Experience in the Middle East and North Africa

RTI International has been working in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) for more than 25 years. RTI provides technical assistance and research services for donors and governments in governance, economic growth, education, health, environmental management, and information and communication technology. RTI’s United Arab Emirates office in Abu Dhabi serves as a hub for environmental engineering work. Recent project examples include the following:

**Egypt**


GILO evolved from direct provision of training, technical support, classroom furniture, and IT equipment to selected primary and preparatory schools in four governorates of Upper Egypt to Cairo-based technical assistance to muderiyas, idaras and central ministry for the national roll-out of the Ministry of Education’s (MOE) Early Grade Reading Program. In addition, GILO provided ongoing technical assistance to the MOE’s decentralization.

**Local Democracy Strengthening Initiative, USAID** (2011–2013)

To support Egypt’s democracy following the country’s revolution, RTI implemented a process of informed democratic deliberation around two key issues: local democracy strengthening and local administration reform. With the Ministry of Local Development, RTI helped establish mechanisms for sustained consultation with key stakeholders, increasing public understanding of local democracy issues, and enhancing the ministry’s capacity to lead a democratic policy reform process.


RTI developed a training program for First Microfinance Foundation’s (FMF) Business Development Services Center to strengthen FMF’s ability to help their microenterprise clients grow into small and medium enterprises.

**Iraq**

**National and Provincial Administrative Reform Project (Tarabot), USAID/Management Systems International** (2011–2015)

RTI supports the Government of Iraq in building the capacity of public institutions to improve service delivery processes through better governance and resource management. Activities include establishing and modernizing civil service regulatory processes and building linkages between civil servants and policy makers and between civil servants at all levels of service delivery.


RTI and partners designed a computerized system to streamline registry procedures and replace paper-based portfolios of land titles with a secure national database.

**Iraq Education Surveys Project—MAHARAT, USAID** (2011–2012)

In partnership with Iraq’s Ministry of Education, RTI administered education surveys that provided information on the essential components of the Iraqi education system in order to improve education-related services and the quality of primary schools.

**MAHARAT** built the capacity of ministry staff to implement these education surveys in Iraq.

**Local Governance Project (LGP), Phases 1–3, USAID (2003–2011)**

RTI helped develop systems and capacity building for the first democratically elected local officials in Iraq’s history. LGP assisted these local governments to improve delivery of essential services and operate with greater transparency and accountability. LGP helped form a Local Government Association to lobby central government on policy and legal issues and facilitated the community-driven Provincial Development Strategy process to guide planning, budgeting, and decision making in each province. RTI also built the capacity of elected provincial officials to perform their duties and functions according to the Provincial Powers Law.

**Jordan**

**National Early Grade Literacy and Numeracy Survey, USAID** (2011–2015)

In partnership with the Jordanian Ministry of Education, RTI is implementing a pilot intervention to improve the early grade reading and math skills of Jordanian students, including providing remedial education to Jordanian and Syrian refugee students. The project also includes the administration of a baseline and end-line
national survey to evaluate the effectiveness of this pilot intervention.


RTI is helping design the methodology, providing input on evaluation indicators and data-gathering, and developing geographic data analysis to help the MCC determine whether the Jordan Compact achieves its objectives for reducing poverty and increasing household income.


RTI is helping increase the institutional capacity of Jordan’s water sector institutions so they can more easily adapt to changing resource availability and increase the sustainability of scarce water resources.

### Saudi Arabia

**Technology Commercialization Services for the King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST), KAUST (2009–2013)**

RTI implemented technology and market assessments to support a range of decisions, investments, commercialization, and economic growth strategies under consideration by the KAUST.


RTI performed a baseline assessment of current IPC capabilities within Saudi Aramco, benchmarked leading peer organizations for best practices, and developed recommended strategy and processes. RTI is assisting in implementation of these recommendations.

### United Arab Emirates


RTI is developing a corps of Emirati scientists and engineers to run a world-class environmental assessment and permitting agency in Abu Dhabi. Through training, on-the-job mentoring, and new management information systems and tools, we are elevating their capabilities to evaluate industry compliance with government environmental protection regulations.


In partnership with the HADD, RTI is working collaboratively to design monitoring and evaluation frameworks for public health programs and evaluate three selected public health programs using the developed framework.


To mitigate rising electricity and water consumption, RTI helped Abu Dhabi assess electricity and water usage patterns and design initiatives based on global best practices in demand-side management.

### Yemen


RTI is working with targeted ministries to help policy makers utilize tailored methods to develop and implement effective and transparent policies to improve services in education, health, water, and economic growth sectors.


RTI analyzed a specific set of interventions to reduce water demand, improve water use efficiency in municipal and agricultural systems, and provide additional water supply to Sana’a City from sources both inside and outside the Sana’a Basin.

### Regional

**Data for Education Programming in Asia and the Middle East (Egypt, Morocco, West Bank), USAID (2011–2014)**

RTI is providing technical assistance and training services to USAID Missions to enable them to accurately analyze educational sector data, evaluate opportunities where investments can contribute to measurable improvements, and establish baselines against which progress can be assessed.

**More Information**

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