

Providing Innovation and Leadership in Global Health and HIV/AIDS Research



RTI's extensive experience and technical expertise in HIV/AIDS—as well as with sexually transmitted infections (STIs), tuberculosis (TB), and other related health issues—make RTI an ideal partner to support priority areas of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR).

Our Experience in HIV/AIDS

RTI has been a leader in HIV/AIDS-related research and intervention programs since 1984—domestically and internationally. We have implemented HIV/AIDS contracts with a cumulative dollar value in the hundreds of millions. Diverse in focus, these contracts include

- Providing technical support in the planning and management of AIDS control programs
- Using computer-based economic modeling techniques to carry out cost-benefit and cost-consequence analyses of various HIV therapies
- Conducting surveys and completing statistical analyses
- Developing monitoring and evaluation systems for national AIDS commissions
- Analyzing potential anti-AIDS pharmaceuticals through advanced screening; pharmacological, toxicological, and formulation studies; and clinical trials.

Committed to Enhancing Global Health

Countries around the world are faced with complex health problems, such as limited access to basic health services as well as the threat of HIV/AIDS, TB, malaria, and other illnesses. These problems burden health care systems, leadership, and resources.

RTI is committed to improving global health through collaborative partnerships with local communities, national governments, and private-sector counterparts. We work with government agencies, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), private foundations, research and academic institutions, community- and faith-based organizations, and other stakeholders around the world.

At RTI, we apply research and practical experience to strengthen health policies and design better programs. We focus on building local capacity, emphasizing community and stakeholder involvement and public-private partnerships. We are committed to ensuring that efforts can be replicated and scaled up and that initiatives are sustainable. Our goal is to ensure that programs are appropriate for a given country and its people.

Supporting the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief

RTI offers rich experience and technical expertise in HIV/AIDS, STIs, TB, and other related health issues. In fact, RTI has either current or recent experience in the majority of the PEPFAR focus countries.

HIV Prevention

RTI has extensive experience with HIV prevention programs, including

- Voluntary counseling and testing (VCT) in international and domestic settings
- Community mobilization and health education
- Prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT)
- Promotion of behavior change interventions.

RTI provides technical support to governments and AIDS control programs in the areas of needs assessment and strategic planning. In our efforts, we strive to foster cross-governmental collaboration as well as collaboration with NGOs.

Care and Treatment of HIV-Infected People

A number of RTI studies have focused on improving the care and treatment of HIV-infected individuals and their families. For example, we have studied patterns of prenatal care utilization among HIV-infected pregnant women, examined the efficacy of standard ARV drug combinations, and evaluated the social and economic impacts of caring for persons infected with HIV/AIDS.

Supporting Clients Around the World

RTI has participated in numerous global health projects with a variety of clients in multilateral and U.S. government health agencies, as well as health organizations within the governments, NGOs, and communities in high-burden countries. Our clients include

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)
- National Institutes of Health (NIH)
- Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)
- Department of Labor (DOL)
- World Bank
- World Health Organization (WHO)
- Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS).

Highlights of Our HIV/AIDS and T

The breadth of RTI's work is best illustrated by a select list of our current and recent projects. These projects exemplify RTI's approach to strengthening the response to the HIV/AIDS pandemic and its consequences.

In particular, these projects show our experience in fostering public-private partnerships and collaborating with community- and faith-based organizations to achieve mutual goals for improved public health worldwide.

Developing and Evaluating a Woman-Focused HIV/AIDS Prevention Initiative

With sponsorship from the National Institute on Drug Abuse, RTI has developed, implemented, and evaluated innovative interventions that target hard-to-reach populations such as crack-using urban African-American women. A similar intervention is now being implemented in South Africa with funding from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism.

Supporting the CDC Global AIDS Program

Since 2001, RTI has supported the CDC Global AIDS Program in the areas of policy, planning, management, communications, and monitoring and evaluation. We played a hands-on role in planning CDC's Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission initiative, and we participated in the early planning stages of PEPFAR.

Conducting a Workplace Prevention Initiative in Uganda

In collaboration with community- and faith-based organizations and with funding from the Department of Labor, RTI is working to help stem HIV infections in Uganda. The project focuses on providing HIV/AIDS education in the workplace through the ABC—Abstinence, Being faithful, Condom use—approach to HIV prevention. The project also focuses on reducing stigma and discrimination in the workplace and strengthening the capacity of local community- and faith-based organizations to implement HIV/AIDS activities.

Participating in the Global TB Alliance

As an active participant in the development and operation of the Global Alliance for Tuberculosis Drug Development (GATB), RTI has coordinated participant involvement in key elements of this public-private partnership, including

- Preparing a report on the economics of TB drug development—working with government, university, corporate, and multilateral organizations to present a business case for involvement in TB drug development
- Managing the development of GATB's first drug candidate for improved treatment of TB

B Projects



- Serving as a partner in GATB's international stakeholder association.

Supporting TB Technology Transfer

RTI is managing a project to facilitate the transfer of new anti-tuberculosis compounds into development and commercialization. To build industry interest, RTI is gathering global epidemiology and market data for new TB drugs to encourage investment in drug development. As promising new compounds are identified, RTI will work with the suppliers to develop comprehensive promotional packages.

To aid commercialization, RTI is facilitating partnerships among pharmaceutical companies, universities, foundations, international health and financial organizations, and the National Institutes of Health.

Coordinating a Collaborative HIV/STD Prevention Trial

Working on behalf of the National Institute of Mental Health, RTI serves as the coordinating center for this two-armed, randomized, community-level trial. Conducted in China, India, Peru, Russia, and Zimbabwe, this study tests the effectiveness of the Community Popular Opinion Leader (C-POL) model in reducing behaviors that can result in HIV or other STIs.

The study adapts this sophisticated intervention model using both behavioral and biological outcomes. C-POLs serve as behavior change agents among friends and neighbors in their communities. The intervention is expected to strengthen norms about safer sexual behavior and encourage risk reduction. Ultimately, this study will implement public health behavior change initiatives in all five countries, measure the results, document the lessons learned, and share that information for a global perspective on preventing the spread of HIV/STDs.

Simulating Modeling Outcomes of AIDS Treatment Regimens

The purpose of this study was to develop a 15-year model to simulate the impact of differing drug treatment decisions on individual outcomes. The model, a Monte Carlo simulation, collected the following outcomes of interest for each year: survival data, number of AIDS cases, number of deaths, accrued quality-adjusted life years (QALYs), summary statistics on all cost parameters, and the duration of each therapy in the regimen. Costs incurred during the course of the disease (including drug costs, testing costs, other medical care costs, and indirect costs) were tracked for each individual.

Conducting Cognitive Testing and Psychometric Validation of Quality-of-Life Assessments

RTI contributed to the development and evaluation of an instrument designed to measure the impact of caregiving on individuals who assist AIDS patients, as well as a questionnaire about the health care resources used by these patients. RTI also conducted a qualitative analysis of quality-of-life data provided by patients with AIDS-related dementia by initiating a reliability study, considering the patients' neuropsychological profiles, and conducting intensive individual interviews.

Expanding Routine HIV Counseling and Testing and Providing Good-Quality Care in Uganda

Through PEPFAR funding via CDC/Uganda, RTI is implementing the project "Expansion of Routine HIV Counseling and Testing (RCT) and the Provision of Basic Care in Clinics and Hospitals in the Republic of Uganda." It will develop models of RCT in district and subdistrict public and private hospitals.

Project activities include working with the Ministry of Health and other stakeholders to review the National HIV Counseling and Testing Policy so that it will include RCT in clinical settings. The project team also helps develop training materials, train health workers to provide good-quality care and advice to those who test HIV-positive, train hospital workers in logistics management in order to ensure adequate and timely supply of HIV/AIDS commodities, develop health information system forms to capture RCT data, and educate the communities about the benefits of early diagnosis of HIV infection as well as treatment and care.

Implementing Medical Records and Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) Management Systems

In close collaboration with the University of Alabama at Birmingham and the Center for Infectious Disease Research in Zambia (a PEPFAR implementing partner of the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation), RTI has developed prototype ART patient management software for handheld computers.

In Lusaka, Zambia, RTI is using open-source software to build a perinatal patient records system. It operates over a high-speed wireless data network connecting 24 clinics and the University Teaching Hospital. The patient management software uses "smart cards," replacing an existing manual system. It provides quick, secure access to patient records, instant information on patient referrals, better patient follow-up, up-to-date performance indicators, and longitudinal data for assessing interventions.



RTI is dedicated to improving the human condition through multidisciplinary research, development, and technical services that meet the highest standards of professional performance.

For more than four decades, clients worldwide—in government, industry, academia, and public service—have relied on RTI to provide value-added solutions to policy, mission-critical, and programmatic problems. As an independent, nonprofit organization, RTI pursues active research and development programs in health and pharmaceuticals, advanced technology, survey and statistics, education and training, economic and social development, and the environment.

RTI's staff of more than 2,500 people work in multidisciplinary teams and collaborate with clients to meet their unique needs, providing cost-effective research that makes a tangible difference in people's health and economic well-being. RTI's domestic and international experience spans more than 45 years and over 120 countries.

Headquartered in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, RTI has established corporate offices in the United States and abroad to better meet the needs of our clients. Locations include Washington, DC; Maryland; Florida; Virginia; Georgia; Massachusetts; Illinois; Alabama; and California in the United States, as well as Indonesia, the United Kingdom, South Africa, El Salvador, and the United Arab Emirates. RTI also maintains a subsidiary in Poland and project offices in more than 30 countries.

For More Information

For additional information on RTI's capabilities to support PEPFAR, visit www.rti.org/globalhealth or contact

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