

## Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition

<b>Job title:</b>	Research Advisor and Project Manager, Nourishing Food Pathways
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<b>Classification:</b>	Grade 5	<b>Direct reports:</b>	1 - 5
<b>Work location</b>	London, UK / New Delhi, India / Washington, DC, USA	<b>Travel required:</b>	Up to 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. 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 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. In this case, the staff member will be working with colleagues across all GAIN project countries (Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, Tanzania, Benin, Uganda, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, and Indonesia) as well as the global KL team to support the Nourishing Food Pathways program.

Nourishing Food Pathways (NFP) is a multi-donor-funded, five-year program implemented by GAIN, including work at the global level and across all its country offices. The goal of NFP is to strengthen and support the implementation of country food system pathways (i.e., strategies for improving the functioning of local food systems) so they can accelerate improvements in the consumption of safe nutritious food for all, especially the most vulnerable, produced in a sustainable way. The main focus of the program is at the policy level, as opposed to implementation of on-the-ground interventions.

As part of NFP, GAIN will be undertaking a package of research work aimed at developing new metrics and methods for assessing food system transformation and documenting examples of positive change within food systems.

DESCRIPTION
<p><b>Overall purpose</b></p> <p>The purpose of the Research Advisor and Project Manager is to administer and oversee the functional and technical implementation of the NFP research work and activities globally and in-country. Reporting to the Senior Technical Specialist, the postholder will work closely with the Knowledge Leadership team, technical partners, Country Offices, research experts and other program teams across GAIN, acting as a subject matter expert by providing hands-on, technical research leadership and support on the development of the NFP research portfolio.</p> <p>In addition to this, the postholder will also be responsible for the overall project management leadership of the research projects within the NFP research workstream, from concept to implementation. This will include managing a high-performing team of country-based research staff, ensuring the project team implements research and project activities within approved plans, schedule, budget, and quality standards.</p> <p>The Research Advisor and Project Manager will oversee contracting and will ensure the accurate planning, management and reporting of activities, budgeting and forecasting, and project monitoring.</p>

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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 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 project.
- Select, 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 of prioritization, design (protocol and questionnaire development), implementation (training, data collection and quality assurance), data analysis and reporting.
- 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 high-quality technical outputs from external partners and team members by providing a thorough technical review and liaising with them to improve the quality, as needed.
- 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.

#### Project Management Planning, Oversight and Implementation

- Plan and oversee timely implementation of the NFP research projects across GAIN's country offices, following the GAIN Project Management Guidelines and best practices for high-quality research.
- Identify, track, and resolve project issues on an ongoing basis, and proactively seek support where issues require wider attention and resolution.
- Work closely with GAIN's Development Office to produce regular donor reports, including tracking and updating monitoring indicators to track the projects' progress.
- Collaborate with GAIN's international finance team to ensure that accurate budgets and forecasting are drawn up for all activities, and that financial forecasts are regularly met.

#### People Management

- Lead a team consisting of Senior Research Associates in approximately four countries, overseeing their technical research and project activity work in-country and bringing together the skills, experience and competencies required for successful project delivery.
- Support their capacity development, ensuring that they have the necessary induction, training, and support.
- Foster a positive and inclusive culture and working environment that supports the exchange of learning among members of the team.
- Adhere to equity, diversity, gender, child safety, and staff health and wellbeing principles and support the uptake and ensure staff accountability on the GAIN code of conduct

### Key organizational relationships

- Reports to the Senior Technical Specialist, Knowledge Leadership.
- Works closely with GAIN Country Offices to support the implementation of activities.
- Works closely with GAIN's Development Office to ensure timely and high-quality reporting and donor compliance.
- Close collaboration with other project, policy, and operational staff, particularly other Knowledge Leadership staff working on NFP.
- Line managing approximately four Senior Research Associates.

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JOB REQUIREMENTS
<p><b>Job-specific competencies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knowledge of both quantitative and qualitative research methodologies in nutrition, agriculture, or a closely related field. Strong knowledge of <i>at least one</i> of either quantitative and qualitative research methodologies is needed, with some experience with the other.</li> <li>• Knowledge of methods for policy-related research would be an asset.</li> <li>• Ability to create high-quality and innovative data visualizations (for communication of findings to expert and non-expert audiences).</li> <li>• Excellent project management capabilities, including with budgeting and work planning.</li> <li>• Demonstrated skills with data analysis software, such as R, Stata, SAS, or SPSS; or nVivo or ATLAS.ti.</li> <li>• Strong understanding of nutrition and food systems relevant for GAIN's programming areas; an understanding of policymaking processes or of environmental sustainability or gender issues related to food systems would be an asset.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Competencies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong team leadership abilities, with the ability to motivate and mentor staff.</li> <li>• Clear and systematic thinking that demonstrates good judgement, problem solving, and creativity.</li> <li>• Ability to be flexible and adaptable in times of unexpected challenges and provide creative solutions.</li> <li>• Ability to work with diverse groups/individuals, including government, academia, and the private sector.</li> <li>• Strong report writing and presentation skills, including on technical topics.</li> <li>• Strong communication skills, including facilitating discussions between people with varying levels of technical knowledge.</li> <li>• Good Microsoft Excel, Word, Outlook, and PowerPoint skills.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Experience</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Substantial experience with research design and implementation using either quantitative or qualitative methodologies, in nutrition or a related field. Experience should encompass design of research methodologies, analysis of data, and reporting of results.</li> <li>• Hands-on experience of programmatically relevant research in a low- or middle-income country, in collaboration with local research counterparts.</li> <li>• Demonstrated experience in critical analysis skills to support evidence generation and reporting.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Experience with staff management, including coaching, motivation, performance assessment, conflict prevention and management.</li> <li>• Experience working with diverse partners and ensuring effective stakeholder participation and consensus building.</li> <li>• Track record of publication(s) in peer reviewed journals would be a considerable asset</li> </ul>
<p><b>Education</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Master's degree in nutrition, agriculture, sustainable development, economics / political economy, development studies, policy, or related field.</li> </ul>

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- A PhD in nutrition, agriculture, sustainable development, economics, development studies, policy, or related field is not required but would be an asset

### Other requirements

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

### WHAT GAIN OFFERS

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