

# Management of Technical Cooperation for Development

## Objective

*To further strengthen the technical cooperation programme by contributing to sustainable and significant social and economic benefits in Member States and increased self-reliance in the application of nuclear techniques.*

## Programme Planning and Coordination

In response to reviews and evaluations by the Office of Internal Oversight Services, the Standing Advisory Group on Technical Assistance and Cooperation (SAGTAC) and decisions and recommendations of the Board of Governors, the Agency began a phased approach to the restructuring of the Department of Technical Cooperation during 2004. A one year plan was developed as a framework for this change initiative. The initial phase, reorganizing the Department's five regional sections into four, has been completed and now covers Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe and Latin America.

The second phase of the restructuring, which began in late 2004 and will be completed in 2005, will involve a more efficient grouping of staff responsibilities and tasks. In conjunction with the restructuring, the Secretariat has embarked on a comprehensive review of the main elements of the technical cooperation programme cycle, such as the project planning, formulation, appraisal and approval processes.

At its meeting in March, SAGTAC addressed a range of topics related to the Agency's Medium Term Strategy and its links to the Technical Cooperation Strategy, regional programming issues, self-reliance and sustainability, and strategies for partnership building.

In June 2004, the Board of Governors approved a proposal for the replacement of assessed programme costs with national participation costs, effective 1 January 2005.

Resources for the Technical Cooperation Fund (TCF) recorded a significant increase over 2003, reaching a total of \$75.6 million by the end of the year. It should be noted, however, that approximately \$8.1 million of this total represents

payments or pledges made in 2004 against the TCF target for 2003.

The implementation rate of the programme dropped four percentage points in 2004 to 68%, compared with 2003 figures, due to external factors.

New resources from extrabudgetary donors remained at a level comparable with that of 2003. Funds received in 2004 totalled \$10.9 million, compared with \$11.8 million in 2003. A total of \$3.7 million was contributed as government cost sharing by Member States to support project activities in their own country. The remaining \$7.2 million was received from Member States and organizations for use in specified projects approved under the technical cooperation programme. In total, just under \$7.6 million of the total \$10.9 million was used to upgrade 'footnote a/' projects and project components.

## Programme Formulation and Implementation

As a partner in development, the Agency has been active in formulating and supporting activities that address priority national development needs in its Member States. Formulation of the 2005–2006 technical cooperation programme was closely guided by Member State requests, the 2002 review of the Technical Cooperation Strategy and by country programme frameworks (CPFs). Figure 1 represents the 2005–2006 programme as approved by the Board of Governors at its November meeting.

Through its technical cooperation programme, the Agency has helped to enhance the general safety of ageing research reactors and spent fuel storage facilities for more than two decades. For instance, repatriation of HEU research reactor fuel to the country of origin has been taking place through a Tripartite Initiative involving the Agency, the Russian Federation and USA since 1999. This effort seeks to return Russian origin research reactor fuel to Russia for management and disposition. In May 2004, the Global Threat Reduction Initiative (GTRI), which is expected to accelerate fuel repatriation activities, was announced and the US Government pledged an additional \$3 million through the technical cooperation programme for Agency supported activities relevant to the implementation of the GTRI.

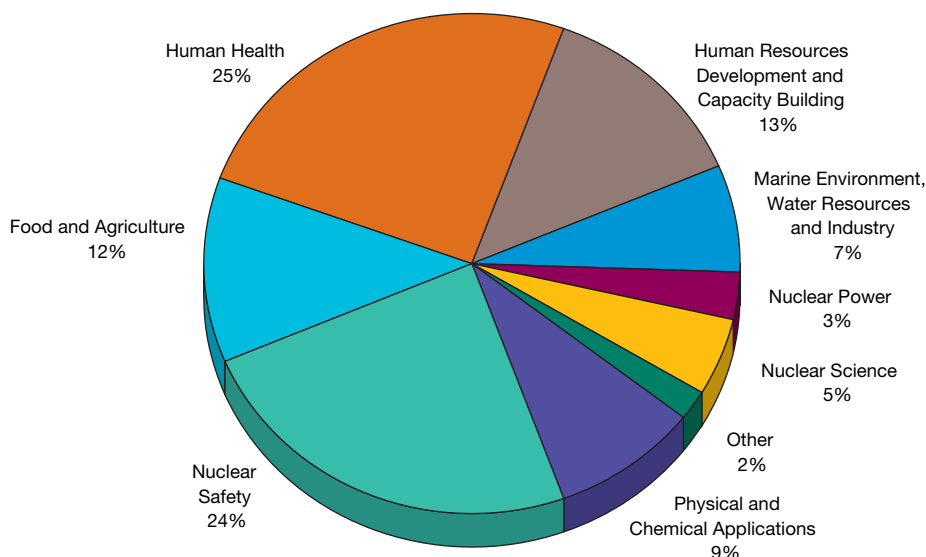


FIG. 1. The Agency's 2005–2006 core funded technical cooperation programme by area of activity.

To date, the Agency, based on Member State requests and within the context of approved technical cooperation projects, has supported activities related to the repatriation, management and possible long term storage of fresh HEU fuel in Bulgaria, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Romania and Uzbekistan.

In 2004, the technical cooperation programme included 11 national and 9 regional projects related to nuclear security. The projects were aimed at strengthening national infrastructures to combat illicit trafficking of nuclear and other radioactive material, strengthening national physical protection frameworks and control over radiation sources.

Several regional and national projects in Latin America focused on the utilization of nuclear techniques in the evaluation of nutrition programmes for measuring nutrients in food and human body composition (fat distribution). The evaluation methodology, already successfully verified, will be transferred to other countries in the region during the 2005–2006 programme cycle. In ARCAL Member States, 74% of the expert missions, 70% of fellowships and 63% of scientific visits were executed using the expertise in the region.

The Agency is involved in the global effort aimed at controlling HIV/AIDS through a project on HIV-1 molecular epidemiology and immunology in support of the UNAIDS–WHO African AIDS Vaccine Programme. Isotope techniques are used to assess nutrition intervention programmes related to HIV/AIDS in Africa. In a related development, a memorandum of understanding was signed in 2004 with the WHO Regional Office for Africa to build a strategic partnership around the Agency's work in Africa on human communicable diseases.

The Agency provided assistance under AFRA to help Member States develop national strategic action and business plans for their national nuclear institutions, including training of managers, scientists and decision makers. In addition, training and guidance was provided to the national regulatory authorities and radiation protection institutions to improve their managerial capabilities and interactions with stakeholders, and to enhance their relevance and credibility through better regulatory services and public perception.

To enable African Member States to make full use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) for the training of scientists and technicians, advice, training and ICT tele-centres were provided in 2004 to all AFRA countries. Since the inception of this effort in 2002, 17 ICT training centres have been supported and are currently operational in 13 African Member States.

As in previous years, AFRA continued to build national and regional capacity during 2004, focusing on cancer management, maintenance of equipment and nuclear security. A total of 27 training courses were organized, mainly in regional designated centres, and more than 500 scientists and technicians were trained. In 2004, 78% of the lecturers, including those who ran and supervised the training programme, were drawn from the Africa region.

In the Asia and Pacific region, the RCA Secretariat has devoted considerable time and effort to improving RCA programme formulation and delivery. Following up on a proposed registration of national capacities, a regional resource unit database was developed for Asian countries to maintain data on facilities, services and expertise available for

technical cooperation activities. Plans for similar databases for other regions are being developed.

## **Legislative Assistance to Member States**

To support Member States in their development of a comprehensive nuclear law governing radiation protection, nuclear and radiation safety, nuclear liability, safeguards and physical protection, the Agency provided assistance in drafting national nuclear legislation for 11 Member States. In addition, at the request of Member States, training on issues related to nuclear legislation was also provided

to 13 fellows. Priority continued to be given to the provision of legislative assistance to Member States that are still required to establish a legislative and regulatory framework for the application of adequate health and safety standards. Such activity included, inter alia, assistance in drafting radiation protection laws and the empowerment of a national regulatory authority. The Agency is now working towards the development of detailed guidance for assisting Member States in the development of their national legislation for the safe management of radioactive waste and spent fuel. It is expected that this guidance will be finalized in 2005. ■