Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition

Job title:	Project Manager - Product Owner for Digital LSFF		
Classification:	Grade 5	Direct reports:	1 - 5
Work location	Abuja, Nigeria / London, UK	Travel required:	Up to 25%

The Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) is a Swiss-based foundation launched at the United Nations in 2002 to tackle the human suffering caused by malnutrition. Due to COVID19, conflict in Ukraine and climate change, malnutrition and hunger have worsened significantly since 2019, reversing a decade of progress. There is growing recognition that our food systems need to change if we are to reverse these trends.

GAIN's Strategy aims to transform food systems to make healthier diets from sustainable food systems accessible to all people and especially those whose are most vulnerable to shocks. By 2027, we aim to improve the access of 1.5 billion people to nutritionally enhanced staple foods, improve the access of 25 million people to healthier diets, and support positive food system change in 10 countries. This is bold and complex, and the only way to achieve this is to work together with partners including governments, businesses, and civil society at the country and global level. These goals, and the ways of achieving them, build on our twenty-year legacy of transforming people's lives with improved nutrition through concerted action and effective policy change.

DESCRIPTION

Overall purpose

The Project Manager provides functional, technical and managerial leadership to projects and teams in the thematic area.

They lead a high performing cross-functional project team, and establish, manage and maintain relationships with relevant partners and stakeholders. They are responsible for the overall project management leadership and ensure the project team implement project activities within approved plans, budget, and quality standards.

The Project Manager, throughout the project life cycle, ensures accurate planning, management and reporting of activities, budgets (resources), monitoring, external services and any other key areas required to deliver successful projects.

The Project

The Digital Fortification Quality Traceability System is an innovative cross-sector project driven by a consortium of 8 multisector organizations, led by the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN). The digital system is a global-good which bridges public and private sector needs to address challenges in fortification quality and is being piloted and scaled in three countries: Bangladesh, India and Nigeria. We are looking for a Product Owner, who will provide leadership and skills in a fast-paced environment, including hands-on technical and functional input to design, maintenance, build, integration and testing of this digital solution per functional and technical design specifications by a variety of end users across the Food Fortification value chain.

The Project Manager will act as Product owner for the system solution. They will be responsible for owning decisions about prioritizing the problems to solve, deciding what gets built based on value proposition and influencing the detailed aspects of how the solution is built and launched. The Product Owner will be responsible for leading and managing the complete product development cycle, driven by scrum/agile project management practices.

Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition

Tasks and responsibilities

Project Design, Planning and Implementation

- Provide strategic leadership in the design, planning and implementation of the project.
- Revise and execute a digital product strategy according to organizational goals, market trends, customer demands, and the requirements of diverse stakeholders.
- Build and maintain a deep understanding of all the digital product aspects, including the customer and user perspective, competitive products, and our technical capabilities.
- Translate the program backlog into user stories and product iterations to feed the implementation team(s).
- Implement best practice User-Centered-Design methodologies and research to achieve high user value and satisfaction and integrate stakeholder feedback/suggestions through best practice demand management processes.
- Monitor the context dynamics and adapt the project activities and implementation modalities accordingly.
- Enable and support team members to conduct assessments and take part in proposal developments.
- Lead the preparation for the inception workshop for the project. Facilitate the inception workshop with support from the other teams in GAIN.
- Facilitate project review meetings at regular cycles and ensure (track) documentation of findings.

Project Management and Oversight

- Responsible for consulting and/or communicating on any change requests or course corrections.
- Identify, track and resolve project issues on an ongoing basis, and proactively seek support where issues require wider attention and resolution.
- Monitor risks and develop contingency plans to respond to emergencies. Escalate issues when appropriate
- Work with relevant environment, gender and safeguarding specialists to ensure that they are integrated in project designs and implementation plans.
- Ensure that implementation of project activities is in line with the policies and best practice standards of GAIN.

People and Team Management

- Lead a high-performing project team consisting of people across the organization including a consortium of 8 organizations; bringing together the skills, experience and competencies required for successful digital project delivery.
- Work with Business Architect to ensure product development enables go-to-market strategy, as well as develop positioning and messaging for customers.
- Build a positive and inclusive culture and working environment. for the staff to carry out their activities.
- Coach and/ or mentor the project team members and support the development of their capacity.
- Understanding of and commitment to adhere to equity, diversity, gender, child safety and staff health and wellbeing principles.
- Support the uptake and ensure staff accountability on the GAIN code of conduct.

Relationship Management

- Engage key external partners in project design, implementation, and review
- Collaborate with a consortium including designers and developers to ensure the deployment of necessary features, including overseeing customer research, solution design, user story writing, feature development, user acceptance testing, and market research.
- Represent the project and organisation in external forum as agreed with the Head of Programmes & Policy lead.
- Build and maintain strong partnerships with civil society, INGOs, government entities, private sector and other organisations.
- Build and maintain a culture of mutual accountable partnership with other teams within GAIN that supports programmes and projects.
- Work closely with Project Sponsors, QUADs and the POC to manage and delivery effective projects.

- Work closely with GAINs technical teams and monitoring network to ensure projects are implemented in line with the relevant quality standards.

Resource Management

- Write donors' reports in collaboration with project teams, technical teams, funding team and support teams.
- Ensure narrative reporting and financial accounting meet GAIN and donor's requirements.
- Ensure monthly project reporting (in line with GAINs Project Management Standards) to update management on program progress achieved, program plans, changes in direction and challenges encountered.

Key organisational relationships

- Reports to the Deputy Director, PST
- Line management and mentoring of project support staff.
- Close collaboration with the other projects and operational staff.
- Liaises regularly with GAIN Programme Services Team and Knowledge Leadership teams.
- Government, Donors, NGOs, Private Sector, Academia and others

JOB REQUIREMENTS

Competencies

- Experience working in an Agile environment (reviewing business needs, refine priorities, outline milestones and deliverables, and identify opportunities and risks).
- Excellent project management and leadership capabilities.
- Clear and systematic thinking that demonstrates good judgement, expert problem solving, and creativity.
- Good interpersonal, influencing and communication skills.
- Diplomacy, tact and negotiation skills.
- Demonstrable understanding of the gender and protection dynamics of humanitarian and development work, and ability to capture this in the analysis and design of interventions.
- Strong ability to be flexible and adaptable in times of unexpected challenges and provide creative solutions, whilst maintaining the ethos and objectives of the work at all times.
- Strong ability to work with diverse groups/individuals, ranging from local partners, local authorities, local community groups, the civil society and the private sector.
- Computer literacy with good Excel, MS Word, Outlook, and Power Point skills.

Experience

- Proven experience in project management in complex and diverse environments, cross-disciplinary teams.
- A good understanding of product and software development
- Experience with SQL queries and with back-end and front-end programming languages such as Java, HTML, CSS
- At least three to four years of experience in product design or development
- Food and agriculture systems development, experience in managing programs and digital transformation
- Must have worked on digital product development/digital transformation in emerging or developing country markets.
- Knowledge and experience of working according to agile methodologies and lean product development is a strong prerequisite; Licenses or certifications e.g., CSPO, SCRUM
- Product roadmap experience
- Value proposition development.

Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition

- Experience using product management frameworks and tools (like agile and scrum methodologies), adept with Jira.
- Experience in usability and customer-focused design.
- Strong analytical, prioritization, negotiation, and problem-solving skills
- Communication skills.
- Strong user empathy and able to represent the customer in product development.
- Proven experience in delivering projects on time / on budget, using project management processes and tools including risk management, benefits management, financial management and quality assurance.
- Proven ability to use group facilitation to ensure effective stakeholder participation and consensus building.

Education

- Degree or recognized international accreditation in project management.
- Bachelor's degree in business, computer science, information systems, or related field

Other requirements

- Must be willing and able to travel
- Proficiency in English (written and spoken).

WHAT GAIN OFFERS

- A competitive renumeration package
- Flexible working hours through hybrid working opportunities
- Friendly working environment
- Professional development opportunities
- The chance to make a lasting contribution to reducing global malnutrition