



Atoms for peace and development

The International Atomic Energy Agency is the world's central intergovernmental forum for scientific and technical cooperation in the nuclear field. It works for the safe, secure and peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology, contributing to international peace and security.

The IAEA's technical cooperation programme helps countries to use nuclear science and technology to address key development priorities, including health, agriculture, water, the environment and industry. The programme also helps countries to identify and meet future energy needs. It supports greater radiation safety and nuclear security, and provides legislative assistance.

Veterinary laboratories in Kinshasa and Lubumbashi received support to upgrade their capacity to diagnose diseases through the provision of lab materials and training programmes, with international experts advising how to rapidly detect diseases. The IAEA and FAO recently initiated a monitoring programme to reduce the number of sources of outbreaks and curb the spread of diseases such as African swine fever and peste des petits ruminants (also known as 'goat plague'). At the same time, vaccine production at the laboratory in Kinshasa is being enhanced with additional equipment for better disease prevention.

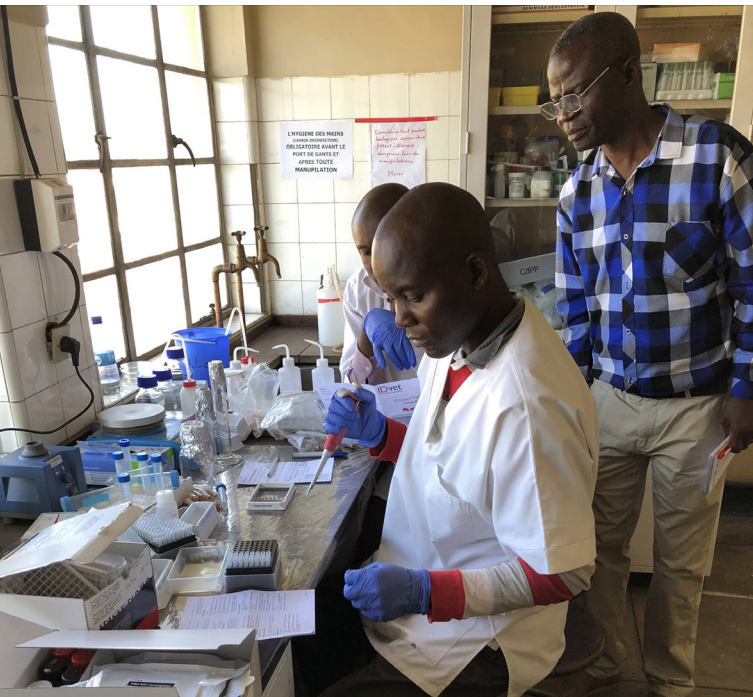
Nuclear medicine and diagnostic imaging

The IAEA provided assistance in nuclear medicine and diagnostic imaging at the University of Kinshasa (Kinshasa University Clinic), which is the only national institution providing in vitro and in vivo nuclear medicine. IAEA projects are strengthening national capacity to diagnose diseases using nuclear medicine. This included procuring a digital gamma camera in 2019, its approval for use and advanced training programmes for staff will begin in the near future.

Non-destructive testing and industrial applications of radioisotopes

The Democratic Republic of the Congo is undergoing a period of reconstruction. Old structures are being rehabilitated, new ones are being built and the industrial sector is flourishing. There is now a growing need for product quality control, maintenance, and the optimization and monitoring of industrial processes. In response, Non-Destructive Testing (NDT) laboratories and Industrial Applications of Radioisotopes (IAR) of the General Atomic Energy Commission are working to satisfy this growing demand. Equipment for various NDT and IAR methods and techniques are now available, as are a quorum of qualified and certified personnel. A training centre and a national certification body for the qualification of NDT personnel is being established and will allow the Democratic Republic of the Congo to become self-sustainable in NDT.

In addition, an important partnership has been built with the Congolese Control Office, which is responsible for quality control in the industrial sector.



Veterinary laboratories in Kinshasa and Lubumbashi received IAEA support for lab materials and training to help diagnose diseases, with international experts also advising on detecting disease outbreaks quickly. (Photo: IAEA)

Recent project successes

Livestock production

The IAEA has focused its support on strengthening animal disease control to help alleviate issues farmers face when their livestock contract commonly occurring infectious diseases.

Active national projects

- Developing Capacities in Non-Destructive Testing and in the Application of Radioisotopes in Industry (ZAI1009)
- Strengthening National Capabilities for the Operational Safety of the TRICO II Research Reactor Including Emergency Preparedness and Response, and Regulatory Infrastructure (ZAI1010)
- Strengthening National Capabilities for the Assessment of Uranium Resources and Other Radioactive Minerals and for the Regulation of Associated Mining Activities (ZAI2013)
- Increasing Genetic Variability in Cassava and Maize for Enhanced Tolerance to Biotic and Nitrogen Stresses (ZAI5025)
- Improving Productivity and Quality of Crops (Soybean and Maize) Using Induced Mutation and Biotechnology (ZAI5026)
- Developing Early and Rapid Diagnosis and Control of Transboundary and Zoonotic Diseases (ZAI5027)
- Strengthening Nuclear Cardiology, Infection Detection and Heart Disease Management by Nuclear Imaging Techniques at the University of Kinshasa Teaching Hospital (ZAI6013)
- Sustaining Nuclear Medicine Infrastructure for the Improvement of the Management of Communicable and Non-Communicable Diseases (ZAI6014)
- Applying Nuclear and Non-Nuclear Techniques for Monitoring Environmental Contamination (ZAI7001)

The Democratic Republic of the Congo also participates in 37 regional and 4 interregional projects mainly in the areas of food and agriculture, radiation protection and nuclear safety.

Previous IAEA support to the Democratic Republic of the Congo

In recent years, the focus of support has been on strengthening national radiation protection infrastructure, improving the safety and regulatory supervision of the CREN-K research reactor, enhancing capacity in non-destructive testing, assessing uranium resources, developing improved varieties of soybean and maize, strengthening laboratory capacity to monitor transboundary livestock diseases, animal vaccine production and improving nuclear medicine services.

IAEA support to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, 2009–2019



533

trained
(including 68 women)

49

international
experts
provided

83

attended specialist
meetings
(including 8 women)

Priority areas of support

- Industrial development
- Development of agriculture and fisheries
- Infrastructure development
- Energy and natural resources development
- Human resources development
- Budget management

The Democratic Republic of the Congo's contribution to South-South and triangular cooperation, 2009–2019



12
expert and lecturer
assignments provided
by the Democratic
Republic of the Congo

88

training course
participants

Based on data available as of April 2020

Cancer control imPACT review planned: 2020

Strategic documents supported

- Country Programme Framework 2018–2022, signed in September 2018

www.iaea.org/technicalcooperation

The IAEA collaborates with National Liaison Officers and Permanent Missions to deliver its TC programme.