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Improved radioactive waste management for the United Republic of Tanzania

The challenge...

Over the past two decades, the United Republic of Tanzania has been developing an infrastructure for radiation protection and safety through technical assistance from the IAEA. Despite the achievements of past projects, a need to upgrade radiation protection and waste safety infrastructures was identified. Nuclear technology applications are constantly in demand and appropriate radioactive waste management is needed.

To meet this challenge, the United Republic of Tanzania required assistance with the safe handling, treating, storing and disposal of radioactive waste, as well as licensing and regulatory control over radioactive waste facilities and activities.

The project...

The project aimed to provide assistance with the technical and safety aspects of radioactive waste interim storage, management, monitoring, control and handling at the Tanzanian Atomic Energy Commission. Training and expertise were provided, resulting in the establishment of public exposure control measures, a radioactive waste management strategy and a radioactive waste legal framework for the United Republic of Tanzania. Even more notably, a facility for conditioning and storing radioactive waste in the United Republic of Tanzania was established and licensed through this project. This enables the Tanzanian Atomic Energy Commission to collect disused and orphan sources from different parts of the country, condition and store them under secured custody.



Radioactive waste storage facility in the United Republic of Tanzania.

The impact...

The development of a waste management strategy, with adequate waste processing technologies and regulatory controls, has had a positive effect on the protection of the environment in the United Republic of Tanzania, and has increased public confidence in nuclear technology. Public protection has been optimized. Radioactive waste of all types is now properly managed, using appropriate technologies and international safety standards.