



# Experience in the Middle East and North Africa



RTI International has been working to improve the human condition in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) for more than 25 years. RTI has provided technical assistance and research services for donors and governments across the region in local governance, economic growth, education, health, environmental management, public finance, and information and communication technology. RTI's United Arab Emirates office in Dubai serves as a hub for environmental engineering work and provides finance and administrative support for other projects worldwide. RTI's selected experience in the MENA region includes the following projects:

## Egypt

**Girls Improved Learning Outcomes (GILO),**  
U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)  
(2008–2011)

Working in the remote areas of Upper Egypt, RTI is supporting increased enrollment and achievement of girls in primary and preparatory schools. RTI will introduce gender-sensitive teaching strategies, strengthen community participation in school planning, and support decentralized school construction and maintenance to improve girls' access to education.

**Egypt Environmental Education and Outreach Program (E3OP),** USAID (2006–2008)

E3OP is working with local and international organizations to provide journalism training, raise public awareness, and create environmental education materials for home and school use. RTI facilitates public-private partnerships between the newspaper industry and educators and develops environmental education newspaper supplements as instructional and public advocacy tools.

**Decentralized Governance and Management,**  
USAID (2005–2008)

In support of Egypt's plan to decentralize education, RTI is strengthening policies, procedures, and systems centrally and locally to create citizen-responsive schools and foster rational resource allocation. RTI is building the capacity of central and local officials to manage and lead education reforms locally. This project is a component of USAID's Education Reform Program.

## Iran

**Education Financing and Decentralization,**  
World Bank (2004)

RTI assessed the education landscape in Iran to evaluate the roles of central, provincial, and regional governments and schools in education decentralization to improve school management. RTI also analyzed the state's education expenditures to improve efficiency and equity in financing primary and secondary education. The project compiled these findings and developed a strategy to provide universal access to basic education.

## Iraq

**National Capacity Development Program,**  
USAID (2006–2009)

This project supports the Government of Iraq to gain national legitimacy and fight corruption by improving public administration through a system for training professional civil servants. RTI assists the government to identify training needs, tailor a training plan for ministerial and provincial staff, and prepare a National Capacity Development Strategy.

**Strengthening Local and Provincial Governance Program,** USAID (2005–2008)

RTI is consolidating gains made in democratic local governance by improving the operation and effectiveness of Iraqi local governments. RTI supports democratic election processes at the local level and provides policy advice to ministries, as

well as to local and provincial officials and council members.

**Training Model Primary Providers,** USAID  
(2005–2006)

RTI built the Iraq Ministry of Health's capacity to design, implement, and evaluate a training and management program for 142 model primary health care centers. RTI trained master trainers who will assist service providers throughout Iraq, as well as trained health center directors to prioritize community health needs, allocate resources, and monitor the quality of staff performance and service delivery.

**Local Governance Program,** USAID (2003–2005)

RTI helped the Iraqi Coalition Provisional Authority foster a participatory, transparent government responsive to the Iraqi people, by assisting local administrators to deliver essential services; enhancing livelihoods through local economic development planning; building accountability into local institutions; and developing a decentralization framework.

## Jordan

**Evaluation of the Jordan Education Initiative,**  
USAID (2007–2008)

RTI is helping the Ministry of Education establish models for e-learning by studying the IT hardware, software, connectivity, and technical support in 100 schools in Amman. RTI assesses the adequacy and scalability of the IT systems, as well as processes for

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equipment procurement, management, and maintenance.

**Biosciences Industry Regulatory Study,**  
King Hussein Cancer and Biotechnology Institute  
(2007–2008)

RTI identified international regulatory best practices in the biosciences industry, comparing them to Jordan's biosciences industry. RTI then provided recommendations to Jordanian policy makers and business leaders for improving the regulatory framework, as they try to advance the emerging life science research and biotechnology industry in Jordan.

**Jordan Overseas Investment Network in the United States (JOIN-US),** Embassy of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (2006–2008)

RTI established and manages JOIN-US—Jordan's trade and investment promotion program in the United States—to increase the number and capacity of Jordanian exporters to the United States and introduce U.S. firms into the Jordanian economy. The program is strengthening the competitiveness of Jordanian producers, encouraging investment and technology transfer into the country, and creating job opportunities in growth sectors.

**Studies of the Flora and Predator Bacteria of Jordan,** Fogarty International Center (2003–2006)

RTI worked with a team of Jordanian scientists to study the country's biodiversity in search of new drug leads, including anticancer agents and antibiotics from plants and microbes in soil. In the process, RTI transferred technical capacity in natural products research to its Jordanian counterparts, raised the profile of drug discovery in Jordan, and helped conserve the country's biodiversity.

**Decentralized Local Governance Assessment,** USAID (2004–2005)

RTI assessed the degree of political will for increased devolution of authority to local governments and supported the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation

in developing a national strategy to promote decentralization in Jordan.

**Morocco**

**Local Governance Project,** USAID (2005–2008)

RTI assists the government of Morocco to strengthen transparency and accountability by training inspectors to conduct audits per international standards and by improving local government systems and procedures. RTI also helps local governments use participatory strategic planning (PSP) to support the Cities Without Slums initiative, promoting citizen participation in slum-upgrading efforts.

**Education Sector Appraisal,** World Bank (2004)

RTI assisted Morocco's National Education and Youth Ministry, with members of a World Bank team, to develop a work plan for building the capacity of teachers and schools to deliver quality education under the Basic Education Reform Support Program (PARSEM). The resulting project appraisal led to a large World Bank loan to Morocco's education sector.

**Participatory Strategic Planning and Multi-Annual Budgeting,** USAID (2001–2004)

RTI promoted a participatory approach to local and regional strategic investment planning in the Souss-Massa-Draâ region and improved coordination between the provincial councils, local governments, private sector, and civil society. RTI drafted a PSP guide suited to the Moroccan context; designed and delivered a training course; and provided on-demand technical assistance to municipalities implementing PSP.

**United Arab Emirates**

**Outsourcing Environmental Assessment and Industry Compliance,** Abu Dhabi Environment Agency (2008–2018)

RTI will run many of Abu Dhabi's environmental protection programs, including monitoring environmental consultants; reviewing environmental studies for new and existing developments; and evaluating

industrial compliance with government regulations.

**DuBiotech Legal and Regulatory Framework,** Dubai Biotechnology and Research Park (DuBiotech) (2006)

RTI assisted DuBiotech to develop and implement a streamlined regulatory framework that maintains control over operational procedures and practices in life science industries, while allowing the freedom to work efficiently, particularly within the park's collaborative environment.

**E-Learning Environmental Awareness Module,** Abu Dhabi Company for Onshore Oil Operations (ADCO) (2004–2005)

RTI designed an interactive training module for ADCO employees to enhance their awareness of environmental issues related to air, water, and land, and to assist employees in complying with the national oil company's codes of practice. ADCO won an award for innovation from the development of the training module.

**West Bank and Gaza**

**Environmental Health Assessment,** USAID (2001)

RTI conducted a household survey in several West Bank villages to quantify the benefits of water and sanitation projects in reducing water-borne disease and recommended strategies to maximize those benefits. RTI designed interventions to address gaps in community awareness about hygiene practices, including hand washing and feces disposal, and helped municipalities improve water supply management.

**For more information, please contact**

**RTI Headquarters**

Myles Elledge, Senior Program Director

Phone: +1.919.541.8739

E-mail: [melledge@rti.org](mailto:melledge@rti.org)