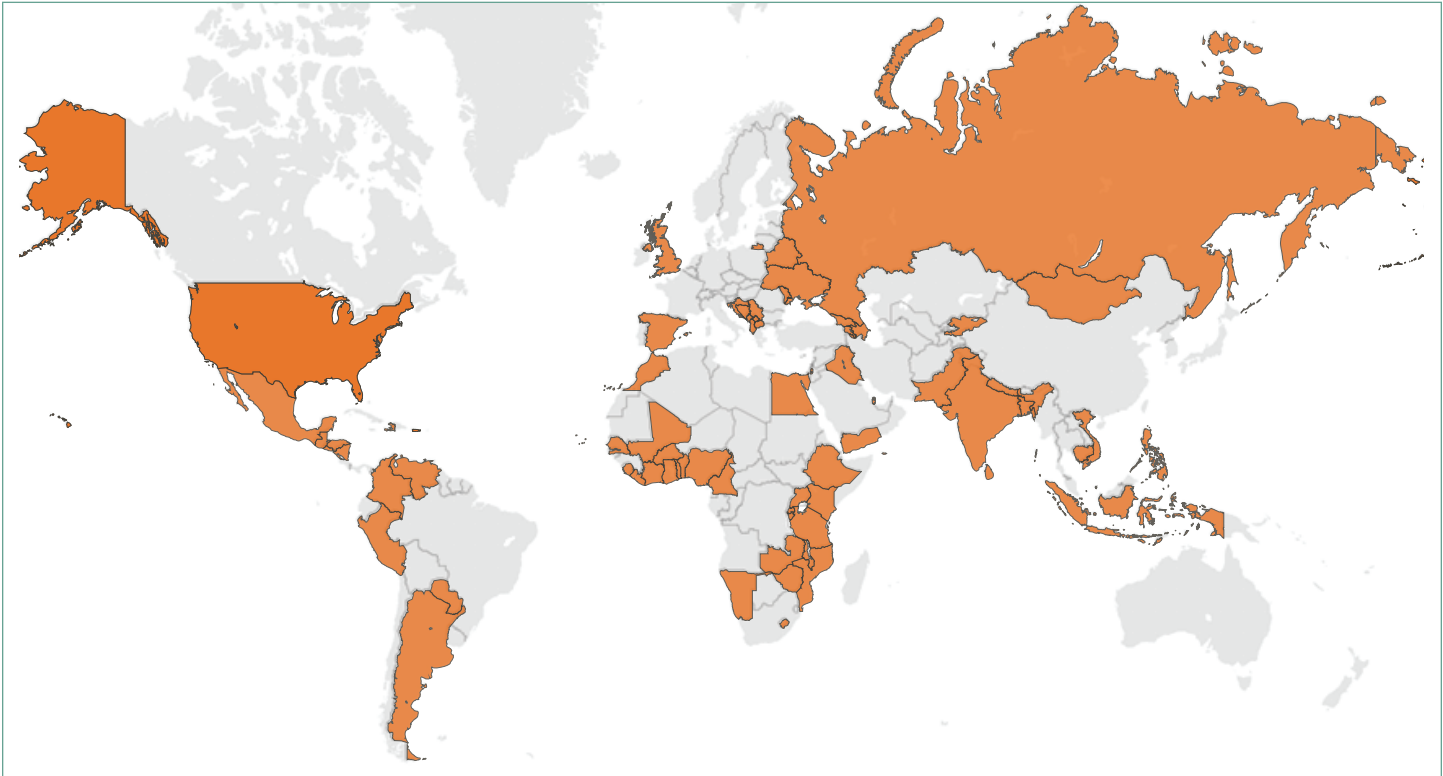


Driving Evidence-Based Decision-Making around the World



NORC works in more than 40 countries and is a founding member of the World Association for Public Opinion Research—established in 1946 and now represented by experts from more than 60 countries.

NORC at the University of Chicago is an objective, non-partisan research institution that delivers reliable data and rigorous analysis to guide critical programmatic, business, and policy decisions.

Insights in  
Global Development

Development programs can play an important role in alleviating poverty and fostering civil society. Programs designed to respond to the needs of vulnerable populations can improve quality of life by broadening economic opportunities, improving access to health care and education, and promoting democracy and civic engagement. NORC works with and helps governments, international aid agencies, and other organizations around the world improve their development programs through the design and implementation of evaluations and assessments, and by providing evidence-based analysis of their results and effectiveness.

Sectors of Expertise:

Child and Youth Well-Being

Enhancing children's successful outcomes through young adulthood is an essential yet challenging component of international development. NORC has deep expertise and extensive experience conducting research for governments and donor agencies on the social, environmental, and health factors that influence childhood development. Our researchers have made significant contributions to child and youth well-being projects around the world by carrying out impact evaluations of programs as diverse as the Honduran government's Bono 10,000 Program, which provides conditional cash transfers to low-income families who meet certain benchmarks related to health and education, and the United States Agency for International Development's (USAID) "Yes, Youth Can!" program in Kenya, which promotes youth empowerment as a way of combatting election-related violence and other forms of social unrest.





Education and Training

Education is a critical driver of social and economic development. The more education citizens have, the better their potential for employment, income generation, and social well-being. Education has also been linked to improved gender equality and political stability. From conducting research to strengthen the existing evidence base on the effectiveness of interventions that improve early grade reading, to conducting impact evaluations of early grade reading interventions in Uganda, Ethiopia, Zambia, and the former Republic of Georgia, to using social media and phone surveys to track participants in a vocational training program in Namibia, NORC researchers have been providing the data that allow governments and nongovernmental organizations to make more effective investments in education access and quality.

Democracy and Governance

Few areas in international development are as challenging as democracy and governance. Countries recovering from war or lacking the traditions or institutions that support civil society are often prone to political violence and corruption. Gathering data that supports the development and evaluation of programs that address violence and corruption, and promote good governance can be complicated by the need to deal sensitively with victims, provide anonymity to respondents, and to work effectively and efficiently in environments where both the social and physical infrastructure may be compromised. NORC researchers have the cultural sensitivity, subject matter expertise, and innovative technical skills necessary to meet these challenges. From 2014 to 2015, NORC began evaluating projects across a range of topics, including support for the peace process in Nepal, improved welfare of displaced children in Burundi and Moldova, human trafficking in the Philippines, and civic education programs in the former Republic of Georgia, Peru and Zambia. NORC also developed a unique survey methodology that ensures the anonymity of government employees participating in a USAID-funded study of corruption in Paraguay.

Agriculture and the Environment

Agriculture is a primary source of income and employment for much of the world’s poor. Their ability to grow food productively, profitably, and sustainably has important implications for food security and economic development, as well as for the health of farmers, consumers and the environment. NORC’s work in agriculture and the environment, much of it sponsored by the Millennium Challenge Corporation, includes evaluations of the Morocco Fruit Tree Agricultural Project, efforts to relieve rural poverty in the Republic of Georgia, an agricultural finance program in Ghana, and a community-based rangeland and livestock management program in Namibia. NORC is also conducting policy research for the Rwanda LAND Project, an initiative led by the United States Agency for International Development to improve access to justice on land-related issues.

Health Programs

Ensuring that the health programs funded by the United States, other governments, and non-governmental organizations are effectively designed and implemented is an important part of improving quality of life around the world. NORC’s highly qualified public health researchers have inform the design and conduct impact evaluations of projects addressing a variety of global health concerns, including family planning, disease prevention, bio-security, food and water supply, and the use of conditional cash transfers to promote healthy behaviors. NORC is currently conducting a performance and impact evaluation of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)’s School Health and Reading Program in Uganda. The program includes an HIV/AIDS intervention to improve HIV/AIDS knowledge, attitudes, and practices among primary and secondary school students. On behalf of the World Bank, NORC also conducted the Service Delivery Indicators (SDI) Survey in Togo to examine the availability of staff and resources in the health and education sectors. The SDI is a set of 20 indicators collected in over a dozen African countries designed to provide a detailed cross-country comparison of knowledge, capability, and resource availability, and uncover potential reasons for education and health shortfalls.

Employment and Income Generation

Job creation is an important component of a country’s economic development and the social and political stability that come with it. Governments and organizations around the world turn to NORC to help them develop and evaluate job training, micro-enterprise, and other programs that drive entrepreneurship, expand employment opportunities, and enhance earning power. NORC’s expertise in economics, finance, and culturally-specific survey design lead to high quality assessments of micro-financing programs. NORC evaluated such programs in Indonesia, Benin, and the former Republic of Georgia, among other locations. NORC has also evaluated the African Cashew Initiative and the Competitive African Cotton for Pro-Poor Growth Initiatives funded by the German government and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and conducted several projects for local Millennium Challenge Account entities, including the implementation of a tracer survey of vocational education and training applicants in Namibia.

Infrastructure and Urbanization

Investment in transportation, energy, communication and sanitation infrastructure is an important development tool that can drive economic growth and entrepreneurship and improve public health. Gathering data that informs the design and measures the effectiveness of infrastructure projects is an important part of NORC’s international portfolio. NORC researchers have been conducting impact evaluations of road and bridge-building projects, urban and rural water treatment projects, urban and rural clinic and health center construction projects, and a variety of other infrastructure initiatives, many of them funded by the Millennium Challenge Corporation, the Dutch development bank Nederlandse Financierings-Maatschappij voor Ontwikkelingslanden N.V., and Australia’s aid program.

Economics and Finance

A country’s economic health—the strength and transparency of its banking system; the state of its citizens’ finances; and the nature of its business, labor, and environmental regulation—has implications for everything from the trade deals a country signs, to the foreign investment or foreign aid it attracts, to whether other countries view it as a potential security risk. NORC’s diverse experience in international surveys and macro-economic analysis has made it an essential resource for governments, NGOs, and policy makers whose work depends on reliable independent data and nuanced analysis. The breadth of NORC’s experience includes a feasibility study for restructuring the Housing Bank of Rwanda, a survey of household finances in Spain, a survey in Nigeria to assess the effects of the 2008 financial crisis on businesses, and design of a new program for simplifying land administration in Bangladesh.

Technical Capabilities:

- Impact evaluation
- Performance evaluation
- Program monitoring
- Statistical design and analysis
- Study design and survey methodology
- Survey data collection
- Policy analysis and recommendation
- Technical assistance

NORC’s International Programs Team brings consumer electronics and social media to the forefront.

NORC continues to lead innovation in the use of technology in data collection, having fielded tablet-based surveys all over world, including over 10 African countries and others in Asia and Latin America. Using tablet computers allowed field staff to upload completed cases daily and to download updated questionnaires on demand. It also gave NORC researchers faster access to clean, quality data. Staff members now also use Facebook to integrate social media into respondent locating and monitoring.

