



**BOLD
THINKERS
DRIVING
REAL-WORLD
IMPACT**

On the Front Lines Against Zika

Abt Associates delivers:

COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION

- Indoor residual spraying (IRS)
- Social and Behavioral Change Communications (SBCC)
- Pandemic preparedness
- Family planning/reproductive health
- Community-based education

SURVEILLANCE AND MAPPING

- Greater laboratory capacity
- Strengthened surveillance
- Multi-site research network platforms

SUSTAINABLE VECTOR CONTROL

- Entomological monitoring
- Insecticide resistance monitoring
- Vector abundance and behavior
- Insectary-in-a-box

CASE MANAGEMENT AND DIAGNOSIS

- Deepened capacity for frontline workers
- Technology to elevate data flow among health workers



Abt Associates merges data-driven results with innovation in tackling the challenges of the rapidly spreading Zika virus. Under the new Zika AIRS Project (ZAP), Abt is helping USAID enhance mosquito-control programs. In Haiti, it is deepening its public health partnership with the government, adding Zika strategies to existing work with pregnant women. Abt teams are also launching rapid assessments on vector control and entomological monitoring of mosquitoes while researching the environmental conditions for transmission.

Abt is a global hub for bold and innovative research and action. Its associates are committed to delivering robust policy, practice and scholarship as they work side-by-side with public health teams to protect people from the Zika virus and other emerging threats.

Zika—unpredictable and opportunistic—requires fast and effective cross-disciplinary action. Abt is a ready-response organization that mobilizes public health practitioners, epidemiologists, economists, climate scientists, communications teams and technology experts to deliver powerful solutions.

Regional Readiness

Abt knows the languages, health systems and cultures of the places vulnerable to the Zika virus. And it has a long history of high-impact results in:

- Health systems strengthening
- Vector control
- Entomological monitoring
- Case management
- Community-based education and mobilization
- Social behavior change communications (SBCC)
- Community-based surveillance
- Rapid-cycle research to action
- Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping
- Environmental management
- Capacity building
- Private sector engagement
- Family planning and reproductive health
- Malaria in pregnancy

On the Ground Running

- Under the new **ZAP initiative** funded by USAID, Abt is implementing, monitoring and evaluating mosquito-control activities in Latin America and the Caribbean to prevent Zika outbreaks.
- Are Latin American and Caribbean countries ready to act to prevent the spread of the Zika virus? Through its **Health Finance and Governance project**, Abt's rapid assessments in the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti and Honduras pinpoint critical capacity strengths and gaps. USAID and other agencies will use the results to prioritize technical assistance.
- All 10 *départements* in Haiti have reported cases of Zika, underscoring the urgency to act. Abt is supporting the Haitian government's implementation of a national response plan. Through its **SHOPS Plus project**, Abt is driving a 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.
- With collaborators at the University of California, Davis, Abt scientists are **designing and conducting lab and field entomological research** on the mosquito species that can carry the Zika virus. Their findings will help decision-makers frame local and regional public health responses. The initiative is also examining how environmental conditions affect transmission.



The Abt Advantage to Addressing the Threat of Zika

Abt brings an exemplary portfolio to the field of infectious disease and emerging health threats. State-of-the-art research practices, breakthrough systems for smarter data collection and success in building national health care systems stand among Abt's ready-to-implement strategies for addressing Zika. Abt's work includes:

- **Monitoring the Influenza Pandemic:** During a flu outbreak, time is critical. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) needs trustworthy data—and it needs it quickly. Abt uses technology to expedite results from twice-a-year surveys of health care personnel and the high-risk population of pregnant women.

An innovation incubator, Abt has long experience providing the CDC with other rigorous, large-scale epidemiologic studies.

- **Spraying to Protect from Mosquitoes:** Abt guides Indoor Residual Spraying (IRS) projects that protect millions of people from mosquito-borne illnesses. And it excels as a partner in building the capacity of ministries of health, national malaria-control programs, health facilities and NGOs. It ensures the long-term sustainability of these efforts by cultivating collaboration with community and business leaders.

Abt manages IRS operations and logistics in 11 countries where malaria is endemic. It also provides enhanced entomological monitoring in 17 target countries and executes education campaigns on malaria and the benefits of spraying.



Introducing Responsive Surveillance

Abt develops and implements complex surveillance systems for threats that, like Zika, have broad scope.

- **Mapping Resources:** Through the SHOPS project, Abt comprehensively mapped private sector resources for health in Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, St. Kitts and Nevis, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The result? A national database of private health care providers.
- **Customizing GIS:** To support government health goals in Yemen, Abt's Health Systems 20/20 project created customized GIS-enabled health information systems and mapping mechanisms. The GIS application uses scalable tools tailored to meet local, district, governorate and national needs.
- **Evaluating through Case-Control Design:** Abt used a case-control design to assess the effectiveness of seasonal and 2009 H1N1 vaccines. The project, in partnership with CDC, came in response to laboratory-confirmed flu infections among children admitted to intensive care units during the 2010-11 influenza season.
- **Trailblazing Community-Based Detection:** In Lao PDR, the Avian Influenza Mekong Initiative piloted a community-based surveillance model to rapidly detect and respond to unusual health events that could signal the presence of avian influenza.



Controlling Mosquito-Borne Viruses

Mosquito surveillance, an area in which Abt has introduced innovation and deepened knowledge, is critical to any integrated vector control program.

- **Isolating Key Indicators:** At the helm of the President's Malaria Initiative (PMI) AIRS project, which provides data collection tools in 17 countries, Abt created an entomological database for two critical indicators: insecticide resistance and cone bioassay tests.
- **Creating Insectaries-in-a-Box:** In Angola, Liberia and Mali, which had no infrastructure for identifying, breeding and testing mosquitoes, Abt turned 40-foot shipping containers into insectaries.
- **Assessing Climate Change's Role:** In an EPA project, Abt evaluated the potential for climate change to reintroduce or spread vector-borne diseases in the United States.

Managing and Diagnosing Cases

Abt helps governments develop dynamic health policies, guidelines, manuals and supervision strategies for case management. That work is replicable in dealing with Zika.

- **Partnering to Train-the-Trainer:** To ensure understanding of and compliance with new malaria case-management guidelines, Abt joined Mali's National Malaria Control Program and other stakeholders in a train-the-trainers initiative. The project reached 341 trainers and 1,837 health providers.
- **Strengthening Case Detection:** Abt's technical assistance bolstered the ability of Azerbaijan's infectious disease system to detect and report suspected cases of avian influenza. Abt adopted a standard case definition for "influenza-like illness." It also developed diagnostic and reporting forms and protocols and trained district clinical and surveillance staff in how use them.

Available Vehicles

Abt holds the following procurement vehicles:

- Technical Assistance & Support Contract 4 (TASC 4)
- Health Finance & Governance (HFG)
- Sustaining Health Outcomes through the Private Sector Plus (SHOPS Plus)
- HHS Program Support Contract (PSC)
- Professional Services Schedule (GSA)
- CDC Advancing Public Health Impact through Policy (APHIP) IDIQ Domain 1–Policy Analysis
- CDC Blanket Purchase Agreement (BPA) for Advancing Public Health Impact through Research (APHIR)
- CDC Comprehensive Technical, Scientific, Research and Public Health Support for the National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities (NCBDDD TAMS)
- CDC Global Data and Technical Assistance (GDATA) Blanket Purchase Agreement
- CDC Health Marketing (HM) Blanket Purchase Agreement, also known as the OADC Communications BPA
- CDC Safety and Healthcare Epidemiology Prevention Research IDIQ
- CDC Surveys Fit for Purpose: Monitoring and Evaluating the Nation's Public Health and Prevention Programs Blanket Purchase Agreement
- Information Technology Schedule, IT Professional Services (GSA)

For More Information

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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.

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