



Key achievements in Rwanda

- 2019: The Government of Rwanda establishes its first Radiotherapy Centre at the Rwanda Military Hospital, Kigali.
- 2019: Human and institutional capacities strengthened to develop evidence-based strategies and programmes for the optimal mix of energy technologies, using IAEA tools.
- 2018: First radiation protection law enacted and an independent regulatory body is established – the Rwanda Utilities Regulatory Authority.

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 provided expert services and advised the Government on designing and implementing radiotherapy services, as well as developing a comprehensive national cancer control plan. (Photo: Kirsten Hopkins/IAEA)

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.

Recent project successes

Radiation safety

Shortly after Rwanda became an IAEA Member State in 2012, the Government identified the security of radiation sources through a regulatory infrastructure as a priority. Government officers were therefore trained and provided with expert assistance to draft their first radiation protection law. The law received presidential assent and Rwanda formed an independent regulatory body in 2019, with the recruitment of five officers including a Director of Radiation Safety Regulation. All staff members in the Directorate have received fellowships and national training. Expert IAEA services helped facilitate the establishment of the Directorate by helping Rwanda develop a strategic plan, job descriptions and the organizational structure.

Energy planning

Rwanda has implemented two capacity building projects deploying IAEA analytical tools to develop evidence-based strategies and programmes for the best mix of energy technologies to fit the country’s ongoing structural transformation. Energy planners from the Ministry of Infrastructure, the Rwanda Energy Group, the Energy Utility Corporation and the Energy Development Corporation received equipment and on-site expert services, and were provided with training and fellowships.

The experts generated and refined national energy statistics which were analysed using IAEA’s energy planning methodologies and models which include: Energy Balance Studio, Model for Analysis of Energy Demand, Model of Energy Supply Strategy Alternatives and their General Environmental Impacts, Model for Financial Analysis of Electric Sector and Expansion Plans and Simplified Approach for Estimating Impacts of Electricity Generation.

Cancer control

Rwanda's commitment to establishing radiotherapy and cancer control services was reinforced following an IAEA imPACT Review in 2014, which brought the country's cancer burden to the attention of senior government officials and provided recommendations on actions to be taken. The establishment of a radiotherapy facility became the centrepiece of the Country Programme Framework signed with the IAEA in 2017. The IAEA provided expert services and advised the Government on designing and implementing radiotherapy services, as well as on developing a comprehensive national cancer control plan.

Upon request from the Ministry of Health, the IAEA produced a costed plan which paved the way for the Government to establish Rwanda's first radiotherapy centre. The centre was opened in 2019 at the Rwanda Military Hospital. Two medical physicists and four radiation therapists are currently receiving IAEA funded long term fellowships.

Active national projects

- Strengthening National Human Capacity and Research in Nuclear Sciences and Technology (RWA0002)
- Strengthening Energy planning and Strategy Development Capacity (RWA2002)
- Establishing the First Radiotherapy and Nuclear Medicine Centre (RWA6002)
- Establishing Regulatory Infrastructure for the Control of Radiation Sources (RWA9001)

Rwanda also participates in 6 regional and 1 interregional projects.

Previous IAEA support to Rwanda

IAEA support to Rwanda began in 2016. It focused on energy planning, assisting with the planning of a radiotherapy facility and establishing the regulatory body.

IAEA support to Rwanda, 2012–2019

70
trained
(including 8 women)

38
international
experts
provided

18
attended specialist
meetings
(including 3 women)



Priority areas of support

- Strengthening energy and water resources
- Developing the food and agriculture sector
- Enhancing human health
- Enhancing environment monitoring and protection
- Strengthening nuclear safety and security regulatory infrastructure
- Developing the nuclear legal framework

Rwanda's contribution to South-South and triangular cooperation, 2012–2019

1
training course
hosted

3
expert and lecturer
assignments
provided by Rwanda



Based on data available as of April 2020

Cancer control imPACT Review conducted: November 2014

Strategic documents supported

- United Nations Development Assistance Plan (UNDAP) 2018–2023
- Country Programme Framework 2017–2021, signed in May 2017

www.iaea.org/technicalcooperation

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

