International Education

Integrating Research and Practice to Improve Learning for All

RTI International is a global research institute and a leading international development organization. For nearly four decades, we have worked to improve education globally. From addressing education delivery in historically underserved areas of post-apartheid South Africa, to expanding disability-inclusive education in Cambodia, to raising reading scores nationwide in Kenya and elsewhere around the world, RTI seeks to ensure that all children fulfill their potential. Working with and in support of local partners (government and non-governmental), we employ evidence-based approaches to strengthen education practice, management, and policy at every level—from classrooms to ministries, to improve education outcomes.

Focus Areas

- Policy, Systems, and Governance
- Teaching and Learning
- Early Childhood Development and Education
- Education Technology
- Monitoring, Evaluation, Research, Learning, and Adapting

Early Childhood Development and Education

We support early childhood education expansion and improvement to build a solid foundation for further educational success. More broadly, we maximize opportunities for children to achieve their developmental potential, with implications for future generations.

Education Technology

We leverage technology to improve education delivery and enhance traditional training approaches and student learning. Our work is guided by the principle of offering the right technology in the right place for the right reason.

Monitoring, Evaluation, Research, Learning, and Adapting

We generate data for research and program implementation. We develop effective methods for assessment, monitoring, and evaluation; collect reliable and actionable data; measure impact; produce innovative research; and use results to design and improve implementation.

Over the past decade, in collaboration with ministries of education, funding agencies, and other partners, we have:

- Reached an estimated 56 million children in more than 130,000 schools
- Provided training and coaching to almost 900,000 teachers
- Developed, printed, and distributed more than 75 million books and materials for students and teachers
- Deployed Tangerine® software to conduct more than 2 million observations and assessments in 60 countries

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Project Highlights

Guatemala. Improving foundational reading, writing, math, and social and emotional skills, with the aim of increasing the number of students who successfully transition from primary to lower secondary school.

Liberia. Improving reading in grades 1 and 2 across 640 schools. Piloted a play-based kindergarten program that achieved significant gains for students in core pre-reading skills. Distributed more than 400,000 teaching and learning materials and built the capacity of over 1,300 Ministry of Education staff.

Kenya. Improving learning at national scale, reaching 7.8 million students, with significant literacy gains achieved for students in grades 1 and 2 in both Kiswahili and English. Tangerine® software is supporting 1,300 Ministry of Education officials in coaching teachers in their classrooms.

Jordan. Developing system capacity to use evidence-based materials and teaching practices. Built resilience to system interruptions, including creating an online training system—fully maintained and operated by the Ministry of Education—used to certify more than 21,000 teachers.

Georgia. Working through local universities and nongovernmental organizations to strengthen pre-service and in-service training. Trained more than 21,000 teachers in student-centered instruction.

Nepal. Supporting the scale-up of the National Early Grade Reading Program; building local government capacity to budget, plan, and provide technical support. Achieved a threefold increase in grade 2 learners attaining fluency and comprehension.

Cambodia. Supporting the roll out of Komar Rien Komar Cheh, Cambodia’s national teaching and learning package for Grade 1 and 2 students, which has reached 38% of Cambodia’s schools. Produced a home learning packet printed and distributed to every Grade 1-2 student in the country. Additionally, promoting nurturing care for children under five through a cross-sectoral approach to ensure children thrive. Strengthening caregiving and nutrition; supporting children with disabilities.

Partner with us
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