



Workforce and Economic Opportunity

RTI International has supported comprehensive workforce development interventions and research throughout the world for over 15 years. We build 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. Our innovative approaches are based upon proven international best practices in community-based programming, youth engagement, education and training, and economic and social development. RTI's approach is informed by continuous assessment, evidence, and learning.

Corporate Experience

Global Center for Youth Employment. Launched in 2014, this RTI-led virtual learning and action center assembles a diverse coalition of partners working together to identify

Expertise

- Labor market information and analysis
- Value chain and market systems development
- Private sector engagement to improve the quality of education and skills training
- Occupational skill standards and curricula
- Curriculum upgrading and faculty/teacher training
- Career pathways and transition to work
- Career services and job placement support
- Cross-sectoral strategies for at-risk youth
- Research-informed evidence-based programs

and nurture innovative youth employment solutions. The Center's members—practitioners, universities, donors, and major corporations—play an integral, connected role in responding to the youth unemployment crisis. Spanning 100 countries, these members directly reach 3 million youth each year through workforce development and youth empowerment programming. For more information, please visit: <https://www.rti.org/impact/global-center-youth-employment>.

Project Experience

El Salvador. Higher Education for Economic Growth

U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), 2014–2019. RTI is building the capacity of Salvadoran higher education institutions to provide industry-specific and demand-driven educational programs and research in order to develop the talent pipeline and strengthen industry competitiveness in various high-potential sectors. 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.

Haiti. Local Enterprise and Value Chain Enhancement Project (LEVE) (USAID, 2013–2019).

RTI is helping to increase economic growth and employment opportunities through a facilitated, value chain approach. LEVE is improving the competitiveness of three sectors—construction, apparel, and agribusiness—in order to create jobs and build the capacity of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs). LEVE's objectives include enabling MSMEs to engage with other value chain actors and grow their sector and/or value chain; increasing 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.

Indonesia. Ready-to-Work Accelerator Program (RWAP) (USAID, 2017–2020).

Led by RTI and its consortium partners—Education Development Center and Yayasan Cinta Anak Bangsa Foundation—RWAP is improving the employment prospects of poor and vulnerable youth through industry-aligned technical training and work readiness education. By applying a Quality Assurance Framework to assess and improve key elements of quality training, the project is establishing a network of up to 20 evidence-based Centers of Excellence that will serve as hubs for a Learning and Innovation Network.

Kenya. Youth Employment Services (K-YES) (USAID/YouthPower Task Order, 2015–2020).

K-YES aims to enhance employment opportunities and the overall labor supply in focused geographic areas and sectors, through both wage employment and self-employment, for unemployed and underemployed youth (aged 18–35) who have not completed secondary education. K-YES is fostering partnerships between young people and the private sector to design and develop vocational training for increased economic competitiveness and better jobs. K-YES is providing

young Kenyans with market relevant training, business start-up support, and access to youth-friendly services, allowing them to make informed and empowered decisions about education and business investments.

Liberia. Excellence in Higher Education for Liberian Development (EHELD) (USAID, 2011–2017).

RTI collaborated with Liberia's two major universities to create two Centers of Excellence that are producing top-notch graduates in sectors key to the country's economic growth—agriculture and engineering.

Philippines. Science, Technology, Research and Innovation for Development (STRIDE) Program (USAID, 2013–2021).

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.

Research

We are conducting a range of independent research to improve workforce development evidence and practice. This includes the development and testing of a Quality Assurance Framework for vocational education, an investigation of the impact of social media on labor market information, and innovative methods for collecting data from youth.

Recent Publications

<https://www.rti.org/rti-press-publication/importance-geospatial-data-labor-market-information>

<https://www.rti.org/publication/using-sms-technology-survey-low-income-youth>

<https://www.rti.org/publication/high-stakes-low-resources>

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