Institutional Capacity Building

Improve Performance, Strengthen Institutions

For more than 50 years, Abt Associates has been an influential leader in building the capacity of institutions to meet their goals. Our work with governments, clinical facilities, local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other institutions has strengthened their performance and management systems. We understand the relevant questions at hand: Does the institution have the technical capacity to carry out its mandate? Does it use a business model that enables it to be financially viable? Do local staff and consultants have the skills to implement their programs? Does the institution have the necessary management systems to function effectively and the capacity to plan and manage its activities?

Abt staff support capacity building initiatives through training, technical assistance, and the development of tools and resources. Examples include our ProCapacity Index™, a diagnostic tool that measures the organizational capacity and sustainability of clinically based health NGOs, and our Maximizing Investments Toolkit, which addresses the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development’s need for technical assistance materials to help grantees make planning and funding decisions.

Through the SHOPS project, we’ve provided technical assistance to 40 NGOs and 34 provider associations in seven countries to improve their financial, programmatic and/or organizational capacity. Each organization is unique, and we adapt our approaches and tools to take into account their context and everyday realities.
Adult Training

Sound Learning Principles Meet Training Needs

Abt’s adult training approach reflects our experience-based insights about what motivates adults to learn and internalize knowledge. Our framework focuses on the five phases of the training lifecycle: Discover, Design, Develop, Deliver and Evaluate. We base the framework and its components on research, best practices, and our extensive experience with what works across cultures and geographies. Our approach enables our multi-disciplinary staff to implement high-quality adult training activities efficiently and evaluate the results.

We offer a flexible, responsive, and creative approach to providing skilled training to meet a variety of needs. The Abt team relies on proven methods to develop, implement, and evaluate comprehensive and integrated staff development and training programs. We tailor the programs to individual and organizational needs to effect meaningful change.

In 2018 through the USAID-funded YESA project, Abt helped the government of Malawi develop teacher-training materials on continuous assessment and remediation and train, 47,545 teachers and 5,561 head teachers nationwide.
Technical Assistance Delivered Virtually

A Suite of Online Courses, Tools, and Training

Abt provides cutting-edge online tools to address technical assistance and training needs conveniently, easily, and securely. Now more than ever, people all over the world are looking to online methods to help educate, inform, train, and market information. Abt delivers high quality digital technical assistance (TA) reinforced by our capabilities in research, evaluation, and data capture and surveys. Our approach recognizes that transitioning from in-person technical assistance events to digital platforms involves more than just using technology.

We use adult learning principles to design content and provide several dynamic features for online tutorials, including white boarding, flipbook-style pages, and scrolling features for self-paced or instructor-led learning. The addition of interactive quizzes, audio clips, and video segments adds to the versatility of the virtual learning experience. For the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Abt provided training and TA to leadership and staff of 60 underperforming nursing homes through virtual learning sessions, onsite TA, telephone outreach, and email support. We used initial quality assurance and performance improvement assessments to identify salient TA topics and then developed web-based provider training to improve performance.

“Our extensive experience providing remote technical assistance paired with our content development and digital capabilities ensures that we launch high-quality online training and courses that are engaging, accessible, and developed to meet the specific needs of the users.”

Natalie Matthews, Senior Associate
Social & Economic Policy Division
The Abt Advantage

Abt’s approach to technical assistance is based on evidence and best practices and is strengthened by our strong focus on relationships. Our flexible and data-driven methods ensure success. Using state-of-the-art methods, tools, and approaches, we deliver technical assistance across a range of issues. We address the world’s most pressing problems using sound technical assistance strategies. Spanning diverse cultures, geographies, and sectors, we enable local stakeholders to manage their own solutions. We also enable stakeholders to identify pathways to change through a focused approach on capacity building and evidence-based practices.
Bold Ideas. Real Results.

Abt Associates uses data and bold thinking to improve the quality of people’s lives worldwide. From increasing crop yields and combatting infectious disease, to ensuring safe drinking water and promoting access to affordable housing—and more—we partner with clients and communities to tackle their most complex challenges.