Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition

Job title:	Research Advisor, Consumer-focused research

Classification:	Grade 5	Direct reports:	1 - 5
Work location	Nairobi, Kenya / New Delhi, India / London, United Kingdom	Travel required:	Up to 20%

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.

GAIN's Knowledge Leadership 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. The KL team plays a critical role in supporting GAIN's programmes, including ensuring evidence-based design as well as strong learning throughout the programme cycle and research to understand their potential impact.

The Healthier Diets research unit at KL contributes to generating, sharing, and leveraging knowledge relevant to consumer level programmes which aim to produce and measure impact on diets. Therefore, the focus is on programme areas that directly or indirectly reach individuals with demand and/or access components with the intention of increasing nutrient adequacy and/or improving diet quality. It aims to use knowledge to inform the design of GAIN's relevant programmes and the reach of its approaches which include work for the general population as well as work focused on women, children, youth, base of the pyramid and other vulnerable populations.

DESCRIPTION
Overall purpose The Research Advisor is a member of the Healthier Diets research unit at KL and is responsible for ensuring high-quality design and implementation of research and learning initiatives to support GAIN programming. These programs are aimed at directly reaching individuals with the goal of enhancing nutrient adequacy and improving diet quality. In particular, the position will provide strategic and technical leadership through evidence to inform the design, implementation, and evaluation of consumer-level projects, including those with a demand creation and/or Social Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) component at GAIN.

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Tasks and responsibilities

Technical Research Facilitation, Evaluation and Delivery

- In collaboration with other GAIN research experts as well as external collaborators, oversee and deliver technical advice to country projects and support on the integration and development of research questions and methods.
- Conduct literature reviews or data searches relevant to food and nutrition issues, as relevant to the projects.
- Lead the selection, manage and engage with key technical partners (e.g., local data collection firms, think tanks) for the high-quality design, implementation, and dissemination of the research.
- Lead the implementation of research activities (e.g., surveys, evaluations, implementation research and other assessments) throughout all stages, design (protocol and questionnaire development), implementation (training, data collection and quality assurance), data analysis and reporting.
- Lead the development of a learning agenda to strengthen the methods, tools, and resources available for the design, implementation, and evaluation of consumer-focused projects (e.g., demand creation, SBCC).
- Develop and review reports, papers, briefs, blogs, and presentations related to the research methods and results.
- Lead on the assessment, interpretation, and communication of the research results.
- Ensure the delivery of high-quality technical outputs from external partners and team members by conducting comprehensive technical reviews and collaborating with them to enhance quality, as necessary. Collaborate closely with project teams to interpret these technical outputs and translate their implications for project design and/or revision.
- Lead in conceptualizing, drafting, and publishing research findings for a technical audience.
- 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.

Support on programme delivery

- Stay abreast of developments in relevant topics to programs at GAIN, with a particular focus on demand creation and SBCC concepts and measures. Consolidate information on these concepts and support the integration of them into GAIN's projects.
- Lead or support monitoring, evaluation, accountability, and learning (MEAL) activities, including working with monitoring specialists to advance the development of standard indicators that can be used for tracking progress of consumer-focused projects.
- Strengthen capacity across GAIN by documenting best practices and preparing resource materials for new consumer-focused projects.
- Provide technical support to programming areas as needed.
- Collaborate with programmes colleagues (programme services and country programmes teams) and communications teams on development of manuscripts, publications, blogs, white papers, articles, factsheets, and briefs on relevant topics.

Key organisational relationships

- Reports to the Senior Technical Specialist, Knowledge Leadership.
- Works closely with GAIN Country Offices to support the implementation of activities.
- Close collaboration with other staff, particularly the Programme Service Team.

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JOB REQUIREMENTS

Job-specific competencies

- Knowledge and experience in conducting both quantitative and qualitative methodologies for conducting research, with an emphasis in consumer-focused research.
- Experience working in low- and middle- income countries desired.
- Proficiency in interpreting consumer-focused research results and integrating key findings into the development of communication campaigns and strategies desired.
- Project management capabilities, including with budgeting and work planning, is an asset.
- Demonstrated skills with data analysis software, such as R, Stata, SAS, or SPSS; or nVivo or ATLAS.ti. is an asset.
- Understanding of nutrition and food systems relevant for GAIN's programming areas; an understanding of environmental sustainability or gender issues related to food systems would be an asset.
- Ability to draft peer-reviewed publications.

Competences

- Clear and systematic thinking that demonstrates good judgement, problem solving, and creativity.
- Ability to be flexible and adaptable in times of unexpected challenges and provide creative solutions.
- Ability to work with diverse groups/individuals, including academia.
- Strong report writing and presentation skills, including on technical topics.
- Strong communication skills, including facilitating discussions between people with varying levels of technical knowledge.
- Good Microsoft Excel, Word, Outlook, and PowerPoint skills.

Experience

- Substantial experience with research design and implementation using either quantitative or qualitative methodologies, in nutrition, food systems, or a related field. Experience should encompass design of research methodologies, analysis of data, and reporting of results.
- Hands-on experience of programmatically relevant research in a low- or middle-income country, in collaboration with local research counterparts.
- Demonstrated experience in critical analysis skills to support evidence generation and reporting.
- Proven research project management experience in complex and diverse environments, including delivering projects on time and within budget and using project management processes and tools is an asset.
- Experience working with diverse partners and ensuring effective stakeholder participation and consensus building.

Education

- Master's degree in consumer research, marketing, nutrition, public health, sustainable development, or other relevant field.
- A PhD in marketing, nutrition, sustainable development, economics, development studies, policy, or related field is not required but would be an asset.

Other requirements

- Fluency in written and spoken English required
- Must be willing and able to travel internationally regularly.
- Proficiency in French and/or Portuguese would be an asset.

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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