



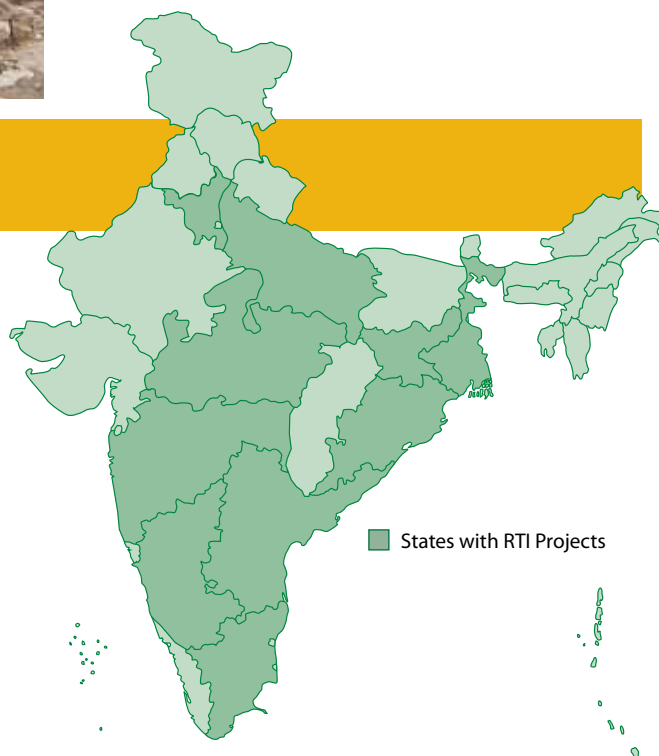
Experience in India

RTI International has a history of collaborative work in India since 1982. Our projects and programs emphasize institutional development through the transfer of analytical tools and methods, dissemination of best practices, and collaborative applied research to test and apply new technologies. RTI's work in developing public-private partnerships, strengthening the capacity of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and providing technical assistance to national and subnational government has supported improvements in water and sanitation, energy and the environment, and health. In 2008, RTI will open a permanent international office in New Delhi to better serve our clients and to increase linkages with local partners and organizations. Our clients in India include the World Bank, United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Asian Development Bank (ADB), U.S. National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease (NIAID), National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) and Acumen Fund.

Energy and the Environment

RTI is developing innovative clean energy technologies for the electric power and transportation fuels industries, and offers a range of capabilities to help clients solve problems related to electric utilities, petroleum refineries, natural gas, renewable energy, climate change, and indoor and outdoor air quality.

- RTI collaborated with the World Bank and researchers from North Carolina State University to assess the impacts of mining on forest-dependent populations through a household survey and biodiversity inventory in Orissa. RTI partnered with an Indian survey organization to create the sample and survey design, develop the



survey instrument, and ensure that the sample contained sufficient variation in ecological and economic gradients of interests. In the second phase, RTI is working to enhance understanding of how mining affects rural livelihoods by intensively re-analyzing the pilot data set in conjunction with analysis of Orissa samples of national surveys, and data from a health study conducted by RTI in the Bhadrak district of the state.

- In Ahmedabad and in the Asansol-Durgapur district of West Bengal, RTI conducted comparative risk assessment projects to help city officials identify the most important public health risks attributable to environmental conditions in their cities and develop a plan of action to reduce such risks. Support by USAID, Environmental Risk Assessment and Management Plan projects were also initiated in Pune, in Maharashtra state, and in Chennai, in Tamil Nadu state, the latter being an association with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

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Water and Sanitation

RTI's work has included project preparation and sector assessment, training, tariff structure design, reduction of unaccounted-for-water, financial management, policy analysis and guidance, and community-based approaches to environmental health improvements.

- In partnership with PATH, RTI is conducting household research in the southern state of Andhra Pradesh to gain an in-depth understanding of consumers' perceptions, attitudes, knowledge, and practices related to water treatment, storage, and use by exploring factors that influence middle- and low-income households' water treatment and storage (HWTS) behaviors. Results will inform a strategy to launch a commercial market for HWTS products among low- to middle-income consumers in India. Previously, RTI had conducted an impact evaluation of the effects of a private-sector led community drinking water intervention in 2,500 households in Andhra Pradesh, facilitated by the Acumen Fund, with support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.
- In an effort to reduce infant mortality caused by diarrhea and other diseases, RTI is collaborating with the World Bank to improve the provisions of potable drinking water and improved sanitation services to several hundred villages in Maharashtra and Orissa states. This multi-year cohort study evaluates the child health impacts of water, sanitation, and hygiene interventions in rural India, as well as promotes improved services and health and hygiene practices. Additional work on evaluating the impacts of water, sanitation, and hygiene interventions on childhood diarrhea has been conducted throughout the country.

- With support from USAID, RTI conducted a study of willingness-to-pay for expanded water services in Dhera Dun, in the northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh. Dhera Dun faced a variety of water-related problems and constraints, which produced a water supply that was intermittent, of low pressure, and frequently not potable. The study demonstrated that movement to a continuous supply of higher quality water is a financially viable option.
- Working with the World Bank's Water and Sanitation Program in South Asia, RTI assisted the Government of Haryana state in generating solutions for the successful reform of its water supply and sanitation sector. The project team engaged key stakeholders, visited project facilities, conducted comparative cost-benefit analyses, and reviewed relevant literature. The project also included an assessment of public-private partnerships delivering water and sanitation services in Faridabad, as well as the potential for replication of best practices in other states.

Maternal and Child Health

RTI designs, implements, and assesses programs for family planning and reproductive health services, including child survival, breastfeeding, and health finance.

- Through the Global Network for Women's and Children's Health Research, funded by the NICHD, RTI has served as the Data Coordinating Center since 2001 and is responsible for central training in research methods, statistical leadership, data collection, and management, including tracking systems, study communications and logistics, and assistance with materials development. Through a randomized placebo-controlled trial on the Prevention of Postpartum Hemorrhage in Karnataka, oral misoprostol was found to significantly reduce



the rate of acute postpartum hemorrhage. In Orissa, for the Prevention of Infection in Neonates project, epidemiological and hospital-based studies were conducted to evaluate the use of probiotics in reducing neonatal sepsis. RTI also provided extensive assistance with studies on the Tobacco Use among Pregnant Women and Neonatal Resuscitation project at each of these sites.

- RTI managed a child health improvement project in the slums of Jamshedpur and Indore, in the states of Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh respectively. This project, funded by USAID, reinforced the capacity of community-based NGO organizations, as well as the municipal authority in charge of child health in the urban slums, focusing on the reduction of diarrheal disease and on infant survival.
- The Adolescent Livelihoods and Reproductive Health Project, funded by Levi Strauss, is conducted among married and unmarried adolescents in urban, low-income communities in Bangalore and villages in Raichur and Koppal districts, in the northern Karnataka State. The study aims to understand the economic, reproductive, and sexual health needs of adolescent girls and to identify and develop interventions that promote girls' reproductive health through a combined economic empowerment and reproductive and sexual health education. Qualitative data were collected in Phase 1 through focus group discussions, in-depth interviews, and participatory research and action workshops; a cross-sectional survey was also conducted during Phase 2 of the study. Data analyses are currently underway.
- RTI has developed a decision-support model, using data from the worldwide Demographic and Health Surveys to estimate the impacts of family-planning programs, breastfeeding practices, educational attainment, and urban-rural residence on infant mortality. In Uttar

Pradesh, RTI developed a safe motherhood model to help policy makers and planners more efficiently allocate resources for health-care coverage for women during three stages of pregnancy: 1) prenatal; 2) delivery; and 3) postpartum. The model uses pregnancy histories from India's Program Evaluation and Organizational Resource Management (PERFORM) and National Family Planning and Health surveys. RTI developed the first operational model that uses health and family-planning survey data and takes a client-based approach to address various policy and program issues in safe motherhood

Infectious Diseases

RTI applies its expertise in clinical trials, surveys, modeling, policy analysis, and program design to fight the spread of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and other infectious diseases throughout the world

- RTI is assisting the International Vaccination Institute at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill to evaluate the economic aspects of cholera and typhoid fever vaccine initiatives and shigellosis prevention and control activities in the Diseases of the Most Impoverished Countries project. RTI is conducting private cost-of-illness (COI) studies and household private demand studies and synthesizing these results with other data in the national policy evaluations, as well as assisting with management and supervision of the project. Studies are being conducted in eight countries, including India. Findings indicate that COI varied widely across countries, depending on the setting, and that the total cost of illness was higher for adults than for children and higher for hospitalized cases than for non-hospitalized cases.
- The NICHD-funded study, Gender, Power and Susceptibility to HIV/STIs in India, is working to

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characterize the nature of gender-based power and its association with susceptibility to sexually transmitted infections and HIV among young married women and their husbands in two urban low-income communities in Bangalore. The study measures power in terms of access to resources, agency, and outcomes at the level of the individual, couple, household, community and society, and includes both qualitative and quantitative components. Based on the findings, RTI hopes to explore four potential interventions: 1) health facility-based interventions to address violence against women; 2) promotion of female-controlled barrier methods, namely the female condom; 3) prevention of unintended pregnancies through promotion of emergency contraception; and 4) promotion of “gender equitable relationships” using a “positive deviance” approach.

- Under the Population Genetics Analysis Program: Immunity to Vaccines/Infections, funded by the U.S. NIAID, RTI is working to discover and characterize important associations between human immune response and genomic variation, as well as associations with the resulting protein expression. The outcomes of infection or vaccination are studied for viruses and bacteria of primary interest for biodefense. As a part of this program, RTI—in partnership with the Indian Statistical Institute Centre for Population Genomics of the Institute of Molecular Medicine, India’s National Institute of Cholera and Enteric Diseases, and Duke

University—is conducting research in Kolkata on innate and adaptive immunity genes associated with response to typhoid and cholera vaccines and the consequent protein expression. The mechanisms of action of these two vaccines are expected to differ. As such, this study has the potential to provide a broad understanding of immune response and its relation to genetic polymorphisms.

- For eight years, RTI has served as the Data Coordinating Center for a two-armed, randomized, community-level trial aimed at reducing the impact of HIV/AIDS in five countries, including India. In Chennai, this study for the U.S. NIMH tests the effectiveness of the Community Popular Opinion Leader (C-POL) model in reducing behaviors that can result in HIV or other sexually transmitted infections. C-POLs serve as behavior change agents among friends and neighbors in their communities and help 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 and sexually transmitted infections.

For more information, please contact

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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. 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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