

TERMS OF REFERENCE

INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT

Policy Landscape Analysis and Action Framework Development on Multiple Micronutrient Supplementation (MMS) as part of Maternal Nutrition Services in Bangladesh

1. ABOUT GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR IMPROVED NUTRITION (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. GAIN's purpose is to advance nutrition outcomes by improving the consumption of nutritious and safe food for all people, especially the most vulnerable to malnutrition. Working with both governments and businesses, GAIN aims to transform food systems so that they deliver more nutritious food for all people. GAIN has a proven record of facilitating practical solutions that increase the nutritional value and safety of foods in ways that work for consumers, businesses, and governments. For more details, please visit: www.gainhealth.org

2. BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

Bangladesh has made enormous progress in different health and nutrition indicators over the past decade. However, the burden of low birth weight, micronutrient deficiencies particularly during pregnancy remains a big challenge. The recent national survey indicates that 24% of women aged 15-19 years are undernourished (BMI < 18.5 kg/m²). According to Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey 2014, 13% of women have short stature (height < 145 cm). The non-pregnant and non-lactating (NPNL) women are suffering significantly from various micronutrient deficiencies (Bangladesh National Micronutrient Survey 2011-12) National Low Birth Weight Survey 2015 says that the country has a significant prevalence of low birth weight (LBW) children in the world at 22.6%. A woman of poor nutritional status indicated by micronutrient deficiencies has a heightened risk of having a baby with low birth weight.

The National Nutrition Services (NNS), Institute of Public Health Nutrition (IPHN) under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW) of Bangladesh has put an initiative to improve maternal nutrition through a demonstration programme including the use of maternal multiple micronutrient supplements through public health ANC platforms. In collaboration with UNICEF, this programme aims to increase the coverage of the set minimum package for maternal nutrition interventions as defined by GoB through the public health ANC platform.

In addition to that demonstration programme, under the leadership of NNS/IPHN, GAIN will do another demonstration programme following a market-based model for enhancing access to maternal nutrition services using private sector ANC platform to achieve the outcome of addressing low birth weight. This demonstration programme will be implemented under the guidance of the National Technical Committee (NTC) in terms of technical and strategic direction to design and implement the programme and advocate policymakers for the inclusion of MMS in various policies and guidelines in Bangladesh.

3. OBJECTIVE OF CONSULTANCY

The objective of this assignment is to develop a policy landscape report through analysing existing legislation, policies, guidelines etc. related to maternal nutrition including multiple micronutrient supplementation; and develop an action framework for policy advocacy to integrate MMS in various policies, guidelines and relevant documents where it is appropriately needed.

4. SCOPE OF WORK (SOW)

The consultancy service involves the collection and analysis of existing policy documents on maternal nutrition services in Bangladesh, identification and interviews with key institutions, and the development of a landscape analysis document including recommendations on policy advocacy actions that will influence to integrate MMS in policy documents.

- Collection and review existing (nationally and internationally) policies, legislation, strategies, action plans, sectoral plans, and guidelines related to maternal nutrition services including MMS.
- Explore the organization that are working or will be working on the MMS programme and consult with them about their current or future activities. Exploration includes both public and private organisations along with other relevant actors.
- Identify the enablers, barriers, challenges, and risks including mitigation measures for successful MMS programme implementation.
- Recommendation for integrating MMS in various policies and documents at both public and private organisations
- Develop a road map (work plan) for policy advocacy on MMS.

5. TIMEFRAME

The consultant will be contracted for 20 - 25 days spread between 1st June and 30th September 2021.

6. SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION

The interested candidate will submit an application explaining relevant experiences to GAIN.Bangladesh@gainhealth.org by 5:00 pm CET on 22 May 2021. The application should include:

- Detailed Curriculum Vitae
- High-level work plan
- Indicative financial proposal in BDT

7. REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS AND COMPETENCIES

- More than 10 years of relevant technical experience in the fields of nutrition, public health, and programme planning and implementation in developing countries.
- High-level experience in formulating national policies/plans and rolling out of the same across ministries/agencies
- Excellent working knowledge of the Government of Bangladesh in nutrition and health portfolios, policies and programmes
- Direct programming and/or policy development experience in the integration of nutrition into relevant sectors such as health, social protection, education, nutrition, and so on.
- Strong evidence of writing reports/papers to be an asset.
- Experience in providing strategic policy advice to national and sub-national level governments.
- Experience in facilitating any national level workshop with government, UN agencies, development partners, and civil societies.

8. UNACCEPTABLE

The following proposals will automatically not be considered or accepted:

- Applications that are received after the RFP/EOI deadline.
- Applications received by fax or post.
- Incomplete applications.

9. REVISIONS

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

10. REFERENCE

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.

11. RIGHTS OF REJECTION

GAIN reserves the right to reject any or all submissions or to cancel or withdraw this rfp/eoi 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. TERMS & CONDITIONS

12.1. NOTICE OF NON-BINDING SOLICITATION : GAIN reserves the right to reject any and all applications 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.

12.2. 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.

12.3. 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.

12.4. EVALUATION CRITERIA : Applications will be reviewed by the selection team. The following indicate a list of the significant criteria against which applications will be assessed. This list is not exhaustive or 100% inclusive and is provided to enhance the applicants' ability to respond with substance- understanding of the scope of work, demonstrate a clear understanding of the technical requirements of this rfp/eoi, 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, cost-effectiveness of proposed budget approach, a duly completed offer of services.

12.5. REVIEW PROCESS : The review process will involve a Review Panel with participants selected by GAIN.

12.6. 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.

12.7. 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.

12.8. 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.

12.9. 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.

12.10. SCOPE OF THE WORK : 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.