

Democratic Republic of the Congo

IAEA Member State since October 1961

Selected achievements

2023: The Democratic Republic of the Congo announces the launch of the country's first public radiotherapy centre. The cornerstone was laid by the Minister of Scientific Research and Technological Innovation and the Director General of the IAEA.

2020: The Democratic Republic of the Congo establishes the nuclear medicine service at the University Clinic in Kinshasa.

2020: The Democratic Republic of the Congo establishes the national non-destructive testing society, Association Congolaise des Essais Non Destructifs (ACEND).



The foundation stone of the Democratic Republic of the Congo's first public radiotherapy centre was laid at a ceremony attended by the IAEA Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi, Minister of Scientific Research Gilbert Kabanga and the Minister of Higher and University Education Muhindo Nzangi Butondo. (Photo: IAEA)

National priorities

- Nuclear and radiation safety
- Food and agriculture
- Human health and nutrition
- Water resources management
- Research reactor
- Industrial applications
- Tertiary education in nuclear science and technology

Main areas of IAEA support

- Radiation protection
- Nuclear safety
- Non-destructive testing capacity
- Uranium resource assessment
- Improved crop varieties
- Lab capacity for livestock disease monitoring
- Animal vaccine production
- Nuclear medicine services

Project successes

Nuclear medicine and diagnostic imaging

With support from the IAEA, the Democratic Republic of the Congo established its first nuclear medicine service at the University of Kinshasa. This involved the procurement of a SPECT-gamma camera through Government cost sharing. The University of Kinshasa now serves as the sole national institution offering both in vitro and in vivo nuclear medicine services. The IAEA supported the training and qualification of essential medical staff to secure sustained access to nuclear medicine for the country's population.

Non-destructive testing and industrial applications of radioisotopes

The IAEA supported the development of the Democratic Republic of the Congo's human resource capacities in non-destructive testing (NDT) through training and certification in four NDT methods, in line with ISO 9712. The trained national team successfully used ultrasonic and X ray testing on the structure supporting the Inga Dam's hydroelectric turbines and assessed sediment transport in the dam channel.

The recent establishment of the NDT Society (ACEND) and a Quality Management System (QMS) in accordance with ISO 9712 ensures sustained excellence in non-destructive testing practices.

Crop production

The Kinshasa Regional Centre for Nuclear Studies (CREN-K) at the General Commissariat for Atomic Energy (CGEA) and the National Institute for Agronomic Studies and Research (INERA) collaborated, with IAEA support, to enhance the crop productivity of soybean and maize through the application of mutagenesis and the selection of improved or novel phenotypes in conjunction with conventional breeding programmes. This has resulted in the generation of promising advanced generations of maize, soybean and cassava mutant lines, which should contribute to long term food security and the further development of sustainable agricultural practices in the country.



A 2021 imPACT Review covered 21 facilities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo including Monkole Hospital (pictured), a private hospital in Kinshasa. (Photo: T. Mukendi/Monkole Hospital)

Participation in the major initiatives

- Rays of Hope
- ZODIAC

Date of imPACT Review(s)

2021, 2017

IAEA support received in the 21st century



Contributions to South-South and triangular cooperation

