

Responding to the HIV/AIDS Epidemic around the World



For nearly 30 years, Abt Associates has contributed to the global HIV/AIDS response. Abt's International Health Division has implemented projects and programs designed to **expand access** to HIV testing and treatment, **strengthen health systems** to provide quality services, harness the private sector to complement the public sector, and help governments set priorities and **make sustainable decisions** on their respective HIV/AIDS responses.

Getting to Zero: Abt's Contribution

The global HIV/AIDS community, guided by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) Strategy 2011-2015, is committed to 'Getting to Zero'—Zero New HIV Infections, Zero Discrimination, and Zero AIDS Related Deaths. Abt is contributing to this goal through projects and programs around the world.

The **Clinical HIV/AIDS Services Strengthening**

Project (CHASS-SMT) improves HIV clinical services in three provinces in Mozambique within a strengthened comprehensive primary health care system. The project has produced remarkable results, including:

- Provision of antiretroviral therapy (ART) to more than 143,000 adults and 12,000 children
- Referrals to more than 30,000 people for health services completed as a direct result of behavior change communication activities
- Return to treatment of more than 14,000 ART patients who had previously been lost to follow-up
- Counseling and testing more than 530,000 individuals for HIV
- Provision of antiretrovirals and prevention of mother-to-child transmission services to more than 29,000 pregnant women infected with HIV

Health Finance and Governance (HFG) — A flagship project of USAID's Office of Health Systems, HFG is a five-year global project designed to improve health finance and governance systems in partner countries, leading to expanded access to health care and improved health outcomes. In the



Photo by: Arturo Sanabria

area of HIV/AIDS, HFG recognizes that many countries have witnessed significant reductions in the disease burden as a result of international support, and yet face another impending challenge—the significant decrease in funding from international donors. In collaboration with USAID's Office of HIV/AIDS, missions, and country partners, the HFG Project is supporting partner countries to lead, manage, coordinate, and over time, increasingly finance the efforts needed to achieve an AIDS-free generation, and ensure that the AIDS response is effective and efficient.

In Botswana, Burundi, Lesotho, Namibia, and Nigeria, the HFG Project is helping to increase the financial sustainability of national HIV/AIDS programs by work with its partners to:

- Examine how to expand fiscal space and develop transitional financing plans
- Develop HIV/AIDS resource mobilization strategies
- Generate costing data for HIV/AIDS services
- Support these countries to pursue grants from international financing institutions, such as the Global Fund

In Uganda and Kenya, HFG is helping to improve understanding of the cost and benefits of new and emerging technologies, such as:

- Viral load testing at point-of-care
- Integrated service delivery models, which aim to facilitate effective treatment and reduce the burden of HIV/AIDS over the long term

The **Strengthening Health Outcomes through the Private Sector (SHOPS)** Project aims to increase the role of the private sector in the sustainable provision of quality family planning, HIV/AIDS, and other health information, products, and services. SHOPS is exploring innovative financing for HIV/AIDS, improving continuity of care, and increasing affordability and access to HIV/AIDS services through the private sector. In Namibia, SHOPS worked with local partners to develop and introduce a health insurance tariff for male circumcision as an HIV preventive measure—a global first—which resulted in nine out of the 10 private insurers adopting the tariff. In partnership with the government of Cote d’Ivoire, SHOPS piloted a private provider network to increase access to HIV services. In the first four months, 2,781 individuals received testing and counseling services for HIV, with 148 testing positive. The network also provided linkages to care, including HIV and maternal and child health services for 3,049 patients.

Abt partners on the **Strengthening High Impact Interventions for an AIDS-free Generation (AIDSFree) Project**, which aims to improve the quality and effectiveness of high-impact, evidence-based HIV and AIDS interventions. Likewise, Abt is a partner on the **Cross-Border Health Integrated Partnership Project (CB HIPP)** where Abt will contribute to identifying and implementing alternative health financing models to strengthen the long-term sustainability of networked health and HIV/AIDS service delivery and support private sector initiatives.

Under the **Health Policy Initiative (HPI)** in Vietnam, Abt worked with the government and stakeholders to develop legal documents on HIV/AIDS and related topics of drug control/treatment, sex work, and the role of civil society. The project assisted the government of Vietnam in developing its Renovation Plan, moving away from detention and compulsory detoxification of drug users toward a system of voluntary, community, and evidence-based drug treatment. Activities also involved monitoring implementation of the HIV/AIDS law, including development of national survey-based estimates of prohibited discriminatory acts. In addition, HPI contributed to developing a supportive legal and policy framework for Vietnam’s first 100 percent condom use program for sex workers in entertainment establishments.

The **Private Sector Health Program (PHSP)** helped the Ethiopian government expand access to key public health services through the private sector. PHSP trained private providers to provide HIV services (ART, HIV counseling and testing, and PMTCH) and connected private facilities with the public health care system by facilitating public-private



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partnerships. Counseling and testing services are offered at 260 PHSP-supported private facilities and over 1,178,872 patients have been tested for HIV. Sixty-three (chronic care clinics including PMTCT sites) PHSP-supported facilities provide ART and over 4,374 patients have received ART at these facilities.

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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.

