

Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition

Job title:	Technical Advisor, Policy and Governance
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Classification:	Grade 5	Direct reports:	0
Work location	Kenya, Nairobi or Uganda, Kampala	Travel required:	Up to 30%

Background

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. In particular, we aim to make healthier food choices more desirable, more available, and more affordable. GAIN's mission is to advance nutrition outcomes by improving consumption of nutritious and safe food for all people, especially the most vulnerable to malnutrition.

The Knowledge Leadership (KL) Team is responsible for supporting research, learning, and the creation and use of evidence across the organization. Staff are based in locations around the globe and form part of their local country team, as well as the global KL team.

GAIN's Policy and Governance Cluster

In 2021, over 100 governments committed to developing new national policies to make their food systems better address food security and malnutrition and be more environmentally sustainable. These ambitious 'national pathways' require efforts on integrating food production, livelihoods, climate, trade and health policy. The aim is to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030 and tackle unprecedented increases in hunger, which rose 20% by 2021. In addition to direct implementation, GAIN aims to support governments' efforts and priorities in the countries where we work by providing our expertise in nutrition and healthy diets to support the development of national policies and plans. There are two programmes within this cluster:

- Enabling government to transform food systems: Continuing the leadership role that GAIN took on during the United Nations Food Systems Summit, our country teams advise on food systems planning and prioritisation, and we develop tools to advance accountability in both private and public sectors.
- Supporting evidence-based policy making: Food Systems Governance facilitates sub-national food systems transformation and inclusivity. Broad participation at the city/local level and improved integration in national policy supports resilient and just food system.

DESCRIPTION
<p>Overall purpose</p> <p>KL provides technical assistance to ensure evidence-based project design and to support internal and external learning from research and evaluation activities. With the expansion of GAIN's policy and governance work, leadership is</p>

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needed in conceptualizing impactful projects, researching what works, and applying appropriate methods for impact tracking.

The overall purpose of this position is strengthening the design and implementation of programs at GAIN through developing and overseeing a learning agenda for GAIN's Policy & Governance work.

- The postholder will be responsible for mapping knowledge gaps related to our policy and governance programming and identifying appropriate methods and approaches for filling knowledge gaps through research and evaluation.
- In addition, the postholder will provide support to project teams bringing their expertise in policy and governance to project proposals and project design—for instance, through the development of evidence-based Theories of Change and Logic Models—and being responsible for the day-to day implementation, integration and oversight of research, monitoring, and learning for our Policy and Governance work.

Tasks and responsibilities

Technical Research Facilitation, Evaluation and Delivery

- Serving as the focal point providing support to programmatic areas, lead on the development of high-quality research, evaluation, & learning activities (e.g., surveys, evaluations, implementation research and other assessments) in alignment with state-of-art understanding of methods and theory on policy and governance and with research good-practice guidelines
- Lead literature reviews, evidence synthesis, and other desk-research activities to support evidence-based project design and research, evaluation, & learning activities.
- Undertake rigorous data analysis and visualization.
- Participate in research dissemination activities.
- Oversight of field implementation of research, evaluation, learning, and knowledge management activities, including visiting study sites and interacting with project partners (e.g., implementing partners, consultants, contractors).
- Ensure high-quality technical outputs from partners and consultants by providing a thorough technical review and liaising with them to improve the quality, as needed.
- Be actively engaged in research with partners across multiple countries and diverse topics relevant for nutrition broadly and nutrition and food systems specifically.
- Represent GAIN at technical and non-technical events as appropriate. Present research findings to stakeholders in country workshops and at scientific or other relevant conferences to facilitate the uptake of results for decision making.
- Other research-related activities as requested, including input into proposals for new research funding.

Project Management and reporting

- Plan and oversee timely implementation of research projects on policy and governance across GAIN's country offices, following the GAIN Project Management Guidelines and best practices for high-quality research.
- Develop Terms of Reference and Requests for Proposals for contracting relevant research and evaluation activities, when necessary, managing contracts of research partners ensuring timely delivery of high-quality research products
- Identify, track, and resolve project issues on an ongoing basis, and proactively seek support where issues require wider attention and resolution.
- Work closely with GAIN's Development Office to produce regular donor reports, as necessary, including tracking and updating monitoring indicators to track the projects' progress.
- Collaborate with GAIN's international finance team to ensure that accurate budgets and forecasting are drawn up for all activities, and that financial forecasts are regularly met.
- Ensure regular & timely internal reporting on projects' progress via GAIN's project management system.

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- Lead on the critical review and development of project reports and other knowledge products, including research articles, briefings, presentations, and associated tables/figures.
- Critically review reports from research partners and prepare reports/publications that consolidate evidence from single to several programs for diverse technical audiences.
- Identify opportunities for and lead the development of at least two academic papers per year.

Key organizational relationships

- Reports to the Knowledge Leadership Senior Technical Specialist for Policy and Governance Cluster
- Collaboration with the Cluster Leads, Project Managers, and other Knowledge Leadership staff

JOB REQUIREMENTS

Job-specific competencies

- Strong research design and implementation skills using political science and/or social science research methodologies: including Political Economy Analysis (PEA), policy-process research, institutional analysis, and related approaches.
- Knowledge of theory and practice related to governance, institutions, service delivery, and other policy issues in Low and middle-income countries.
- Demonstrated understanding of nutrition and food systems policy and governance; understanding of environmental sustainability or gender issues related to food systems would be an asset.
- Demonstrated ability to use qualitative and/or quantitative data analysis software, such as R, Stata, SAS, or SPSS; or nVivo or ATLAS.ti
- Understanding of and experience in evidence translation
- Ability to create high-quality and innovative data visualizations (for communication of findings to expert and non-expert audiences).

Competencies

- Strong technical writing and presentation skills.
- Ability to work with diverse groups/individuals, including government, academia, and the private sector.
- Strong report writing and presentation skills, including on technical topics.
- Strong Microsoft Excel, Word, Outlook, and PowerPoint skills.
- Clear and systematic thinking that demonstrates good judgement, problem solving, and creativity.
- Strong team leadership abilities, with the ability to motivate and mentor staff.
- Excellent project management capabilities and donor reporting skills
- Demonstrated ability to work in multi-cultural environment, under pressure, and to meet deadlines.
- Ability to act as a thought leader throughout the organization.
- Strong communication skills with technical and non-technical audiences.
- Ability to be flexible and adaptable in the face of unexpected challenges.

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Experience

- Substantial experience applying political science and/or social science research methodologies, including Political Economy Analysis (PEA), policy-process research, institutional analysis, and related approaches in LMIC's is essential.
- Substantial hands-on experience doing relevant research in a low- or middle-income country, in collaboration with local research counterparts, using either quantitative or qualitative methodologies.
- Experience should encompass the design of research methodologies, analysis of data, and reporting of results on the policy process and the role of policy, governance, and/or institutions in addressing poverty, food security, and nutrition issues.
- Experience working with diverse partners and ensuring effective stakeholder participation and consensus building.
- Extensive experience in evidence reviews and preparation of research protocols.
- Demonstrable experience leading research reports and other technical outputs and giving presentations.
- Experience with staff management would be an asset, including coaching, motivation, performance assessment, conflict prevention and management.
- Proposal writing and fundraising experience highly desirable.
- Track record of publication(s) in peer reviewed journals highly desirable

Education

- Master's degree in political science, public policy, public health, sociology, economics, development studies, or related field.
- The degree should include formal training in research methods.
- A PhD is preferred.

Other requirements

- Fluency in English (written and spoken).
- Fluency in French or Portuguese would be an asset.
- Willing to travel internationally

WHAT GAIN OFFERS

- Flexible working hours
- Friendly working environment
- Professional development opportunities