



Supporting Strong Global Food Systems

RTI International is an independent, nonprofit research institute dedicated to improving the human condition by turning knowledge into practice.

We combine the research expertise of a university, the innovation and implementation capabilities of a private enterprise, and the mission focus of a nonprofit. This unique and powerful approach allows us to design and implement programs that are informed by strong evidence and deliver measurable outcomes.

Improving global food security and nutrition is one of RTI's core areas of expertise. We know that food is essential to life, and what we eat is part of a global chain of production and distribution that impacts our health, the economy, and the environment. With more than 40 years of experience in international development, RTI has a robust understanding of how to strengthen agricultural markets, engage youth and women as critical leaders of the on- and off-farm workforce, and tackle the dual burden of malnutrition. Our efforts help build resilience, strengthen global stability and security, and contribute to the evidence base around what makes a robust food system that empowers all actors, including women and vulnerable groups.

Key Clients

The Rockefeller Foundation
U.S. Agency for International Development
U.S. Department of Agriculture
U.S. Food and Drug Administration
U.K. Department for International Development
World Bank

Strengthening Markets

In the global fight to end hunger and stabilize economies, increasing agricultural production is only one piece of the puzzle. Ensuring that markets for agricultural commodities are efficient, effective, and equitable is also critical to reducing hunger and malnutrition and catalyzing economic growth.

We work with all actors throughout agricultural markets—from smallholder farmers to processors, and from businesses to consumers—to address key constraints and inefficiencies. By supporting locally led change and building local partners' capacity, we create long-lasting success and resilient food systems. Ultimately, this helps create job opportunities, increase incomes, and promote more stable societies.

Engaging Youth as Drivers of Economic Success

In most developing countries, agriculture is a key means of spurring economic growth and increased income. But these same countries are seeing rising levels of unemployed or underemployed youth, which can lead to economic decline, political instability, and limitations on the ability to produce sufficient food. This is particularly true in the urban and peri-urban areas to which many young people are drawn.

In order to support youths' potential role as leaders, entrepreneurs, and employees—both on- and off-farm—RTI is leading key workforce development projects and spearheading new research that will better inform donors and development practitioners in how best to address this emergent global challenge.

Reducing Malnutrition in All Its Forms

A healthy, well-nourished population is a more stable, economically productive population. While many developing countries still suffer from high rates of undernutrition, evidence suggests that those same countries' rates of obesity are also beginning to increase. This creates an additional strain on health systems and increases incidences of noncommunicable diseases like diabetes and heart disease. To be truly effective in our interventions, we must work to tackle this “dual burden” of malnutrition in a comprehensive way.

Recognizing nutrition's critical role in supporting young children's cognitive development and educational attainment, RTI works globally and domestically to shape policies and

inform national programs that support the availability, accessibility, and affordability of safe, nutritious food—from pregnancy through adulthood.

We design our development projects to ensure that these same components are integrated throughout our work—from key messages for caregivers of young children to addressing the underlying causes of nutritional status, and from safety nets to food systems to consumer education.

The RTI Advantage

- **Project implementation**

With experience implementing more than 12,000 international development and research projects in over 85 countries during the past 40 years, RTI benefits from a broad range of best practices and lessons learned, geopolitical insights, and the knowledge and skills of our experts around the world.

- **Monitoring, evaluation, and learning**

Using a range of innovative tools and approaches, RTI leverages its institutional strengths in the development and management of data science, surveys, and technology to enhance our monitoring and evaluation services. The evidence we generate is used to guide program performance, report on results and impact, and inform policy and best practices at the global level.

- **Research and innovation**

From its founding in North Carolina's world-renowned Research Triangle in 1958, RTI has built a strong reputation for excellence in scientific research. We strive to build the evidence base around, and develop innovative solutions to, enduring and emerging issues facing the United States and countries around the world. We also have decades of experience working with partners to scale and commercialize products and programs.

- **Transdisciplinary expertise**

With decades of expertise in subjects ranging from microbiology to drone research, RTI has in-house access to experts covering more than 250 disciplines to help effectively solve complex, cross-sectoral international development challenges. Our portfolios across food security, global health, education, workforce development, and more are closely aligned to maximize impact in promoting economic growth and global stability.

More Information

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RTI International is an independent, nonprofit research institute dedicated to improving the human condition. Clients rely on us to answer questions that demand an objective and multidisciplinary approach—one that integrates expertise across the social and laboratory sciences, engineering, and international development. We believe in the promise of science, and we are inspired every day to deliver on that promise for the good of people, communities, and businesses around the world. For more information, visit www.rti.org.

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