

Responding to Global Health Security Threats



To make a truly significant impact in reducing the risks to humanity and to human prosperity, Abt recognizes the need to **catalyze the building and sustaining of stronger public health capabilities and infrastructure** at the national, provincial, and local levels, even in failed and fragile states and relatively poor countries.

Our expertise is in **effective community engagement** managing large, complex programs. We design and implement **innovative and user-centric approaches to health systems and service delivery, environmental monitoring, epidemiological surveillance, and communication**. Our projects reduce the burden of disease outbreaks and advance public policy.

About Global Health Security Threats

Monitoring and Evaluation in the U.S.

Tracking Influenza Vaccination Coverage among Pregnant Women and Healthcare Personnel

Abt has determined influenza vaccination coverage among high-priority populations—pregnant women and healthcare workers—for CDC for three consecutive flu seasons. The primary objective of these pre- and post-flu season surveys has been to obtain information about influenza vaccine coverage and knowledge, attitudes, behaviors, and beliefs at two points during the flu season, and to provide these data as quickly as possible to the CDC to allow modification of its public health communication and partnership efforts before the beginning of the ensuing flu season.

During the 2011–2012 influenza season, Abt collected data on over 4,000 pregnant women and 4,000 healthcare workers within a very short timeframe (two weeks for each survey). Our completion rate on all surveys has consistently been well above 90 percent.

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Preparing for Pandemic Influenza through Active Surveillance—the IVSS: Creating a Real-time, Self-reporting System

To support CDC's interest in establishing a safety monitoring system for mass vaccination in the event of pandemic influenza occurrence, Abt developed and pilot tested the Integrated Vaccine Surveillance System (IVSS). The broader goal of the IVSS is to ensure the safety of vaccines and provide data to guide policy and planning for any future widespread vaccination. An article on IVSS was published in *Vaccine* in 2012.

Community Mobilization in Haiti

SHOPS Plus Project

When all 10 départements in Haiti reported cases of Zika, it was clear there was an urgency to act. Abt supported the Haitian government's implementation of a national response plan. Through its SHOPS Plus project, Abt implemented comprehensive communications push focused on bite prevention and the use of mosquito repellent, transmission prevention, family planning services, antenatal and perinatal care, self-diagnosis, referral for treatment and other game-changing strategies.

Vector Control Across 23 Countries in Africa & Cambodia

The PMI VectorLink Project

The VectorLink Project protects millions of people in Africa from malaria by spraying insecticide on the walls, ceilings, and other indoor resting places of mosquitoes that transmit malaria. Abt has led PMI's indoor residual spraying efforts in Africa since 2011, managing operations and logistics where malaria is endemic and providing enhanced entomological monitoring. Working across 23 countries in sub-Saharan Africa as well as Cambodia, the President's Malaria Initiative (PMI) VectorLink Project is equipping countries to plan and implement safe, cost-effective and sustainable IRS programs and other proven, life-saving malaria vector control interventions with the overall goal of reducing the burden of malaria.

Specifically, the PMI VectorLink Project will build the capacity of country governments to use epidemiological, entomological, and coverage data to support the optimal deployment of vector control tools within each country context while promoting gender equity in all facets of planning and implementation. The project's data and experience with new and existing vector control tools will inform global malaria best practices, guidelines and policies. The project will also implement and support social behavior change communication and mobilization activities to increase acceptance of vector control interventions.

The PMI VectorLink Project is being led by [Abt Associates](#) in partnership with [Population Services International](#) and [PATH](#) along with the support of [Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine](#), [Malaria Consortium](#), [Innovative Vector Control Consortium](#), [McKinsey & Company, Inc.](#), [EnCompass LLC](#), [BAO Systems LLC](#), [Digital Globe](#), and [Dimagi, Inc.](#)

Country	# Structures Sprayed	Spray Coverage	Population Protected	Children under 5 Protected	Pregnant Women Protected	# People Trained**
Benin	384,761	91.7%	1,227,536	234,984	46,169	3,331
Ethiopia	738,810	98.7%	1,877,154	269,299	29,271	5,141
Ghana	304,648	94.0%	840,438	152,681	18,431	1,589
Kenya	212,029	97.7%	906,388	127,157	16,932	1,101
Madagascar	487,636	95.3%	2,008,963	301,653	78,492	2,893
Mali	227,646	95.0%	823,201	131,477	23,496	2,201
Mozambique	381,533	87.6%	1,711,518	253,962	103,302	4,154
Rwanda	231,258	99.3%	919,735	131,734	14,433	4,036
Senegal	156,362	96.2%	619,578	102,501	11,723	1,782
Tanzania	664,622	94.9%	2,568,522	490,049	94,122	7,129
Zambia	634,371	92.7%	3,005,676	443,140	77,206	4,420
Zimbabwe	209,055	96.4%	517,374	87,279	8,121	1,374

* PMI VectorLink is providing technical assistance, not leading IRS operations.

** Only includes spray personnel (e.g., spray operators, team leaders, supervisors, clinicians). EXCLUDES data clerks, IEC mobilizers, drivers, washers, porters, pump technicians and security guards.

Contact

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Bold Ideas. Real Results.

Abt Associates is an engine for social impact, dedicated to moving people from vulnerability to security. Harnessing the power of data and our experts' grounded insights, we provide research, consulting, and technical services globally in the areas of health, environmental and social policy, technology, and international development.

