

## Gender, Climate Change, and Nutrition Integration Initiative (GCAN)

**Request for Proposals (RFP)** from local partners in Senegal to lead policy engagement and capacity strengthening activities on integration of gender and nutrition in climate change policies

<b>Mechanism</b>	Sub-contract
<b>Duration</b>	3 years
<b>Total Award Amount</b>	Up to USD \$150,000 including indirect costs; roughly 50K per year
<b>Deadline for Questions</b>	July 8, 2024; Questions should be sent to <a href="mailto:ifpri-gcan@cgiar.org">ifpri-gcan@cgiar.org</a> .
<b>Deadline for Applications</b>	July 29, 2024; Applications should be sent to <a href="mailto:ifpri-gcan@cgiar.org">ifpri-gcan@cgiar.org</a> .
<b>Notification to Applicants</b>	August 19, 2024

### Background on GCAN and Purpose of This RFP

The [Gender, Climate Change, and Nutrition Integration Initiative \(GCAN\)](#) led by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), aims to ensure that agricultural investments, policies, and actions on climate change fully integrate gender equality, women’s empowerment, and nutrition objectives. With a new grant awarded from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) in 2023 (September 2023 - August 2027), GCAN plans to achieve these outcomes through three key workstreams:

1. Enhanced capacity of governments and other national actors in five focal countries<sup>1</sup> to design, implement, and monitor climate change policies, strategies, and plans related to adaptation and mitigation in the agri-food systems area that contribute to gender equality, women’s empowerment, and improved diets and nutrition.
2. Technical assistance and advisory services provided to the BMGF Agricultural Development Team and a selected set of implementing partners.
3. Increased understanding and evidence base to support gender-responsive and nutrition-sensitive climate actions and investments by key partners at the national and global levels.

<sup>1</sup> GCAN works in 5 focal countries—Ethiopia, Kenya, India, Nigeria, and Senegal. We are currently seeking a local partner in Senegal. Partners have been selected for Kenya, Nigeria, and Ethiopia, and the RFP for India will be posted in due course.

**This RFP is calling for expressions of interest to participate as a local partner in Senegal on the first workstream, with a focus on enhancing the capacity of key stakeholders to integrate gender, climate change and nutrition in national policy and programming, and leading national dialogues on these topics.** Partners may also contribute to research activities under workstream 3. Selected organizations will be granted direct funding from GCAN to lead policy engagement and implement capacity strengthening activities until the project end date of August 2027. GCAN is open to working with any type of national institution, including government agencies, research organizations, academia, local NGOs, and private firms.

The remainder of this RFP outlines in greater detail the scope of anticipated capacity strengthening activities that the selected local partner (sub-awardee) would engage in and provides the application guidelines and criteria for selection.

### **Capacity Strengthening Activities under GCAN (workstream 1)**

GCAN aims to engage with key policymakers, partners, and other relevant actors in focal countries to enhance the integration of gender and nutrition objectives into national climate adaptation and mitigation policies, strategies, and plans. Similarly, GCAN will support partners in strengthening climate action within national food security and gender strategies, policies, and programs.

The GCAN team will collaborate with the selected partner organizations (sub-awardees) in each country to identify entry points for stronger policy action and impact, address capacity gaps, and identify capacity assets in other organizations that can be leveraged to achieve project objectives. Through this capacity-sharing approach, GCAN aims to ensure the sustainability and institutionalization of project outcomes, enabling sub-awardees to continue supporting the integration of gender, climate change, and nutrition objectives in policies, strategies, and programs beyond the life of the GCAN project.

Sub-awardees will serve as the primary in-country interface with the government and other key stakeholders, lead collaborative efforts with GCAN staff in IFPRI country offices and headquarters and receive support from the international GCAN team.

The **scope of activities** that the sub-awardees will perform include, but is not limited to:

1. **Lead in-country convenings with the government and other key stakeholders:** Sub-awardees are expected to bring together stakeholders, including policymakers, project implementers, researchers, and funders across the three focal areas—climate change, gender, and nutrition. This engagement will be facilitated by meetings, workshops, and outreach events.
2. **Provide in-country training and advisory services:** Sub-awardees are expected to offer a series of targeted, demand-driven training to address capacity gaps identified through capacity needs assessments and other GCAN outputs. The topics of training might include core topics within and across the climate change, gender, and nutrition fields and their intersection. Examples include trainings on how climate change affects men and women differently or how nutrition objectives, activities and indicators can be integrated into climate policies. They are also expected to provide in-country advisory services to key stakeholders on a demand-driven basis.
3. **Establish/participate in a multistakeholder platform:** To further support a multi stakeholder process, bringing together diverse actors, sub-awardees will support already existing multistakeholder knowledge-sharing platforms that can influence the climate change-gender-nutrition agenda or engage with new platform(s) that they develop. Sub-awardees will support existing and new institutions that will carry on their functions, outreach, and other policy engagements through this platform after the GCAN project has ended.

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4. **Participate in capacity needs assessments:** In 2024, sub-awardees will be asked to conduct an assessment of capacity needs and assets with key stakeholders across the five focal countries, in collaboration with the GCAN team. This assessment will draw on a stakeholder analysis conducted by the GCAN team in June 2024. The assessments, which will include a stock take of capacity assets of policymakers, researchers, and other relevant actors, may be repeated in the final year of 2026-2027 to assess changes in capacities over the course of the project. Sub-awardees would also participate in an internal capacity needs assessment to identify opportunities for growth through the GCAN partnership.
5. **Participate in identifying local demands for metrics and decision-support tools:** Sub-awardees will be tasked with identifying local demand for metrics and decision-support tools to support GCAN's efforts to integrate gender and nutrition into climate policies and programs and to enhance accountability and monitoring of change in key climate metrics and associated nutrition and equity concerns based on national demands.
6. **Participate in identifying research and evidence gaps:** Sub-awardees will be strongly encouraged to engage in relevant research activities and help identify evidence gaps to support the GCAN aim of an improved evidence base to support policy and implementation at the intersection of climate change, gender, and nutrition.

## Application Guidelines

Applications must be submitted in English by email no later than July 29, 2024, 23.59 EDT, to [ifpri-gcan@cgiar.org](mailto:ifpri-gcan@cgiar.org). Late applications will not be accepted.

Applications must use single-line spacing, Times New Roman 12-pt font, and 1-inch margins on all sides, and must not exceed 20 pages in total.

The main section of the application (10-page maximum) must include the following (please note that the six review criteria are spelled out in the table below):

1. A **cover letter** expressing your interest and providing a concise statement of anticipated outcomes after the implementation of your planned activities (1 page maximum).
2. **Title page** with the name and address of the applying organization, proposed principal investigator (PI)'s name and contact details (email and phone) (1 page maximum).
3. A concise statement of your **organization's mission and vision**, its governance structure and decision-making processes, and a description of the main areas of work and policy engagement experience. Focus on how relevant your organization's core mandate is to GCAN's goal and objectives. (2 page maximum) **[Criterion #1]**
4. Describe your **organization's successes** in conducting capacity strengthening activities and using them to influence policies related to climate change, gender, and nutrition and identify where you have experienced capacity constraints. Include relevant past experiences, including **demonstrated policy influence (how, when, and what), and links to evidence** where possible. Be specific about the topical expertise of in-house staff in all three focal areas or those applicable to your organization. Your capacity constraints are *not* disqualifiers for eligibility. Be candid about **weaknesses (e.g., areas lacking technical expertise)** that would benefit from capacity strengthening support that the GCAN team can provide. For example, we understand that not all organizations can cover all areas of interest, i.e. climate change, nutrition, and gender to the same extent/depth. (2 page maximum) **[Criterion #2]**
5. Describe your overall **strategies to convene, engage with, and influence** national government actors and other key stakeholders in the climate-gender-nutrition space. If applicable, describe the national

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climate/gender/nutrition policy system, your organization's place in the system, and how your organization typically engages with and influences other actors within the system. (2 page maximum) [Criterion #3]

6. Describe a **detailed capacity strengthening plan** that includes **areas 1 to 3 in the scope of activities** (lead in-country convenings; provide in-country training and advisory services; establish/participate in a multistakeholder platform) that you intend to implement with the anticipated funding and the **expected outcomes** you would like to accomplish. Note that your plan can include a mix of formal training, organizational strengthening workshops, or any other type of activities that could strengthen capacities of key policymakers, partners, and other relevant actors related to climate change, gender, and nutrition. The plan can also include capacity strengthening activities in your own organization. Be specific about topics, timelines, and the level of effort (LOE) involved in each activity. **Include a strategy to ensure the sustainability and institutionalization of project outcomes beyond the life of GCAN. Providing a detailed capacity building plan is a key requirement under this call.** (2 page maximum) [Criterion #4]

In appendices (10-page maximum), please include:

1. An indicative **timeline** of the capacity strengthening activities you plan to implement. [Criterion #5]
2. The **budget** required to execute these efforts. Note that you will have an opportunity to refine the timeline and budget through one-on-one meetings with the GCAN team after being selected. [Criterion #6]
3. A list (with links where possible) of **relevant policy briefs, reports, white papers, and other publications** produced by your organization, if available. Alternatively, provide a webpage where these materials are clearly displayed. Please only provide URL links for these materials; do not send actual document files. [Criterion #2]
4. **CVs** of two to three key personnel including the PIs. Each person's CV should be a maximum of 1 page. [Criterion #2]
5. Any other supporting materials that you consider essential to your application.

## Review Criteria

GCAN aims to identify local organizations<sup>2</sup> in each of the focal countries that are working at the intersection of climate change, gender, and nutrition, and are well connected to policymakers and other influential stakeholders, demonstrating a proven convening power. We acknowledge that local organizations may not necessarily focus on all three technical areas. In such cases, technical experts from the IFPRI GCAN team will complement, build the capacity of, and otherwise support the sub-awardees during capacity strengthening and policy engagement. The ultimate goal is to transfer these capacities to the partners.

GCAN will convene a review committee, comprising GCAN's core team members along with representatives from IFPRI country offices, to evaluate all applications. The committee may reach out to applicants and arrange interviews for additional information if necessary.

Applications will undergo a single review process based on the following criteria and their corresponding points. IFPRI, during contracting, will request additional documents to verify the legal status of the selected partner.

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<sup>2</sup> We are primarily seeking organizations, rather than individuals, for this opportunity. However, individuals may collaborate with an organization, perhaps as consultants, or if they have their own company, they could potentially apply. In either case, they must demonstrate that they meet the criteria, including the ability to engage and convene key stakeholders/policymakers.

Criteria	Details	Points
1. Organization's mission and vision	- Relevance of the organization's core mandate to the objectives of GCAN.	10
2. Self-assessment of your organization's capacity and experience	- Ability to provide capacity strengthening and policy engagement activities in all three or a subset of focal areas (gender, climate change, and nutrition), including in-house expertise. - Past experience in relevant areas, including demonstrated policy influence on policies related to gender, climate change, and nutrition. - Clarity on past successes and existing constraints, including technical expertise gaps.	25
3. Strategies for policy influence and outreach	- Strategies for convening and leading engagement with national government and other key stakeholders in the gender-climate-nutrition space. - Knowledge of the institutional landscape on gender, climate change and nutrition issues.	25
4. Proposed capacity strengthening plan and expected outcomes	- Quality and extent of the activities outlined in the capacity strengthening plan. - Plans for ensuring the sustainability and institutionalization of project outcomes beyond the life of this GCAN initiative. - Potential impact of the expected outcomes.	25
5. Feasibility of timeline	- Feasibility of the planned activities within the suggested timeframes.	10
6. Value for money	- Cost-effectiveness of proposed outputs/outcomes vis-à-vis the available resources.	5

### Budget and Financial Information

The total budget for the selected sub-awardee is US Dollars (USD) \$150,000 over up to three years, including indirect costs. According to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation guidelines, you may include up to 15% in indirect costs in your budget. All costs must be directly related to the capacity strengthening activities outlined in your proposal. We encourage you to distribute the budget relatively evenly across the years to ensure a balanced implementation of activities throughout the cycle. Please note that the end date of GCAN is August 29, 2027; therefore, your activities should conclude by the end of June 2027. Please ensure that all budgetary figures are denominated in USD for the purpose of this proposal.

Below is the budget template you are required to use. You do not have to allocate expenditures to the sample activities provided in the template; instead, design the budget in accordance with the activities you propose.

Retain approximately 5 to 10 staff days for scope of activity areas 4-6 for which no activities have to be proposed.

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**Table 1. Budget template**

Category	2024 (Sept- Dec)	2025	2026	2027 (to June 30)	TOTAL
Personnel (staff salaries and fringe benefits)	-	-	-	-	-
Consultants	-	-	-	-	-
Travel	-	-	-	-	-
Workshops, trainings, and other events (e.g. venue costs, catering, travel allowances, etc.)	-	-	-	-	-
Communication services (e.g. editing, translation, media, etc.)	-	-	-	-	-
Supplies and equipment	-	-	-	-	-
Other direct costs	-	-	-	-	-
Indirect costs (up to 15%)	-	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL COST</b>	-	-	-	-	-

**Timeline**

The timeline for application preparation, submission, and next steps is as follows:

Date	Milestone
July 1, 2024	Announcement of RFP.
July 8, 2024	Closing date for questions from applicants. Questions should be sent to <a href="mailto:ifpri-gcan@cgiar.org">ifpri-gcan@cgiar.org</a> . Each applicant may submit one set of questions any time before, but no later than the deadline.
July 15, 2024	Written answers to applicants' questions provided.
<b>July 29, 2024 (23.59 EDT)</b>	<b>Deadline for applications.</b> Applications should be sent to <a href="mailto:ifpri-gcan@cgiar.org">ifpri-gcan@cgiar.org</a> . Late submissions will not be accepted.
August 19, 2024	Notification to winning organization and public announcement.
Expected start date: September 1, 2024	Activities expected to start.

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