
Management of Technical Cooperation for Development

Objective

To enhance the relevance, socioeconomic impact and efficiency of technical cooperation support to Member States by planning and implementing a needs based, responsive and sustainable technical cooperation programme (TCP), and by seeking continuously increasing effectiveness.

The Technical Cooperation Programme

The technical cooperation programme is the Agency's major vehicle for transferring nuclear technology to Member States. The programme builds capacities to support the peaceful application of nuclear science and technology, helping Member States to address key development priorities in areas such as health and nutrition, food and agriculture, water and the environment, industrial applications, and nuclear knowledge development and management. The technical cooperation programme also helps Member States to identify and meet future energy needs, and assists in improving radiation safety worldwide, including through the provision of legislative assistance. The programme aims to achieve tangible socioeconomic impact by contributing directly in a cost effective manner to the achievement of the major sustainable development priorities of each country, including relevant nationally identified targets under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The technical cooperation programme also facilitates regional and interregional cooperation among Member States and partners.

Country Programme Frameworks and Revised Supplementary Agreements

Country Programme Frameworks (CPF) provide a frame of reference for technical cooperation between a Member State and the Agency. They define mutually agreed development needs and priorities that can be supported through technical cooperation programming.

The Agency continued to strengthen the role of the CPF as the main strategic planning tool for the development of national technical cooperation programmes for Member States. Efforts to strengthen the connection between technical cooperation activities and the larger development context also continued. A number of recently developed CPFs have already identified linkages, as appropriate, between national technical cooperation activities and the SDGs.

In 2016, 20 CPFs were signed by Member States – Burkina Faso, Burundi, China, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Estonia, Ghana, Malawi, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Niger, Oman, Poland,

Qatar, Senegal, Seychelles, Singapore, Uzbekistan and Zambia. There were, in total, 91 valid CPFs by the end of the year.

Revised Supplementary Agreements Concerning the Provision of Technical Assistance by the International Atomic Energy Agency (RSAs) govern the provision of technical assistance by the Agency. Seven Member States signed an RSA in 2016. As of 31 December 2016, 132 Member States had signed an RSA.

United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks

The United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) is a structure for coordinating United Nations system actions in support of national development goals. In 2016, the Agency continued to focus on greater involvement in the development and implementation of UNDAFs in relevant countries. This process has enabled the Agency to raise awareness about its work and facilitated access to the main national development coordination and planning bodies. In addition, it has assisted in coordination and collaboration with United Nations and other partners.

In 2016, the Agency co-signed a total of ten UNDAFs — for Albania, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Georgia, Honduras, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Montenegro, Tajikistan and the United Republic of Tanzania. The Agency is currently a co-signatory of 45 valid UNDAFs.

Partnership Agreements and Practical Arrangements

The Agency signed a new Delegation Agreement with the European Commission in 2016. The new agreement focuses on support for Member States in the area of radiation and nuclear safety. The Agency also signed a cooperation agreement with the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) to support the coordination of joint energy planning capacity building and training.

In 2016, the Agency signed two Practical Arrangements for cooperation on the IAEA Curricula for Nuclear Medicine Professionals, with the Osaka University Graduate School of Medicine and Osaka University Hospital, Japan, and with the Dubai Health Authority, Dubai Hospital, United Arab Emirates. Under Practical Arrangements signed with the Agency, the General Council of Official Medical Associations of Spain and the Foundation for International Cooperation of Spanish Medical Associations provided expertise to regional projects in Latin America on radiotherapy during the year.

The Agency also signed Practical Arrangements with the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation and the Islamic Development Bank on Cooperation in the Area of Comprehensive Cancer Control in Common Member States. The Arrangements set out a framework for non-exclusive cooperation to support the efforts of common Member States in the area of comprehensive cancer control through the technical cooperation programme, and in particular through the Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy (PACT).

Managing the Agency’s Technical Cooperation Programme

Member State priorities in 2016, as reflected in programme disbursements, were health and nutrition, safety, and food and agriculture (Fig. 1), with some variations in emphasis across regions. By the end of the year, 914 projects were active. During the course of the year, 417 projects were closed, of which 4 were cancelled in consultation with the relevant Member States, and an additional 450 projects were in the process of being closed. Nine national Programme Reserve projects were implemented, in Costa Rica, El Salvador,

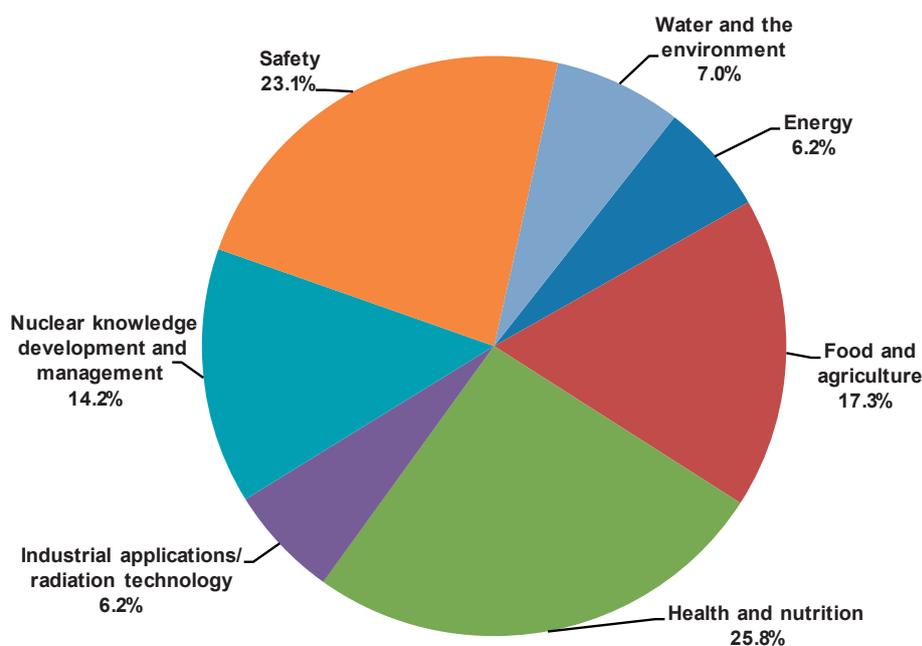


FIG. 1. Actuals by technical field for 2016. (Percentages do not add up to 100% owing to rounding.)

Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Marshall Islands, Nicaragua, Panama and Swaziland, and two regional projects were implemented in the Latin America and the Caribbean region.

Financial Highlights

Payments against the 2016 Technical Cooperation Fund (TCF) totalled €78.5 million (not including National Participation Costs (NPCs) and assessed programme cost (APC) arrears), against the target of €84.5 million, with the rate of attainment on payments at the end of 2016 standing at 92.9% (Fig. 2). The use of these resources resulted in a TCF implementation rate of 84.6%.

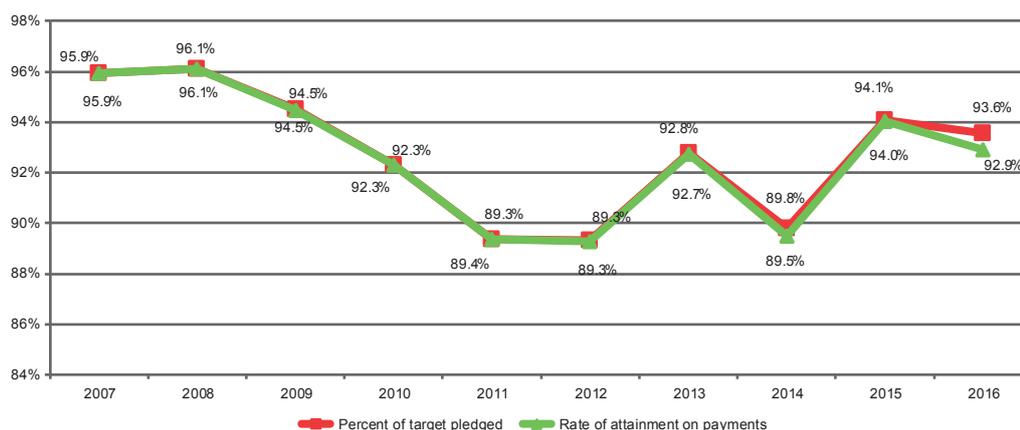


FIG. 2. Trends in the rate of attainment, 2007–2016.

Improving the Quality of the Technical Cooperation Programme

The Agency provided support to Member States throughout 2016 to further improve the quality of project designs developed for the 2018–2019 technical cooperation cycle. It organized around 30 workshops, training events and programme briefings for more than



FIG. 3. Participants in a workshop on the logical framework approach, April 2016.

600 individual technical cooperation stakeholders, including project counterparts, National Liaison Officers, Programme Management Officers and Technical Officers. These events were held both in-house and in Member States, and were tailored to the specific needs of the audience. Participants were provided with instructions and support on using the logical framework approach (LFA) to design new projects (Fig. 3), as well as on using monitoring and evaluation tools for ongoing projects.

The Agency revised and updated all relevant guidance documents relating to quality assurance of the technical cooperation programme, including the TC Programme Quality Criteria and the TC Programme Planning and Design Glossary. These documents, together with a new checklist, will help project teams to meet the quality requirements for the project document, to apply the LFA and to plan project work. The revised documents were made available to Member States and the Secretariat on the Programme Cycle Management Framework (PCMF) Reference Desk.

In November, the Agency conducted the first assessment of the quality of draft project designs prepared for the 2018–2019 technical cooperation cycle. Constructive feedback on the project documents with regard to their compliance with the TC Programme Quality Criteria and the Guidelines for the Planning and Design of the IAEA 2018–2019 Technical Cooperation Programme was provided to Member States.

Monitoring and Evaluating Technical Cooperation Projects

A pilot version of an electronic monitoring and reporting system for technical cooperation projects incorporating Project Progress Assessment Reports (PPARs) and project achievement reports was released in December, to be used for the 2016 reporting of all active technical cooperation projects. This new system will enable quicker and more relevant reporting for Member States, and will significantly facilitate the aggregation and interpretation of PPAR data for informed decision making.

Partnerships and Cooperation with the United Nations System and Other International Organizations

In the Latin America and the Caribbean region, the Agency partnered with the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) on soil erosion to highlight how isotopic techniques can provide evidence for use in combating desertification and adapting to climate change. The Agency took part in the 15th session of the Committee for the

Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC 15) of UNCCD in Nairobi, Kenya, in November.

Also in 2016, the Agency, together with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), hosted a meeting of the European Regional Directors of United Nations agencies for the first time. The meeting contributed to strengthened collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the World Health Organization (WHO) and others.

Regional Agreements and Programming

Agency collaboration with regional agreement groups and other Member State groups supports stronger regional technical cooperation programmes that are focused on priorities identified at the regional level.

The African Regional Co-operative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology (AFRA) continued to be the principal framework for promoting technical cooperation among developing countries in Africa and for enhancing regional cooperation among its 41 Governments Parties.

In July, Egypt hosted the 27th AFRA Technical Working Group Meeting in Sharm El Sheikh. The meeting participants reviewed and adopted concrete measures and actions to further enhance the implementation of AFRA regional projects and the management of its cooperative activities.

During the 60th regular session of the Agency's General Conference, the Agency held a Panel Discussion on the Deliverables and Effectiveness of the Technical Cooperation Programme in Africa. The panellists discussed the progress and results achieved with the assistance of the technical cooperation programme in Africa over the past decade. They focused particularly on capacity building and the programme's contributions to human health, water resource management, industrial applications and human resource development.

The 26th Meeting of Representatives of AFRA also took place during the 60th General Conference. Participants adopted the AFRA Annual Report 2015, the updated AFRA guidelines and indicators for the sustainability of nuclear institutions and the Charter of the Regional African Network of National Nuclear Institutions (RENANNI). The meeting also adopted the Regional Strategy to enhance the sustainability of nuclear medicine in Africa, 2016–2030.

In 2016, the total contribution of AFRA Governments Parties to the AFRA Fund was €841 376, of which €741 376 was allocated to technical cooperation projects, demonstrating the Parties' continued commitment to the technical cooperation programme. The remaining €100 000 was transferred to the Renovation of the Nuclear Applications Laboratories (ReNuAL) project, in support of the construction of the new laboratories at Seibersdorf.

In November, the Agency issued the first IAEA Brief, *Enhancing Patient Care in Africa through Safe Medical Imaging* (IAEA Brief 2016/1), highlighting the importance of having well qualified medical physicists in Africa to handle high-technology medical imaging.

In the Asia and the Pacific region, the Board of Representatives of the Co-operative Agreement for Arab States in Asia for Research, Development and Training related to Nuclear Science and Technology (ARASIA) identified and endorsed modalities and criteria for designating ARASIA regional resource centres.

In 2016, the national representatives of the Regional Co-operative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology (RCA) for the Asia and the Pacific region endorsed an amended text of the Agreement, which is expected to enter into force in June 2017.

National Liaison Officers and national representatives from the Asia and the Pacific region met in Vienna in February to discuss challenges, opportunities and the way forward for the regional programme. The Regional Programme Framework for 2018–2028, a working document, was developed and endorsed during the February meeting and will guide the programming of non-RCA regional projects in the Asia and the Pacific region over the next ten years.

The Agency facilitated the establishment of regional networks for transport safety for the region of Asia and the Pacific through a regional project that aims at strengthening an effective compliance assurance regime for the transport of radioactive material. It also supported tailored regional projects in the field of emergency preparedness and response for various country groupings in the region.

Targeted human capacity building in the Asia and the Pacific region in 2016 contributed to a more cost effective and better coordinated capacity building process. Sri Lanka, for example, hosted two activities, on non-destructive testing and animal production; the Philippines accommodated a group fellowship activity on isotope hydrology; and an activity on plant mutation took place in Indonesia. In addition, new IAEA Curricula for Nuclear Medicine Professionals (ICNMP) were developed to support continued medical education for nuclear medicine professionals, enabling them to perform their duties competently, professionally and safely.

Work began in 2016 on updating the Europe Regional Profile, which is the main reference document and planning tool for regional technical cooperation projects. The new profile reflects the main priority thematic areas — human health; radioactive waste management and environment restoration; nuclear power; and nuclear and radiation safety — and identifies linkages with the SDGs.

In the Latin America and the Caribbean region, the Regional Co-operation Agreement for the Promotion of Nuclear Science and Technology in Latin America and the Caribbean (ARCAL) continued to contribute to sustainable development in the region, encouraging cooperation among countries and promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology to address the priorities and needs of the region. In 2016, ARCAL and the Agency worked together to strengthen the monitoring and evaluation process for technical cooperation projects. A guide was finalized to provide a methodology to enhance the implementation of regional projects and their connection to the ARCAL Regional Strategic Profile for Latin America and the Caribbean. The implementation of this methodology will provide input for future regional projects, improving the management of the Agency's regional technical cooperation programme and increasing the impact of nuclear technology in the Latin America and the Caribbean region.

During the 60th regular session of the Agency's General Conference, a meeting between the four Regional and Cooperative Agreements — AFRA, ARASIA, ARCAL and RCA — took place under the chairmanship of ARCAL. The meeting participants agreed to develop a plan of action to operationalize collaboration modalities between the Agreements, as defined in a concept paper establishing a Quadripartite Forum. The Agency supports these efforts, to facilitate the sharing of information, best practices and experience, and to explore common areas of inter-Agreement collaboration.

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Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy (PACT)

The Agency continued to support low and middle income countries throughout 2016 to integrate radiation medicine in comprehensive national cancer control strategies in a sustainable manner. It participated in several high level international events on cancer, highlighting its role in the global fight against the disease.

In addition, the Agency facilitated the formulation of the Istanbul Declaration issued at the Special Session on First Ladies' Leadership on Cancer Control held in the margins of the

13th Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Summit in Turkey. The Declaration affirms the First Ladies' commitment to promote cancer awareness and advocacy programmes, and to advocate for the prioritization of cancer prevention and control in health agendas at both national and international level through a multi-sectoral approach.

The Agency conducted integrated missions of PACT (imPACT) reviews to eight Member States (Belarus, Belize, Honduras, Kenya, Kazakhstan, Liberia, Paraguay and Sierra Leone), providing recommendations on strengthening national cancer control services. Specifically, these recommendations support evidence based decision making and help Member States to prioritize interventions and investments for comprehensive cancer control programmes.

In Myanmar and El Salvador, the Agency, together with the International Agency for Research on Cancer and WHO, convened national workshops to prioritize and cost cancer control interventions.

The Agency continued to seek support from Member States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as the private sector for the Agency's cancer control activities. Extrabudgetary contributions of €1 591 281 were received from Agency Member States and partners.

Outreach and Communication

Outreach to Member States, current and potential partners, donors and the international development community continues to be an important focus for the Agency. Exhibitions focusing on technical cooperation activities were organized at the European Development Days, the Asian Development Bank's international Food Security Forum and the sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD VI), among others. At the 60th regular session of the Agency's General Conference, six side events showcased outputs of technical cooperation projects such as the pilot initiative to introduce nuclear science and technology in secondary schools in the Asia and the Pacific region, developed through a project entitled 'Supporting Sustainability and Networking of National Nuclear Institutions in Asia and the Pacific Region'.

The Agency held the annual Seminar on Technical Cooperation for Diplomats in Vienna in October, attended by 40 participants. The seminar is designed to provide Permanent Missions with a comprehensive overview of the technical cooperation programme.

Throughout the year, the Agency posted targeted outreach material of relevance to specific United Nations international days — including World Cancer Day, World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought, and World Health Day — using social media and the web to promote relevant technical cooperation activities.

The technical cooperation web site was updated with 72 web articles, 6 photo essays and 18 videos during 2016, and now has some 8500 visitors a month. In 2016, the site received over 102 000 visits. With the Agency's move to a new web content system, content on the technical cooperation web site was assimilated into many more pages of the Agency's main web site, enhancing programme visibility.

More than 770 tweets were sent out from the @IAEATC Twitter account, which now has over 3000 followers. The LinkedIn TC Alumni Group now has over 1600 members.

Legislative Assistance

In 2016, the Agency continued to provide legislative assistance to its Member States through the technical cooperation programme. Country specific bilateral legislative assistance was provided to 19 Member States by way of written comments and advice on drafting national nuclear legislation. The Agency also reviewed the legal frameworks of newcomer countries as part of Integrated Nuclear Infrastructure Review missions. Short

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term scientific visits to Agency Headquarters were organized for a number of individuals, allowing fellows to gain further practical experience in nuclear law.

The Agency organized the sixth session of the Nuclear Law Institute in Baden, Austria, from 10 to 21 October 2016. The comprehensive two week course, which uses teaching methods based on interaction and practice, is designed to meet the increasing demand by Member States for legislative assistance and to enable participants to acquire a solid understanding of all aspects of nuclear law, as well as to draft, amend or review their national nuclear legislation. Fifty-eight participants from Member States attended the training.

Two subregional workshops on nuclear law were conducted for Member States of the Asia and the Pacific region in Singapore (13–17 June) and in Amman, Jordan (12–15 December). Seventy participants from 27 Member States attended these workshops. National workshops on nuclear law were also organized in Cambodia, Namibia, Nepal, Palau and Panama. The workshops addressed all aspects of nuclear law and created a forum for an exchange of views on topics relating to the international legal instruments.

Treaty Event

The Agency's sixth Treaty Event took place during the 60th regular session of the General Conference. The event provided Member States with a further opportunity to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance or approval of, or accession to, the treaties deposited with the Director General, notably those related to nuclear safety, security and civil liability for nuclear damage. The special focus of this year's Treaty Event was again the 2005 Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material. Representatives from several Member States were also briefed on the conventions adopted under Agency auspices.