



# IAEA

International Atomic Energy Agency

*Atoms for Peace*

September 2010

## ***Improving radiological emergency response in Africa***

### ***The challenge...***

Radiation emergencies can arise through accidental releases from nuclear facilities, radiological accidents or malevolent acts involving radioactive materials. A significant number of accidents have occurred which have resulted in severe radiation injuries to exposed individuals or communities. Experience gained from the implementation of previous IAEA projects in Africa has revealed the need to establish or upgrade national systems for preparedness and response to nuclear and radiological emergencies in most African Member States, in compliance with IAEA requirements and other international standards.

### ***The project...***

This project assisted 14 Member States in the African region to develop a coordinated national system for preparedness and response to radiological and/or nuclear emergencies and to harmonize national abilities consistent with IAEA and other international standards. The IAEA strengthened capacity building through national training courses and workshops, fellowships, scientific visits and regional group activities. The project also provided expert assistance, training materials, IAEA publications and essential standard equipment to assist with the improvement of the national systems. Over 10 training courses were organized throughout the region including training on medical preparedness and response to a radiological emergency, as well as requirements and guidance on developing a national capacity for response.



*Training on emergency planning and preparedness for first responders in Ghana.*

### ***The impact...***

As a result of the project, emergency response arrangements are in place in all participating Member States, and national capabilities for developing a sustainable national infrastructure for emergency preparedness and response have been established. The project has enabled developing countries to protect the health, safety and security of workers and the general public in case of a radiological or nuclear emergency. The need to divert resources from other essential development projects in order to deal with the consequence of radiological accidents or incidents has been reduced by effectively dealing with such events at the initial stages.

*Technical cooperation project RAF/9/034: Establishment of National Capabilities for Response to a Radiological and Nuclear Emergency*