

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFPs)

**CONSULTANCY ON E-LEARNING PLATFORM PROVIDER FOR THE E-LEARNING COURSE ON
MASTERING INDUSTRIAL FORTIFICATION (MIF) FOR FOOD INSPECTORS AND AUDITORS**

ISO 17000;22000

ISSUED BY: GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR IMPROVED NUTRITION (GAIN)

PROJECT: LARGE SCALE FOOD FORTIFICATION (LSFF)

May 2024

GAIN Nigeria

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I. SUMMARY OF DEADLINES

Proposal Submission Deadline: 11th May 2024
Award of Contract: 13th May 2024

All deadlines are described in detail under section IX.

As part of the selection process, GAIN reserves the right to request clarifications regarding bids that substantially qualify. Questions in the technical review are at GAIN's discretion and will only be directed to bidders who have submitted substantially responsive bids.

The final award is subject to other terms and conditions included in this solicitation, as well as the successful final negotiation of all applicable terms and conditions related to the awarded contract.

II. ABOUT LSFF AND GAIN

The Large-Scale Food Fortification (LSFF) strategy is a cost-effective and proven method to combat micronutrient malnutrition by adding one or more essential nutrients to widely and regularly consumed foods during processing. Since 2002, GAIN has supported the roll-out of LSFF in approximately 40 low and middle-income countries. GAIN's support includes the rollout or expansion of LSFF programmes where there is a need and an appropriate food vehicle, technical assistance to improve compliance with existing national fortification standards and mandates and monitoring and measurement of programmes. GAIN-supported LSFF programmes reach over a billion people annually. GAIN supports mandatory fortification of commonly consumed foods and condiments, including salt, edible oils, wheat flour, maize flour, and rice. GAIN supports the government in creating effective fortification policies and provides technical assistance to support the industry's ability to fortify. The consumption of fortified staples and condiments can play a major role in underpinning the prevention of micronutrient deficiencies across entire populations - particularly in women of reproductive age and adolescent girls - thus helping to address adequate nutrition during the critical periods of preconception and the 1,000-day window. GAIN and partners continue to drive new investments for fortification through global advocacy and generating evidence on the actual and potential contribution of fortification in the context of national nutrition strategies.

About GAIN

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. Working with governments, businesses, academia, and civil society, GAIN aims to transform food systems to make healthier diets from sustainable food systems accessible to all people especially those who are most vulnerable to shocks.

III. ASSIGNMENT BACKGROUND

To bolster adherence to Nigeria's national food fortification and safety guidelines, the creation of a specialized e-learning course for inspectors engaged in the process of fortification compliance is an urgent undertaking. The objective of this initiative is to bolster the capabilities of food safety inspectors so that they may monitor, investigate, and enforce food fortification standards with greater efficacy, thereby protecting public health.

IV. OBJECTIVES

The assignment will achieve the following objectives:

a. Overall

The primary objective of this consultancy is to create and host an e-learning platform on Mastering Industrial Fortification (MIF) for food inspectors and Auditors.

b. Specific objectives

1. Facilitate the creation and hosting of a comprehensive, interactive, and user-friendly e-learning course for food safety inspectors.
2. Provide investigators with the information and abilities required to verify adherence to food fortification regulations.

V. SCOPE OF WORK

1. Lead the process of integrating the developed curriculum and course content into the Laboratory Analysis of Food Micronutrients (LAoFM) interactive e-learning platform in collaboration with subject matter experts.
2. Development of a resilient Learning Management System (LMS) that facilitates the integration of interactive components, including discussion forums, assessments, videos, and simulations.
3. Guarantee that the e-learning platform is compatible with a wide range of devices and browsers to optimise participant access and usability.
4. Enforcing security protocols to safeguard both user information and course materials.
5. Providing instructors and participants with technical assistance, such as a comprehensive user guide for navigating the course.
6. Providing the LMS with the means to incorporate pre- and post-assessment instruments, in addition to the ultimate accreditation examination.
7. Providing functionalities for ongoing assessment, evaluation, and modifications to the curriculum in response to feedback and developments in the discipline.

VI. EXPECTED DELIVERABLES

S/N	DELIVERABLES	TIMELINES
1.	An e-learning platform that is fully operational and tailored to the developed course content, including all designated interactive components.	07th June 2024
2.	An all-encompassing manual that caters to the needs of instructors and participants alike.	14th June 2024
3.	Establishment of technical support for the duration of the course and for a predetermined time afterward.	Throughout Course duration

4.	A comprehensive report elucidating the course's integration onto the LAoFM platform, encompassing user input and recommendations for subsequent enhancements.	21st June 2024
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VII. COMPETENCIES

- In-depth knowledge of the workings of the GAIN/IPAN LAoFM Platform
- Profound expertise in the design, implementation, and management of e-learning courses; with a particular focus on food safety, public health, or closely related disciplines.
- Particularly proficient in instructional design for online learning environments.
- A history of delivering dependable LMS solutions.
- Proficient in providing technical support and customer service.
- Responsible for managing sensitive information with a strong emphasis on privacy and security.

VIII. EXPECTATIONS FROM APPLICANTS

The successful applicant (s) will:

- Work closely with representatives from GAIN and its partners: A lead contact will be designated for regular communication and monitoring of deliverables.
- Meet with representatives from GAIN shortly after the contract is awarded, following which a work plan will be developed detailing the objectives, deliverables, timelines, and budget for each of the parts outlined in the Scope of Work.
- Meet with GAIN regularly during the Project as well as at the request of GAIN.
- Submit deliverables and reports according to the revised work plan's agreed-upon schedule.
- The technical application should not be longer than 15 pages, including the cover page. All supporting documents should be included in the annexes.

IX. TIMELINES

The assignment must not exceed a maximum of 6 weeks from the day the contract is awarded. The comprehensive table of the assignments is expected to be as follows:

Proposal Submission Deadline:	10th May 2024
Award of Contract:	13th May 2024
Deliverable 1: Provide a timeline (detailing all activities), and revised methodology.	15th May 2024
Deliverable 2: An e-learning platform that is fully operational and tailored to the developed course content, including all designated interactive components.	7th June 2024
Deliverable 3: An all-encompassing manual that caters to the needs of instructors and participants alike.	14th June 2024

Deliverable 4: A comprehensive report elucidating the course's integration onto the LAoFM platform, encompassing user input and recommendations for subsequent enhancements.	21st June 2024
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The proposal submissions must be received via email by GAIN on or before 11:59 pm on Friday, May 10, 2024.

X. UNACCEPTABLE PROPOSALS

The following proposals will automatically not be considered or accepted:

- Proposals that are received after the RFP deadline.
- Incomplete proposals.
- Proposals that are not signed.

XI. REVISIONS

Proposals may be revised by electronic mail provided such revision(s) are received before the deadline.

1. INSTRUCTIONS FOR RESPONDING

a. Contact details for submitting the technical and financial proposals:

Submission of the technical proposal and the financial proposal should be made in a single email with the specifications below:

Submission type	Address	Subject
Soft Copy submitted by email	nquotation@gainhealth.org cc: digelle@gainhealth.org	Consultancy on E-Learning Platform Provider for the E-learning Course on Mastering Industrial Fortification (MIF) for Food Inspectors and Auditors.

Completed Proposals will comprise a technical proposal and a financial proposal. Both proposals should be submitted by email.

The proposal should include the contents below and not exceed 15 pages, excluding appendixes and CVs of consultant(s).

Cover page: Summary with basic information such as names, addresses, and contact information for the institution.

Capacity Statement: A brief capacity statement as to why the consultant(s) or institution (if a consultancy company is applying) is well-positioned to conduct this activity. This capacity statement should refer to the areas of expertise and qualifications of the candidate(s). The capacity statement should mention relevant work conducted.

Design and methodology: Outline the proposed activities (and outcomes), in line with the guidelines outlined above, and the specific methods to be used. This section should form the bulk of the proposal. GAIN is open to all suggestions. The technical proposal must identify if and where the activity requirements may be difficult to fully satisfy and provide alternative suggestions that can achieve the above-listed requirements.

Work Plan: Proposed work plan broken down by weeks, which should include detailed activities and timeline. If more than one person is assigned to this consultancy, it should also include the time allocation of key personnel.

Budget: financial proposal broken down by phases and separating the fees of the consultancy and other administrative costs related to each Objective.

In the appendix, the consultant should provide a track record of delivering similar assignments and provide references (contact information) of clients for whom similar work has been executed.

GAIN will not necessarily accept the lowest bidder or any proposals submitted except when the requirements are fully met.

b. Proposal Completion

- Proposals must be submitted on the official letterhead of the consultant and must be signed by the applicant.
- In case of errors in calculating overall costs, the unit costs will govern.
- It is the applicant's responsibility to understand the requirements and instructions specified by GAIN. If clarification is necessary, applicants are advised to contact GAIN through the email ooyekenu@gainhealth.org and copy digelle@gainhealth.org.
- While GAIN has used considerable efforts to ensure an accurate representation in this RFP, the information contained in this RFP is supplied solely as a guideline. The information is not warranted to be accurate by GAIN; Nothing in this RFP is intended to relieve applicants from forming their own opinions and conclusions concerning the matters addressed in this RFP.
- By responding to this RFP, the applicant confirms their understanding of the RFP conditions; failing to comply may result in the disqualification of their submission.

c. Right of rejection

- GAIN reserves the right to reject any or all submissions or to cancel or withdraw this RFP for any reason and at its sole discretion without incurring any cost or liability for costs or damages incurred by any applicant, including, without limitation, any expenses incurred in the preparation of the submission.
- The applicant acknowledges and agrees that GAIN will not indemnify the applicant for any costs, expenses, payments, or damages directly or indirectly linked to the preparation of the submission.

d. References

GAIN reserves the right, before awarding of the contract, to require the applicant to submit such evidence of qualifications as it may deem necessary, and will consider evidence concerning the financial, technical, and other qualifications and abilities of the applicant.

e. Release of Information

After awarding the contract and upon written request to GAIN, only the following information will be released:

- Name of the successful bidder; and

- The applicant's own individual ranking.

2. TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THIS SOLICITATION

a. Notice of Non-binding Solicitation

GAIN reserves the right to reject any and all bids received in response to this solicitation and is in no way bound to accept any proposal. GAIN additionally reserves the right to negotiate the substance of the successful applicant's proposal, as well as the option of accepting partial components of a proposal if appropriate.

b. Confidentiality

All information provided as part of this solicitation is considered confidential. In the event that any information is inappropriately released, GAIN will seek appropriate remedies as allowed. Proposals, discussions, and all information received in response to this solicitation will be held strictly confidential.

c. Right to Final Negotiations on the Proposal

GAIN reserves the right to negotiate the final costs and the final scope of work of the proposal.

GAIN reserves the right to limit or include third parties at GAIN's sole and full discretion in such negotiations. The payment will be structured based on the delivery of the milestones stated in section VI (line a).

When	Payment rate %	Deliverable
Deliverable 1: Provide a revised timeline and methodology to conduct the assignment	20%	Provide a revised timeline (detailing all activities) and methodology that the consultant will use.
Deliverable 2: E-learning platform that is fully operational and tailored to the developed course content, including all designated interactive components.	30%	Creation and hosting of e-learning platform that is fully operational and tailored to the developed course content, including all designated interactive components.
Deliverable 3: An all-encompassing manual that caters to the needs of instructors and participants alike.	30%	Submission of an all-encompassing manual that caters to the needs of instructors and participants alike.
Deliverable 4: Final report	20%	A comprehensive report elucidating the course's integration onto the LAoFM platform, encompassing user input and recommendations for subsequent enhancements.

To trigger the disbursement, the Deliverables shall be approved in writing (including by email) from GAIN.

d. Evaluation Criteria (*EW- Evaluation Weight*)

Proposals will be reviewed by a special Review Committee. The table below indicates a list of the significant criteria against which proposals will be assessed.

Item	Description	Evaluation Weight (%)
1	Scope of Work	15%
	Understanding of the objectives of the assignment	
	Realistic timeline of outputs	
	Detailed workplan, including frame and responsibilities	
2	Methodological Approach	25%
	Narrative description of the approach to the tasks, showing a clear understanding and methodology	
	Familiarity with country and context expressed through the design of methodology	
3	Team & Company Qualifications:	20%
	Experience in similar assignments-Company & team	
4	Organization and Management	15%
	Organization of the field team	
5	Financial proposal	15%
	Price	
	Clear breakdown supporting methodology and team organization	
6	Documents Provided & Track Record	10%
	Track record (GAIN experience working with the Company)	
	Docs provided as per bellow table	
TOTAL		
Documents to be provided with proposal		
1	Offer of Services	
2	Is proposal signed	
3	Is proposal submitted on official letter head	
4	Are fees quoted as a fixed sum inclusive of taxes	
5	Does the proposal map functions to team members	
6	Insurance	
7	list of references provided	

The above table will combine weighting with a “point” scoring system, as followed:

5 points	Fully meets
4 points	Meets, with minor gaps
3 points	Meets with moderate gags
2 points	Partially meets, significant gaps
1 point	Does not meet

e. Mandatory Requirements

In addition to the evaluation criteria outlined above, the applicant's proposal should also respond to the following mandatory requirements:

- **Fees:** The fees shall be quoted as a fixed sum inclusive of all applicable taxes and/or institutional overhead. The fees must be quoted in NGN (Nigerian Naira).
- **Experience:** Current curriculum vitae/resumes for key team members.
- **Capacity of the consultant to provide the required services:** Team members with relevant experience must be available for each identified position. The proposal should map function(s) to the team member(s).
- **References:** A list of references that can be contacted to discuss the team members' relevant related experience or for the firm.

GAIN reserves the right to contact the individuals and contractor(s) to verify the information provided in the Proposal.

f. Expectations of Applicants

The successful applicant (s) will:

- Work closely with representatives from GAIN and its partners (the third-party advocacy partners): A lead contact will be designated for the purposes of regular communication and monitoring of deliverables.
- Meet with representatives from GAIN shortly after the contract is awarded, following which a work plan will be developed detailing the objectives, deliverables, timelines, and budget for each of the parts outlined in the Scope of Work.
- Be prepared to meet with GAIN representatives during the consultancy.
- Submit deliverables and reports according to the agreed-upon schedule in the revised work plan.

g. Review Process

The review process will involve a review panel with participants selected by GAIN.

h. Limitations regarding third parties

GAIN does not represent, warrant, or act as an agent for any third party as a result of this solicitation. This solicitation does not authorize any third party to bind or commit GAIN in any way without GAIN's express written consent.

i. Final Acceptance

The acceptance of a Proposal does not imply agreement of its terms and conditions. GAIN reserves the right to negotiate the final terms and conditions, including the costs and the scope of work, when negotiating the final contract to be agreed upon between GAIN and the applicant.

j. Validity Period

The Offer of Services will remain valid for a period of 30 days after the Proposal closing date. In the event of award, the successful applicant will be expected to enter a services contract subject to GAIN's terms and conditions.

Please note that should you not hear from GAIN within 1 month after the application deadline, please consider your application unsuccessful at this time.

k. Intellectual Property

Subject to the terms of the contract to be concluded between GAIN and the applicant, the ownership of the intellectual property related to the scope of work of the contract, including technical information, know-how, processes, copyrights, models, drawings, and specifications developed by the applicant shall vest exclusively and entirely with GAIN.

Subject to the terms of the contract to be concluded between GAIN and the applicant, the applicant is required to adhere to and comply with the following:

- GAIN's Design Application or Branding guidelines.
- Although the service provider can put their logo in the document produced, GAIN's logo should be the one standing out as the owner of the intellectual property.

I. Scope of Change

Once the contract is signed, no increase in the liability of GAIN or in the fees to be paid by GAIN for the services resulting from any change, modification, or interpretation of the documentation will be authorized or paid to the applicant, unless such change, modification or interpretation has received the express prior written approval of GAIN.