

Experience in India

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RTI Global India

Research Triangle Institute Global India Private Limited (RTI Global India) strives to address enduring and emerging social and developmental issues through crosscutting, evidence-based, innovative, quality research. We aim to provide actionable solutions that sustainably develop, transform, and improve the human condition and the environment. We hold high ethical values while conducting our research consultancy services, bringing measurable value to our clients and stretching the boundaries of science and technology for global good.

RTI Global India is a fully owned subsidiary of RTI International. RTI is an independent, nonprofit research institute dedicated to improving the human condition. Clients rely on us to answer questions that demand an objective and multidisciplinary approach—one that integrates expertise across the social and laboratory sciences, engineering, and international development.

Our work addresses water, sanitation, and waste; women's and children's health; gender equity; noncommunicable diseases; sustainable energy and energy-efficiency technologies; and climate change. We have implemented projects across the country, including in Bihar, Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu. The organization demonstrates a long-standing commitment to working in India and capitalizing on local and institutional expertise.



Core Capabilities

RTI draws on the expertise of more than 5,000 experts worldwide, working to meet client needs and solve their most critical challenges across a range of technical fields:

- Air quality monitoring
- Communication sciences
- Education
- Energy technology and innovation
- Gender equity
- Governance
- Maternal and child health
- Monitoring, learning, and evaluation
- Noncommunicable diseases
- Public health research and program implementation
- Public-private partnerships
- Scientific writing
- Survey research
- Synthetic populations
- Water quality and sanitation
- Workforce development

Partners and Clients

RTI's clients include the U.S. National Institutes of Health, the World Bank, the U.S. Agency for International Development, the U.S. National Institute of Child Health & Human Development, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and other U.S. and international agencies and organizations. RTI's projects and programs in India emphasize collaborative applied research, institutional development through the transfer of analytical tools and methods, and the dissemination of best practices. With the establishment of our permanent presence in India, we are expanding our partnerships with Indian clients.

Selected Projects and Current Focus

Health

RTI Global India's health sector efforts focus on areas of national and international importance, such as maternal and child health, communicable and noncommunicable diseases, and gender equality. As thought leaders in the health space, we use evidence-based practices and cutting-edge research to influence policies toward improving the health conditions of underserved and vulnerable populations, including mothers and children. We achieve this by leveraging our unique experience globally with a breadth and depth of knowledge and skills across implementation, evaluation, and research.

Research and Evaluation for Action in Child Health (REACH), Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (2014–present) REACH is supporting the measurement, learning, and evaluation (MLE) efforts of the Foundation to improve the health of children under age 5 in India, with a focus on pneumonia and diarrhea in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. As the MLE partner, we are working closely with the implementing partners—the University of Manitoba and CARE—to learn how to strengthen the quality of care provided by frontline workers and low-level health facilities.

Planning a Regional Center for Research Excellence in Noncommunicable Diseases in India, U.S. National Institutes of Health (2016–2018) More than half of all deaths in India are caused by chronic diseases such as diabetes and cancer, but we still do not know how best to prevent and treat these diseases. The project's purpose is to design and plan a Regional Center of Research Excellence for non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in India. The consortium is led by the Public Health Foundation of India, RTI Global India, and Emory University. In-country research partners are the Madras Diabetes Research Foundation, National Institute for Cancer Prevention & Research, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Cancer Institute, and the New Delhi and Chennai cancer registries. We will implement the community engagement plan to develop a consensus on research priorities for NCD prevention and control in India. We will also conduct a mixed-methods study to describe the prevalence and correlates of cancer-related perceived stigma



and investigate cancer- and diabetes-related knowledge and psychosocial barriers to diagnosis and treatment (including fear, stigma, anxiety, and depression).

A Systematic Review of the Evidence on Peer Education Programs for Promoting the Sexual and Reproductive Health of Young People in India, World Health Organization (2017)

Although there is considerable experience on peer education in adolescent health in India—and especially in adolescent sexual and reproductive health (SRH)—most of these experiences are described in unpublished reports that are not in the public arena. Consequently, this is a missed opportunity for learning what does or does not work in peer education approaches to SRH promotion. In its expanded National Adolescent Health Program, peer education is one component of a package of interventions included by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India. We are synthesizing the insights available to draw out the lessons learned on the inputs, process, outputs, and outcomes of these projects and programs.

Managing Postpartum Hemorrhage Using Uterotonics in India: Formative Research in Karnataka, Merck for Mothers (2016–2017)

Postpartum hemorrhage (PPH) is the leading cause of maternal mortality globally and in India, where it accounts for a third of maternal deaths. We propose to conduct in-depth interviews with health care providers in the state of Karnataka to better understand current PPH prevention practices, influencers of these practices, and the related resource utilization to inform future strategies for PPH prevention in India.

Evaluation of the “Combatting Violence against Women Campaign,” Population Foundation of India (2016–2018)

Recognizing the ongoing challenges of gender-based violence (GBV) in India, the Population Foundation of India is developing a social media–driven, celebrity-centered, digital media “edutainment” intervention to combat GBV among youth in India. We are evaluating the effect of the campaign on individuals’ knowledge, perceptions, and attitudes related to GBV and violence against women and girls; gauging changes in self-efficacy for speaking out against GBV; and identifying intentions regarding future behavior around GBV among the campaign’s primary audience.

Energy and Environment

RTI Global India aspires to positively impact India’s energy security scenario in the years to come, including 24x7 Power for All, in an ecofriendly manner. We plan to cover rural as well as urban landscapes and stakeholders in our quest for sustainable development. A key feature of our growth plans will be to rely increasingly on local Indian resources and people and to support indigenous job growth, while reducing dependence on imports.

In the next 3 to 5 years, we plan to work in the following areas:

- Clean energy technologies, including biomass solid waste, indigenous coal, and renewables
- Reduction of transmission and distribution losses, thereby supporting utilities’ turnaround
- Energy efficiency/energy conservation and demand-side management
- Air quality monitoring and control, especially linked to respiratory health impact
- Low-emission technologies in areas of household cooking and vehicular emission
- Smart grids as enablers to smart cities

Access to Rural Energy in India—Monitoring and Evaluation, The Climate Group (2013–2015)

Nearly 25 percent of India’s 1.27 billion people, particularly in the rural areas, do not have access to electricity. We are leading this effort to enhance the lives of rural inhabitants by deploying renewable energy technologies and improving infrastructure quality. The Climate Group has piloted various solar-based rural electrification models in selected districts in Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal. These models range from handheld lighting systems to scalable solar microgrids, with a potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while enhancing the lives of rural inhabitants.



Water, Sanitation, and Waste

RTI Global India aims to become a recognized and respected leader in the water, sanitation, and waste sector by serving and supporting government, industries, and nongovernment organizations to achieve their sustainability goals. With a deep understanding we can provide innovative, high-quality solutions, systems, and tools to solve the most pressing water, sanitation, and waste issues in India.

We are focused on implementing an integrated water resource management approach to ensure water quantity, quality, affordability, and sustainability for stakeholders.

In waste management, we provide economic solutions to tackle waste management issues across cities. For example, we are committed to finding innovative solutions for the plastic and sanitary napkin waste problems that currently challenge India.

In our endeavor to support the Government of India's Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (Clean India Mission), we plan to assist with the development and commercialization of affordable sanitation technology.

In the next 3 to 5 years, RTI Global India plans to work in the following areas:

- Integrated water resource management programs

- Water utility performance enhancement
- Municipal solid waste, plastic waste, e-waste, and sanitary napkin waste management
- Fecal sludge management
- Technology development in the water, sanitation, and waste sector

Reinvent the Toilet, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

(2012–2017) RTI is contributing to improvements in public health, the environment, and quality of life in India and elsewhere by developing a toilet that converts human waste into burnable fuel, stored energy, and disinfected, non-potable water. This toilet will not require piped-in water, a sewer connection, or outside electricity.

Sanitation Technology Platform (STeP), Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (2015–2018)

In support of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene program, STeP helps transformative technologies reach the 2.5 billion people worldwide who don't have access to safe, affordable sanitation. STeP provides a full range of services—including field testing, market intelligence, and user insights—to help inventors and industry develop products and services that address market and consumer needs. STeP is a collaboration of global experts and organizations that removes risk and streamlines the path to market, fostering greater success for its partners.

Our strength lies in our depth of expertise and proven research methodologies across many areas of science and technology, data science, communication science, and other knowledge-enabling tools. We take pride in our independent audit and assessment studies that are truly unbiased in approach and scientific in delivery. We look forward to collaborating with other Indian organizations and institutes that mirror the same value system and bring complementary expertise.

RTI International is an independent, nonprofit research institute dedicated to improving the human condition. Clients rely on us to answer questions that demand an objective and multidisciplinary approach—one that integrates expertise across the social and laboratory sciences, engineering, and international development. We believe in the promise of science, and we are inspired every day to deliver on that promise for the good of people, communities, and businesses around the world. For more information, visit www.rti.org.

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