ICT4**WORKFORCE**

ICT4**AG**

ICT4**ENERGY**

ICT4**GOVERNANCE**

ICT4**ENVIRONMENT**

There's no app for development,
but the right ICT tools can help achieve better outcomes.

As both a USAID implementing partner and a leading research institute with expertise in mobile technology, data science, statistical analysis and more, RTI is uniquely capable of harnessing ICT to help lower- and middle-income countries improve the lives of their citizens and continue on their journey to self-reliance.

ICT4**LEARNING**

ICT4**HEALTH**

ICT4**EDUCATION**

RTI
INTERNATIONAL

Helping Children Read in Uganda

USAID Uganda School Health and Reading Program (SHRP) and
USAID Uganda Literacy Achievement and Retention Activity (LARA)

USAID-funded early grade education programs in Uganda help millions of children who could not read at all establish and improve their reading skills. They also promote positive, safe and inclusive school environments by working to prevent school-related gender-based violence, strengthening HIV/AIDS education and prevention, and developing strategies to ensure the inclusion of students with disabilities. Working through government structures to promote scalability, sustainability and self-reliance, the programs help children learn and make safer, healthier choices in life.

The SHRP and LARA teams continually collect and utilize data and evidence for course correction and adjustment, including through Tangerine™, an open-source mobile assessment tool designed by RTI. Tangerine is also used to improve teacher training and monitoring.

Tangerine is a first-of-its-kind software application optimized for offline data collection on low-cost Android tablets. The Tangerine app is used primarily to record data from early grade reading and mathematics assessments and to enhance coaching feedback for teachers, students, and school administrators. We use Tangerine to improve both efficient monitoring of fieldwork and the quality and availability of data used for higher-level decision making.

This assess-and-adapt approach is part of the success story of SHRP and LARA. When SHRP began, a Tangerine-administered Early Grade Reading Assessment (EGRA) showed no children in program schools able to read even one word in their local language. At the end of the program, an assessment showed that learners in program schools were more likely to read 40 or more words per minute (wpm) than learners in control schools in all 12 languages of instruction. Reading comprehension also improved across all 12 languages. While program support ends at P4, further assessments show that the gains are being maintained in the later grades.

Together, SHRP and LARA are using Tangerine to support improved reading outcomes at scale in 85 percent of the Uganda's districts.

More information: **Jennae Bulat, jbulat@rti.org**

Empowering Smallholder Farmers in Senegal

Feed the Future Senegal Naatal Mbay ("Flourishing Agriculture") Project

Feed the Future Naatal Mbay is an agricultural development project working to boost incomes for up to 130,000 smallholder farmers in cereals value chains by systematically strengthening production, productivity and marketing.

The project has pioneered the introduction of data information systems to sustainably link market systems players, hold them accountable and smooth market transaction costs. For example, Naatal Mbay's farmer-led approach to extension services focuses on data-driven decision making, information sharing among farmer organization members, and scheduled opportunities to review and reflect on annual production and marketing results. Naatal Mbay has also worked with local ICT firms to develop local solutions to tracking rice stocks, enabling banks to release credit to smallholder farmers and processors, as well as providing near real-time information for policymakers. The "universe" of project data spans from field size to rainfall amounts, credit information and more.

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Taking on Malaria and Other Infectious Diseases

Tanzania Vector Control Scale-Up Project (TVCSCP)

Tanzania is a global success story in malaria prevention and control. In support of TVCSP, funded under the U.S. President's Malaria Initiative by USAID, RTI developed two state-of-the-art tools to support the detection and reporting of malaria cases.

The Malaria Early Epidemic Detection System (MEEDS) uses mobile phones to report malaria cases in real time. MEEDS supports a full malaria case notification system in 160 health facilities, covering all public facilities and 77 private health facilities throughout Zanzibar.

We also developed and implemented a case-based surveillance software tool called Coconut, which alerts district malaria surveillance officers to new malaria case reports via a mobile application. This innovative system captures malaria data from all public and private sector health facilities in Zanzibar, allowing officials to monitor and swiftly respond to increases in malaria, ultimately paving the road toward malaria elimination.

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Combatting Illegal Wildlife Trafficking

USAID Wildlife Asia Activity

Pangolins are the most heavily trafficked mammal on the planet—more than 100,000 are poached from the wild every year. In order to save this unique creature, law enforcement must be equipped with the right tools and information.

The USAID Wildlife Asia Activity developed the Pangolin Species Identification Guide to help law enforcement quickly identify the eight different species of pangolin by body parts, such as their scales, feet and tails. Available in 10 languages, as a mobile app and as a quick reference poster, the tools allow for quick species identification, thereby speeding up the process of identifying the possible point of origin and trafficking syndicates, and enabling faster investigations. The guide has been shared with law enforcement in the Activity's focal countries of Cambodia, China, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam, as well as other Asian and African countries involved in the illicit pangolin trade.

The pangolin guide, app, and quick guide reference poster can be found on the USAID Wildlife Asia website (www.usaidwildlifeasia.org) under "Resources."

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Giving Ugandans a Voice in Local and National Government

USAID Uganda Governance, Accountability, Participation and Performance (GAPP) Program

Many Ugandans do not have a reliable way to make government officials aware of urgent needs or lingering problems, and many local governments have no established system to get reliable information from their citizens.

GAPP is utilizing an innovative ICT tool to improve government service delivery and increase the ability of citizens to hold officials accountable. In partnership with UNICEF, GAPP launched the U-Bridge tool to facilitate dialogue between Ugandan citizens and local government leaders. U-Bridge uses an SMS platform enabling communities to send text messages to their local officials regarding delivery—or lack thereof—of services related to education, health, agriculture and more. Next, district officials are provided with mobile phones and internet access so they can receive this information. The result is that citizens can make their voices heard and local government is able to hear and respond to their needs.

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