



INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Democratic Governance



Expertise

- Decentralization and democratic local governance
- Anticorruption and transparency
- Civil society development
- Local economic development
- Legislative strengthening
- Budgeting and financial management
- Participatory strategic planning

Working worldwide with partners in public institutions and civil society, RTI International pursues innovative approaches and builds on best practices to create the foundation for and promote democratic governance. Our goal is to help build more effective, accountable, and responsive institutions at the national and local levels of government.

Our approach to democratic governance reflects both our long-standing commitment to the development of cutting-edge technical assistance and our extensive experience in developing, transitional, and post-conflict environments. RTI has implemented field projects in more than 140 countries, working to bring together government, civil society, and other stakeholders to improve the functioning of democratic institutions.

RTI's expertise includes promoting effective decentralization, strengthening local government, fighting corruption, and building transparency. We have worked in civil society development, improved public administration, and instituted sustainable participatory processes. We have succeeded around the world in civil service reform, electoral process improvement, legislative strengthening, local economic development, and fiscal reform. We strongly believe that a cross-sectoral approach involving a broad view of democratic governance and often incorporating service delivery and the social sectors, such as health and education, achieves the best results.

Decentralization and democratic local governance

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

RTI offers technical assistance to national and local governments as they seek to cope with decentralization, particularly through strategic analysis of core policy issues, priorities, and gaps in their decentralization plans. Our activities include helping governments develop policy reforms, advising local governments on improving responsiveness to citizens, and incorporating practices for increased transparency and accountability of decision making. We target improvements

in service delivery. RTI also provides technical support to associations of local governments, which provide a voice for local government at the national level and support the development of local institutional capacity.

Anticorruption and transparency

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

RTI fights corruption by opening governance to public participation and scrutiny. We build partnerships with anticorruption organizations, foster civil society coalitions, and work with the media to promote reform and neutralize opposition. We foster changes that limit

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opportunities for corruption, increase transparency and controls, establish effective sanctions, and realign incentives to public ends. We work in a variety of country settings to effectively measure impact. Our initiatives are complemented by our cross-sectoral efforts to counter corruption in the education, environment, and health sectors.

Civil society development

Recent project experience in Benin, Guinea, Guyana, Indonesia, Iraq, Mali, Peru, and Ukraine.

Building trust and relationships among citizens, community service organizations, and government institutions is the cornerstone of our approach. We facilitate dialogue and partnerships among public, nongovernmental, and civil society organizations at all levels to help them examine policy, work for democratic reform, and evaluate policy impacts. RTI helps strengthen the technical capacity of these organizations, and we support their efforts to broaden stakeholder participation, make informed decisions, and promote transparency.

Local economic development

Recent project experience in Afghanistan, El Salvador, Poland, and Ukraine.

RTI has developed innovative ways to spur cooperation between private groups, citizens, and local governments to revitalize local economies. Making progress on the local economic front— attracting investment and creating job opportunities—brings legitimacy to and strengthens the democratic process.

To ensure long-term sustainability, our field-tested approach relies on extensive input from community stakeholders, and partnerships with citizen groups, nonprofit agencies, businesses, and government.

Legislative strengthening

Recent project experience in Bulgaria, Egypt, El Salvador, Indonesia, Romania, and Central America.

RTI has considerable experience in legislative strengthening at all levels of government. We seek to improve the technical capacities of legislative bodies to write and enact well-informed laws, exercise oversight roles, and effectively represent constituents. We work to increase citizen participation in legislative processes. In addition to providing the necessary physical infrastructure that facilitates legislative functions, RTI aims to improve the deliberative processes so that national and subnational government institutions become more effective, transparent, and accountable to the citizens they represent.

Budgeting and financial management

Recent project experience in Bulgaria, Indonesia, Kosovo, Mali, South Africa, and Ukraine.

RTI helps decentralized units of local governments increase their ability to respond to local citizens' priorities by mobilizing local financial resources, developing transparent local budgeting processes, establishing automated financial management systems, and implementing transparent information and accountability



RTI holds a media workshop for grantees in Indonesia for the USAID-funded Democratic Reform Support Project. [Photo: Andrew Thornley]

mechanisms. Our strategic approach assesses the needs of stakeholders in the public sector, civil society, and the private sector and then provides the technical assistance and training they need for improved financial management.

Participatory strategic planning

Recent project experience in Benin, Bulgaria, El Salvador, Guatemala, Indonesia, Iraq, Kosovo, Morocco, and Ukraine.

Participatory strategic planning fosters a culture of cooperation, open government, and stakeholder involvement allowing local government, civil society organizations, and the private sector to work together to determine priorities and build consensus on investments and achievement objectives. RTI's approach is to create incentives for citizen involvement by working with communities to achieve tangible results, thereby enhancing the legitimacy of the democratic process. By encouraging participation around improved service delivery and revenue collection, we effectively engage the local community in local affairs.

RTI International is one of the world's leading research institutes, dedicated to improving the human condition by turning knowledge into practice. With projects in more than 40 countries and a staff of more than 2,600, RTI offers innovative research and technical solutions to governments and businesses worldwide in the areas of health and pharmaceuticals, education and training, surveys and statistics, advanced technology, democratic governance, economic and social development, energy, and the environment. For more information, visit www.rti.org.

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