

Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition

Job title:	Senior Associate, Policy and Advocacy, GAIN Kenya		
Classification:	Grade 4	Direct reports:	0
Work location	Nairobi, Kenya	Travel required:	Up to 40%

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.

GAIN is now seeking a dynamic, experienced individual to head up its influencing and advocacy work in Kenya.

DESCRIPTION
<p>Overall purpose</p> <p>To strengthen GAIN's policy and advocacy work and its ability to engage with and influence global and national policy processes around food and nutrition security.</p> <p>GAIN's policy work is geared towards strengthening the food and nutrition agenda in Kenya by influencing key actors; Government, donors, the UN, civil society including peer NGOs, the private sector and consumers.</p> <p>GAIN and CARE Kenya have partnered to implement a project known as Catalyzing strengthened policy action for healthy diets and resilience (CASCADE) whose goal is to improve food security and contribute to the reduction of malnutrition amongst women of reproductive age and children under 5 in Kenya.</p> <p>The programme has two strategic objectives: it aims to increase access to and consumption of healthy diets, as well as increasing the resilience of households to economic and climate change-related shocks across in three counties in Kenya. The project aims at doing this through contribution to the improvement of the food and nutrition policy environment in Kenya. The programme will galvanize government towards policy change and accountability.</p> <p>GAIN is also implementing a vegetable value chain project whose aim is to improve vegetable consumption towards global guidelines among the urban and rural communities in eleven target counties. The enabling environment initiative in this project will include influencing regulations and policies for vegetable production, support businesses in vegetable trade, as well as information disclosure on food safety.</p> <p>GAIN's Resilient Markets programme in Machakos County aims at keeping fresh food markets open and well governed and supporting related SME business operations. Improved market good governance should be aligned to the policies and should be inclusive and equitable.</p>
<p>Roles and Responsibilities</p> <p>Policy support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the implementation of the policy aspects for the various GAIN projects • Review and synthesize key government food and nutrition related policy documents necessary to deliver project commitments • In consultation with the Policy and Advocacy manager, develop project implementation plans and update key project documents as well as reporting project achievements • Contribute to drafting reports, policy papers and briefs, factsheets and other documents which synthesize GAIN learnings, values and priorities • Research, edit, and produce policy documents, in collaboration with the Policy and External Relations team, Knowledge Leadership (KL) department and Programme Services team.

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- Monitor, engage, and represent GAIN where appropriate, with key global and local policy for a (e.g. Decade of Action on Nutrition, Nutrition for Growth, Scaling Up Nutrition, Kenya National Food Fortification Alliance, Nutrition Technical Forum)
- Support and, where appropriate, provide assistance to policy and advocacy manager work in policy areas, and key communications about the project activities
- Provide technical input in the design of policy and advocacy projects within the Country programme
- Any additional responsibilities mutually agreed with the Policy and Advocacy Manager

Influencing Agenda

- Monitor, attend and engage to represent GAIN, where appropriate, in key national-level and country-level policy fora and meetings.
- In consultation with the Policy and Advocacy Manager, develop project implementation plan for the CACADE, Veg for All, Resilient markets projects and other policy related work.
- Support the Policy and Advocacy Manager in engaging with the key stakeholders in government, private sector, UN, donors and civil society including academia, media, and other development practitioners; to improve support for GAIN's mission and increase resources allocated to nutrition in Kenya
- Synthesize and disseminate knowledge and evidence from GAIN Kenya programmes that can help drive the policy and influencing agenda for nutritious and safe food in Kenya
- Support the development and implementation of key advocacy tools (eg Budget tracking tools, Score cards, public participation tools, power analysis tools)
- Create opportunities to spread key messages arising from GAIN Kenya country programming through e.g. media, social media, and positioning events.
- Liaise widely with GAIN colleagues to develop key messaging and strategies for furthering the mission and communicating the vision of GAIN Kenya.

Key organizational relationships

- Reports to the Influencing and Advocacy Manager, GAIN Kenya
- Close collaboration with the project teams in GAIN Kenya
- Regular engagement with the SBN in Kenya, co-conveners, Government and Private Sector at National level.
- Regular liaison with the global GAIN Policy and External Relations team, Knowledge Leadership team and Programme Services team

JOB REQUIREMENTS

Competencies

- Demonstrated excellence in research, writing, and analytic ability.
- Ability to review literature and documentation to turn complex technical and project reports into clear stories/coherent position papers
- Understanding of or ability to analyze food and nutrition security policy debates and contribute to drafting papers in line with GAIN's strategic priorities
- Knowledge of food and nutrition security, food systems, and wider development issues
- Good presentation skills
- Ability to use initiative, prioritize, multi-task, and work well under pressure to meet deadlines
- Clear and systematic thinking that demonstrates good judgment, expert problem solving, and creativity
- Strong nutrition knowledge or experience
- Strong communication skills in multicultural environments
- Highly flexible, with the ability to work effectively as part of a multicultural team

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Experience

- Demonstrated experience in policy research and communication within an advocacy/action-oriented context, either within an NGO, government or policy context
- Extensive demonstrable experience in policy and/or budget advocacy, strategic planning, and project management
- Extensive experience of partnership building and brokering between business and other stakeholders, with a strong record of negotiation
- Knowledge of business models including experience of working with mechanisms that catalyze business partnerships and investments
- Experience working in a public/private partnership environment highly desirable.
- Proven experience working with stakeholders from civil society, government, donors at national international level
- Experience in working across sectors to deliver complex projects/programmes
- Experience leading an advocacy campaign related to development, health, nutrition or other public interest issues
- Experience in developing policy papers (ether as a contributor or author)
- Knowledge of the food and nutrition sector would be an added advantage
- Knowledge of county and national-level governance systems and politics, including the devolved policy environment

Education

- Bachelors' or Masters' degree level in /public policy, international relations, law or other relevant qualification preferred, with strong experience in this field

Other requirements

- Fluent written and verbal English
- Ability to travel to different counties in Kenya
- Open to Kenyan Nationals only

WHAT GAIN OFFERS

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