

Responding to the Global HIV/AIDS Epidemic

Bringing people and partners together in pursuit of an AIDS-free generation.



Abt Associates has worked globally to develop, implement, and monitor high-impact HIV programs across broad areas of the epidemic and clinical cascade. Abt's innovative approaches support local and national government in developing coordinated and sustainable responses – where working hand-in-hand with a broad range of parastatal, civil society, and private sector partners is critical to achieving the “90-90-90” targets.

Abt contributes to the HIV response through multiple PEPFAR-supported global and bilateral projects designed to expand access to HIV prevention, testing, and treatment services – the projects pursue diverse activities that improve linkage to care, broaden the array of multi-sectoral and integrated service delivery options, and strengthen interventions to ensure people living with HIV are retained in care and can live positively with the disease long term.

Project Examples

The **Sustaining Health Outcomes through the Private Sector (SHOPS) Plus** project (2015–2020) aims to improve health outcomes and contribute to the achievement of an AIDS-free Generation through engagement of the private sector. The project focuses on increasing the availability, quality, and coverage of HIV and other essential health services via innovative models of private and multi-sectoral care. SHOPS Plus' activities include:

- Establishing the first network of private HIV care and treatment providers in **Cote d'Ivoire**, which is now partnering with the government to deliver antiretroviral therapy (ART). In the first eight months, the **project trained 195 providers, tested 6,947 individuals** (507 testing positive), and **initiated 131 new clients on ART**.
- Scaling up prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) and testing services in rural and underserved areas of Tanzania through the Private Nurse Midwives Association of Tanzania. Abt supported creation of a task-sharing policy that expanded nurses' scope of practice to include PMTCT and other HIV services, trained 108 nurses and midwives in PMTCT, and facilitated access to



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commodities. These efforts helped over 18,900 Tanzanians get tested, and led to over 280 HIV-positive pregnant women initiating ART within the program's first nine months.

The **Health Finance and Governance (HFG)** project (2012–2018) is designed to improve health finance and governance systems, leading to expanded access to health care and better health outcomes. HFG supports partner countries to lead, manage, coordinate, and mobilize financing for HIV, and ensure that the national HIV response is effective and efficient. HFG's activities include:

- Assessing **the costs and cost effectiveness of Kenya's centralized laboratory viral load (VL) testing** (both plasma and dried blood spot specimens) and point of care (POC) VL, early infant diagnosis (EID), and CD4 technologies. Findings will enable stakeholders to compare the costs and impact to care of centralized and POC VL and EID.
- **Improving financial sustainability through domestic resource mobilization** and increasing efficiencies of national HIV/AIDS programs in **Botswana, Namibia, Nigeria, and Vietnam**.
- Supporting Jamaica's Ministry of Health and Country Coordinating Mechanism to **strengthen financial management of Global Fund HIV grants**, specifically development of standard procedures, and training partners to use the procedures.

As a partner on the JSI-led **AIDSFree Project** (2014–2019), Abt is leading efforts to develop high-impact innovative care models

for pediatric care in **Kenya**, PMTCT services in Zimbabwe, and voluntary male medical circumcision (VMMC) in Namibia – among other activities. In Kenya, Abt worked with a broad range of local stakeholders to develop a **Public-Private Alliance (PPA)** approach to scaling up access to low-cost pediatric HIV and ART services. The effort has scaled the supply of, demand for, and access to pediatric care and treatment services in non-state health facilities – and has extended activities to community-based support for adherence and retention. In the project’s first year, 6,953 children and adolescents were tested, 127 HIV positives were put on treatment, 68 initiated into care, and 53 initiated on ART treatment. In Zimbabwe, Abt implemented a similar PPA model, which has helped broker the first PMTCT-focused public-private partnership in the country among 28 nurse-led facilities. In **Namibia**, Abt brought together a private sector network of providers to work with the Ministry of Health and donors to help Namibia reach HIV prevention goals through VMMC. **Over 2,300 men have been circumcised** since March 30, 2017.

Abt is expanding access to HIV services in Ethiopia’s private health sector. Through public-private partnerships, the **Private Health Sector Program (PHSP)** enhanced both the availability and quality of HIV and AIDS services in the private sector. Over the life of the program, **327 private facilities were supported to counsel and test more than 1.3 million clients, and enroll over 7,000 HIV-positive individuals in HIV care.** This work is continuing under the Private Health Sector Project (2015–2020).

The **Mozambique Clinical HIV/AIDS Service Strengthening in Sofala, Manica and Tete (CHASS SMT)** project (2011–2015) built the capacity of local stakeholders to manage and deliver quality health services and of health facilities to provide quality health services, and it strengthened community and health facility links to improve service demand. CHASS-SMT **enrolled nearly 163,000 patients on ART**, supported linkages by **placing over 100,000 new HIV-positive pregnant women on PMTCT treatment, and increased the percentage of TB/HIV patients on ART from 22 percent to 81 percent;** it also improved community-facility linkages, with **41,000 lost-to-follow-up patients brought back into treatment.** Abt continued to provide innovative health systems strengthening support to the CHASS project (2015–2018) as a partner to FHI 360. Abt has built Ministry of Health capacity in areas such as governance and leadership of health facility and district health services management, planning and use of strategic information for evidenced-based decision making, human resources for health management and associated information systems and training centers, improving strengthening logistics and

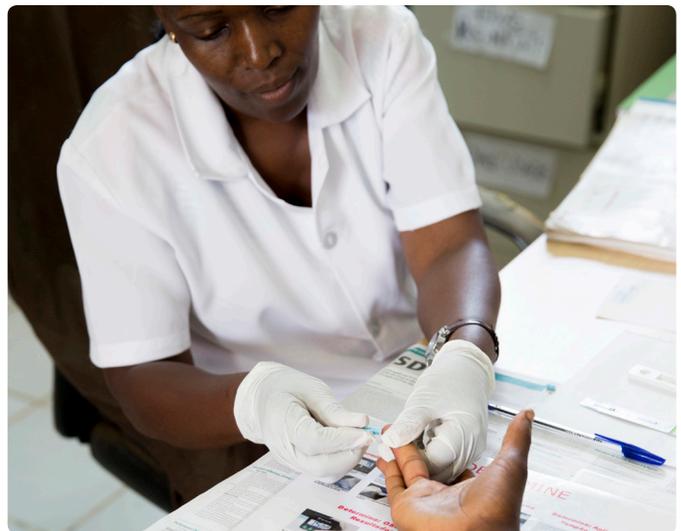


Photo by: Jessica Scranton

supply chain systems, and building private sector engagement to increase access to HIV/AIDS services. Abt also developed an innovative Health Financial Management Strengthening Intervention Package to bring our expertise in health systems strengthening to the service delivery level. This package, which included diagnostic tools and standard operational procedures, was implemented at 25 “aggressive” ART sites. The long-term impact is expected to further increase patient satisfaction by reducing waiting times, improving site efficiency, and strengthening patient-provider relationships.

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