

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Governance



RTI International has been a leader in local governance for over 30 years, with sustained governance programs in almost 50 countries worldwide. We continue to expand our horizons to develop innovative approaches that respond to the challenges of rapidly changing situations and promote stability.

Our aim is to build more accountable national and local institutions that deliver effective and responsive services to citizens. We simultaneously work with and through local organizations to ensure long-term sustainability. Our extensive experience ranges from postconflict to more stable transition countries.

Integral to our core beliefs and practices, RTI fosters engagement of government with communities and civil society, the private sector, and the media to set priorities and build consensus on investments and objectives.

We design program activities to imbue ownership and sustainability by governments and their citizens. RTI's experience in civil society, gender and youth, governance, economic development, health, and education enables us to address governance issues with highly integrated approaches.

Expertise

- Supporting decentralization and local governance policy
- Strengthening local governance performance
- Improving accountability and transparency
- Strengthening civil society to promote good governance and facilitate development
- Engaging communities, youth, and women in all governance and development programs

Decentralization and Local Governance Policy

Recent project experience in Armenia, Benin, Bulgaria, El Salvador, Ghana, Indonesia, Iraq, Kosovo, Morocco, Nigeria, South Africa, and Ukraine

RTI assists national and local governments in decentralization processes by conducting strategic analysis of core policy issues, priorities, and gaps in decentralization plans. We promote reforms that ensure the participation of women and youth in civic affairs, transparency, and overall good governance. We provide technical assistance to legislative bodies in evaluating policy options and drafting legislation. RTI also strengthens local government associations that provide a voice for local institutions at the national level. Project highlights include the following:

- In Kosovo, RTI assisted the central government in drafting all major laws for decentralization policy, including the Law on Local Self-Government.
- In Bulgaria, RTI facilitated fiscal decentralization reform that included five major laws and a constitutional amendment.



Strengthening Local Governance Performance

Recent project experience in Bangladesh, El Salvador, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Kosovo, Morocco, Nigeria, South Africa, and Ukraine

RTI strengthens local governments to be more effective and accountable and thus earn greater trust from their citizens. We assist governments to improve the delivery of basic services and infrastructure, strengthen strategic budgeting systems, and design revenue mobilization strategies. We build the capacities of government officials to carry out their roles in education, health, and economic development. RTI has found that *peer information exchange* is the best way to help local officials adapt national and international best practices. Project highlights include the following:

- In Nigeria, RTI works with local governments, safe water boards, and community organizations to improve access to water and sanitation.
- In Ukraine, RTI introduced citizen-driven performance program budgeting in 85 cities, permitting improvements in services such as waste disposal, education, and health.
- In Kosovo, RTI developed a municipal services performance management system based on service outcomes and citizens' satisfaction, which has been applied in all Kosovo municipalities.

Improving Transparency and Accountability

Recent project experience in Benin, Bulgaria, El Salvador, Indonesia, Iraq, Morocco, South Africa, and Ukraine

RTI fosters processes that enable government staff and citizens to better understand, monitor, and reinforce transparency and accountability. We assist governments to improve access to information and services that simultaneously reduce opportunities for corruption. We also help establish legal and public sanctions against corrupt activities. Project highlights include the following:

- In Peru, we strengthened civil society organizations' (CSOs') understanding of and capacities to monitor government performance.
- In South Africa, RTI assisted the Department of Provincial and Local Government with implementation of its Anti-Corruption Strategy. Selected municipalities then set policies and procedures promoting transparency and accountability in housing, hiring, and procurement.

- In Indonesia, RTI introduced a more open process that allows citizens to engage with elected councils to set development priorities.

Strengthening Civil Society to Promote Good Governance and Facilitate Development

Recent project experience in Benin, Guatemala, Guinea, Indonesia, Iraq, Mali, Nigeria, Peru, and Ukraine

The cornerstone of RTI's effective governance approach is building relationships of trust among citizens, community service organizations, and government institutions. RTI strengthens technical capacity to broaden participation, make informed decisions, analyze policies and their impact, and promote reforms. Project highlights include the following:

- In Guinea, RTI trained more than 250 religious, labor, business, and local government leaders to participate meaningfully in local decisions.
- In Indonesia, RTI worked with more than 270 CSOs to strengthen their capacity in monitoring basic public services such as health care and education.

RTI Tools and Approaches

RTI has developed proven approaches and tools to make assistance more effective. The most widely applicable are

- **"With Many"**—an approach that fosters a sustainable culture of dialogue for problem solving among local government, civil society, the private sector, and media.
- **Participatory Strategic Planning (PSP)**—a set of tools for assessing and prioritizing needs and creating and monitoring of development and investment plans. PSP institutionalizes long-term partnerships between local governments and citizens.
- **Municipal Development Framework**—a benchmarking process that allows local governments to identify areas for performance improvements and to monitor their progress over the long term.

More Information

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RTI International is one of the world's leading research institutes, dedicated to improving the human condition by turning knowledge into practice. Our staff of more than 2,800 provides research and technical expertise to governments and businesses in more than 40 countries in the areas of health and pharmaceuticals, education and training, surveys and statistics, advanced technology, international development, economic and social policy, energy and the environment, and laboratory and chemistry services. For more information, visit www.rti.org.

RTI International is a trade name of Research Triangle Institute.

