



# THE REACH ALLIANCE

INVESTIGATING HOW TO GET [ IMPORTANT STUFF ] TO EVERYONE, EVERYWHERE

## Launching the Reach Alliance

The University of Toronto’s Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy, with support from the Mastercard Impact Fund, administered by the Mastercard Center for Inclusive Growth, proudly announces the launch of the Reach Alliance. With \$2 USD million in funding, the Reach Alliance will scale the Reach Project methodology to six other top universities by 2022.

## Reaching the Hard to Reach

The Reach Alliance began in 2015 at the University of Toronto as the Reach Project, a student-led, faculty-driven, multi-disciplinary research initiative dedicated to investigating the pathways to success for innovative development programs that are reaching the world’s most marginalized populations.

Through Reach, students are mentored by a dedicated faculty member and receive specialized coaching and training over an 18-month period. Research teams conduct primary and secondary research, investigating how development programs are reaching the world’s poorest of the poor. This collaborative peer learning experience equips students with the skills and knowledge to tackle the world’s most pressing challenges.

Since 2015, 93 undergraduate and graduate students from across the University of Toronto have published 17 case studies on innovative programs in 14 countries. Reach alumni have secured positions in prominent public and private sector organizations such as the Mastercard Center for Inclusive Growth, McKinsey, Global Affairs Canada, Grand Challenges Canada, the United Nations and the SickKids Centre for Global Child Health.

93

STUDENTS

17

CASE STUDIES

14

COUNTRIES

## Interdisciplinary teams



LAW



MEDICINE



HUMANITIES



GLOBAL AFFAIRS & PUBLIC POLICY



ENGINEERING



PUBLIC HEALTH



BUSINESS

### OBJECTIVE

The Reach Alliance is inspired by the United Nations’ call to eliminate global poverty by 2030 as part of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). The Reach Alliance seeks to:

- Uncover innovative programs that are reaching the hardest to reach
- Produce actionable development intelligence
- Provide students with training and skills to tackle the world’s most pressing challenges
- Inform global development discussions

### INSIGHTS TO IMPACT

“The Reach Alliance conducted one of the first external evaluations of UNHCR’s work to provide financial assistance to Syrian refugees in Jordan. Their independent analysis provided valuable insights into the strengths, limitations and opportunities of this important cash transfer program.”

—UNHCR, Jordan

## Countries where research has been conducted



- ▼ **Infrastructure**
    - India\*
    - Mexico
    - Solomon Islands\*
    - Tunisia
  - ◆ **Financial Inclusion**
    - Brazil
    - Ethiopia
    - Jordan
    - Kenya\*
    - Palestine
  - **Technology**
    - Canada
    - India
    - Mexico\*
    - Mongolia
    - Rwanda\*
    - Tanzania
    - Thailand
  - **Health**
    - Guinea\*
    - India
    - Rwanda
    - South Africa
    - Sri Lanka
    - Thailand\*
- \*ongoing projects

## Select case studies

### Financial Inclusion: Jordan

UNHCR developed the first iris-scanning cash assistance program for Syrian refugees living in Jordan. Monthly income support is provided to the most vulnerable refugee families living in urban areas to help them gain control over their lives. More than 30,000 families have received support with thousands more on the waitlist.

### Technology: Mongolia

The World Bank’s Renewable Energy for Rural Access Program (REAP) helped the Mongolian government provide reliable energy to rural nomadic families. REAP improved the design and delivery of portable solar panels and provided 70% of nomadic herders with electricity for their yurts and to power satellite radios and mobile phones.

### Health: Thailand

Thailand was the first Asian country to eliminate mother-to-child transmission (MTCT) of HIV. Between 2000–2015, the MTCT rate decreased by over 90% through improved antenatal care, antiretroviral therapy, service delivery, monitoring and surveillance. Civil society organizations played a critical role in advocating for health services to reach everyone, everywhere.

## Publications

**Reach research findings have been published in several prominent academic journals.** For example, the article *Costing Universal Health Coverage* by Joseph Wong and Kimberly Skead, published in the 2019 Bulletin of the World Health Organization, points out that reaching the hardest to reach can be prohibitively expensive. When costs become too high, governments often fail to generate the political will needed to reach the most vulnerable, and non-governmental organizations are often unable to devise feasible delivery models. The article explores how marginal costs rise more steeply as coverage expands to include the hardest to reach populations. The authors argue that new modes of data collection are needed to optimize delivery and implementation schemes, and to maximize the reach of health and development initiatives.