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.

Kenya
IAEA Member State since July 1965

Key achievements in Kenya

- 2014: Mutant varieties of wheat, ELDO Mavuno and ELDO Baraka, resistant to wheat stem rust, (Ug99) are introduced and grown by farmers. Drought tolerant species of Brachiaria and Dolichos lablab animal feed are also developed.
- 2012: Fully-equipped endocrinology laboratory set up at KALRO-Lanet Research Centre, with trained personnel. Several postgraduate and PhD students successfully used the facility to investigate samples for their theses.
- 2012: Diploma level training curriculum for radiation therapists developed and deployed.

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

Radiotherapy
Between 2010 and 2017, the IAEA assisted the Government of Kenya in upgrading radiotherapy and nuclear medicine services at Kenyatta National Hospital with equipment and staff training. In this time, two doctors who now head the facility were trained in radiation oncology. Medical physicists, radiation therapists and oncology nurses were also trained. In addition, the Government allocated funds to purchase radiotherapy equipment for the second public cancer referral centre at Eldoret.

Energy
Since 2012, Kenya has received IAEA assistance to develop its nuclear power infrastructure with a focus on building the workforce, institutional capacity and legal and regulatory frameworks.

Amongst its main achievements, the national IAEA programme has so far completed a pre-feasibility study for a nuclear power plant, supported an Integrated Nuclear Infrastructure Review mission in 2015 and the development of an action plan following its recommendations, and built the capacity of Kenyan nationals for a nuclear power programme, funded through the IAEA technical cooperation programme, Government cost-sharing and the ‘Peaceful Uses Initiative’. Training and fellowships for national staff have strengthened the expertise needed to develop a national infrastructure for nuclear power, including energy assessment, nuclear power planning, engineering, safety, security and regulation. High-level decision makers have been sensitized about the nuclear power programme. Several agreements have been signed or are in preparation to help with human resource development in order to build the required skills to deliver and operate an economic, safe and reliable nuclear power programme.
Active national projects

• Strengthening Existing Resources for Training, Research and Application of Radiation Technologies in Industry and Environmental Studies (KEN1005)

• Establishing a System for Education, Training, Qualification and Certification for Non-Destructive Testing (KEN1006)


• Using Nuclear Techniques to Evaluate and Improve the Performance of Smallholder Dairy Cows (KEN5038)

• Establishing Training Programmes for Radiation Oncologists, Medical Physicists and Oncology Nurses for Sustainable Expansion of Radiotherapy Services (KEN6021)

• Upgrading the Services of the Secondary Standard Dosimetry Laboratory (KEN6022)

• Capacity Building in Radiotherapy at the Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital (KEN6023)

• Evaluation of Surface and Groundwater Interaction of the Kilimanjaro Aquifer Applying Isotope Techniques (KEN7005)

Kenya also participates in 47 regional and 5 interregional projects.

Previous IAEA support to Kenya

The IAEA has recently supported priorities identified in the Country Programme Framework, focusing on capacity building for nuclear power, human health, industrial applications, water management, and agriculture and food security.

IAEA support to Kenya, 2009–2019

- 800 trained (including 238 women)
- 83 international experts provided
- 150 attended specialist meetings (including 31 women)

Priority areas of support

• Improving food, agriculture and fishery sectors
• Strengthening human health
• Developing sustainable energy
• Enhancing water resource management

Kenya’s contribution to South-South and triangular cooperation, 2009–2019

- 97 expert and lecturer assignments provided by Kenya
- 292 training course participants
- 103 fellows or scientific visitors hosted

Based on data available as of April 2020

Cancer control imPACT Reviews conducted: May 2010, August 2016

Strategic documents supported

• Country Programme Framework 2017–2022, signed in May 2017
• Integrated Work Plan for Nuclear Power Planning in 2015 following INIR Mission
• Review of Nuclear Regulatory Bill in 2016
• Development of bankable documents for three new radiotherapy centres in 2018. The County of Mombasa recently submitted its bankable document to IAEA for finalisation for 2019–2022

www.iaea.org/technicalcooperation

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