

Risk and Resilience

Increasing the Resilience of Households and Communities



A common thread in much of Abt Associates' work in the United States and around the world is the creation, implementation, and study of strategies that protect people from risk and increase their resilience so they are less affected by adverse events. Abt Associates' Risk and Resilience Methods Center provides a place where Abt staff working on such projects can learn from each other about how to increase people's ability to avoid negative events—and limit the consequences of such events on their health, livelihoods and other measures of human development.

Our Work in Risk and Resilience

Current examples of Abt-led resilience projects include helping HIV-positive men who are unaware of their condition to get treatment, making injectable contraceptives more available to young married women in India, spraying houses against malaria-carrying mosquitoes, evaluating alternative strategies for helping to house homeless families, and developing private sector micro health insurance.

How can vulnerable populations protect themselves against risk and mitigate the effects of financial, environmental or health-related events that could negatively affect them?

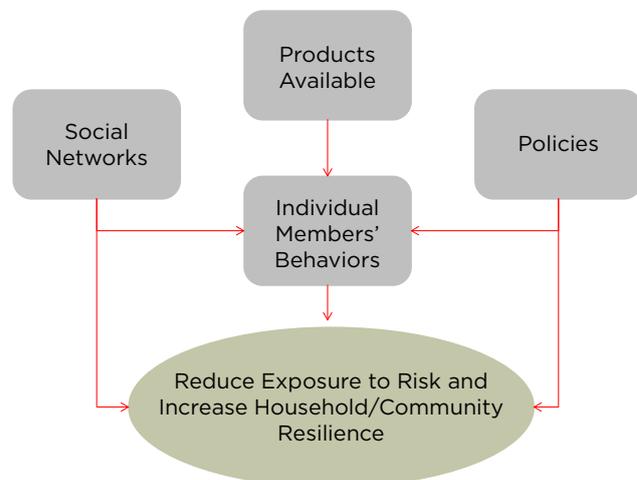
That question is at the heart of Abt Associates' Risk and Resilience Methods Center, which works to develop, implement, and analyze strategies people can use to protect themselves against shocks and improve their ability to withstand these shocks.

A "risk and resilience" framework seeks to improve the **capacity of people to reduce the adverse effects of events that pose a substantial risk to their health, livelihoods, and human development.** This involves actions to: (a) reduce the likelihood that a risky event occurs (prevention), (b) increase readiness in advance of risky events (preparation) and (c) establish or improve systems for responding to risky events (response). The concept of resilience is embodied in Abt Associates' work in fields as varied as climate change mitigation, preventative medical treatment, strengthening of career pathways, homelessness prevention, protection against chemical products, disaster prevention, health insurance design, and household wealth-building.



The Risk and Resilience Approach

The Risk and Resilience Center takes a holistic approach to resilience and believes that helping households and communities to prevent and withstand crises is more effective in the long-run than providing post-crisis relief. Building resilience and reducing risk require combining several intervention strategies. Strategies can be targeted towards: behaviors, networks, products, and local, regional, national and international policies. A household or a community's resilience is maximized when networks, products and policies reinforce behaviors that reduce risk exposure and encourage behaviors that increase a household's resilience. Policies, networks and products can also be designed to directly increase resilience regardless of an individual's behavior.





Fostering Innovation

Abt's strength lies in the community of learning fostered through our methods centers. Abt has seven Methods Centers to support the training and development of thinkers and methodologists across the company to ensure that innovations and good ideas spread throughout Abt. Abt's Risk and Resilience Center provides a new lens to identify common strategies across a range of different program areas and address global problems. The Risk and Resilience Methods Center is designed to bring together experts working across U.S. and international projects to learn from each other through seminars, trainings, and tools.

Contact

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Abt Associates is a mission-driven, global leader in research and program implementation in the fields of health, social and environmental policy, and international development. Known for its rigorous approach to solving complex challenges, Abt Associates is regularly ranked as one of the top 20 global research firms and one of the top 40 international development innovators. The company has multiple offices in the U.S. and program offices in more than 40 countries.

