

# GENDER EQUALITY & SOCIAL INCLUSION



BOLD  
THINKERS  
DRIVING  
REAL-WORLD  
IMPACT

# Empowering Women and Girls

## Creating Opportunities to Succeed

Too often, women's and girls' opportunities, education and life choices are constrained by family and community decision-makers. When women and girls are free to make decisions about their lives, families, communities and societies thrive. At Abt, our explicit support for female empowerment includes promoting greater access to education, to markets and to leadership roles in society. From Indonesia to Indiana, from Mali to Jordan, our work promotes equal opportunities and equal rights for women and girls around the globe.

Working in partnership with the Philippines, Vietnam, Myanmar and Indonesia, Abt is accelerating women's economic empowerment in the region by increasing their access to capital. We're also partnering with governments and employers to promote equality through policymaking and as a business imperative.

In Ethiopia, Abt evaluated a pilot community-based health insurance scheme. Our work showed that, in addition to increased health service utilization, the scheme had a positive impact on women's empowerment. Now implemented, the program covers 20 million people and is expanding rapidly to cover many more.

*“By working in collaboration with corporations and business leaders, impact investors and entrepreneurs, governments and advocates, Investing in Women is building the business case and spearheading the campaign for women's economic equality in Southeast Asia.”*

*Jacqui De Lacy, Managing Director,  
Abt Australia*





# Ending Gender-Based Violence

## Reducing Risk, Supporting Survivors

**Gender-based violence (GBV) is a global epidemic, affecting people from all walks of life. Marginalized groups—especially women, girls and sexual and gender minorities—are particularly at risk, but men and boys also experience GBV.** Abt understands the varied forms that GBV takes, including physical, emotional, financial, psychological and sexual violence. We use multidisciplinary approaches to reduce risk and support survivors.

Abt developed Demandforum.net, a website of tactics to combat demand for sex trafficking in the United States, providing practitioners with information about more than 900 possible strategies. We worked with the government of Swaziland to establish the kingdom's third child-friendly court, providing a developmentally appropriate setting for young victims of sexual abuse to testify. We also trained Swazi social workers to support survivors. In Jordan and Timor-Leste, Abt partnered with local groups to present films that question the practice of child marriage and harmful notions of masculinity.



According to the World Health Organization,  
**1 IN 3 WOMEN**  
throughout the world will experience physical and/or sexual violence by a partner or sexual violence by a non-partner.

# Social Inclusion

## Addressing Determinants of Power

Abt takes a multidimensional approach to promoting equity and inclusion. We look at relevant determinants of social privilege and power—including disability status, age, ethnicity and socioeconomic status, as well as gender identity—and how these identities intersect. The result is a nuanced approach to reaching the most vulnerable members of society.

Whether we are evaluating a training program for low-income young adults in the United States or protecting refugees from malaria in Rwanda, our programs take an intersectional approach. A recent evaluation of special education placement in the U.S., for example, looked at both race and income to help education policymakers understand how these may influence placement patterns. In Papua New Guinea, Abt is working with the government to promote the participation of women and people with disabilities in public sector leadership positions.



**15% OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION,**  
experiences some form of disability, and  
disability prevalence is **HIGHER ACROSS**  
**THE GLOBAL SOUTH.** (World Bank)





# The Abt Advantage

## Bringing an Intersectional Approach to Well-Being and Equality

Abt Associates values gender equality and social inclusion as worthy goals in their own right, as well as approaches that help us achieve the outcomes our clients seek. Gender equality and social inclusion are cross-cutting issues that intersect with health, economic empowerment, agriculture and other sectors. Across our programming, Abt seeks to rigorously and consultatively identify gender and other social determinants of well-being within a local context. We integrate these issues into project design to address the impact of activities on all members of society. By identifying those who are most vulnerable, we can ensure that our programming reaches all members of a community. The goal is to advance gender equality, female empowerment and social inclusion while promoting health and economic well-being for all.

# 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.



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## WORK WITH US

[bdu@abtassoc.com](mailto:bdu@abtassoc.com)

## PARTNER WITH US

[abtassociates.com/registry](http://abtassociates.com/registry)

## JOIN OUR TEAM

[abtassociates.com/careers](http://abtassociates.com/careers)

## Key Focus Areas



Education, Youth  
& Families



Environment  
& Energy



Food Security  
& Agriculture



Gender Equality  
& Social Inclusion



Governance  
& Justice



Health



Housing,  
Communities, &  
Asset Building



Workforce  
& Economic  
Mobility

## Cross-Cutting Core Capabilities



Communications  
& Behavior Change



Data Capture  
& Surveys



Digital  
Transformations



Research,  
Monitoring, &  
Evaluation



Technical  
Assistance &  
Implementation

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