



IAEA

International Atomic Energy Agency

Atoms for Peace

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Establishing a nuclear medicine centre in Sana'a, Yemen

The challenge...

The Al-Thawra Modern General Hospital, the biggest public hospital in the country, is situated in the capital of Sana'a, which has a population of 2.5 million. The hospital has more than 16 departments, including radiology and biology departments, with facilities that include a computed tomography scanner, a cardiac angiography unit and conventional radiology and ultrasound. The Yemeni Ministry of Health committed itself to establishing the first Nuclear Medicine Centre at Al-Thawra Hospital and construction work started in 2003.

Yemen has a population of about 23 million and some 2000 new cancer cases are diagnosed each year.

The project...

The project aimed to assist with the establishment of the necessary infrastructure for the country's first nuclear medicine centre. The first IAEA expert visit to the hospital took place in 2004 to assess the situation and to provide advice on establishing a nuclear medicine service.

The IAEA assisted with building the necessary human capacity, training staff and providing essential equipment, such as a double-head gamma camera. The Nuclear Medicine Centre at Al-Thawra Hospital was opened early 2008 and was fully operational by July 2008.

The impact...

- The centre is now able to provide services to many of the 23 000 patients per year requiring cancer, renal and cardiology diagnosis.
- The centre serves as a national training centre in Yemen.
- Further technical cooperation assistance will be provided through project YEM/6/009, which will strengthen the centre with the addition of at least two gamma cameras so that it can serve more patients and receive local trainees.



Diagnosis with a double-head gamma camera at the Nuclear Medicine Centre in Al-Thawra Modern General Hospital, Sana'a.



A training session at the Nuclear Medicine Centre.