touch approach that could be completed in a few months, drawing primarily from secondary data
- Undertake any necessary data collection, quality assurance, cleaning, and analysis for this light-touch assessment
- Provide a report on the results of the assessment, for GAIN and I-CAN partners' review and feedback
- For any data collected, provide GAIN with clean, well-documented datasets or documents
- Prepare a presentation on the results of the assessment and present to GAIN and I-CAN partners
- Respond to all feedback in a revised report and final version of presentation
- Consider whether the results of and/or feedback on the light-touch assessment have any implications for the design of the five-year evaluation; adjust the evaluation methodology accordingly.

The focus of both assessments should be primarily at the outcome level (immediate, intermediate, and ultimate outcomes), as depicted in the Theory of Change in Annex, with the light-touch assessment being geared more towards immediate/intermediate outcomes and considering progress towards ultimate outcomes where feasible. Secondarily, some additional data at the output level can also be collected (or proposed to be collected) to complement existing project monitoring data.

## DELIVERABLES & TIMESCALES

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

Deliverable	Deadline
Five-year evaluation approach proposed (general), for agreement with GAIN and I-CAN partners	15 April 2026
Proposed approach for light-touch interim assessment	1 May 2026
Draft detailed methodology and data collection tools for five-year evaluation	10 May 2026
Final approach and any preparations needed for light-touch assessment	
Light-touch assessment report and presentation (draft)	1 June 2026

Light-touch assessment report and presentation (final), plus any supporting data and documentation	10 June 2026
Final revised detailed methodology and data collection tools for five-year evaluation	15 June 2026
Indicative workplan and budget for five-year evaluation	

## EXPECTED EXPERTISE

The consultant organization or individual should have:

- Extensive prior experience leading rigorous research across all stages of the research cycle, including undertaking evaluations on similar topics. Peer-reviewed publication record desirable.
- Deep expertise in climate, nutrition, and/or food systems required; expertise in diverse aspects of climate, nutrition, and/or food systems and in policy change processes and methods for studying them desired.
- Experience across multiple country contexts, including low- and middle-income countries.
- Excellent project management, planning, organizational, and communication skills.
- Proven experience in conducting similar consultancy assignments.
- A track record of successful collaboration with NGOs and/or research organizations.
- English language fluency.

## OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

The expected budget range for this work is 12,000-19,500 USD. Bids above this range will not be accepted.

## 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: Antony Ogolla, Acting Project Manager Initiative on Climate Action and Nutrition (I-CAN)

Email address: [aogolla@gainhealth.org](mailto:aogolla@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, to 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 'I-CAN Evaluation Design'. All submitted documents must be viewable using the Microsoft Office suite of applications or as PDFs.

Your submission must include the following:

A brief **technical proposal** (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 you or your organisation and its expertise in evaluative research on topics related to climate, nutrition, and food systems
- Detailed description of the relevant prior experience you bring to the work
- Initial ideas for the methodology to be used for both the five-year evaluation and interim assessment, or different approaches to be considered
- The process of how you would go about developing the five-year methodology, providing indicative examples of types of data and analysis to be used.
- As relevant, 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)
- An indicative timeline for the work
- Short descriptions of two relevant examples of comparable work

#### **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.

## **NOTES ON EVALUATION**

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 and technical requirements:
- Propose ideas of appropriate, rigorous, and creative methodological approaches
- Demonstrate strong expertise relevant to the RFP:
- Evidence of experience delivering on similar prior assignments
- A feasible work plan to ensure successful completion of deliverables.
- Identifies possible challenges and includes creative approaches to addressing them.
- Detailed budget and cost-effectiveness of proposed approach
- A clear approach to coordinating activities
- Team members working on the project have the relevant qualifications and overall experience required to successfully implement the project.
- (For organisations as opposed to individuals) Roles and responsibilities of each team member are clearly defined, including one main contact person clearly identified in the proposal.

## **TERMS & 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 and Sufficiency of Information**

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 provide feedback to unsuccessful Bidders where feasible.

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.

## **Return of 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.



## 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.

Signed by:	
Print Name:	
Job Title:	
For and on behalf of (Company name):	
Date:	

## ANNEX – I-CAN THEORY OF CHANGE

Activities	Outputs	Immediate/ Intermediate	Ultimate outcomes	Impact
<b>Pillar 1: Provide targeted support to strengthen national policies for integrated country action</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide technical advice to country governments on policy, plans and programmatic funding opportunities</li> <li>Develop good practice guides for policymakers on how to incorporate nutrition / climate integration considering gender</li> <li>Engage with existing efforts, coalitions and initiatives to strengthen action on specific policies (e.g. NDCs )</li> </ul>	Policymakers have improved knowledge of how to integrate climate and nutrition in national policies  Specific opportunities to leverage funding for national programmes which support both goals identified in target countries	Increased indication of 'joined-up' thinking on climate and nutrition in national policymaking processes (e.g. cross-ministry input into key policies, increase in cross-referencing of policies, consultations or background documents showing increasing integration of the two issues)	Increased coherence in the integration of climate and nutrition in national policies such as NDCs, NAPs, NBSAPs National Nutrition Plans, Food-based Dietary Guidelines, public procurement standards	<b>Nutrition:</b> More rapid decline of malnutrition in all its forms, including but not limited to reducing stunting, wasting, micronutrient deficiencies, and increasing the availability, affordability, and accessibility of nutritious foods in face of climate change
<b>Pillar 2: Build a strong alliance of countries advancing action</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with countries in I-CAN via the ATACH working group to facilitate setting of country level targets, highlight best practices, facilitate connections to existing initiatives</li> <li>Where relevant, engage with existing climate processes e.g. agriculture negotiations as part of UNFCCC process</li> </ul>	Increased political will to address climate and nutrition together	Increased capacity of governments and other national-level actors to leverage climate financing to also support nutrition goals and vice versa	Accelerated scale-up action on both nutrition and climate (e.g. new programmes, initiatives and progress towards commitments)	<b>Climate mitigation:</b> More rapid decrease of emissions from food systems, to meet global goals under the Paris Agreement
<b>Pillar 3: Improve data on the opportunities for joint action on nutrition and climate, and track progress to 2030 and beyond</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Repeat baseline analysis every two years with accompanying high-profile report on progress achieved towards 2030</li> <li>Add additional indicators to baseline report to address gaps in current work incl. gender sensitivity &amp; biodiversity</li> </ul>	Improved availability and quality of data to track progress on integrated climate and nutrition action	Increased political commitments to tackling climate and nutrition simultaneously, reflected in existing policies such as NDCs and NNPs. Clear, measurable and timebound targets set	More resources and funding available and/or mobilised to scale up of climate action and nutrition action as a holistic, integrated agenda	<b>Resilience:</b> Food systems become more resilient in the face of climate stresses and in-country capacities to deal with climate hazards become more responsive and efficient
<b>Pillar 4: Mobilize finance to address nutrition and climate together</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide technical advice to development financial institutions (DFIs) to analyse current funding portfolio and opportunities to increase funding addressing both nutrition and climate</li> <li>Develop methodology and tools to better track nutrition and climate financing</li> </ul>	I-CAN recognised as a platform for amplifying integration efforts and sharing best practices	DFIs move towards making targets for funding going to both climate and nutrition and planning to redirect portfolio towards these goals	Greater integration across nutrition and environment research, advocacy efforts and policy to achieve both nutrition and environment goals	
<b>Pillar 5: Become the 'go-to' place to amplify efforts to integrate nutrition and climate</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Build strong community of non-state actors including private sector, civil society and research stakeholders</li> <li>Amplify and provide a platform for research, case studies, best practice, campaigns and communications for integrated nutrition and climate action, with an emphasis on gender</li> </ul>	Increased engagement of actors in civil society, research and private sector with nutrition issues within wider efforts to on climate and food systems or health	Consolidated, coherent efforts by non-state actors to advocate for and take action on climate and nutrition informed by improved dissemination of evidence on climate and nutrition		