

**Wayne Holden's Welcoming Remarks
Nairobi, Kenya Client Reception
8 October 2015**

Good evening...I'm very glad to to be here.

On behalf of all of us at RTI, I want to thank you for joining us this evening.

RTI is proud to have had a corporate office here in Nairobi for more than four years, providing operational support to our project and activities in sub-Saharan Africa.

This office has brought us closer to our people in the field as well as provides us with a larger presence in sub-Saharan Africa to extend our work.

As most of you know, RTI International is an independent nonprofit research institute based in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, USA. It was born out of three large research organizations, which have created our fundamental interest in research-based and effective

interventions in sub-Saharan Africa. We conduct a wide range of research for government, foundation and commercial clients around the world. I'm pleased that we have representatives from some of our valued partners joining us tonight.

As the founding organization of one of the largest research parks in the world, RTI grew from a handful of scientists in 1958 to a staff of more than 3,700 working in more than 75 countries today.

Last year alone, RTI implemented 2,600 projects for almost 1,000 clients around the world.

We are proud to have been working in Africa for most of our history – more than 40 years. We are currently working on more than 35 projects in 17 sub-Saharan African countries.

We have close to 600 staff members—95 percent locally hired—working in the Africa region, with ready access to our worldwide staff. I'm pleased to be here with so many of you, our valued colleagues.

Working with and through local systems, we help tackle some of Africa's most urgent challenges, including building stronger health systems, fighting infectious disease and helping develop response to non-communicable diseases.

We are also at the forefront in areas of tremendous opportunity including early childhood development, early grade education, and workforce development, in particular targeting youth.

We are also exploring partnership opportunities with national and international institutions on integrated water resources management and climate change resilience programs.

Our scientists are working with Kenya climate NGOs to develop ambient air quality control, personal exposure and health outcome measurement using technology custom developed in RTI's laboratory.

We are proud to collaborate with the Kenya Ministry of Education Science and Technology to further its mission to provide, promote and

coordinate lifelong education, training and research for Kenya's sustainable development.

The Tusome National Literacy Program is something we are tremendously proud of, and we are partnering with many organizations in this room to have all Kenyan children in Class 1 and 2 be able to read and comprehend. To see more than 2.7 million books delivered to schools, and more than 48,000 teachers and head teachers trained, in such a short period of time is a testament to the willingness and skill of the Ministry's staff.

I would like to particularly recognize the leadership of the Principal Secretary of the Ministry, Dr. Belio Kipsang, and the commitment of the Tusome National Coordinator, Maria Cheron. We look forward to expanding Tusome to Class 2 in January 2016, and to see improved learning outcomes in line with the Ministry's sector plan, the NESP.

We are proud of our strong partnership with Department for International Development (DFID), United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Children's Investment Fund

Foundation, as well as with the ministries, local governments, research institutes, universities and civil society organizations here across Africa. I would also like to recognize Profession Jacobo Keimenyi [Keye-men-ye], the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology.

Those relationships are allowing us to provide high quality technical expertise in governance, education and health across the country.

We plan on being in Africa, providing high quality technical expertise in the education, health, governance, integrated water resource management, energy and air quality sectors for a long time. The work we are doing here is vital to our mission to improve the human condition.

Thank you all for being a part of that journey.

Before I conclude, I would like to invite Josephine Kulea, Founder and Executive Director of the Samburu Girls Foundation, to join me.

[Pause and wait for Josephine to come up.]

Josephine, it is my honor to present the Samburu Girls Foundation with \$5,000 US Dollars from RTI's Community Partnership program.

[Hand Josephine the check.]

Consistent with our mission, RTI is committed to helping people by giving back to the communities where we are located. Through our Community Partnerships Program, RTI makes annual contributions at the corporate level to charitable causes nominated by staff members.

The Samburu Girls Foundation has rescued over 200 vulnerable girls from exploitation and is currently sponsoring 125 under-privileged girls to get an education. This donation will go to pay tuition and upkeep fees for up to 10 girls in Kenya rescued from harmful traditional Samburu practices such as female genital mutilation, early forced marriages and beading.

We are very proud to be supporting an organization making such a dramatic difference in young girls' lives. We applaud the work you are doing.

[Lead audience in applause. Clap.]

Thank you.

And thank you all for being here this evening. Please enjoy the rest of your evening.

Lisa May Talking Points
Nairobi, Kenya Tusome School Visit
9 October 2015

- I just wanted to take a moment to say thank you for hosting me today and allowing us to interrupt your day.
- This was truly an inspiring experience.
- I very much enjoyed the tour of the school and the opportunity to observe a lesson.
- I have learned so much from you all.
- As you know, early grade reading is the foundation of success in school and in life.
- This goal is central to RTI and we are proud to be helping to make this a reality.
- If there is one message that I hope that you, the students, and everyone here takes away from this project: You are the reason we are here.
- We are here because we recognize how important you are, and that when you get a good education, there is no limit to what you can do make your lives better and to improve lives in your communities, your country, and our world.

- RTI and everyone here today is committed to working together to make this project a success.
- Thank you for inviting me here today.

**Wayne Holden's Welcoming Remarks
Kampala, Uganda GAPP Office Opening
12 October 2015**

Good evening...I'm very glad to be here today, to be a part of this exciting event. Thank you all for coming out despite the afternoon's weather, which appears to have cleared up just for our event.

As president and chief executive officer and on behalf of all of us at RTI International, I want to welcome you as we celebrate the official opening of our new Governance, Accountability, Participation and Performance program office.

We're thrilled to be growing our work in Uganda and specifically expanding this very important project, which seeks to increase accountability and improve government service delivery.

RTI has been implementing the Governance, Accountability, Participation and Performance program since 2012 with funding from USAID.

And I am so pleased that we can now extend that work. We are here today because we received increased funding from DFID to expand our activities from 25 districts in Uganda to 35 and the duration of the program to seven years. I want to thank both USAID and DFID for their support and partnership in this important work.

Your support is the reason we are all here and the reason we will be able to have greater impact for the people of Uganda.

As we expand this project, we expect to see significant results in strengthening both the policy framework and institutional capacity for local government services.

In addition to the Governance, Accountability, Participation and Performance program, RTI currently has five other projects in Uganda focused on improving health and education.

We are proud of our strong partnerships with DFID and USAID but also with United States Department of Defense as well as with the

ministries, local governments, and civil society organizations here in Uganda.

Those relationships are allowing us to provide high quality technical expertise in governance, education and health through all of our projects spanning the country.

I also want to take a moment to thank all the staff members working on these projects who are out there every day working to overcome challenges to give citizens access to much needed government services and give them a voice in local government decisions.

Thank you! [CLAP]

RTI is proud to have been working in Africa for most of our history – more than 40 years. We are currently working on more than 35 projects in 17 sub-Saharan African countries.

We have close to 600 staff members—95 percent locally hired—working in the Africa region, with ready access to our worldwide staff.

RTI is very proud of the work we are doing across Africa, across Uganda and here in Kampala. We look forward making a greater impact with an increased presence here.

Working with and through local systems, we help tackle some of Africa’s most urgent challenges, including building stronger health systems, fighting infectious disease, reducing HIV transmission, and helping develop response to non-communicable diseases.

We are also at the forefront in areas of tremendous opportunity including early childhood development, early grade education, and workforce development, in particular targeting youth.

I’m pleased to be able to celebrate this program office—and all of the work RTI is doing in Uganda—with so many of you, our valued colleagues.

We plan on being in Uganda, supporting the Mission, and providing high quality technical expertise in education, health and governance sectors for a long time.

Thank you all.

**Paul Weisenfeld's Remarks
Kampala, Uganda GAPP Office Opening
12 October 2015**

Good evening...I'm very glad to be here today, to be a part of this exciting event.

On behalf of all of us at RTI International, I want to welcome you as we celebrate the official opening of our new Governance, Accountability, Participation and Performance program office, better known as GAPP.

We're thrilled to be growing our work in Uganda and specifically expanding this very important GAPP project.

As most of you know, GAPP seeks to increase accountability and improve government service delivery.

The project focuses on three components:

- supporting and strengthening national-level government accountability institutions in their interaction with local governments;
- strengthening local government revenue, procurement, financial, and planning systems; and
- strengthening civil society organizations and other non-state actors to improve voice and accountability.

These components support the overall goal of more democratic governance, improved fiscal management and accountability, and improved capacity of citizens and communities to participate in local governance.

Let's pause for a minute to reflect on the importance of this project.

Just a couple weeks ago, the Sustainable Development Goals were announced. Those 17 goals include ending poverty and hunger, ensuring good health and well-being, quality education, gender equality, clean water and sanitation, clean energy...and more.

When you stop to think about those goals, quality, reliable services provided by the local government are required to meet all of them.

This project is an important part of that process.

RTI has been implementing GAPP since 2012 with funding from USAID. And we have seen great improvements stem from the project.

Some key successes of the program so far include:

- Local revenue mobilization initiatives have since seen an increase in local revenues in selected targeted town councils (23 percent) and municipalities (about 22 percent)
- Civic participation initiatives have addressed staff absenteeism in health units and schools.
- Learning environments for students have improved and parental involvement in addressing school facility gaps has increased.
- Through trained community health monitors' engagement with the District Health Offices, selected health facilities in GAPP focus

local government have registered reduced drug and vaccine stock-outs from more than 14 days by 50 percent.

These are significant achievements in a relatively short time.

And I am so pleased that we can now extend that work. We are here today because we received a large increase in funding from DFID to expand our GAPP activities from 25 districts in Uganda to 35 and the duration of the program to seven years.

And in doing so, we are opening this new office to support that endeavor.

This new office includes a staff of 32 and houses the central regional office as well. We have also designed a conference room that allows us to have in-house training for groups from various local governments and other partners here.

In addition to this new office, we will now have four regional offices with technical specialists available as mentors and technical resources.

Now, I want to pause for a moment to say a big thank you to USAID and DFID for making this possible.

We are excited to partner with you.

Your support is the reason we are all here and the reason we will be able to have greater impact for the people of Uganda.

As we expand this project, we expect to see significant results in strengthening both the policy framework and institutional capacity for local government services.

Thank you for your support! [CLAP]

I also want to take a moment to thank all the staff members working on this project who are out there every day working to overcome extreme

challenges to give citizens access to much needed government services and give them a voice in those local government decisions.

Thank you! [CLAP]

Hallmarks of RTI's work includes a focus on communities and emphasis on transparency, public participation and capacity building for sustainability.

Our programs encourage local ownership and public-private commitment to local development and service delivery.

And the GAPP project is no different.

As you can see by the people who are in this room, we engage national and local governments, civil society, and public and private sectors to improve the policy environment and increase citizen participation in the decision-making processes, so that ultimately we increase the acceptance and thus the impact and success.

RTI is very proud of the work we are doing here in Kampala, across Uganda and across Africa.

We look forward making a greater impact with an increased presence here.

Thank you for asking us to do so.

Wayne Holden's Remarks
Literacy Achievement and Retention Activity School Visit
Kampala, Uganda Mukono Boarding Primary School
October 13, 2015

Thank you all for being here today.

I know I speak for all of us at RTI and our partners at World Vision in saying that we're very excited to introduce the USAID / Uganda Literacy Achievement and Retention Activity, which will improve the reading skills of primary-grade learners and ensure retention through prevention of school-related and gender-based violence.

I'd like to take a moment to recognize a few people important to this project who are here today.

From the Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Sports:

- Honorary, Doctor J.C. Musingo, Minister of State for Primary Education; Doctor Rose Nassali Lukwago, Permanent Secretary MoESTS;
- The commissioners of:
 - Special Needs Education,
 - Teacher, Instructor Education,
 - Training (TIET),
 - Education Planning and Policy Analysis,
- The directors of:
 - Basic Education,
 - the National Curriculum Development Center,
 - Education Standards (D/DES), and
 - the National Curriculum Development Centre;

From the Ministry of Gender, Labor, and Social Development:

- Commissioners of:
 - Community Development,
 - And Gender

- Chief Administrative Officer and District Education Officer of Mukono,

- Head Teacher of Mukono Boarding School;

And from USAID:

- Mariella Ruiz-Rodriguez, Director Education Youth and Child Development
- And Doug Blanton, Education Development Officer/Agreement Officer's Representative

RTI International is honored to serve the government and people of Uganda through this new program, as well as other important projects in the country, including:

- The USAID/Uganda School Health and Reading Program;
- The USAID ENVISION project, which is battling neglected tropical diseases;
- The Governance, Accountability, Participation and Performance project, focused on increasing participation, accountability and local governance. This project is funded by USAID and the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID).
- The Comprehensive HIV/AIDS Prevention, Care, Treatment and Support Project with the Uganda People's Defense Forces

- And the USAID/Uganda HIV/Health Initiatives in the Workplaces Activity

We are also proud to be a leading partner with USAID in this very important strategic effort to improve early grade reading here in Uganda and around the world.

Improving literacy and equipping children to read is central to RTI, and we are committed to doing whatever we can to make it a reality.

The Ministry of Education, Science, Technology, and Sports, in close partnership with USAID/Uganda, has positioned this program for success.

Methods developed under the USAID Uganda School Health and Reading program have opened the door to a national approach to improve reading outcomes and retention.

Literacy Achievement and Retention Activity will build upon and contribute to this momentum by expanding the early grade reading and school safety efforts to an additional 28 districts.

Ultimately, we hope to reach nearly 2 million students in grades 1 through 4 all around Uganda.

Taking a step back, I'd like to take a moment to talk about what makes today—and the Literacy Achievement and Retention Activity —so special, and so important.

Early grade reading is the foundation of success in school and in life. Simply put, if children learn to read in the early grades, they're off to a great start in school and beyond.

That is the promise at the heart of Literacy Achievement and Retention Activity.

Through the Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Sports, the Literacy Achievement and Retention Activity will help students to read faster and better, giving every child the opportunity to learn to read when they are young so that they can “read to learn” for their lifetime.

I'm honored that we are joined today by so many students. Thank you for your hospitality, and for allowing us to interrupt your day.

If there is one message that I hope that you, the students, and everyone here takes away from this event today, it is:

You are the reason we are here.

We are here because of the promise each and every one of you embodies.

We are here because we recognize how important you are, and that when you get a good education, there is no limit to what you can do to make your lives better and to improve lives in your communities, your country, and our world.

This program's day-to-day activities are focused on improving reading and school retention. But in the bigger picture—it's all about you and your future.

RTI and everyone here today is committed to working together to make this project a success.

Thank you, students, and distinguished guests for being here today. We look forward to moving forward together.