



Services and Solutions for

REFUGEE COMMUNITIES

A global migration crisis is taking place all over the world. War and conflict have forced over 68 million people to flee their homes. Of these, 25 million are refugees and asylum seekers. Millions of children have been displaced, and they have limited access to education and health care.

At RTI International, we provide research- and technology-based solutions and services to refugee communities around the world and to the people and institutions that support them.



Bersila Fancis holds up her food ration card provided by UNHCR Ethiopia.

Technology-Based Solutions

RTI technology is used around the world to assist refugees:

- In Jordan, we provide funding to Making Cents International to do research on the interest in and viability of digital IDs for would-be refugee entrepreneurs.
- In Uganda, we are creating a short-message-service (SMS) platform that provides real-time information to local government officials about tension points within refugee hosting districts.
- In Kenya, we are developing a mobile software application to help schools in the Dadaab and Kakuma refugee camps track female students and monitor school attendance and performance.

Education Solutions

RTI's experience in global education allows us to identify appropriate solutions for a range of refugee challenges:

- In Kenya, we are extending our early grade reading (EGR) program, which currently operates in 23,000 primary schools, to the Kakuma refugee camp. We are also conducting a study on literacy rates, language of instruction, and educational levels to effectively extend EGR to the refugee student population.
- In Jordan, we are delivering teaching and learning services to over 57,000 Syrian refugee children, including students attending schools inside the Zaatari and Zarqa refugee camps and those integrated into Jordanian schools. These services include teacher training and assessment and provision of learning materials.

Global Health Solutions

Host governments are often challenged to provide health services to their own citizens in addition to refugee populations. Our expertise, global experience, and strong history working with governments make us uniquely qualified to provide support. Our work includes the following:

- We support various Ministries of Health around the world to ensure that efforts to control and eliminate neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) reach refugee populations. We have supported national efforts in Ethiopia and Uganda to assess baseline disease prevalence in refugee camps, providing the evidence necessary for programmatic decision-making.
- We are rolling out mass-treatment campaigns (in partnership with Ethiopia's Federal Ministry of Health and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR]) for NTDs in refugee camps in the Gambella and Benishangul-Gumuz regions. We have also implemented impact surveys in camps and in host regions to assess progress toward disease elimination goals.

Service Delivery and Governance

RTI works with local governments to accommodate refugees:

- In Uganda, we are facilitating coordination, oversight, and integration of refugee response into local government development plans and budgets. We also provide gender- and equity-responsive planning and forecasting within refugee hosting districts.



RTI relies on our research, experience, and capabilities to assist refugees.

RTI Capabilities

As one of the largest research institutions in the world, RTI has the depth of resources and experience necessary to aid refugees. Our capabilities include the following:

- Building the capacity of teachers and community-based organizations to support refugee children's early learning, in both camp and host community settings.
- Leading participatory needs assessments with local organizations that provide services to refugee families.
- Strengthening the capacity of ministries and other government agencies to respond to the needs of refugees in host countries.
- Deploying our sampling and methodology expertise to collect and analyze data from refugee and migrant populations.
- Providing public health services to refugee populations.
- Developing technology-based solutions for refugee needs.

Projects Under Development

Not only is RTI currently aiding refugee populations in various countries, but we are also planning new initiatives:

- In Africa, we are developing a program that will provide better access to energy in refugee camps. Via technologies such as mini-grids, hybrid solar systems, and battery storage, we hope to provide lighting, mobile device charging, and improved security, while also supporting small businesses and other productive livelihoods.
- In Indonesia, we are participating in a "design sprint" with refugee learning centers and local app developers to conceptualize technology-based solutions to refugee needs for education, identification, and livelihoods.

Refugee-Related Conference Papers

Researchers at RTI are contributing to global scholarship on the refugee crisis. Here are three recent conference papers:

- *Innovative Designs for Sampling Refugees and Measuring Impact on Host Communities*, Stephanie Eckman, Kristen Himelein and William Philbrick
- *Refugee Research: How Informed Is Consent? Can We Use Information Technology to Improve Consent Procedures?*, Mary-Anne Ardini, Stephanie Eckman, and William Philbrick
- *Muhammadiyah Aid: A New Type of Donor for a New World Order*, Robin Bush



Tsore refugee camp in Ethiopia's Benishangul-Gumuz region

Photo Credit: RTI International/Yonas Getachew

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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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