Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition

Job title:	Technical Advisor Evaluations of Food Systems Transformation, Knowledge Leadership

Classification:	Grade 5	Direct reports:	1 - 5
Work location	Nairobi, Kenya or Abuja, Nigeria	Travel required:	Up to 30%

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. In this case, the staff member will be based in a country office and will be working with colleagues in Kenya, Nigeria, Benin, Mozambique, Uganda and Ethiopia as well as the global KL team to support the evaluations of two large projects.

DESCRIPTION
Overall purpose GAIN has recently embarked on **two large multi-year programmes** which aim to improve diets in millions of people, including women and children, in 6 countries: Benin, Ethiopia. Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, and Uganda. These are for the Transforming Food Systems to Improve Diet Quality and Resilience for the Most Vulnerable ("Dutch 3.0 or A1") and Catalysing Strengthened policy action for healthy diets and resilience ("CASCADE or A2"). The two projects are meant to be complementary and synergistic, contribute to similar outcomes but using different mechanisms for action (market-based and policy-based approaches). The CASCADE project is being led by our partner CARE, although GAIN is taking a lead role in many areas of the programme delivery. The Knowledge Leadership (KL) team is leading the oversight of both programme evaluations for these (A1 and A2) food system transformation programmes, which are contracted out to independent research partners. GAIN's KL team is seeking a Technical advisor to provide comprehensive, effective, and efficient technical daily oversight and support throughout the project lifecycles of the two large multi-country multi-sectoral impact evaluations, working closely with the two senior KL focal points, and coordinating with country teams, implementation partners, and independent researchers.

Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition

Tasks and responsibilities

Technical Research Input

- Lead the day-to-day oversight of high-quality, technically sound research, in alignment with GAIN and other relevant research good practice guidelines, to bring out the best research results from our two independent evaluations over all the 12 country-project evaluations (6 in A1 and 6 in A2). These include impact evaluations, as well as process evaluations, process tracing exercises and 2 country project assessments (in A1). Oversee quality and rigour of research and tools.
- Identify, conceptualize, and lead on *add-on* studies which will contribute to project learning and global evidence on food systems transformation.
- Lead in development of programme impact pathways for 9 country-projects.
- Provide close oversight including refining research questions and methodologies, reviewing research plans and protocols, and interacting with partners and contractors as needed to carry out the activities.
- For the two project assessments of A1 in Uganda and Benin, lead the development and conceptualization of the assessments, with relevant KL focal points, to align with overall programme goals, aims and learning objectives.
- Carry out rapid literature reviews, evidence synthesis, and other desk activities to support projects and methodological research approaches, as needed. Surface learnings for wider dissemination.
- Support in-country 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) to ensure timely and quality progress.
- Ensure high-quality technical outputs from partners by providing a thorough technical review and liaising with them to improve the quality, as needed.
- Provide technical support to other programming areas, and related activities as requested by the manager.
- Strategic contribution to GAIN learning agenda drawing from these two evaluations
- Problem solve, in collaboration with senior KL staff and research partners, on technical challenges emerging with evaluations

Knowledge mobilisation and dissemination

- Lead on the development of knowledge products, including research articles, briefings, presentations, and associated tables/figures.
- Undertake rigorous data analysis and visualization as needed.
- Communicate technical topics to colleagues and external partners by preparing and presenting reports, and blog posts, organizing and delivering presentations, and facilitating events as needed.
- Coordinate knowledge mobilisation activities to consolidate and share programmes learnings across countries and teams within GAIN and externally. Proactive abstract submissions to peer-reviewed journals and international conferences on relevant topical areas.

Research and Project Management Coordination, Planning and Implementation

- Work closely with all research partners to ensure all research activities are completed as planned, on time, and with high quality.
- Work closely with GAIN programme colleagues to include them in planning and coordination of programmes' research activities.
- Organize and participate in coordination and planning meetings within GAIN and with external research partners.
- Contribute to regular internal reporting on the project's progress via GAIN's "PRISM" project management system, working closely with and overseeing the work of the Project Associate

Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition

- Support project monitoring and reporting on indicators for the research workstream.
- Manage the Project Associate, supporting them preparing donors' reports in collaboration with project teams, technical teams, funding team and support teams.
- Proactively identify and report any issues with implementing the project, address them where feasible, and proactively seek support where issues require wider attention and resolution.

Key organisational relationships

- Reports to Senior Manager, KL
- Manages Project Associate, Evaluations
- The position is part of the KL Team
- Works closely with the country programme teams at GAIN across the 6 countries (Nigeria, Mozambique, Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia, and Benin)

JOB REQUIREMENTS

Competencies

- Knowledge of both quantitative and qualitative research methodologies, including analysis of survey data, in nutrition, agriculture, or a closely related field. Strong knowledge of *at least one* of either quantitative or qualitative research methodologies is needed, with some experience with the other.
- Demonstrable understanding of nutrition and food systems; understanding of policy process or environmental sustainability or gender issues related to food systems would be an asset.
- Skills with data analysis software, such as R, Stata, SAS, or SPSS; or nVivo or ATLAS.ti
- Knowledge of methods for policy-related and/or market-based research
- Skills and abilities to present and share learning and research findings in English to diversified external audiences, including policy makers.
- Ability to create high quality and innovative data visualizations (for communication of findings to expert and non-expert audiences) would be an advantage.
- Strong inter-personal skills.
- Strong verbal and written communication skills, including on technical topics and on rigorous objective research findings.
- High level of professionalism and integrity.
- Clear and systematic thinking that demonstrates good judgment, expert problem solving, and creativity.
- Ability to work independently and in diverse team settings.
- Ability to use initiative, prioritize, multi-task, and work well under pressure to meet deadlines.

Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition

Experience

- Experience with research using both quantitative and qualitive methodologies, in policy analysis, political economy, market research, food/nutrition or a related field. Experience should encompass design of research methodologies, analysis of data, and reporting of results.
- Demonstrated experience in critical analysis skills to support evidence generation and reporting.
- Experience writing reports, academic papers, and other technical outputs and giving presentations.
- Track record of publication(s) in peer reviewed journals would be an asset.
- Experience with data management and analysis tools/software.
- Experience supporting research project management tasks.
- Experience supporting coordination with diverse partners and stakeholders and with ensuring effective stakeholder participation and consensus building.
- Excellent communication (written and verbal), writing and presentation skills in multicultural and multilingual environments.
- Skills in knowledge management and research translation.
- Organised and detail oriented.
- Experience managing and capacity building of junior staff
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Education

- Minimum Master's level training in nutrition, food policy, agriculture or other relevant field with Degree should include formal training in research methods, PhD preferred.
- At least 3 years conducting applied research in various settings

Other requirements

- High technical fluency in written and spoken English required
- French a plus
- Must be willing and able to travel internationally, regularly

WHAT GAIN OFFERS

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