

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFPs)
**DEVELOPMENT OF A STUDY ON THE NEXUS OF NUTRITION (LARGE SCALE FOOD
FORTIFICATION) AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

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BACKGROUND

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.

2. ABOUT LARGE-SCALE FOOD FORTIFICATION

Large-Scale Food Fortification (LSFF) is a cost-effective and proven method to combat micronutrient malnutrition by adding one or more essential nutrients to widely and regularly consumed foods during processing. Since 2002, GAIN has supported the roll-out of LSFF directly in approximately 50 low and middle-income countries and dozens more indirectly. GAIN’s support includes the rollout or expansion of LSFF programmes where there is a need, technical assistance to improve compliance with existing national fortification standards and mandates, and monitoring and measurement of programmes. GAIN-supported LSFF programmes reach over a billion people annually. GAIN supports mandatory fortification of commonly consumed foods and condiments, including salt, edible oils, wheat flour, maize flour, and rice. GAIN supports governments in creating effective fortification policies and provides technical assistance to support industry’s ability to fortify. The consumption of fortified staples and condiments can play a major role in the prevention of micronutrient deficiencies across entire populations - particularly in women of reproductive age and adolescent girls - thus helping to ensure adequate nutrition during the critical periods of preconception and the 1,000-day development window for babies and young children. GAIN and partners continue to drive new investments in fortification through advocacy and generating evidence on the actual and potential contribution of fortification in the context of national nutrition strategies.

3. ASSIGNMENT BACKGROUND

CO₂ emissions are leading to a reduction in plant protein content and micronutrients such as calcium, iron, and zinc.¹ Increased weather volatility, reduced yields, and loss of agricultural land, and lost days of labor due to high temperatures and weather events make farming much more difficult. Increased natural disasters such as storms, floods, and droughts impact food availability, especially for the world's most vulnerable people. Projected yield losses reach 32% by 2100 in the worst-case scenarios and up to 10% of current farmland may become unsuitable for food production by 2050.²

By the middle of this century, climate change will increase the number of people at risk of hunger by up to 80 million, with impacts concentrated in sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, and Central America.³ The prevalence of micronutrient deficiency is also expected to increase significantly as increased economic vulnerability resulting from climate disasters leads to greater reliance on starchy staples like rice, bread, and maize porridge, which provide energy, but are nutritionally poor.⁴

The confluence of COVID-19, climate shocks, and conflict has exacerbated systemic inequities, resulting in a global nutrition crisis. According to the 2024 State of Food Security and Nutrition (SOFI), the number of people unable to afford a healthy diet in 2022 was 2.8 billion. Large-scale food fortification can play a key role in improving the affordability of nutritious diets and household resilience to future crises with little to no negative impact on the climate.⁵

The figure below summarises impacts of climate change on food systems.

¹ V. Owino, C. Kumwenda, B. Ekesa, et al., "The Impact of Climate Change on Food Systems, Diet Quality, Nutrition, and Health Outcomes: A Narrative Review," *Frontiers in Climate* 4 (2022): 941842, doi: 10.3389/fclim.2022.941842.

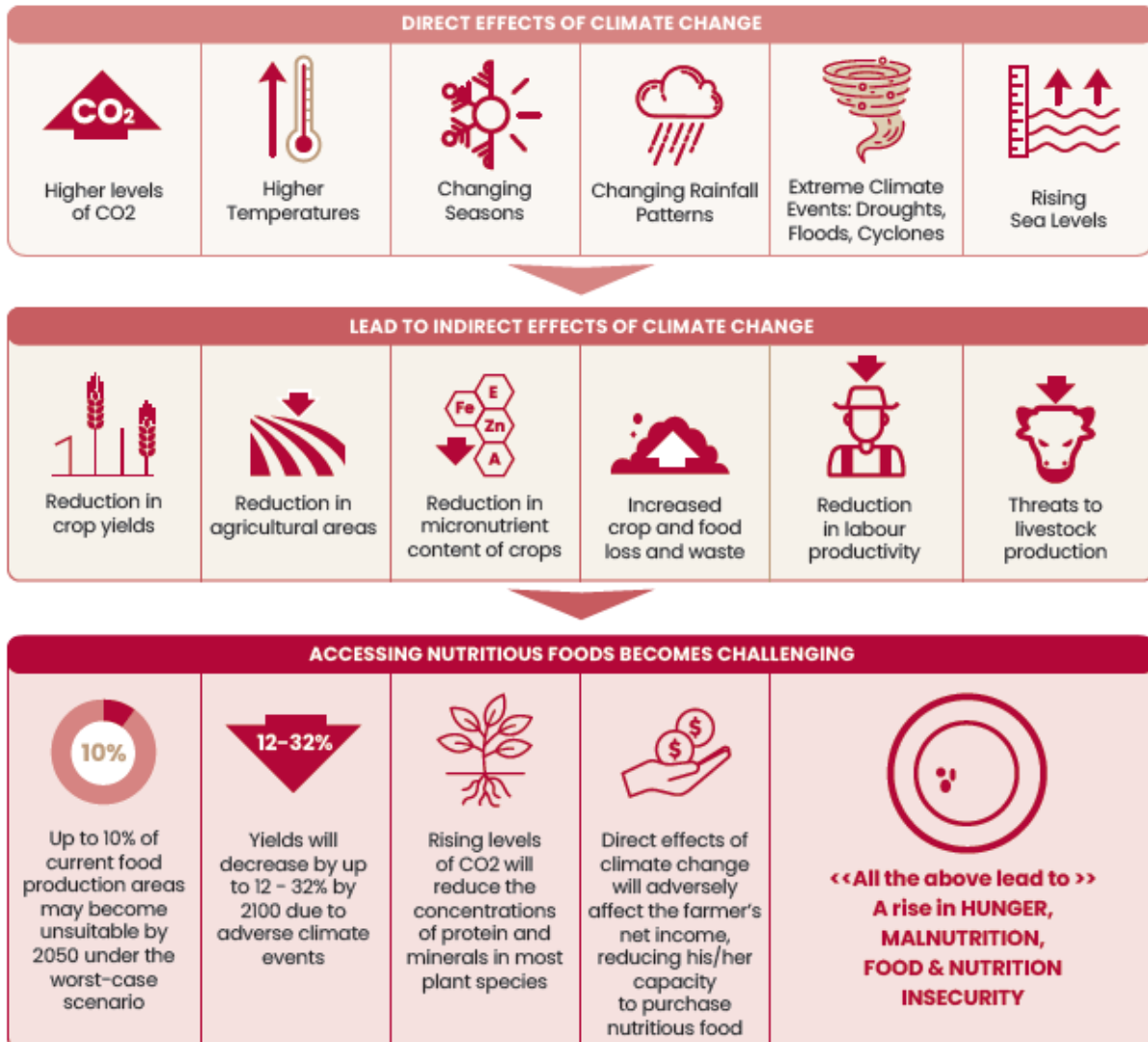
² Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). (2023). *Climate Change 2023: Synthesis Report*. Contribution of Working Groups I, II and III to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [Core Writing Team, H. Lee & J. Romero (Eds.)]. IPCC. <https://doi.org/10.59327/IPCC/AR6-9789291691647>

³ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). (2022). *Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability*. Contribution of Working Group II to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Cambridge University Press. Chapter 5: Food, Fibre, and Other Ecosystem Products.

⁴ Michelle Tigchelaar et al 2025 *Environ. Res. Lett.* **20** 014046

⁵ Standing Together for Nutrition (ST4N). The Climate Crisis and the Nutrition Crisis Are Intertwined: The need and the opportunity for policy action to address both crises simultaneously. Policy Brief. Washington, DC: Micronutrient Forum; 2025

Climate change: A threat to food and nutrition



GAIN seeks to engage the services of a consultant to develop a short paper (up to 15 pages) that explores the nexus between climate change, food systems, micronutrient losses and various climate adaptation measures for micronutrient resilience with a particular focus on the role of large scale food fortification. The paper will inform programme implementers, policy makers and other stakeholders on the merits and limitations of food fortification as a climate adaptation strategy.

4. OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of this assignment is to develop a short evidence-based paper that explores the nexus between climate change, food systems, micronutrient losses and climate adaptation strategies for micronutrients with a particular focus on large-scale food fortification as a climate adaptation strategy.

5. SCOPE OF WORK

This paper will focus on the nexus of climate change, food systems, and micronutrient losses to better understand the effectiveness and relevance of different climate adaptation measures including large scale food fortification. The paper should:

- Summarize, based on the existing literature, the main risks posed by climate change to the micronutrient value of key staple foods and more broadly the anticipated impacts of climate change on micronutrient deficiencies
- Identify proposed adaptation strategies to address the impacts of climate change on micronutrient deficiencies, including large-scale food fortification
- Summarize the climate impacts of agricultural production of the main food vehicles used in fortification (maize, wheat, rice, edible oils) and condiments (salt and sugar), distinguishing these impacts from the climate impacts of food fortification processes
- Assess the potential impact, limitations, and challenges of leveraging large-scale food fortification as a climate adaptation measure including:
 - Ability to mitigate reductions in micronutrient supply due to climate change
 - Ability to strengthen resilience of communities to other effects of climate change
 - Relevance to different geographic areas and specific types of micronutrient deficiencies
 - Cost effectiveness
 - Potential synergies or trade-offs with other proposed climate adaptation measures
 - Environmental impacts associated with the fortification process itself (and how these impacts can be mitigated), leveraging studies already commissioned by GAIN on life cycle analysis of fortification of margarine in Europe and maize flour in Tanzania
- Identify and categorise how large-scale food fortification can directly and indirectly contribute to adaptation to climate change, such as by strengthening resilience of communities and countries to adverse nutritional effects resulting from climate change. Indicate appropriate packages of climate adaptation interventions to

address increased prevalence of micronutrient deficiencies due to the impact of climate change on the food system

- Identify where including large-scale food fortification can help to strengthen existing climate adaptation policies and programmes, such as National Adaptation Plans, and contribute to ongoing negotiations, such as the UNFCCC COP and financing initiatives such as the Green Climate Fund.
- Identify opportunities for further research.

6. EXPECTED DELIVERABLES

- a. Preliminary outline laying out overall structure of the paper as well as the underlying methodology,
- b. A well written paper on the climate change, food systems, nutrient losses and micronutrient-related climate adaptation strategies with a focus on large scale food fortification (up to 15 pages). This will either be published as part of the GAIN working paper series or reworked with GAIN as co-author to be submitted to a peer reviewed publication.
- c. Policy brief
- d. PowerPoint presentation of the paper
- e. Facilitating a global webinar based on the paper's findings.

7. 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:
 - The proposal shall demonstrate a clear understanding of the project objective and deliverables.
- 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:
 - The proposal shall include a feasible work plan to ensure successful completion of deliverables.

- Knowledge and understanding climate, food systems and nutrition nexus including large scale food fortification.
- Detailed budget and cost-effectiveness of proposed approach:
 - Evidence of cost-effective approaches to undertaking the scope of work within the proposed budget.
 - The proposal shall identify possible challenges and include creative approaches to address 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.

8. EXPECTATIONS FROM APPLICANTS

The successful applicant (s) will:

- Work closely with representatives from the technical partners (GAIN and member organizations of the Global Fortification Technical Advisory Group/GF TAG). A lead contact will be designated for regular communication and monitoring of deliverables.
- Meet with representatives from the technical partners shortly after the contract is awarded. Following this, a work plan will be developed detailing the deliverables and timelines as outlined in the Scope of Work.
- Submit deliverables and reports according to the agreed-upon schedule of the work plan.
- The technical application should be no longer than 10 pages, including the cover page. All supporting documents should be included in the annexes.

9. TIMELINES

The assignment must not exceed a maximum of 2 months from the day the contract is awarded. The proposal submissions must be received via email by GAIN on or before 11:59 pm EST on Monday 23 June 2025.

10. UNACCEPTABLE PROPOSALS

The following proposals may not be considered or accepted:

- Proposals that are received after the RFP deadline.
- Incomplete proposals.
- Proposals that are not signed.

11. REVISIONS

Proposals may be revised by electronic mail, provided such revision(s) are received before the deadline.

12. INSTRUCTIONS FOR RESPONDING

a. Contact details for submitting the technical and financial proposals:

Submission of the technical proposal and the financial proposal should be made in a single email with the specifications below:

Submission type	Soft Copy submitted by email
Address	futurefortified@gainhealth.org cc: lomollo@gainhealth.org
Subject	Response to RFP: Development of a Paper – Climate Change – Nutrition Nexus

Completed Proposals will comprise a technical proposal and a financial proposal. Both proposals should be submitted by email.

The proposal should include the contents below and not exceed 10 pages, excluding appendixes and CVs of consultant(s).

- Cover page: Summary with basic information such as names, addresses, and contact information for the institution.
- Capacity Statement: A brief capacity statement as to why the consultant(s) or institution (if a consultancy company is applying) is well-positioned to conduct this activity. This capacity statement should refer to the areas of expertise and qualifications of the candidate(s). The capacity statement should mention relevant work conducted.
- Design and methodology: Outline the proposed activities (and outcomes), in line with the guidelines outlined above, and the specific methods to be used. This section

should form the bulk of the proposal. GAIN is open to all suggestions. The technical proposal must clearly identify if and where the activity requirements may be difficult to fully satisfy and provide alternative suggestions that can achieve the above-listed requirements.

- iv. Work Plan: Proposed work plan broken down by weeks, which should include detailed activities and timeline. If more than one person is assigned to this consultancy, it should also include the time allocation of key personnel.
- v. Budget: financial proposal broken down by phases and clearly separating the fees of the consultancy and other administrative costs related to each Objective.

In the appendix, the consultant should provide a track record of delivering similar assignments, preferably writing samples, and provide references (contact information) of clients for whom similar work has been executed.

GAIN will not necessarily accept the lowest bidder, or any proposals submitted except when the requirements are fully met.

b. Proposal Completion

- Proposals must be submitted on the official letterhead of the consultant and must be signed by the applicant.
- 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. If clarification is necessary, applicants are advised to contact GAIN through the email futurefortified@gainhealth.org and copy lomollo@gainhealth.org.
- While GAIN has used considerable efforts to ensure an accurate representation in this 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 their understanding of the RFP conditions; failing to comply may result in the disqualification of their submission.

c. Right 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.

d. References

GAIN reserves the right, before awarding of the contract, 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.

e. Release of Information

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

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

13. TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THIS SOLICITATION

a. 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 applicant's proposal, as well as the option of accepting partial components of a proposal if appropriate.

b. 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 strictly confidential.

c. Right to Final Negotiations on the Proposal

GAIN reserves the right to negotiate 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.

The payment will be structured based on the delivery of the milestones stated in section 6.

Deliverable	Payment rate %
Deliverable 1: Provide a revised Work Plan and methodology to conduct the assignment	20%
Deliverable 2: Detailed outline laying out the paper and key findings and messages	20%
Deliverable 3: Submission of a draft paper	20%
Deliverable 4: Submission and acceptance of the final copy of the paper	40%

To trigger the disbursement, the deliverables shall be approved in writing (including by email) from GAIN.

d. Evaluation Criteria (EW- Evaluation Weight)

Proposals will be reviewed by a special Review Committee. The table below indicates a list of the significant criteria against which proposals will be assessed.

Item	Description	Evaluation Weight (%)
1	Scope of Work: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding of the objectives of the assignment • Realistic timeline of outputs • Detailed workplan, including frame and responsibilities 	15%
2	Methodological Approach <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Narrative description of the approach to the tasks, showing a clear understanding and methodology • Familiarity with country and context expressed through the design of methodology 	25%
3	Team & Company Qualifications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience in similar assignments-Company & team 	20%
4	Organization and Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organization of the field team 	15%
5	Financial proposal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Price 	15%

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clear breakdown supporting methodology and team organization 	
6	Documents Provided & Track Record <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Track record (GAIN experience working with the Company) Docs provided as per the table below 	10%
	TOTAL	100%

	Documents to be provided with proposal
1	Offer of Services
2	Signed proposal
3	Proposal submitted on official letter head
4	Fees quoted as a fixed sum, inclusive of taxes
5	Does the proposal map functions to team members
6	Insurance
7	List of references provided

The above table will combine weighting with a “point” scoring system, as follows:

5 points	Fully meets
4 points	Meets, with minor gaps
3 points	Meets with moderate gaps
2 points	Partially meets, significant gaps
1 point	Does not meet

e. Mandatory Requirements

In addition to the evaluation criteria outlined above, the applicant's proposal should also respond to the following mandatory requirements:

- **Fees:** The fees shall be quoted as a fixed sum inclusive of all applicable taxes and/or institutional overhead. The fees must be quoted in United States Dollar (USD).
- **Experience:** Current curriculum vitae/resumes for key team members.
- **Capacity of the consultant to provide the required services:** Team members with relevant experience must be available for each identified position. The proposal should map function(s) to the team member(s).
- **References:** A list of references that can be contacted to discuss the team members' relevant related experience or for the firm.

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

f. Review Process

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

g. Limitations regarding third parties

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

h. Final Acceptance

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

i. Validity Period

The Offer of Services will remain valid for a period of 30 days after the Proposal closing date. In the event of award, the successful applicant will be expected to enter a services contract subject to GAIN's terms and conditions.

Please note that should you not hear from GAIN within 1 month after the application deadline, please consider your application unsuccessful at this time.

j. 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, and specifications developed by the applicant shall vest exclusively and entirely with GAIN.

Subject to the terms of the contract to be concluded between GAIN and the applicant, the applicant is required to adhere to and comply with the following:

- GAIN's Design Application or Branding guidelines.

- Although the service provider can put their logo in the document produced, GAIN's logo should be the one standing out as the owner of the intellectual property.

k. 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 documentation will be authorized or paid to the applicant, unless such change, modification or interpretation has received the express prior written approval of GAIN.