

The Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition

Job title:	Senior Technical Specialist – Food Systems and Nutrition
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Classification:	C6	Direct reports:	1 - 5
Work location	Nairobi, Kenya	Travel required:	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. 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.

DESCRIPTION
<p>Overall purpose</p> <p>The overall purpose of this position is to provide strategic and technical nutrition expertise throughout the design, implementation, and evaluation stages of all the project in Kenya. The role will also provide leadership in the development and implementation of assessments and research agendas within one or more of GAINs programming areas.</p> <p>The Senior Technical Specialist will collaborate closely with nutrition and food systems specialists in the Knowledge Leadership and Program Services teams within GAIN, as well as key government agriculture and nutrition leads.</p> <p>This role will head the technical department in GAIN Kenya to ensure other technical specialists remain aligned to the nutrition and food systems agenda of GAIN.</p> <p>As part of the senior management team of the GAIN Kenya office, the Senior Technical Specialist will assist in ensuring organizational efficiency and effectiveness through participation in decision making, advising on strategic programmatic areas, solving problems, communication and implementation of agreed decisions.</p>
<p>Tasks and Responsibilities:</p> <p><u>Strategic Leadership of Technical Unit</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Head up the technical unit of the Kenya Programme to ensure effective ongoing technical performance of a complex and ambitious food systems programme through leading a team of technical specialists and working closely with senior project staff on a day-to-day basis.

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- Collaborate with the Country Director with the development, implementation and quality management of the country programme with the aim to maximize impact to transforming local food systems for better nutrition.
- Establish and manage key technical stakeholder relationships internally and externally.

Technical guidance in nutrition and food systems

- Provide expert technical support to the design, and implementation of the GAIN Kenya programmatic portfolio by ensuring the nutritional aspects of the programme is sound and within GAIN's technical standards.
- guide and work with project managers to ensure appropriate nutrition interventions are incorporated and implemented in the GAIN projects
- Guide and work with project managers to ensure businesses supported by GAIN are aligned with GAIN's technical nutrition requirements
- Work with government and development partners to contribute to the development of nutrition related guidelines, and ensure implementation in GAIN
- Work with other technical experts such as the Marketing specialists, demand creation associates to ensure GAIN's work remains aligned to the appropriate nutrition standards.
- Collaborate with the country team with proposal development to ensure appropriate inclusion of nutrition technical issues in new projects.

Support research, assessment agenda development and implementation:

- Nurture a symbiotic working relationship with technical and project leads, and other subject matter experts to support the development of research agendas that will permit the identification and prioritization of research questions related to strategic areas within GAIN.
- Working with the Monitoring Manager, to identify the need for and opportunities to develop and/or use tools that would support the quality of research, monitoring at GAIN.
- Lead on the implementation of the Food Systems Dashboard work in Kenya.
- Participate actively in regional and/or global forum, technical and expert groups and through this involvement ensure GAIN adds value to the nutrition community through its investments in research
- Provide expert input related to nutrition and research methodologies to proposals, reports, presentations, and strategy documents
- Responsible for the management, and quality assurance for all aspects of research contracted and/or implemented by GAIN
- Participate as appropriate in reports dissemination and translation, via presentations, publications and other media as appropriate
- Represent GAIN during key industry discussions, while providing analysis, technical insights and disseminating lessons learnt.

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- Represent and promote the GAIN with the academic and public health/ nutrition communities

People Management

- Line manage several direct reports, specifically supporting yearly work plan development and performance management.
- Develop direct reports to maximize their contribution to the project team and organization.
- Coach, direct and support the wider project team to effectively deliver in a timely manner the project milestones.
- Lead on and manage all the tasks associated with recruitment of team members with the aim to develop a high performing team in line with the demands of the programmatic strategy

Key organisational relationships

- Reports to Country Director, GAIN Kenya.
- Close collaboration with nutrition and food systems specialists in the Knowledge Leadership and Programme Services teams.
- Line management and mentoring of GAIN Kenya Marketing Advisor and Junior Nutrition Associate
- Close collaboration with the Head of Programmes, Head of Operations and Influencing and Advocacy Manager.
- Liaising regularly with Kenya Programme staff.
- Government, Donors, NGOs, Private Sector, Academia and others

JOB REQUIREMENTS

Competencies

- In-depth knowledge of nutrition and diverse research methodologies, including qualitative and quantitative methods
- Knowledge and experience in methods of program evaluation and/or implementation research
- Strong scientific writing skills (proposals and publications)
- Strong project management skills; experience developing and managing budgets for research an asset
- Very organized, able to manage high pressure deliverables and capable to work independently

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Experience

- Solid experience in operations research, project management and evaluations.
- Experience in the performance management of nutrition programs.
- Experience in development and operationalization of M&E frameworks and plans
- Excellent understanding of quantitative and qualitative research and analysis
- Experience in a multi-cultural environment and managing local issues in developing countries.
- Experience in the performance management of agriculture-nutrition programs highly desirable.

Education

Masters or PhD in nutrition, public health, economics, agricultural economics, food science or a suitable equivalent.

Other requirements

- Fluent in written and verbal English.
- Proficiency in local languages highly desirable
- A willingness and ability to travel in-country and overseas as and when required

WHAT GAIN OFFERS

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