**Request for proposals**

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| Partner for climate action at local level (CALL) |
| **Issued by****The Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN)** |

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1. project background and scope of work

# 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, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, Pakistan, and Tanzania. Programmes and projects are carried out in a variety of other countries, particularly in Africa and Asia.

# 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.

The purpose of this RFP is to engage local organisation to be part of implementing the ‘Climate Action at Local Level (CALL)’ programme to execute comprehensive set of interventions on sustainable food system by strengthening public and private actors to manage climate risks, but also by supporting inclusive growth and economic resilience to climate change and by improving nutritional & social well-being for all, especially in the priority areas that are prone to climate risks or natural disasters. CALL is a programme led by a consortium of 9-Swiss organisations with financial contribution from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) in Bangladesh. . GAIN Bangladesh intends to engage local implementing partner(s) as part of localisation process to serve project implementation and manage stakeholder engagement for improved food system and climate change adaptation in the climate hotspots: Coastal, Barind and River systems & Estuaries locations in Bangladesh. GAIN will establish a partnership with the suitable organisation(s) through a grant agreement as per its organisational rules and procedures.

# context and programme rationale

Global Climate Risk Index 2021 ranks Bangladesh as the seventh most long-term climate-vulnerable nation globally. The country characterised by its riverine landscape and extensive low-lying regions, is particularly susceptible to impacts of climate change and other hazards. Average annual temperatures have increased in the last six decades and the country will see an increase in monsoon rainfall - studies forecast that extreme precipitation events will be 1.7 times more by 2050. Climate-related events, including flooding, fluctuations in temperature, erosion of riverbanks, cyclones, tidal surges, high tides, and heatwaves are occurring frequently, and result in the loss and damage of land, livelihood, and vital natural resources for the communities living in climate hotspots along the country’s rivers, plains and coastlines. This predicament endangers the climate-vulnerable communities’ well-being, health, and food security has major financial implications. With a third of the agricultural gross domestic product at risk of loss by 2050, total calorie consumption could decrease by 17% due to climate change, affecting food security and nutrition and leading to more people in precarious living conditions, which may further contribute to climate-related migration from rural to urban areas. It is estimated that Bangladesh will undergo an average financial impact of about 3.2 billion USD annually due to cyclones and floods.

Climate governance, i.e. the modalities to mitigate and adapt to climate change and concrete implementation modalities, remains a debated question nationally as well as internationally. Wealthy countries have contributed an estimated 92% of excess historical emissions and are responsible for 37% of current emissions, despite being home to only 15% of the global population. Yet, they question their accountability for the worldwide adverse consequences. Bangladesh, on the contrary, is a modest contributor to Global Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions, accounting for an estimated 0.4 percent of global emissions in 2018, while particularly at-risk groups are those that already today bear the brunt of climate-related losses and damages. There is ample evidence that a combination of climatic, environmental and socioeconomic factors has far-reaching implications for people and communities at the frontline of climate change and is affecting livelihoods and access to essential services. Communities struggle to adapt well for various reasons: lack of access to adaptive technology and resources, technical know-how, skills, representation, and finances.

Prevalence of salinity intrusion in the coastal areas is not a recent phenomenon; the consequences of major cyclones and storms has pushed up the gradual salinity to a threatening level. The increasing salinity is forcing the farmers to adopt new varieties with increased costs in most cases. This also requires information and knowledge of new technologies and varieties, which is challenging for the farmers. As a long-lasting consequence, it is gradually changing the overall dynamics of the communities’ lives and livelihoods and forcing them to migrate.

Moreover, climate change presents a clear threat to maternal and child health and could undermine recent gains in improvements in maternal mortality and morbidity. Direct impacts of climate changes and extremes on mothers and children are manifold: Floods and cyclones cause injuries, affect mental health and disrupt access to health services, while heat stress and the intake of salinized water have impacts on cardiovascular diseases, causing deteriorated health.

Considering the above scenario and context, it is imperative to work through a system approach: Livelihoods of climate-vulnerable / most at-risk groups need support to counter and accommodate the negative effects of climate change and adapt in a way realizing benefits. Simultaneously, capacities of local stakeholders to adapt to the changing climate and transform the economic portfolio towards green and climate-friendly practices need to be built and coupled with crisis management competences to manage extremes. This focus on preparedness, adaptation and mitigation can manifest itself through adapted livelihoods, climate-smart agriculture and improved food system & nutrition practices, climate-friendly and responsive green technology, etc. Finally, system change requires strong advocacy, ensuring that the voices and the messages of the people at the frontlines of climate change are heard and existing good practices are disseminated, replicated and upscaled, ideally with policy relevance.

With its holistic approach the programme CALL fully aligns with Bangladesh’s priorities to secure a sustainable development pathway that is resilient to climate change and disaster. It is also directly contributes to the objectives of the Swiss international development in general, and the priorities of the Swiss development programme in Bangladesh in particular by strengthening public and private actors to manage climate risks and reduce disaster risks in a sustainable manner (transversal outcome objective), but also by supporting inclusive growth and economic resilience to disaster and climate change (portfolio outcome 1) and by improving social well-being for all, especially in the priority areas that are prone to climate risks or natural disasters (portfolio outcome 2).

# scope of work and deliverables

The successful applicant shall ensure quality project delivery at the assigned climate hotspots locations to reach the overall GOAL of CALL is ‘Local climate actions led by communities and system actors – facilitated by Swiss NGOs and local partners – contribute to a climate-smart and disaster-resilient Bangladesh as a model of local climate action for broader uptake’.

## CALL Theory of Change and intervention logic

CALL is grounded on the firm belief that long-lasting change needs to be strongly rooted at different levels of intervention and borne by diverse stakeholders of relevance. Finding a common ground and a joint objective to work towards, while at the same time acknowledging differing and at times competing interests can create that enabling environment that is needed to anticipate, respond to and thrive in the face of the complex and often rapidly evolving challenges of a changing climate. Recognition of the voices of the people being directly affected by the impacts of climate change will be crucial. The interconnectedness of intervention levels and stakeholders as well as the identification of that common ground is reflected in the overall objective and the Theory of Change (ToC) of the CALL programme:

The ToC can be graphically represented in the form of Intervention Logic as follows:



IF communities - including the most vulnerable people - have skills and options to benefit from local climate actions and adapted livelihoods; and IF capacities of local system actors - including Government, civil society and private sector - are enhanced towards driving climate actions and providing climate-smart services; and IF voices and resources are coordinated and joined for advocacy and improved governance towards inclusive local climate interventions for climate justice under a human rights-based approach; THEN local climate actions contribute to a more climate smart and disaster-resilient Bangladesh and serve as a model for local action at scale, BECAUSE joint forces for localised climate action are crucial for a resilient, prosperous and just society in the context of a changing climate.

## Deliverables

### With contribution from SDC, GAIN integrates CALL in its existing programme to improve climate-smart and nutrition-sensitive food system through empowering local communities and institutions, implemented by the Government of Bangladesh and other partners, the following broad activities will be the main deliverables by the applicant organisation.

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| GAIN-CALL OUTPUT | BROAD ACTIVITIES |
| OP1.1: Communities have the skills and means to better manage human impacts of climate change | A1.1.1 SBCC with community groups aligning with existing projects' learning led by champion farmers/ peer educators in connection with social media network and facilitate learning competition with farmers groups.A1.1.2 Empower youths & adolescents group engaging 'eat well live well' campaign & e-learning on CCA, food choice Apps, cooking demo, increase resilience of vulnerable poor communities by introducing gender-, age- and disability responsive diversified livelihoods, etc.A1.1.3 Develop and support a community-led climate change vulnerability and early warning dissemination alliance/network with the involvement of relevant stakeholders. |
| OP1.2: Community members have access to climate-smart and inclusive livelihood options and essential services. | A1.2.1 Farmer Organisation-led demo of flood tolerant rice variety through extension of alternate wetting and drying (AWD) in HYV boro rice cultivation system for improving on-farm water use efficiency, and USG to reduce CH4 and N2O emission.A1.2.2 Micronutrients enriched and saline-tolerant vegetable varietal demo using agronomic management (reduce tillage, direct wet seeded rice using drum seeder, mulching, local eco-friendly traditional practice. etc.) for minimizing water loss.A1.2.3 Farmer-led demo of biofortified and nutrient enriched drought tolerant Lentil variety with supplementary irrigation by avoiding N-fertilizer.A1.2.4 Beta-carotene enriched, orange-fleshed sweet potato and sweet gourd demo using bag/pit cropping in char lands. |
| OP2.1: Government actors have access to knowledge, skills and means to advance climate transformation in an equitable and inclusive way | A2.1.1 Develop a core resource pool on CCA, food system and nutrition programming/service delivery.A2.1.2 Provide technical training to line agencies on climate change resilient adaptation, Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), hermetic storage to reduce post-harvest loss, freshwater management, nutrition-sensitive agriculture.A2.1.3 Extension of climate-smart technologies (e.g., stress-tolerant varieties for salinity, cold, flood areas), pest & disease resistant varieties, biofortified (zinc, iron, protein enriched) crop varieties, social forestry for forest dependent livelihood generation and nature-based adaptation using indigenous knowledge through training, field-level demonstrations, and input supplies in collaboration with DAE, BRRI, BARI, SRDI, BADC and so on. |
| OP2.2: Civil society and private sector actors have the capacities to actively contribute to equitable, innovative, and climate-smart development | A2.2.1 Explore partnership with relevant private sectors (impact investors) for business planning for livelihood diversification based on community skills & competencies and suitable value chains (e.g., lentil producers, dry fish industries, fishermen, farmers, labourers, shrimp cultivators, forest resource users (FRU), women)A2.2.2 Capacity building training to CBOs and private sector actors on climate change impact and climate responsive adaptation process for nutritious food systems and for improved livelihoods.A2.2.3 Community MSME-led business collaboration with private sectors to establish both backword and forward market linkages for climate adaptive inputs and services, and marketing of safe and nutritious commodities (e.g., improvement of postharvest facilities and e-commerce-based market facilities for enhancing fish industries based on climate sensitive aquaculture crop zones). |
| OP3.1: A knowledge sharing, learning and capacity building mechanism is established and practiced | A3.1.1 Formative research (need assessment) to integrate community needs/demands/views to contextualise existing training/communication modules and tools.A3.1.2 Training/SBCC module/tool revision and contextualise based on baseline/formative research and using RAIN's existing nutrition-sensitive climate change adaptation manuals (emodemo for farmer/women, e-learning for youth/ adolescent, farmers occupational health etc.).A3.1.3 Adaptive research on soil nutrient and agri-food nutrient retention technologies to innovate climate resilient food systems (soil-crop-water ecology to reduce GHG emission and malnutrition.A3.1.4 Support GoB to develop a knowledge and communication hub includes e-learning module, apps, animated video, community announcements etc. for awareness-raising on CCA. |
| OP3.2: Local partners can lead climate-related advocacy efforts towards equitable climate justice. | A3.2.1 Facilitate Union-MSP (revitalise DRR+UDCC) to lead CCA, food and nutrition programming with Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) based on GAIN's UP-MSP model with LGIs.A3.2.2 Empower Union-MSP to advocate their CCA, health, food & nutrition agenda at the national level (to both government and private agencies).  |

## Sterngthening locally led adaptation and localisation

CALL will have a specific focus on capacity building of all actors as an important element to contribute to sustainability of its interventions. A particular emphasis on outreach up to the national level and seeking to influence policies and regulations jointly with different local and national level alliances aims for upscaling and disseminating climate-resilient practices and models at a larger scale. This process is to ensure a wider stake and leadership of the implementing partners as they have an active role and local leadership in the alliance chapters.

The programme approach of promoting local private sector such as enterprises is to enhance climate-resilient services to the communities at risk, but also to generate new work opportunities, which in turn contributes to sustainability in the long run. In addition, co-financing mechanisms with local governments will ensure the promotion of locally led adaptation, a key component of sustainable climate action. Emphasising the pivotal role of the private sector, the programme will forge partnerships with local businesses and leverage private sector investments for climate change initiatives to drive sustainable development.

The implementation modality of CALL will follow a partnership approach to promote a localisation agenda. CALL partners will be aware of their role as facilitators and knowledge brokers, rather than of implementors. While they may still act as initial providers of proven and innovative approaches and services, they also recognise that their local partners are experts in their respective fields and thus enrich the quality and sustainability of the programme. CALL thus envisions a strong involvement of local partners from the start of the programme. Innovative partnership models to increase local ownership or cost-sharing modalities with private sector partners will further see local entities at the forefront of programme activities.

CALL is aware that increasing local ownership may follow different pathways, where the speed of increasing ownership is often determined by administrative and financial capacities rather than thematic expertise. The programme will therefore ensure that adequate resources are available for capacity building of local actors/partners, and will give special attention to organizational, financial and administrative capacity development, in addition to the thematic aspects of the respective intervention. Over time, increasing financial responsibility shall be handed over to the local partners, coupled with indicators measuring their work’s quality and impact.

## Sustainability and exit strategy

CALL is planned in a way that sustainability of interventions is considered in each stage of design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation. CALL interventions are based on and anchored in ongoing interventions of the partner organisations to leverage impact by utilizing the existing capacities and resources of these organisations. The clear focus of the programme on knowledge sharing and knowledge transfer, and close partnerships with local government, development, and private sector partners in the intervention areas, will act as a catalyst for sustaining project learnings and institutionalisation, and will guarantee the continued presence of project achievements in the intervention areas.

## Eligibility for application:

* Legal establishment for a minimum of five years: NGOAB registered and registered under Joint Stock Company act or any other registration authority in Bangladesh.
* Good organizational profile in relation to the CALL programme, and clear management and governance structures, human resource and financial policies and guidelines in place.
* Geographical presence in the climate hotspots in Bangladesh. Based on the presence, competency and experience, any applicant organisation can select any one and/or two and/or three geographic locations (coastal, barind and river systems & estuaries in Bangladesh), and submit proposal accordingly.
* Capacity of joint financing (from other than Swiss Government fund) to CALL is an added advantage.
* Have latest audit and annual report of past three financial years.
* Any litigation/arbitration history (both pending and closed) or any audit findings related to fraud, embezzlement/misappropriation of funds to be submitted for the last five (5) years.
1. instructions for responding

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

# ****contact****

Please direct all inquiries and other communications to the email: GAIN.Bangladesh@gainhealth.org. Reponses will not be confidential except in cases where proprietary information is involved.

# ****Budget****

Applicants are required to provide GAIN with a detailed fee percentage proposal. The final budget amount will have to be approved by the organisation prior to starting the project.

# Format for proposal

The proposal needs to be formatted as follows:

* Detailed profile of the applicant organization including board, governance and management structure, expertise on managing projects related to food system, nutrition, climate change, private sector engagement, advocacy, business areas/working locations, number and type of employees and other suitability for this project. Contact details of at least three references from a recent partnership.
* A proposal along with technical description, workplan, project management, monitoring plan, sustainability etc. considering the above CALL description, objective, outcome, output and activities.
* A detailed budget proposal shall be in US Dollars (USD) for initial two years duration from May 2025 to April 2027. A comprehensive budget justification should be presented for each category of costs/expenses. All prices/rates quoted must be inclusive of all applicable taxes/VAT as per rules of the Government of Bangladesh.

# Submission

Originals should be submitted as follows:

One hard signed copy of the Proposal and an electronic copy containing the documents preferably in MS Word along with all the required information including the budget proposal should reach GAIN at the address mentioned below:

Email copy: GAIN.Bangladesh@gainhealth.org

Hard copy: GAIN Country Office, House-20, Level-3, Road-99, Gulshan-2, Dhaka, Bangladesh

The envelope needs to be superscripted as: PARTNER FOR CLIMATE ACTION AT LOCAL LEVEL (CALL)

# Deadline

Completed **soft copy** proposals should be submitted **before 12:00am Bangladesh Time on 10 April 2025. Hard copy** proposals may be postmarked on the due date, provided that an email of the proposal is submitted by the deadline.

# Unacceptable

The following proposals will automatically not be considered or accepted:

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

# ****Revisions****

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

# 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.

# Completion

* Proposals must be submitted on official letterhead of the lead organisation and must be signed by a principal or authorising signatory of the lead 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.

# 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.

# 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.

# ****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.
1. Terms and conditions of this solicitation

# 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.

# 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.

# 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.

# 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 organisation(s) in order to verify the information provided as part of the Proposal.**

# Review process

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

# 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 authorise any third party to bind or commit GAIN in any way without GAIN’s express written consent.

# 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.

# 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.

# 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.

# 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.

# Scope of change

Once the contract is signed, no increase in the liability of GAIN or in the costs 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.

1. offer of services
2. Offer submitted by:

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 (Print or type business, corporate name and address)

1. 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:
	1. Click or tap here to enter text.
	2. Click or tap here to enter text.
	3. Click or tap here to enter text.
	4. Click or tap here to enter text.
2. I (We) agree that the Offer of Services will remain valid for a period of sixty (60) calendar days after the date of its receipt by GAIN.
3. I (We) herewith submit the following:
4. A Proposal to undertake the work, in accordance with GAIN’s requirements specified.
5. 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.

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Signature (applicant)

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Signature (applicant)