Global progress against infectious diseases such as malaria and HIV has been significant, culminating in goals to end these mass killers in our lifetime. The need to maintain momentum, while also responding to the emergence of recent Ebola and Zika outbreaks, has demonstrated the importance of building sustainable health systems that will both prevent and control infectious diseases.

For more than 2 decades, RTI International has been a global leader in the prevention and control of infectious diseases. Our innovators and implementers carry out complex, multi-sector projects that strengthen national and local systems to plan, implement, monitor, and evaluate infectious disease programs. 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.
**Strengthening Malaria Control Programs Around the Globe**

RTI has partnered with U.S. and multilateral donors, governments, and the private-sector to scale up the global fight against malaria. Working with 20 national malaria control programs (NMCPs) in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, RTI has strengthened approaches to prevention, vector control, case management, and surveillance while supporting sustainable platforms for country-led programs. RTI is a lead partner in international fora where technical aspects of malaria programming are considered, and our staff are members of consultative expert and advocacy committees.

**Highlights from Recent Work**

In Guinea, the StopPalu project (USAID, 2013–2017) supports the NMCP to strengthen malaria prevention, case management, and control. In 2016, distribution of more than 3.3 million bed nets in half of the country reached nearly 90% of targeted households. StopPalu also supports 1,300 community health workers on case management—a community-centered effort that the government is using as a model as it strengthens the country’s health system after the Ebola outbreak in 2014–2015.

For 10 years, RTI has supported malaria vector control efforts in Tanzania—a country that has emerged as a success story in malaria control. Through the Tanzania Vector Control Scale-Up project (USAID, 2006–2016), RTI support for integrated control, surveillance, and response activities protected up to 8.5 million people from malaria each year. In Zanzibar, surveillance officers used an RTI-developed software called Coconut to track and respond to more than 8,000 reported malaria cases, ensuring cases were managed promptly and effectively. RTI is adapting Coconut to fight other infectious diseases, including Ebola and Zika.

**Supporting the Achievement of Global HIV Targets**

RTI prioritizes capacity-building and community engagement, and we also focus on building systems that will ensure we reach 90-90-90 targets on HIV testing, treatment, and viral load suppression. Our technical assistance supports strengthened demand for, and expanded access to, HIV services; tackles structural barriers that undermine sustainable services; and improves data utilization to ensure policies and programs are evidence based.
Highlights from Recent Work

RTI co-developed a standardized tool to measure the types of stigma and discrimination (S&D) that occur in health care settings. This tool has been deployed in five countries through the Health Policy Project and Health Policy Plus project (USAID/Palladium Group, 2011–2020). In addition, the tool has been adapted by the Thailand Ministry of Health for national surveillance of S&D, as well as to support design and evaluation of S&D-reduction interventions in health facilities, which is being piloted with support from the Inform-Asia project (USAID, 2015–2017).

On the Expanding Access to Quality HIV Prevention, Care and Support Services in the Ugandan People’s Defense Forces Project (U.S. Department of Defense, 2008–2017), RTI is working in partnership with the Ugandan military to scale up key HIV interventions among troops, their families, and surrounding communities.

The Georgia HIV Prevention Project (USAID, 2010–2014) strengthened the national HIV response by delivering an expanded package of HIV prevention services to key populations, thus engaging Georgian communities to support key populations and advocate for sustainable HIV policies, strategies, and programs. Thirty percent of project funds were sub-granted to local NGOs, building their capacity to work with key populations.

Deploying a Rapid and Flexible Response to Emerging Threats

Our expertise, global experience, and strong history working with governments make RTI uniquely qualified to respond quickly to outbreaks and emerging diseases.

With a growing portfolio of Zika research, RTI is expanding critical knowledge on the virus—from analyzing the use of drones for vector control to evaluating the financing needs of prevention and control efforts in different contexts.

In Guinea, a country heavily affected by an Ebola outbreak in 2014–2015, the Epi-Detecte project (U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention, 2015–2019) is supporting Guinea’s plan to strengthen surveillance and health information systems, improve triage and screening protocols in health facilities, and also strengthen the capacity of the public health workforce to detect and respond to infectious disease outbreaks.
Crosscutting Areas of Expertise

Provision of Services and Interventions
We manage high-impact, integrated health service delivery projects at global, regional, and bilateral levels.

Mapping disease burdens. RTI has assessed the distribution and burden of malaria and neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) in more than 20 countries.

Managing procurement for large-scale programs. RTI’s experienced team of global supply chain, logistics, and procurement experts purchase and deliver health commodities, including diagnostics, drugs, and bed nets. In fiscal year 2015 alone, RTI-supported countries received $8.8 billion worth of donated medicines for distribution to fight NTDs.

Conducting case management. Whether in health facilities, communities, or as part of large-scale disease surveys, RTI strengthens services and systems that improve access and adherence to, as well as coverage of, high-quality diagnostic and treatment services. This includes reducing stigma and discrimination towards HIV-infected individuals accessing health services, supporting community health workers to provide rapid diagnostic tests and treatment for malaria, and developing social behavior change communication messaging to ensure patients adhere to treatment.

Leading vector control. RTI has extensive experience managing large-scale indoor residual spraying (IRS) of households with insecticide, insecticide-treated bed net distribution, environmental compliance, entomological surveillance, and insecticide resistance monitoring. RTI-managed vector control programs have protected more than 75 million people from malaria in more than 20 countries.

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. To improve delivery of family planning and maternal, newborn, and child health services in Nepal, the Health for Life project (USAID, 2012–2017) supports the testing and roll-out of national policies, and assists local-level health committees and officials to create and implement health plans.

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 (TIPAC), enable governments to cost out health programs, plan funding streams, and identify programmatic gaps.

Monitoring, Evaluation, Research, Learning, and Adoption (MERLA)
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.

Assessing impact and disease surveillance. Working with host country governments and stakeholders, we demonstrate impact and document progress toward country and global goals.

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 is 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.