

Sierra Leone

IAEA Member State since June 1967

Selected achievements

2021: Sierra Leone finalizes a bankable document to establish its first radiotherapy facility.

2019: Capacity is strengthened at the Central Veterinary Laboratory for the diagnosis and control of zoonoses to improve livestock production.

2012: The Government of Sierra Leone passes the Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection Authority Act.



Veterinary scientists and wildlife specialists from seven African countries attend training in Sierra Leone on the use of nuclear derived techniques to detect zoonotic diseases in virus-transmitting bats. (Photo: L. Gil/IAEA)

National priorities

- Nuclear and radiation safety
- Food and agriculture
- Human health
- Water resources management
- Environmental applications

Main areas of IAEA support

- Establishment of a radiotherapy facility
- Food security
- Regulatory infrastructure
- Water resources management

Project successes

Livestock production

Following the Ebola outbreak in 2014, the IAEA provided Sierra Leone with assistance to develop the necessary human resources to improve the early diagnosis of highly infectious diseases. Njala University established capacity to use rapid techniques such as reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction and enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay. The facility now provides regional training on sampling bats for surveys relating to emerging zoonotic diseases.

Additionally, Sierra Leone has enhanced its capacities in artificial insemination techniques to increase milk and meat production from cattle.

Radiotherapy and nuclear medicine

The IAEA is collaborating with Sierra Leone to establish the country's first radiotherapy facility at Kerry Town. The IAEA is supporting fellowship training for radiation oncologists, medical physicists and radiation therapy technologists. The facility will enhance Sierra Leone's capacity to address the high incidence of cancer cases, delivering essential services and expertise to further improve health outcomes.

Crop improvement

Collaborating with the Milton Margai College of Education and Technology and the Njala University College, the IAEA is helping Sierra Leone to develop new strains of rice and cassava with potential improvements in yields, nutritional values, and disease resistance. This initiative addresses nutritional needs and strengthens the agricultural sector in Sierra Leone for enhanced food production and security.

Participation in the major initiatives

- Rays of Hope
- ZODIAC

Date of imPACT Review(s)

2016



Alex Kanu, Director and surgeon at the China Friendship Hospital in Freetown with Joel Yarney, cancer treatment specialist and member of the 2016 imPACT Review team. (Photo: M. Andre/IAEA)

IAEA support received in the 21st century



Contributions to South-South and triangular cooperation

