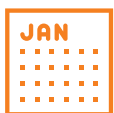


# Neglected Tropical Diseases

## Supporting governments to sustainably end 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.



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



**75+ countries** reached to improve the impact and effectiveness of NTD programs



**2.3 billion treatments** delivered to populations at risk for NTDs

RTI International is a global leader in delivering successful, integrated, cost effective, and sustainable programming to end NTDs. Since 2006, 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 governments' NTD efforts. Through our work, we have reached more than 75 countries with training, technical support, and resources to improve the delivery of NTD services.

As a trusted partner for more than 15 years, RTI International has long played a critical role in supporting health ministries to reduce the burden of NTDs. Under the vision and leadership of endemic country governments, we are dedicated to building strong health systems to ensure that progress is sustainable.

To date, RTI has supported nine countries—Bangladesh, Benin, Cambodia, Ghana, Lao PDR, Mali, Nepal, Togo, and Viet Nam—to achieve the World Health Organization (WHO) validation of elimination as a public health problem of at least one NTD.



Photo: Conrad Roy for RTI International

## DID YOU KNOW?

**\$** **\$26.6 billion** worth of medicines have been donated to end NTDs in RTI-supported countries.

### In countries supported by RTI, more than



**344 million people** are no longer at risk for lymphatic filariasis



**143 million people** are no longer at risk for trachoma



**15 million people** are no longer at risk for onchocerciasis

(As of August 2024)

## Advancing 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. RTI has delivered significant achievements and innovations in advancing NTD progress, including:

**Getting donated medicines to people who need them.** RTI has been a critical partner in helping governments determine the areas in need of treatment, training community health workers and volunteers, and strengthening supply chains to ensure high-quality medicines and supplies reach the communities that need them.

**Measuring and documenting progress.** RTI works with governments to measure the impact of interventions and track progress towards NTD elimination. To date, we have supported surveys in 3,600 districts around the world. Our clinical laboratory expertise allows us to support governments in strengthening national and regional lab capacity to reach regulatory rigor at scale, utilizing the latest methods and diagnostic tests to monitor disease.

**Providing care to those impacted by NTDs.** We support ministries of health to provide care for debilitating conditions caused by lymphatic filariasis (LF) and trachoma. With our support, more than 68,000 people have received surgery to prevent or reduce blindness from trachoma. Together with governments, we have worked to strengthen health systems to ensure care is available and included in national health insurance schemes, whenever possible.

**Improving data quality and use.** High-quality data are essential to ensure governments 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.



## Catalyzing Partnerships to Achieve NTD Goals

RTI has long-term partnerships with WHO, national governments, and the global health community, allowing for cost-effective technical strategies and proving that elimination of NTDs is a feasible and realistic target. We seek and leverage multi-sectoral collaboration for the incorporation of NTD priorities into government policy, planning, financing, and monitoring.


**Strengthening health systems.** From technical assistance on policy and governance, and human resources, to support for domestic resource mobilization, RTI International is working together with governments to integrate all NTDs into routine planning, financing, service delivery, and monitoring. Our focus on cost-effective interventions and use of direct grants to support locally led NTD services, helps ensure 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 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, serving as core members of NTD consultative committees, and 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 us to partner in addressing critical operational research challenges. We link health ministries with our researchers, as well as other research bodies to answer priority questions and build the evidence base for effective NTD services. From use of artificial intelligence to geospatial methods for disease detection, our experts design tools and resources that help improve NTD service delivery and overcome last mile challenges.

### DID YOU KNOW?

 **2,300 grants** provided directly to local governments, research institutions, and community-based NGOs, to support locally led delivery of NTD services.

 **\$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 NTD services to reach all populations at risk for NTDs.



Photo: Nguyen Minh Duc for RTI International

## Select RTI NTD Projects

### **Act to End Neglected Tropical Diseases | East**

**(USAID, 2018–2026):** Act to End NTDs | East supports 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 platforms for NTD services within robust and resilient health systems. Act to End NTDs | East has directly supported the governments of 13 countries: Bangladesh, Democratic Republic of Congo, 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 people 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.

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#### **Learn more about our work**

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