



The Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition

Job title:	Senior Associate, Technical Assistance: Nutritious Foods Financing
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Classification:	Grade 4	Direct reports:	1-5
Work location	Nairobi, Kenya	Travel required:	30%

The Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (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. 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 Nutritious Foods Financing Facility (N3F): Pioneering Nutrition Financing

The Global Nutrition Report 2021 estimates an additional USD 39 to 50 billion is needed every year to close the finance gap and reach the nutrition targets of Sustainable Development Goal 2 'Zero Hunger'.

Innovative methods of resource mobilization are needed to increase overall funds dedicated to nutrition and to consciously target them towards the high priority needs of the most vulnerable. This is exactly what the Nutritious Foods Financing Facility – or N3F – aims to do.

Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) are a critical engine of transformation: in Africa, for example, they produce over half of calories and over 80% of animal-source foods, fruits, and vegetables, while processing or handling about 65% of food in later stages of the value chain. For low-income consumers in particular, SMEs are essential for ensuring access to nutritious, safe foods.

Even though SMEs play such an essential role in food systems, they struggle to access the financing necessary to scale up their offerings to increase the availability and accessibility of nutritious, safe foods.

The Nutritious Foods Financing Facility aims to address these problems through a blended finance approach that focuses on improving nutrition by supporting SMEs in Sub-Saharan Africa. The Nutritious Foods Financing Facility will provide targeted funding to SMEs based on their financial needs and their ability to absorb and use the funds. With consumer nutrition at its core, N3F will have an integrated approach to impact and assess how SMEs support gender equity, environmental sustainability, engagement of consumers and suppliers, and employment.

To ensure the power of SMEs to deliver nutritious, safe foods is fully unleashed, N3F will also provide support beyond financing, through a technical assistance and impact monitoring component. These components are both led by GAIN, drawing on several years' prior experience of providing technical assistance to SMEs.

DESCRIPTION
<p>Overall purpose</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Senior Associate, Nutritious Foods Financing (N3F) Technical Assistance will manage GAIN's N3F TA offerings: fine-tune processes and standard operating procedures, broaden the roster of vetted service providers, and design/implement monitoring activities to ensure the quality of services provided. The Senior Associate will gather feedback to ensure the continuous improvement of the TA Process.

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Tasks and responsibilities

- Identify technical assessment needs of SMEs operating in the food value chain that are potential pipeline for the N3F Fund, working together with the investment officers at our partner asset manager Incofin Investment Management
- Design technical assistance support packages tailored to individual SMEs and group training according to common needs in the portfolio
- Perform matchmaking between TA requirements and service providers, manage engagements between GAIN, service providers, and our beneficiaries.
- Oversee the implementation of project workplans and ensure that all assignments deliver maximum value for money.
- Fine-tune documented procedures, monitoring mechanisms, and feedback forms for the provision of TA to SMEs.
- Identify and perform due diligence on a roster of qualified service providers in N3F's scoping countries.
- Manage the roster of GAIN's internal TA capabilities and service providers
- Work closely with GAIN's Knowledge Leadership and our partner' MEL groups to ensure monitoring, evaluation and learning take place
- Represent GAIN at national and regional technical meetings and workshops
- Lead the donor reporting on the N3F TA component with support from the N3F Programme Lead

Key organisational relationships

- The Senior Associate will report directly to the N3F Programme Lead, working closely with other project colleagues and implementing partners as required for the agreed upon activities.
- The Senior Associate will work closely with GAIN Country Offices to support the implementation of activities
- The Senior Associate may assume management responsibility for a small team of staff
- Provide input to the development of overall Cluster TA package in line with market forces and demands by clients
- Contribute to research and development of TA best practices within the GAIN SME support framework
- Participate in TA taskforces and initiatives led by the NEU Cluster Lead

JOB REQUIREMENTS

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Competencies / Skills / Attributes

- Recognised expertise in the provision of technical assistance (TA) to SMEs
- A deep understanding of what makes an SME scale their operations, grow, and succeed
- Proven ability to use initiative, prioritise, multi-task, and work well under pressure to meet deadlines.
- Clear and systematic thinking that demonstrates good judgment, problem solving, and creativity.
- Excellent project coordination, management, negotiation, and advocacy skills.
- Effective communication skills in multi-cultural, multi-lingual environments (written and verbal).
- Flexible, with a willingness and ability to travel in challenging environments.
- IT literate with excellent MS Office skills. Advanced excel skills
- Ability to operate within the private and public sectors to effectively liaise with food enterprises, development agencies at senior level.
- Ability to manage a small team of technical experts.
- Understanding and passion for impact investment and / or development finance
- A strong commitment to GAIN's mission and to catalysing change through public-private collaboration.

Experience

- Professional experience directly or indirectly related to food supply chains, SMEs, technical assistance.
- Ideally experience in a technical assistance facility / accelerator / incubator.
- Demonstrated excellence in written/verbal communications, research, writing, and analytical ability.

Education

- University level degree in a relevant field such as business administration, food value chain, economics, or any other relevant field.

Other requirements

- Professional proficiency in English is required.
- Professional proficiency in French and Portuguese is desirable but not essential

WHAT GAIN OFFERS

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