

# MANAGEMENT OF TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT

## PROGRAMME OBJECTIVE

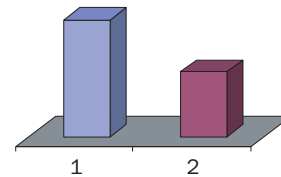
To provide management support to effectively and efficiently design, implement and evaluate the technical co-operation programme.

## OVERVIEW

The Agency is guided in the management of technical co-operation by its Technical Co-operation Strategy, which aims at contributing to the sustainable socioeconomic development of Member States by raising the quality standards of project design, focusing country programmes on priority development needs and promoting the use of nuclear and isotopic techniques with clear cost–benefit advantages. A major achievement during the year was the finalization and approval of the technical co-operation programme for the coming biennium. Other achievements included: expanding outreach through the creation of *TC Web* as part of *WorldAtom*, the Agency’s Web site, and providing detailed project information on-line to registered users of *TC-PRIDE* in Member States; and evaluating the technical co-operation projects of the past decade in radioactive waste management.

Regular budget expenditure: \$11 070 820

Extrabudgetary programme expenditure  
(not included in chart): \$364 905



1. Technical Co-operation Programme: \$7 133 877
2. Planning, Co-ordination and Evaluation: \$3 936 943

## TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION PROGRAMME

The technical co-operation programme was finalized for the 2001–2002 biennium. As mandated in the Technical Co-operation Strategy, the focus was on identifying and formulating projects that promote socioeconomic impact by contributing to the achievement of major sustainable development priorities of each country using nuclear applications. This was achieved by an intensive dialogue with Member States, greater co-operation with United Nations agencies and other international organizations and measures to increase the potential impact through improved synergies with Agency activities funded by the regular budget. The proposals received were subjected to rigorous assessment, and programme priorities were established according to a central criterion, focusing on projects that either involved the core competencies of the Agency or were in thematic areas in countries where there are national programmes with solid financial support. Furthermore, for all Model Projects, performance indicators were identified, which will make it possible to

monitor progress in achieving project objectives more effectively.

The technical co-operation programme approved for 2001–2002 reflects the current priorities of Member States. As seen in Fig. 1, the largest single area of the programme, nearly 21%, is devoted to safety related projects: radiation safety, nuclear safety and radioactive waste safety. The second major area is human health (19%) and the third largest is food and agriculture (15%). Within these areas, the concentration on development projects, rather than the nuclear institution building projects that were a large part of the Agency's technical co-operation programme in earlier years, shows the increasing appreciation in Member States of the potential for applying nuclear techniques to solve national developmental problems.

The intensified programming process was carried out during the year without sacrificing the quality of implementation of the 2000 technical co-operation programme. Not only was implementation higher — net new obligations increased to \$66 million — but the

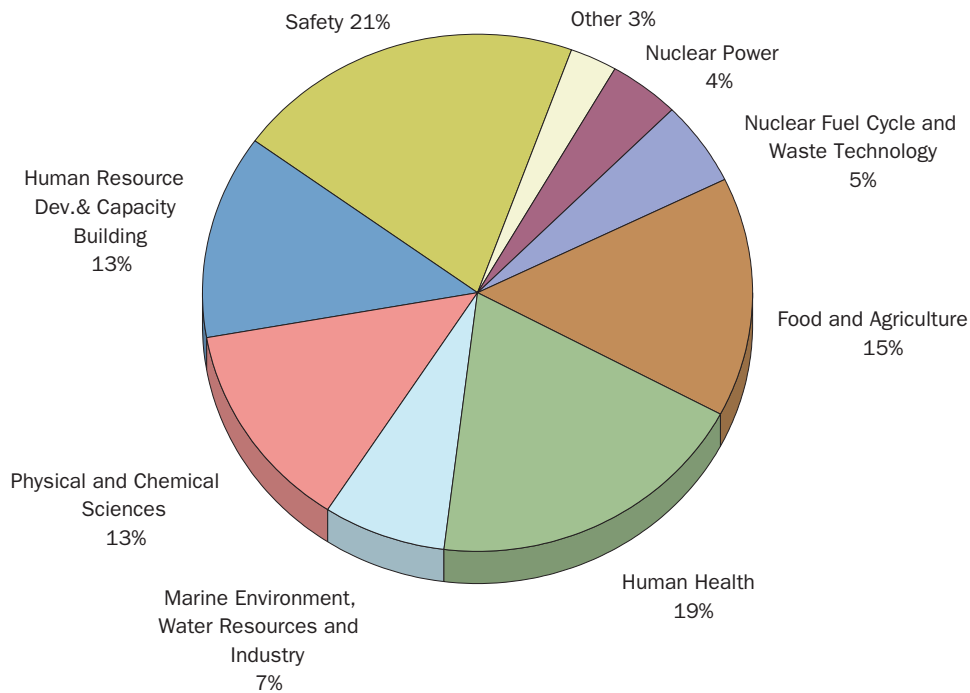


FIG. 1. Distribution of the 2001–2002 technical co-operation programme by Agency area of activity.

quality improved as well. However, the efforts over the past years to improve the quality of the programme through intensified upstream work, the growing number of recipient countries and the increasing size and complexity of the programme have added significantly to the Agency's workload in this area. Recognizing this problem — and as an interim measure — the Board of Governors at its meeting in December 2000 approved an amount of up to \$1 million to be taken from the Technical Cooperation Fund (TCF) to finance additional human resources to manage the programme. It also requested the Director General to look into various options for a medium and longer term solution to the problem in consultation with Member States.

The use of isotope hydrology applications for water resource assessment and management in Ethiopia represents a good example of a successful partnership between the Agency and central government authorities. The programme began with a few activities in geothermal studies and localized groundwater assessment. Positive results led to further projects in this field, successively involving more aspects and leading to an awareness on the part of the Government of Ethiopia of the importance of taking a comprehensive approach to water resources management, including the use of isotope hydrology as a standard tool. These efforts culminated in October 2000 in a national workshop, supported by the Agency, which brought together all parties involved to discuss the country's future strategy for water resource development. It was decided to create a 12 year national master plan for the Ethiopian Groundwater Resource Assessment Programme. This is the first time that the government of a recipient country has co-operated with the Agency to make such a concrete national master plan. It is expected that 'upstream' work in this field in other countries, such as China and Namibia, will lead to similar positive results in the future.

During the year the Agency intensified its co-operation with other international and regional organizations in areas of common interest to take advantage of the valuable synergies created. One example is the

strengthened relationship with the Organization for African Unity, with which the Agency now has a formal agreement to carry out joint activities to combat the tsetse fly using the sterile insect technique.

Another instance of co-operation with international organizations was the Agency's support of WHO's "Stop TB" and "Roll Back Malaria" initiatives. In collaboration with the national disease control programmes of 11 African countries and WHO, the Agency has embarked on a three year project to validate new diagnostic tools for drug resistant strains

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of malaria and tuberculosis, and assist in their integration into national programmes. Molecular techniques using radionuclide tracers that have been developed under Agency projects over the past four years have reduced the time needed for identification of drug resistant strains from the four to six weeks required by conventional procedures to less than one week. Nuclear techniques have also proven to be more sensitive and reliable than conventional methods and have important applications, both for decision makers in selecting which drugs should be used, and at the clinical level in making treatment more effective.

The environment is another area that brought the Agency closer to other international organizations. For example, it participated in the First Global Environment Facility (GEF) Biennial International Waters Conference in Budapest in October 2000. A follow-up to the Global Environment Conference held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, the GEF is the largest grant based funding mechanism addressing high priority global environment problems. The Budapest conference brought together organizations involved in implementing GEF's \$400 million international waters project portfolio (such as FAO, OAU, UNDP, UNEP and the

World Bank), as well as Member States. One of the topics at the meeting was the possibility of linking relevant Agency technical co-operation projects with specific international water programmes, as well as to demonstrate the Agency's potential role in solving global water problems. Such partnerships have the advantage of potentially increasing project impact, expanding awareness of national counterparts' capacities, enhancing the integration of nuclear techniques with conventional ones, and thus increasing the sustainability of the results achieved.

In addition to advances in fields where nuclear techniques have proven their effectiveness, the Agency moved into new areas, supporting the development of new applications for nuclear and isotope technologies. One example was the preparatory work that was

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carried out in Europe for humanitarian demining. An Advisory Group met to review possible nuclear methods and select the most promising for field testing. This resulted in a regional project in Europe that will adapt an existing instrument for the identification of land mines and demonstrate its suitability under field conditions. If the trials are successful, the technique can be applied in other locations as well.

As mentioned above, the benefits of forging international partnerships — such as with WHO in its “Roll Back Malaria” campaign — can maximize the impact of technical assistance projects. A multi-year regional project in Africa that began in 2000 supports a global research and development initiative to investigate the feasibility of applying the sterile insect technique (SIT) to control the anopheles mosquito, which carries malaria, in selected target areas in sub-Saharan Africa. Successes gained in area wide SIT programmes against

the screwworm, tsetse and fruit flies provided the basis for starting research into its use for mosquito control. This Agency initiative also responds to a request for support expressed by African Governments at the ‘Abuja Summit’ held in Nigeria in April 2000, where 48 Heads of State and Government adopted the ‘Abuja Declaration’ to halt the spread of malaria in Africa.

The policy and operational aspects of outsourcing technical co-operation projects were discussed at a regional workshop of National Liaison Officers from Latin America and the Caribbean in Lima, in November 2000. Five pilot bilateral outsourcing agreements will be implemented to strengthen technical co-operation between developing countries in the region.

At a regional seminar for the East Asia and Pacific region held in Kuala Lumpur in August, participants analysed strategies and approaches towards self-reliance and sustainability of national nuclear institutions. The main conclusion of the seminar, which was planned, developed and conducted for the Agency by the Malaysian authorities under an outsourcing agreement, was that bringing nuclear technologies to the marketplace is essential if nuclear institutions are to survive, especially in non-nuclear-power States. Such efforts are necessary to preserve and further develop nuclear expertise for the next generation.

## **PLANNING, CO-ORDINATION AND EVALUATION**

During the past year, the Agency made major efforts to raise public awareness of its technical co-operation activities and to improve information sharing on its projects with Member States. Information for the general public is contained in a new and detailed section on the technical co-operation programme, *TC Web* ([www-tc.iaea.org](http://www-tc.iaea.org)), on the Agency's *WorldAtom* Web site ([www.iaea.org/worldatom](http://www.iaea.org/worldatom)). Government authorities and authorized officials can obtain information from the Web based *TC-PRIDE* (Technical Co-operation Project Information

Dissemination Environment) system. It provides on-line access to detailed project information and was released to registered users from Agency Member States during the 44<sup>th</sup> session of the General Conference in 2000.

The financial resource picture for technical co-operation was more predictable during 2000 than in 1998 or 1999. One Member State, the Russian Federation, rejoined the ranks of donors with a multi-million dollar payment at the end of 2000. New developing country contributors that had not pledged in 1999 but pledged in 2000 included Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Indonesia, Kuwait, Latvia, Madagascar, Saudi Arabia, Yemen and The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

During the early part of the year the Agency refined the "due account" regime and established precise criteria for evaluating the payment record of both developing and developed Member States. The objective of applying due account is to increase the level of contributions to the TCF and to improve the level of payment of Assessed Programme Costs by providing incentives for Member States to pay. Due account was followed in upgrading 'footnote-a/ projects' (i.e. projects approved but awaiting funding) from TCF resources and in the programming process.

In preparation for the new cycle, the Board of Governors conducted intensive consultations and negotiations in order to agree on the TCF target for 2001–2002. The compromise reached, which was approved by the General Conference, maintained the target at \$73 000

000 for both years. In addition, a new principle of "rate of attainment" was introduced, which measures the payments from Member States against the target for the year in question. The minimum rate of attainment foreseen for 2001 is 80% and 85% for 2002. With this new principle it is expected that net TCF resources will increase during the current 2001–2002 cycle, as those countries not paying their full assessed share will be encouraged to pay at least the amount corresponding to the rate of attainment.

Evaluation is an essential part of the programme cycle as it enables the Agency to learn from the experience gained in implementing projects and to apply this to future projects. In 2000, technical co-operation projects and associated regular programme activities from 1990–1999 related to radioactive waste management were reviewed. The evaluation concluded that there was uneven attainment from country to country of the objectives of these activities. The projects in this area were seen to be highly relevant; their effectiveness was more than adequate; and efficiency was acceptable with regard to quality, though less so in terms of timeliness and sufficiency of inputs. It was noted, however, that greater government commitment was needed to assure the impact and sustainability of the results. A second, more narrowly focused, evaluation examined Model Projects related to Mediterranean fruit fly eradication using SIT in three Latin American countries. The evaluation found that the economic impact of the projects, through expanded fruit production and export markets, is large and growing, and is highly sustainable.