

Advancing the Global Health Security Agenda



RTI International is a global leader in health research, epidemiology, statistics, survey methodology, surveillance, project management, training, and policy analysis. We have applied our unique capabilities to advance the Global Health Security Agenda (GHSa). Our depth and breadth of expertise and boots-on-the-ground presence across the globe position us to readily tackle the goals set forth by the GHSa, making measurable progress toward achieving objectives outlined by the GHSa Action Packages.

GHSa-Relevant Expertise

Antimicrobial Research

Surveillance for Antimicrobial Resistance in Nepal, 2016–2017. In Nepal, information is scarce about burgeoning antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and the level of AMR in food animals. RTI has invested internal research and development funds to (1) work with researchers to analyze the presence of AMR among poultry and (2) assess whether resistance detected in poultry is also transferred to the environment and retail poultry products. The project will employ the first use of genetic assessment of AMR in Nepal.

Zoonotic Diseases

Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) for Vector Control of *Aedes Aegypti* Mosquito-Borne Zika, 2016–present. Using internal funding, RTI is applying UAV technology to mosquito control strategies to enhance the reduction of human exposure to *Aedes* mosquito-borne Zika virus in Guatemala. RTI also is using UAVs to collect photographic infrared images that can be analyzed to identify breeding sites for *Aedes Aegypti* and determine local levels of risk. Through monitoring public perceptions about drone-enabled interventions, RTI is creating communication strategies to legitimize this approach and communicate risks.

ENVISION: Control of Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs), 2011–present. With funding from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), RTI leads ENVISION, a global project targeting the control and elimination of seven NTDs. The ENVISION program supported the delivery of 223 million NTD treatments to 109 million people in 2015, training over 564,000 community volunteers to administer medicine as part of mass drug administration campaigns. RTI has fostered USAID's largest public-private partnership by working directly with six large drug companies to distribute drugs, provide staff training, and inform companies about the drug supply needs for each country.

StopPalu, 2013–present. With funding from USAID in Guinea, RTI has worked to improve malaria prevention, diagnosis, and treatment at the facility and community levels in 14 prefectures and 5 communes in Conakry. The project is strengthening technical capacity of the National Malaria Control Program to plan, design, implement, manage, and evaluate a comprehensive malaria control program, including support for health data collection, use, and management.

Next Generation of Disease Risk Maps as a Platform for Disease Control and Prevention, 2016–present. With internal funding resources, RTI is developing a web-based risk prediction and mapping platform to inform risk-based decisions on the control and prevention of vector-borne diseases globally. The team is demonstrating prototype features, applying user-centered design to stakeholders, and assessing the availability of useful datasets from a data-poor, low-resource environment to inform future phases of the initiative.

Real-Time Surveillance and GHS Reporting

GHS in Guinea and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), 2015–present. RTI is providing the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), as well as the governments of Guinea and DRC with technical assistance on activities to strengthen disease surveillance systems, health information systems, and information and communications technology. Specifically, RTI is refining standardized disease surveillance indicators; improving capacity and information technology infrastructure to collect, manage, and use data for routine and event-based disease surveillance; strengthening reporting analysis and data-driven decision-making at all levels of the health system; and recruiting specialized staff members to carry out surveillance-related activities. RTI has also developed a triage-specific database for the Ministry of Health to track the number of people visiting each health facility and to record those that fit the criteria needed for early disease outbreak detection.

Applying RTI-Developed Coconut Plus Surveillance System Mobile Software for Ebola Response, 2016–present.

RTI is internally supporting work to generalize the existing RTI-developed Coconut Surveillance System mobile software to demonstrate its application as a sentinel surveillance system for Ebola surveillance and rapid response in Africa. Adaptations incorporate platform development as well as pilot testing functionality of the system in DRC where existing surveillance infrastructure does not exist at the local level. The goal is to create a reliable, real-time surveillance system (for Ebola and other infectious diseases) that can be rapidly deployed in areas with limited existing surveillance system capacity.

Zimbabwe Health Information and Support Project, 2012–2014. RTI assisted Zimbabwe in improving service delivery through data-driven resource allocation and timely provision of scientific data for evidence-based programming across all health programs and disease components. Transitioning from obsolete systems to a modern web-based system, RTI led the local customization, training, and implementation of the new health information system that now supports the collection and analysis of routine and non-routine health services data.

Workforce Development

Global Health Security in Guinea 2015–present. RTI is providing the government of Guinea and other key partners with technical assistance to build the public health workforce capacity and support to the CDC-funded Field Epidemiology Training Program. The RTI team is developing and revising existing training materials to be contextually appropriate to Guinea and is implementing planning workshops/supervisor training curriculum to orient and provide mentoring/training to new field supervisors.

Emergency Operations Centers

Ebola Coordination and Response Services, 2015–2016. With CDC funding, RTI provided Ebola coordination and response services to the Guinea National Ebola Coordination Center (NECC). This support included supervising visits for NECC staff members, providing staff member incentives, covering administrative costs of NECC headquarters and regional buildings, working with a local staffing organization to fill short-term positions at NECC, and procuring equipment.

More Information

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