Workforce Development
Investing in Today’s Workforce. Preparing for Tomorrow’s Opportunities.

For over 15 years, RTI International has supported comprehensive workforce development interventions and research throughout the United States and internationally. RTI builds local capacity to design and implement tools and systems that align education and training systems with employer needs, and create employment opportunities for women, youth, and disadvantaged target groups.

Project Experience

**Egypt. Higher Education Partnership Program (HEPP)**
(U.S. Agency for International Development [USAID], 2015–2020)
The HEPP program—part of the larger U.S.-Egypt Higher Education Initiative—will develop the long term institutional capacity of Egyptian universities and technical colleges to generate the human capital needed to sustain Egypt’s economic growth and competitiveness. Through HEPP, RTI will work with USAID, the Ministry of Higher Education, and a coalition of Egyptian and U.S. universities and private sector partners to: institutionalize effective collaboration between U.S. and Egyptian higher education institutions and the private sector; transform faculties within Egyptian institutions of higher education to reflect both the knowledge and skills required of a modern economy; build a critical mass of individuals and institutions able to address strategic challenges vital to Egypt’s sustainable development and economic prosperity; and strengthen the global competitiveness of the Egyptian private sector through partnerships that link the private sector with universities and technical colleges.

**El Salvador. Higher Education for Economic Growth**
(USAID, 2014–2019)
RTI is building the capacity of Salvadoran higher education institutions to help them provide industry-specific and demand-driven educational programs and research in order to develop the talent pipeline and strengthen industry competitiveness in high potential sectors, such as information and communications technology (ICT), energy, manufacturing, agro-industry, and health. Through the model of Industry-Higher Education Clusters, Salvadoran private sector and higher education leaders are collaborating at an industry-wide level in curriculum development, labor market information, career centers, faculty training, and applied research to better align university programs with industry needs.

RTI is helping to enhance the Philippines’ capacity for innovation-led development by strengthening the science, technology, and innovation ecosystem in higher education. STRIDE improves the research capacity and output, as well as the qualifications of faculty and staff, in select programs and universities. It also strengthens linkages between industry and academia to facilitate innovation and growth.


RTI, in collaboration with Liberia’s two major universities, has created two Centers of Excellence that are producing top-notch graduates in sectors key to the country’s economic growth—agriculture and engineering. RTI’s work includes helping revise curricula to comply with international standards, building the capacity of local faculty through mentoring and training, equipping laboratories and facilities, creating hands-on learning opportunities for students, and helping connect Liberia’s employers to these universities.

Haiti. **Local Enterprise and Value Chain Enhancement Project (LEVE)** (USAID, 2013–2016)

RTI is helping to increase economic growth and employment opportunities through a value chain approach. LEVE is improving the competitiveness of three sectors—construction, apparel and textiles, and agribusiness—in order to create jobs and build the capacity of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). LEVE’s objectives include enabling MSME to engage with other value chain actors to grow their sector and/or value chain; increase access to a more productive labor pool with relevant skills through an improved, more market-facing skills programs with real links to private sector employees; and building the sustainability of Haitian organizations serving the three sectors.

U.S. **Occupational Information Network (O*NET) Data Collection Program** (U.S. Department of Labor, 1997–present)

O*NET provides data that are valid, reliable, and current for over 800 occupations. RTI collects data from over 154,000 workers about knowledge, work activities, work context, and tasks required to perform their jobs. The data are used by job seekers, agencies, education institutions, employers, and public and private organizations.


RTI facilitated public-private partnerships to support vocational training programs designed around projections of future employment trends and business needs. The project targeted youth under 30 from high-risk neighborhoods through training in technical and vocational areas, soft skills, and job application skills.


RTI helped promote evidence-based learning and peer-to-peer knowledge exchange in international workforce development to help increase the knowledge of USAID staff to develop and manage quality workforce development programs.


RTI helped improve El Salvador’s labor market by developing private sector alliances that support demand-driven occupational training programs.

Latin America and the Caribbean. **A Thematic Study of Youth-Related Projects** (Inter-American Development Bank [IDB], 2011–2012)

RTI conducted a comprehensive thematic study of the IDB Multilateral Investment Fund’s (MIF’s) portfolio of youth related projects.

Liberia. **World Class Vocational Training Program** (Buchanan Renewables, 2011–2012)

RTI helped Buchanan Renewables, Liberia’s leading sustainable biofuel energy company, develop a company-wide strategy for addressing critical skill challenges by partnering with, and building the capacity of, vocational training institutions.

**Skills for Upgrading: Workforce Development and Global Value Chains in Developing Countries** (RTI, 2009–2011)

This research project, carried out jointly with Duke University, represented the first attempt to understand workforce development strategies in developing countries in the context of global value chain upgrading.

More Information

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