

# Infectious Diseases

## Our Approach:

We **SCALE UP** locally led and evidence-based interventions to prevent and treat infectious diseases.

We **DRIVE** public health action by applying a whole-system approach to working with partners.

We **BUILD** the capacity of health workers and local partners to provide quality health services.

We **CONDUCT** operational research that informs infectious diseases policies and strategies.

We **INNOVATE** to promote global health security and address emerging public health threats including Ebola, Zika, COVID-19, and monkeypox.

Global progress against infectious diseases such as malaria, neglected tropical diseases, HIV, and tuberculosis (TB) has been significant in the past decade, but increasing the scope and speed to tackle these diseases has never been more pressing. Building and maintaining sustainable health systems that will prevent, control, and eventually eliminate infectious diseases is paramount, especially with the emergence of public health threats like COVID-19 and monkeypox.

As both a nonprofit global research institute and a leading international development organization, RTI combines these powerful capabilities with those of our partners to co-create smart, shared solutions for a more prosperous, equitable and resilient world. We are a global leader in the prevention, control, and elimination of infectious diseases. We prioritize close collaboration and partnership with ministries of health, local counterparts, and community-based organizations, and we are committed to building local capacity to ensure ownership and sustainability.



Photo: Nguyen Minh Duc for RTI International

## DID YOU KNOW?

We have implemented more than **\$600 million in malaria programming** that has protected more than **87.5 million+ people** from malaria in 20+ countries.

RTI leads USAID's flagship project, **Act to End Neglected Tropical Diseases|East**, which supports governments of 12 countries to eliminate three NTDs - lymphatic filariasis, trachoma, and onchocerciasis.

**236 million people** are no longer at risk for lymphatic filariasis, and **102 million people** are no longer at risk for trachoma in countries supported by RTI.

## Strengthening Malaria Programs Around the Globe

Since 1998, we have implemented large-scale programs to strengthen malaria prevention, diagnosis and treatment, and surveillance systems in partnership with the U.S. government, multilateral donors, national malaria control programs, universities, civil society, and the private sector in countries across Africa, Asia, and Latin America. We are at the forefront of efforts to help countries move toward malaria elimination, continuously innovating through our ground-breaking work in mobile technologies.

### Areas of Expertise:

- Case management
- Malaria chemoprevention
- Health systems strengthening
- Operational research and policy
- Surveillance and data science
- Technology development
- Vector control

## Accelerating Neglected Tropical Diseases Elimination

For more than 15 years, RTI has supported governments to deliver highly successful, integrated, cost effective and sustainable programs to control and eliminate neglected tropical diseases (NTDs). We have led USAID's global flagship NTD programs and partnered with multilateral and private donors, reaching 80 countries with training, technical support, and resources to improve the impact and effectiveness of NTD programs. This work has significantly reduced the burden of NTDs so they are no longer a public health problem. Our experts are core members of consultative committees, advising on key issues related to advancing the global NTD agenda.

### Areas of Expertise:

- Treatment campaigns
- Disease mapping
- Health systems strengthening
- Tool and resource development
- Operational research and policy advocacy



## Advancing Science and Partnerships to Defeat Tuberculosis

We are a global leader in tuberculosis (TB) research, public-private partnerships, and drug development. In partnership with public and private stakeholders, and with funding from various U.S. government agencies, multilateral donors, development organizations, and private sector clients, we work with country stakeholders to develop new tools and approaches for the prevention, management, and treatment of TB and build research capacity to inform program implementation.

### Areas of Expertise:

- Clinical and lab science
- Drug discovery and evaluation
- Health operations research
- Public private partnerships
- Social science
- Stigma and discrimination

## Supporting the Achievement of Global HIV Targets

RTI prioritizes ending the HIV epidemic through community engagement in innovative epidemiological, implementation, biomedical, and socio-behavioral research; strengthening service delivery systems; and providing technical assistance to ensure we reach the UNAIDS 95-95-95 targets on HIV testing, treatment, and viral load suppression. We work to strengthen demand for and expand access to HIV prevention and care services; tackle systemic and structural barriers like gender inequality that undermine sustainable services; and improve data utilization to ensure policies and programs are evidence-based and sustainable.

### Areas of Expertise:

- Clinical, epidemiological, implementation, biomedical and socio-behavioral research
- Prevention, care, and treatment
- Health communication
- Health information systems and technology
- Health systems strengthening and technical assistance

## Advancing Global Health Security: Building Systems to Prevent and Respond to Pandemic Threats

Through our multi-sectoral expertise, we have played a vital role in counteracting the threats associated with COVID-19, Ebola, MERS, Nipah, Zika, and other highly pathogenic infectious diseases, including supporting the response to COVID-19 at the global and national level. As a member of the Global Health Security Agenda Consortium, we join with other stakeholders to help protect communities from emerging infectious diseases.

### Areas of Expertise:

- Antimicrobial resistance
- Disease surveillance
- Health information systems and integration
- Immunization
- Public health workforce development
- Risk communication and community engagement
- Zoonotic diseases

## DID YOU KNOW?

Our work with the **TB Alliance** for nearly 20 years resulted in the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approving Pretomanid, a new drug developed to treat extensively drug-resistant and multidrug-resistant TB. **Pretomanid is only the third anti-TB drug approved by the FDA in more than 40 years.**

RTI's **PrEPARE Pretoria** project reached over 800 adolescent girls and young women in South Africa through the Young Women's Health CoOp intervention to increase uptake of HIV prevention and sexual and reproductive health services.

Since 2020, we have supported the national COVID-19 response in the Philippines through the **USAID ReachHealth project**, including rapid response, case management and prevention, community engagement, and vaccine roll-out. **More than 2.8 million Filipinos have received COVID-19 vaccinations** through our support.



Photo: RTI International

## Crosscutting Areas of Expertise

### Health Systems Strengthening and Policy Reform

RTI works to strengthen all aspects of health systems to respond effectively to infectious diseases—from supporting national strategies and goals for health sector reform, to building local and national government capacity.

**Strengthening local policies and systems.** To improve health outcomes, RTI builds government and civil society capacity to plan, manage, and deliver high-quality services.

**Integrating governance approaches into the health sector.** RTI's health governance interventions prioritize country-owned participatory processes, strengthen civil society knowledge and participation, and enhance government accountability.

**Developing and deploying flexible and adaptable health planning and financing tools.** RTI tools, such as the Tool for Integrated Planning and Costing, enable governments to cost out health programs, plan funding streams, and identify programmatic gaps.

### Monitoring, Evaluation, Research, Learning, and Adapting

Learnings from monitoring, evaluation, and operations research are used to refine and improve program implementation. Highlights include the following:

**Conducting data quality assessments.** RTI-developed protocols and tools evaluate the quality of reported data and data management systems at multiple health system levels.

**Conducting operational research.** Multidisciplinary teams generate evidence on the programmatic effectiveness and impact of tools, interventions, and approaches.

**Expanding the use of information and communications technologies.** Our experts ensure technologies—such as mobile phones/smartphones and open-source software—serve transformational purposes, including improving data collection and reporting, and ensuring data are used for evidence-based decision-making.

**Turning data into actionable insights.** Using predictive analytics, modeling, and data visualization, our data scientists use historic and real-time data to predict future events, inform decisions, and classify new observations to guide actions and interventions.

### Partner with us

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### Learn more about our work

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