

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

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CONDUCTING NUTRITIONAL LIFE CYCLE ASSESSMENTS (nLCAs) IN RWANDA AND KENYA

Issued by
The Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN)

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I. PROJECT BACKGROUND AND SCOPE OF WORK

1. ABOUT 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.

At GAIN, we believe that everyone in the world should have access to nutritious and safe food. We work to understand and deliver specific solutions to the daily challenge of food insecurity faced by poor people. By understanding that there is no “one-size-fits-all” model, we develop alliances and build tailored programmes, using a variety of flexible models and approaches.

We build alliances between governments, local and global businesses, and civil society to deliver sustainable improvements at scale. We are part of a global network of partners working together to create sustainable solutions to malnutrition. Through alliances, we provide technical, financial and policy support to key participants in the food system. We use specific learning, evidence of impact, and results of projects and programmes to shape and influence the actions of others.

Headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, GAIN has representative offices in Denmark, The Netherlands, the United Kingdom, and the United States. In addition, we have country offices in Bangladesh, Benin, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, Pakistan, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda. Programmes and projects are carried out in a variety of other countries, particularly in Africa and Asia.

2. BACKGROUND

The Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) is issuing this Request for Proposal (RFP) and will be the administrative lead organisation for this RFP.

GAIN is committed to contribute to addressing the urgent and interconnected global challenges of malnutrition and environmental degradation. Countries of all incomes globally are increasingly affected by the double burden of malnutrition, encompassing undernutrition and micronutrient deficiencies, as well as overweight/obesity and diet-related non-communicable diseases ([Global Nutrition Report, 2022](#)). Simultaneously, food systems contribute significantly to environmental pressures, including climate change, water scarcity, and biodiversity loss due to land use change, among other impacts ([Crippa et al., 2022](#); [FAO, 2021](#); [Tilman et al., 2017](#)). GAIN aims to position itself as a thought-leading organization in contributing to the body of evidence and developing concrete solutions toward food systems transformation for healthy and sustainable diets.

A key component of this effort has been the development of an innovative method to holistically assess the combined nutritional value and environmental footprint of foods commonly consumed in a given country. The methodology consists of two integrated components: (i) the Nutritional Value Score (NVS), and (ii) nutritional Life Cycle Assessments (nLCAs).

The Nutritional Value Score is a novel nutrient profiling system designed to capture the nutritional value of single foods, food groups, meals, and whole diets, based on nutrients of global health priority and dietary factors associated with non-communicable disease risk. The main purposes of the NVS are to (i) serve as a tool for guiding policy and programmatic decisions aimed at improving nutritional and health outcomes, and (ii) serve as the nutritional functional unit (nFU) in environmental impact and affordability assessments. GAIN has conducted nutritional Life Cycle Assessments using NVS scores as the nFU in two countries – Indonesia and Bangladesh – to quantify the environmental impacts of local, commonly consumed foods relative to their nutritional value. This approach allows for a more nuanced and nutritionally-relevant understanding of foods’ environmental footprints, as opposed to using traditional energy- or mass-based functional units.



Building on these previous efforts, GAIN now seeks to expand the application of nLCAs using NVS scores as the nFU to two additional countries: Rwanda and Kenya. These countries, like many others in sub-Saharan Africa, face significant nutritional challenges while also being vulnerable to the impacts of environmental degradation. By conducting nLCAs of foods commonly consumed in Rwanda and Kenya, GAIN aims to generate actionable, evidence-based insights to inform policies and programs that promote healthy and sustainable diets in these countries.

The purpose of this RFP is to engage the services of a Service Provider to adapt and apply the established nLCA methodology to local, commonly-consumed foods in Rwanda and Kenya, utilizing NVS scores as the nutritional functional unit. The list of foods to be analyzed and related NVS scores will be provided by GAIN. The Service Provider will be responsible for collecting and analyzing environmental impact data for the selected foods in the two countries, prioritizing local or regional data sources to the extent possible. The analysis will consider a comprehensive set of environmental impact categories, and will encompass the full life cycle of foods, from production to consumption and waste management.

3. SCOPE OF WORK AND DELIVERABLES

The successful applicant will:

- Collect and synthesize environmental impact data for all selected foods, prioritizing local or regional data sources to the extent possible, and accounting for whether foods are locally produced or imported in Rwanda and Kenya.
- Adapt and apply the established nLCA methodology to quantify the environmental footprints of commonly consumed foods in Rwanda and Kenya, throughout their entire life cycles.
- Assess environmental impacts per unit mass, energy, and nutritional value (utilizing the NVS provided by GAIN as the nFU).
- Assess a comprehensive set of environmental impact categories, including climate change, particulate matter, terrestrial acidification, freshwater eutrophication, marine eutrophication, water use, land use, and fossil resource use.
- Adopt a full life cycle perspective, encompassing all stages from primary production to consumption and waste management.
- Deliver detailed nLCA databases with numerical results, as well as accompanying brief narrative reports, for Rwanda and Kenya, presenting the environmental footprints of all selected individual foods and providing insights into potential hotspots and trade-offs between nutrition and environment.

3.1. OBJECTIVES

The ultimate goal of this work is to identify local, commonly-consumed foods in Rwanda and Kenya that offer high nutritional value with relatively low environmental impacts, for the purposes of:

- Informing policy and programmatic decisions aimed at maximizing nutritional and health benefits while minimizing environmental harm in these countries.
- Incentivizing public and private sector innovations in food supply chains to improve access to healthy and sustainably produced foods.

3.2. DELIVERABLES

This work should be completed between October 2024 and April 2025.

Deliverable	Timeline
Brief inception report outlining the detailed work plan, timeline, and data collection strategy	November 8, 2024

Excel databases and brief narrative reports (e.g., in PowerPoint format) presenting preliminary findings and analysis for each country	January 10, 2025
Excel databases and brief narrative reports (e.g., in PowerPoint format) presenting final findings and analysis for each country, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Environmental footprints of all selected foods per unit energy, mass, and nutritional value, presented both as a single score and by individual impact category; - Commentary and qualification of the results, comprising the identification of hotspots and trade-offs between nutrition and environment. 	March 14, 2025
All raw data and analysis files used in the nLCAs for the two countries.	March 14, 2025
Presentation of key findings to GAIN global staff and country teams.	April 11, 2025

II. INSTRUCTIONS FOR RESPONDING

This section addresses the process for responding to this solicitation. Applicants are encouraged to review this prior to completing their responses.

1. CONTACT

Please direct all inquiries and other communications to the contact below with the subject line: *Query - nLCAs Rwanda & Kenya*. Responses will not be confidential except in cases where proprietary information is involved.

- rfp@gainhealth.org

2. BUDGET

Applicants are required to provide GAIN with a detailed budget proposal, outlining the costs associated with each phase of the project. The final budget amount will have to be approved by GAIN prior to starting the project.

3. FORMAT FOR PROPOSAL

The proposal should be submitted in Word or PDF format (**max 5 pages**) and include the following sections:

- Technical Proposal:
 - Overview of proposed approach for compiling, synthesizing, analysing, and interpreting environmental impact data on local, commonly-consumed foods in Rwanda and Kenya.
 - Relevant experience in conducting similar assessments, preferably in low- and middle-income countries.
 - High-level work plan with clear timelines and milestones.
 - Team composition and qualifications, including demonstrated expertise in LCA and nutrition.
- Financial Proposal:
 - Detailed budget breakdown, including personnel costs, data acquisition and analytical software costs, etc.

4. SUBMISSION

Proposals should be submitted electronically to rfp@gainhealth.org with the subject line: *Proposal - nLCAs Rwanda & Kenya*.

5. DEADLINE

Completed proposals should be submitted to GAIN **before 5:00 pm Central European Time on September 30, 2024**. Late submissions will not be considered.

6. UNACCEPTABLE

The following proposals will automatically not be considered or accepted:

- Proposals that are received after the RFP deadline at the specified receiving office.
- Proposals received by fax.
- Incomplete proposals.
- Proposals that are not signed.

7. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

This call is open for bids from eligible entities registered in the EU or in any of the following countries: Rwanda, Kenya, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Benin, Nigeria, Mozambique, India, Indonesia, Pakistan and Bangladesh. Other Low- and Middle-Income countries may also be eligible under EU [PRAG rules](#). For further clarification please contact rfp@gainhealth.org as set out above.

8. REVISIONS

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

9. ACCEPTANCE

GAIN will not necessarily accept the lowest cost or any of the Proposals submitted. Accordingly, eligibility requirements, evaluation criteria and mandatory requirements shall govern.

10. COMPLETION

- Proposals must be submitted on official letterhead of the lead organisation or firm and must be signed by a principal or authorising signatory of the lead firm or organisation.
- 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. In the event that clarification is necessary, applicants are advised to contact the responsible person at GAIN under section II. point 1., prior to making their submission.
- While GAIN has used considerable efforts to ensure an accurate representation in this Request for Proposal (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 with respect to the matters addressed in this RFP.
- By responding to this RFP, the applicant confirms its understanding that failing to comply with any of the RFP conditions may result in the disqualification of their submission.

11. RIGHTS 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.

12. REFERENCES

GAIN reserves the right, before awarding the Proposal, 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.

13. RELEASE OF INFORMATION

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

- Name of the successful applicant.
- The applicant's own individual ranking.

III. TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THIS SOLICITATION

1. 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 applicants' proposals, as well as the option of accepting partial components of a proposal if deemed appropriate.

2. 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 as strictly confidential.

3. RIGHT TO FINAL NEGOTIATIONS ON THE PROPOSAL

GAIN reserves the right to negotiate on 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.

4. EVALUATION CRITERIA

Proposals will be reviewed by the Selection Team. The following indicate a list of the significant criteria against which proposals will be assessed. This list is not exhaustive or 100% inclusive and is provided to enhance the applicants' ability to respond with substance.

Applicants are required to submit the following information, conforming to the guidelines given in this section:

- Understanding of the scope of work:

- Proposal shall demonstrate a clear understanding of the project objective and deliverables as outlined in Section I.
- Demonstrate a clear understanding of the technical requirements of this RFP:
 - Providing detailed technical documentation of the proposed strategy.
 - Evidence of experience delivering solutions using the proposed information technology platform.
- The creative and methodological approaches required to implement each of the parts of the scope of work.
- Comprehensiveness of work plan and reasonableness of proposed time frame:
 - Proposal shall include a feasible work plan to ensure successful completion of deliverables.
 - The work plan details how activities will be coordinated.
- Detailed budget and cost-effectiveness of proposed approach:
 - Evidence of cost-effective approaches to undertaking the scope of work within the proposed budget.
 - Proposal shall identify possible challenges and include creative approaches to addressing them.
- Management and personnel plan:
 - The team members working on this project shall have the relevant qualifications and overall experience required to successfully implement the project.
 - Roles and responsibilities of each team member shall be clearly defined. GAIN shall have one main contact person clearly identified in the proposal.
- A duly completed offer of services.

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

5. REVIEW PROCESS

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

6. LIMITATIONS WITH REGARD TO THIRD PARTIES

GAIN does not represent, warrant, or act as 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.

7. COMMUNICATION

All communication regarding this solicitation shall be directed to appropriate parties at GAIN. Contacting third parties involved in the RFP, the review panel, or any other party may be considered a conflict of interest and could result in disqualification of the proposal.

8. FINAL ACCEPTANCE

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

9. VALIDITY PERIOD

The offer of services will remain valid for a period of 60 days after the Proposal closing date. In the event of award, the successful applicant will be expected to enter into a contract subject to GAIN's terms and conditions.

10. 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, source code and specifications developed by the applicant in performance of the contract shall vest entirely with GAIN.

11. 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 documents will be authorised or paid to the applicant unless such change, modification or interpretation has received the express prior written approval of GAIN.



IV. OFFER OF SERVICES

1. Offer submitted by:

(Print or type business, corporate name and address)

2. I (We) the undersigned hereby offer to GAIN, to furnish all necessary expertise, supervision, materials, and other things necessary to complete to the entire satisfaction of the Executive Director or authorised representative, the work as described in the Request for Proposal according to the terms and conditions of GAIN for the following prices:

- a. Click or tap here to enter text.
- b. Click or tap here to enter text.
- c. Click or tap here to enter text.
- d. Click or tap here to enter text.

3. I (We) agree that the Offer of Services will remain valid for a period of sixty days (60) calendar days after the date of its receipt by GAIN.

4. I (We) herewith submit the following:

- (a) A Proposal to undertake the work, in accordance with GAIN’s requirements specified.
- (b) A duly completed offer of services, subject to the terms herein.

OFFERS WHICH DO NOT CONTAIN THE ABOVE-MENTIONED DOCUMENTATION OR DEVIATE FROM THE PRESCRIBED COSTING FORMAT MAY BE CONSIDERED INCOMPLETE AND NON-RESPONSIVE.

Date this day of Click or tap here to enter text. in Click or tap here to enter text.

_____ Click or tap here to enter text.

Signature (applicant)

_____ Click or tap here to enter text.

Signature (applicant)
