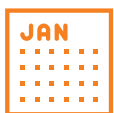


Neglected Tropical Diseases

Supporting countries in the sustainable control and elimination of NTDs

A group of parasitic and bacterial diseases, neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) impact more than 1 billion people around the world, causing severe disability, stigma, and pain. RTI International is a global leader in delivering successful, integrated, cost effective, and sustainable programming to control and eliminate NTDs.



15+ years' experience supporting governments to control and eliminate NTDs



80 countries reached to improve the impact and effectiveness of NTD programs



2.2 billion treatments delivered to RTI-supported countries

We have led the U.S. Agency for International Development's (USAID's) global flagship NTD programs, partnering with governments and multilateral and private donors to improve the impact and effectiveness of NTD programs.

As countries move closer to meeting their NTD goals, we are dedicated to building strong national health systems to ensure that progress is sustainable. We supported government-led efforts in Ethiopia, Uganda, and Tanzania to develop and launch NTD sustainability plans, setting ambitious goals to ensure NTD services are integrated into national policy, planning, and budgeting processes. Our programs are helping to reduce the burden of NTDs around the world. To date, RTI has supported seven countries—Bangladesh, Cambodia, Ghana, Laos, Nepal, Togo, and Viet Nam—to achieve the World Health Organization (WHO) validation of elimination as a public health problem for at least one NTD.



Photo: Conrad Roy for RTI International

DID YOU KNOW?

\$ **\$25.5 billion** worth of medicines have been donated to fight NTDs in RTI-supported countries.

In countries supported by RTI, more than



295 million people are no longer at risk for lymphatic filariasis



150 million people are no longer at risk for trachoma



14 million people are no longer at risk for onchocerciasis

Numbers as of April 2023

Accelerating NTD Elimination Around the World

RTI supports governments to design and implement locally led solutions to delivering NTD services, ensuring all people are reached with information and treatment. For more than 15 years, RTI has delivered significant achievements and innovations in accelerating NTD progress.

Getting donated medicines to people who need them. RTI has been a critical partner in helping countries determine the areas in need of treatment and has supported the on-time distribution of donated medicines, trained community health volunteers and trainers, and monitored treatment coverage rates.

Measuring and documenting progress. RTI works with NTD-endemic countries to measure the impact of interventions and track progress towards NTD elimination. To date, we have supported surveys in 3,100 districts around the world. We also work with global policy makers to disseminate guidance and best-known practices for disease surveillance.

Alleviating suffering caused by NTDs. We support ministries of health to provide care and services for debilitating conditions caused by LF and trachoma. With our support, more than 68,000 people have received surgery to prevent or reduce blindness from trachoma. We have supported national plans for managing disability by helping to identify cases of lymphedema and hydrocele, and ensure health systems are able to provide care beyond elimination.

Improving data quality and use. High-quality data are essential to ensure countries can make evidence-based decisions on effective NTD interventions. Our monitoring, evaluation, research, learning, and adapting approach enables continuous, integrated learning, adaptive management, and evidence-based decision-making.



Strengthening Capacity and Building Sustainable Programs


RTI partners with WHO, ministries of health, and the global NTD community to prove that elimination of NTDs is a feasible and realistic target for national governments by developing cost-effective technical strategies and supporting the incorporation of NTD priorities into government policy, planning, financing, and monitoring.


Strengthening health systems. We provide strategic planning, supply chain, and health financing support, as well as training and tools on preferred practices. Our focus on cost-effective interventions, along with the use of direct grants to promote efficiencies and foster country ownership, helps ensure national governments can sustain NTD progress into the future.

Influencing the global agenda. RTI acts as a catalyst in the global policy arena by elevating learned experiences and detailing the challenges faced by health ministries, highlighting the gaps in global guidelines, tools, and funding. Our team has had a significant role in developing global and national guidelines and policy documents for more than 15 years. Our experts are core members of NTD consultative committees, advising on key issues relevant to achieving the WHO NTD Roadmap for 2030.

Leading through innovation. RTI's knowledge of the context, science, and stakeholders in NTDs enables key scientific partnerships to address critical operational research challenges. We link national programs with our researchers, as well as other research bodies to answer priority programmatic challenges and build the evidence base for effective NTD programming to reach the populations most vulnerable to NTDs. Our experts design tools and resources that help improve NTD program implementation and respond to countries' needs.

DID YOU KNOW?

 **2,200 grants** provided directly to local governments, research institutions, and community-based, NGOs, to support the delivery of NTD services, including for mass drug administration, impact, and surveillance surveys.

 **\$3 million** in internal funding invested for strategic NTD research to fill gaps in knowledge and accelerate global progress toward the control and elimination of NTDs.


 **Gender equity and social inclusion** are at the heart of our programming, and we continue to adapt to ensure that all populations at risk for NTDs are reached.



Photo: Nguyen Minh Duc for RTI International

Select RTI NTD Projects

Act to End Neglected Tropical Diseases I East (USAID, 2018–2026): Act to End NTDs | East supports national governments to reach their NTD control and elimination goals through proven, cost-effective public health interventions. The program supports countries to eliminate LF, trachoma, and onchocerciasis; identifies platforms for control and surveillance activities; and provides critical support to governments and other stakeholders to build sustainable, country-led NTD programming within robust and resilient health systems. Act to End NTDs | East currently supports the governments of 12 countries: Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Haiti, Indonesia, Laos, Mozambique, Nepal, Nigeria, Philippines, Tanzania, Uganda, and Viet Nam.

ENVISION (USAID, 2011–2019): Through ENVISION, USAID's global flagship NTD project, RTI empowered governments of 19 endemic countries to strengthen national NTD programs. RTI helped countries improve the evidence base for determining and assessing action, increased the reach of treatments, and strengthened national capacity for implementing integrated NTD programs. Through ENVISION, RTI provided technical assistance and comprehensive trainings, developed innovative tools and resources for global use, and influenced NTD policy worldwide.

The Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust Trachoma Initiative (2014–2019): Through the Trust, RTI supported Mozambique's efforts to restore the sight of thousands of people with trichiasis by expanding access to simple sight-saving surgeries for trachoma. This includes training 2,000 case finders to locate people in need of surgery, training more than 20 surgeons, and managing more than 5,000 cases of trichiasis. The project supported the government to integrate surgical activities into the broader health system and promoted community health messages on hygiene and sanitation.

Morbidity Management and Disability Prevention (MMDP) Project (USAID, 2014–2019): Through the MMDP project, RTI supported the provision of high-quality treatment and care for Ethiopian patients suffering from debilitating conditions caused by trachoma and LF. As a result, more than 68,000 people received trichiasis surgery and more than 400 hydrocele surgeries were completed.

Partner with us

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Learn more about our work

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RTI International is both a global research institute and a leading international development organization. We combine these powerful capabilities with those of our partners to co-create smart, shared solutions for a more prosperous, equitable, and resilient world. For more information visit, www.rti.org/idg.

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