

Technical Cooperation

THE IAEA TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAMME DELIVERING RESULTS FOR PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT

SUMMARY

- The IAEA technical cooperation (TC) programme provides IAEA Member States with support in the peaceful, safe and secure application of nuclear science and technology, focusing on human and institutional capacity building.
- Through the programme, the IAEA contributes to the achievement of national, regional and international development priorities, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

WHAT IS THE IAEA TC PROGRAMME?

The IAEA TC programme is the main mechanism through which the IAEA supports its Member States by providing assistance in areas such as agriculture and food security; human health and nutrition; water resource management and environmental protection; energy planning and nuclear power; industrial development; and nuclear and radiation safety. It draws its mandate from Article II of the IAEA Statute, which states: "The Agency shall seek to accelerate and enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world".

There are over 1000 national TC projects currently on-going in more than 140 countries and territories. In addition, more than 270 regional and interregional projects are also active. The IAEA TC programme builds human and institutional capacities through fellowships, scientific visits, meetings and workshops, the provision of expert advice and the procurement of equipment, and supports knowledge sharing, networking and the development of partnerships. It aims to promote tangible socioeconomic impact by contributing directly in a cost-effective manner to the



About 795 million people are undernourished globally, with the majority of the hungry living in developing countries.

(Photo: L. Potterton/IAEA)

achievement of the major sustainable development priorities of each country. The programme also offers IAEA Member States opportunities for enhancing capacities for evidence-based decision-making, and for monitoring progress in achieving development goals. Science and technology are recognized as essential enablers for development, in particular for achieving the SDGs, and the IAEA contributes directly to the achievement of nine of these.

In addition, the TC programme supports activities for the long term sustainability of national nuclear institutions so that they are capable to further the use of nuclear science and technology for development.

Today, many Member States can offer nuclear expertise and access to facilities to other Member States, making the TC programme a concrete example of effective South–South and South–North cooperation. It draws on regionally available skills and facilities, and strengthens links between institutions in a region.

MANAGING AND FUNDING THE TC PROGRAMME

The TC programme is a shared responsibility between IAEA Member States and the IAEA Secretariat. It is developed through a consultative process, using a results-based approach. The IAEA Department of Technical Cooperation manages and coordinates the TC programme, and the Departments of Nuclear Sciences and Applications, Nuclear Energy, and Safety and Security provide scientific and technical support and ensure its technical integrity.

The TC programme is funded mainly through the Technical Cooperation Fund (TCF) as well as extrabudgetary funding. Funding for the management and staffing of the programme is provided through the IAEA Regular Budget.

The successful implementation of the TC programme relies on the cooperation of all IAEA Member States, particularly those with robust capacity in nuclear science and technology that can provide support and services to other Member States in the form of expert advice, the hosting of training activities and fellowships, and the supply of materials, tools and equipment.

PROGRAMME POLICY FRAMEWORK

The TC programme policy framework includes:

- The IAEA Statute;
- Revised Supplementary Agreements (RSAs) with Member States;

- The Guiding Principles and General Operating Rules to Govern the Provision of Technical Assistance by the Agency (INFCIRC/267);
- The 1997 Technical Cooperation Strategy and subsequent 2002 Review; and
- Other directives from the General Conference and Board of Governors relevant to the formulation of the programme.

All IAEA Member States can participate in the TC programme, although it tends in practice to focus on addressing the needs of less developed countries, bearing in mind the special needs of least developed countries.

THE PROCESS

The TC programme is prepared on a biennial basis.

- Each participating Member State develops project concepts, in cooperation with the IAEA Secretariat, drawing on Country Programme Frameworks (CPFs), where available, national development plans, and United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs), as appropriate.
- Those concepts are reviewed by the Secretariat, using the TC central criterion and quality criteria, and are assessed for technical feasibility, and any safety issues. Projects are also assessed for proliferation risks, in accordance with the IAEA Statute and IAEA rules, and all other relevant decisions by the IAEA Policy-Making Organs.
- The programme is then reviewed by the Technical Assistance and Cooperation Committee (TACC) and approved by the IAEA Board of Governors.

The National Liaison Officer and the counterpart institution play a key role in project implementation and in on-going monitoring and reporting activities.

PARTNERSHIPS

In many countries, the IAEA participates actively in national United Nations Country Team activities, such as the development of UNDAFs, to achieve better national development outcomes and to leverage synergies among United Nations organizations.

Through partnership agreements and working relationships with partner organizations at the national, regional and international levels, the impact and sustainability of IAEA services is extended and the benefits are multiplied.

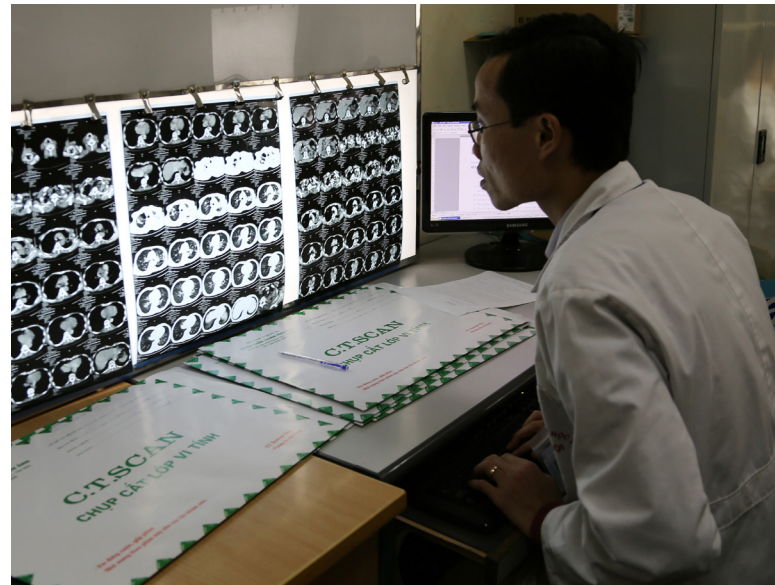
Collaborative work through partnerships allows for the coordination and optimization of complementary activities and leads to a more streamlined response to development issues, strengthening project outcomes and ensuring that TC projects have the best possible socioeconomic impact. The IAEA is exploring and extending collaboration with non-traditional partners, including the private sector.

PROGRAMME STAKEHOLDERS

The Permanent Missions to the IAEA are strategic partners in the TC programme: they facilitate dialogue between key institutions involved in the TC programme in the Member State and the IAEA, and provide a channel for official communication.

The IAEA's primary contact person within a country is the National Liaison Officer, who is responsible for all issues related to the planning, formulation and implementation of technical cooperation projects, and whose functions and competencies include leadership, strategic thinking, operational management, national programme supervision, coordination and relationship-building with a wide range of stakeholders.

Project counterparts are responsible for managing and carrying out a TC project in a country. The counterpart is the driving force in achieving project results, and



More than 2 million people worldwide don't receive adequate cancer therapy, due to lack of access to radiotherapy.

(Photo: P. Pavlicek/IAEA)

takes responsibility for the overall management and direction of the TC project in collaboration with all stakeholders. Typically, the project counterpart is a national institution with several staff involved in a TC project.

TYPES OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROJECTS

TC projects can be national, regional or interregional in scope.

National projects address the needs of a single country and focus on human and institutional capacity building in support of national development priorities, where the use of nuclear technology is essential for the achievement of national objectives or offers a safe, secure and cost-effective solution.

Regional projects address the common needs of a group of Member States within a single region. A regional project provides a framework for pooling resources and sharing knowledge, experience and technology; for networking and cooperation among countries at the regional or subregional level; and for



In Latin America and the Caribbean, only 20% of waste water is treated, leading to the pollution of rivers and coastal areas. (Photo: IAEA)

facilitating interaction at the regional level between mandated national institutions. Regional projects are mostly carried out jointly with a regional or interregional entity.

Interregional projects deliver support across national and regional boundaries, addressing the needs of several Member States in different regions. Such projects often relate to global standard setting and knowledge sharing, or to joint activities with an international entity.

AREAS WHERE MEMBER STATES MAY BENEFIT FROM IAEA ASSISTANCE

- Peaceful application of nuclear science and technology in key thematic areas, including food and agriculture, health and nutrition, water and the environment, energy planning and nuclear power, industrial development, knowledge management, and nuclear and radiation safety.
- Provision of expert services, training and equipment through national, regional or interregional TC programmes to address development priorities, including the SDGs.
- South-South and South-North cooperation, through networking and knowledge and experience sharing.
- Establishment and strengthening of national safety and security regulatory infrastructure, to enable Member States to fully benefit from the use of nuclear technology in a safe and secure manner.
- Collection and analysis of information and relevant data using nuclear techniques to support evidence-based decision-making.

IAEA Briefs are produced by the Office of Public Information and Communication

Editor: Aabha Dixit • Design and Layout: Ritu Kenn

For more information on the IAEA and its work, visit www.iaea.org

or follow us on     

or read the IAEA's flagship publication, the [IAEA Bulletin](http://www.iaea.org/bulletin), at www.iaea.org/bulletin

IAEA, Vienna International Centre, PO Box 100, 1400 Vienna, Austria

Email: info@iaea.org • Telephone: +43 (1) 2600-0 • Facsimile +43 (1) 2600-7

