

Governance and Economic Development



For more than 30 years, RTI International's innovative approaches have built on best practices to create the foundation for and to promote democratic governance and economic development. Working alongside global partners, public institutions, the private sector, and civil society, we help develop more effective, accountable, and responsive institutions and policies at national, regional, and local levels. We believe an integrated, evidence-based approach using stakeholder engagement, capacity building, innovative technologies, and public-private partnerships achieves the best and most enduring results.

RTI's extensive survey research and evaluation capacities also enable us to provide scientific solutions to our clients' growing demands for evaluating the impact of governance and economic development programs. Our focus areas include

- Governance and Civic Engagement
- Urban Management and Markets
- Workforce and Economic Opportunity

Governance and Civic Engagement

As a leader in the governance sector for 30 years, RTI has sustained programs in almost 50 countries worldwide. Our strategy to address governance challenges entails moving beyond the “push or pull” approach and providing a framework that tackles the complex set of issues that good governance advocates face in the government and nongovernment sectors. We aim to build more transparent and accountable national and local institutions that deliver effective and responsive services to citizens. We do this by simultaneously working with and through local organizations to build capacity and ensure long-term sustainability.

We address governance challenges by engaging in multi-prong interventions, including

- Promoting participatory and inclusionary governance at the local and national levels through planning, advocacy, and consultative processes
- Strengthening national and local capacity to develop and implement evidence-based policies that build on local and international best practices
- Promoting accountability by increasing government transparency and strengthening civil society advocacy and oversight capabilities
- Improving legislative capacity and procedures for regulatory development and enactment, executive branch oversight, budget analysis, and constituency relations

RTI Tools and Approaches in Governance and Civic Engagement

- Participatory Strategic Planning: A set of tools for assessing and prioritizing citizen needs and creating and monitoring development and investment plans
- Local Governance Performance Framework: A performance monitoring tool designed for local governments
- “With Many”: An approach that fosters a sustainable culture of dialogue for problem solving among local government, civil society, the private sector, and media
- “Making Noise”: A comprehensive methodology that incorporates a variety of methods—including holding peer-to-peer workshops, disseminating governance messages, and posting project results on Web sites—to increase visibility of program results; support advocacy efforts; raise awareness; and promote exchange of experience and advocacy

Urban Management and Markets

In 2008, for the first time in history, more than 50% of the world’s population lived in cities, with an expected increase to 59% by 2030. RTI has been a leader in the urban management sector for over 30 years. We address urbanization challenges by engaging national and subnational governments, civil society organizations, and the private sector in coordinated, demand-driven solutions that change the incentives that lead to lasting insecurity, poverty, and environmental degradation. By assisting local governments in strengthening financial management for the delivery of basic urban services, we have achieved a proven track record in global public-private sector collaboration that has fostered private sector growth and job creation and increased standards of living.

Our programs generate partnerships that build capacity for locally managed problem solving, introduce appropriately designed technologies, and build an environment for steadily increasing prosperity. We work to

- Promote improved public financial management systems and capabilities
- Strengthen public service management and delivery through local government or public-private partnerships
- Improve own-source revenue performance, private participation, and debt financing to tap private capital for financing infrastructure
- Identify high-priority challenges, design means of addressing those challenges, and work together with local stakeholders to find the resources required.

RTI Tools and Approaches in Urban Management and Markets

- Public Financial Management toolkit
- Frameworks for subnational borrowing and credit systems and models for municipal creditworthiness
- Intergovernmental finance systems
- Service Improvement Toolkit for wastewater and solid waste services, transportation services, primary health care, crime control and public safety, and youth services
- Alternative service delivery models and tools through public-private partnerships and outsourcing
- Methodologies to improve the business environment to create smart regulations and one-stop-shop service integration for inclusive economic growth
- Tools and approaches to assess the environmental impact of climate change and to improve mitigation strategies

Workforce and Economic Opportunity

For over 15 years, RTI has supported comprehensive workforce development interventions and research throughout the United States and the developing world. We build local capacity to design and implement tools and systems; align systems with employer needs; and create employment opportunities for women, youth, and disadvantaged target groups.

We provide evidence-based workforce and skill development solutions to U.S. and international donors and private employers, as well as to the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Data System (O*NET). Our innovative technical assistance, consulting, and research solutions address critical workforce and skill challenges by building the following:

1. Deep Understanding of Labor Markets

- We conduct assessments and research to understand present and future opportunities and challenges in labor markets—informed both by leading-edge local and global sector-based research—and by our experience working with and on behalf of private sector employers

2. Alignment with Labor Market Opportunities

- We help align education and training institutions with current and anticipated future needs of the labor market by using applied learning, experiential education, and internationally recognized competency standards
- We work to increase the capacity of educators and employers to work together to support prosperity



3. Innovation, Evaluation, and Learning

- Through rigorous monitoring and evaluation and cutting-edge technology to track employment and wage outcomes, we help generate information to support program improvement and upgrading
- RTI partners with leading U.S. and international universities, community colleges, and technical assistance providers to deliver these services

RTI Tools and Approaches in Workforce and Economic Opportunity

- Conducting labor market analysis and workforce systems diagnostics (e.g., assessing supply, demand, and intermediation)
- Strengthening labor market information and exchange, including using appropriate mobile technology and social media to gather self-reported data
- Building capacity for universities, community and technical colleges, and other vocational training and institutions and programs, including in applied and experiential learning

Selected Projects

Africa

Democratic Republic of the Congo. Programme de Bonne Gouvernance, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)/Development Alternatives International (2009–2013)

Guinea. Multi-Sectoral Interventions to Advance Democratic Governance (*Faisons Ensemble*), USAID (2007–2013)

Kenya. Youth Workforce Program Activity, USAID (2015–2020)

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

Nigeria. Leadership, Empowerment, Advocacy and Development (LEAD), USAID (2009–2016)

Uganda. Governance, Accountability, Participation and Performance Program (GAPP), USAID (2012–2019)

Asia

Indonesia. Kinerja Local Governance Service Improvement Program, USAID (2010–2017)

Indonesia. Knowledge Sector Initiative, DFAT (2013–2017)

Philippines. Science, Technology, and Research and Innovation for Development Program (STRIDE), USAID (2013–2018)

Europe and Eurasia

Montenegro. Local Economic Development, USAID/CHF International (2010–2013)

Latin America and Caribbean

Dominican Republic. Out-of-School and At-Risk Children and Youth, USAID/Entrena S.A. (2012–2017)

Ecuador. Municipal Strengthening Project, USAID (2010–2013)

El Salvador. Higher Education for Economic Growth (USAID, 2014–2019)

El Salvador. Grants for Crime Prevention, SABMiller (2013–2016)

El Salvador. Municipal Competitiveness Project, USAID (2010–2015)

El Salvador. Crime and Violence Prevention Project, USAID (2008–2013)

El Salvador. Improving Access to Employment, USAID/CARANA (2009–2013)

Guatemala. Violence Prevention Program, USAID (2010–2014)

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

Middle East and North Africa

Egypt. Local Democracy Strengthening Initiative, USAID (2011–2013)

Iraq. National and Provincial Administrative Reform Project (Tarabot), USAID/Management Systems International (2011–2015)

Morocco. Local Governance Program, USAID (2010–2014)

More Information

Philip Schwehm, Vice President
Governance and Economic Development
RTI International
+1.919.485.5513
pschwehm@rti.org
www.rti.org/idg
Follow @RTI_INTL_DEV

RTI 8579-3 0916



RTI International is one of the world's leading research institutes, dedicated to improving the human condition by turning knowledge into practice. Our staff of more than 3,700 provides research and technical services to governments and businesses in more than 75 countries in the areas of health and pharmaceuticals, education and training, surveys and statistics, advanced technology, international development, economic and social policy, energy and the environment, and laboratory testing and chemical analysis. For more information, visit www.rti.org.

RTI International is a registered trademark and a trade name of Research Triangle Institute.