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

For more than 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 populations.

**Project Experience**


K-YES fosters partnerships between underemployed youth (ages 18-35) and the private sector to design and develop vocational training for increased economic competitiveness and better jobs. The program provides young Kenyans with access to youth-friendly services (e.g. information, capacity building, and finance), allowing them to make informed and empowered decisions about education and business investments. K-YES also focuses on building local relationships and capacity to increase the efficiency, effectiveness, and sustainability of education and employment outcomes.


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, 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 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.

**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 development 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 program
Haiti. Local Enterprise and Value Chain Enhancement Project (LEVE) (USAID, 2013–2018)
The LEVE project focuses on building the competitiveness of selected value chains within three key economic sectors—agribusiness, apparel, and construction. LEVE applies a facilitative approach that takes into account the entire value chain, with a particular focus on workforce development. Through several assessments, and working with market leaders, LEVE’s workforce development activities focus on linking the job market with the vocational education institutions that are training Haiti’s youth, while at the same time working on broader constraints that will make the training that youth pay for more relevant to their goal of finding a job. LEVE has developed innovative internship programs; has linked private firms directly to vocational education institutions; has facilitated a Skills Olympiad; and is also working on certification programs and curriculum enhancement.

The Liberia EHELD project works to equip young Liberian women and men for rewarding careers in two sectors that are critical to Liberia’s development—engineering and agriculture. EHELD assists the leaders and faculty of Cuttington University and the University of Liberia to create academic Centers of Excellence (CoEs) that bring improved facilities and best practice teaching methodologies to each campus. Activities include revising curricula to comply with international standards, providing mentorship and training to university faculty, equipping laboratories and teaching facilities, and funding undergraduate and graduate-level scholarships, developing a pipeline of secondary school students for the university programs, and creating linkages with leaders in government, business, and the donor community.

India. Institute for Technology (IIT) Support Program (USAID, 2014–2016)
In the wake of a new agreement between the US and Indian Governments to renew historic support for India’s IITs, RTI was selected to work with the IIT in Gandhinagar—one of India’s newest IITs. Along with partner Duke University, RTI implemented capacity support programs in faculty development, private sector engagement, external relations, and applied research. This program gained further support from USAID to assist the IIT with its Research Park development, and from Duke University to advance a long-term partnership with the IIT.

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 the age of 30 from high-risk neighborhoods through training in technical and vocational areas, soft skills, and job application skills.

Research Experience

Asia Regional. Connecting the Mekong through Education and Training (COMET) Skills Gap Analysis (USAID, 2016)
An analytical study to determine the root cause and plausible solutions for skills gaps in the electronic and tourism sectors across Thailand, Cambodia, and Vietnam.

A comprehensive thematic study of the IDB Multilateral Investment Fund’s portfolio of youth related projects.

Skills for Upgrading: Workforce Development and Global Value Chains in Developing Countries (RTI, 2009–2011)
A study conducted jointly with Duke University to understand workforce development strategies in developing countries in the context of global value chain upgrading.

US Occupational Information Network (O*NET) Data Collection Program (US Department of Labor, 1997–present)
Sampling, data collection, data processing, and data analysis of the most comprehensive standard source of occupational information in the United States.

More Information
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