

El Salvador

IAEA Member State since November 1957

Selected achievements

2023: Rosales National Hospital installs a new gamma camera donated by the IAEA in its newly remodelled Nuclear Medicine department, improving the country's nuclear medicine capacities.

2022: The Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources enhances its capacity for isotopic analysis by commissioning a laser spectrometer for the national water laboratory.



In the Gulf of Fonseca off the coast of El Salvador, an IAEA-trained researcher uses radiotracers to analyse the origin, content and route of marine pollution. (Photo: IAEA)

National priorities

- Radiation safety
- Food and agriculture
- Human health and nutrition
- Water and the environment
- Energy

Main areas of IAEA support

- Nuclear medicine and radiotherapy services for safe cancer care
- Radiation safety
- Use of isotopic techniques for sustainable water resource management
- Control of brucellosis
- Elaboration of integrated wetlands management plans addressing eutrophication and trace element contamination

Project successes

Water and the environment

Since 2007, the IAEA has been supporting El Salvador's Laboratory of Marine Toxins (LABTOX-UES) to build the capacity needed to apply nuclear and isotope techniques for the rapid and effective identification of biotoxins in seafood and the environment.

The laboratory became fully operational in 2011 and has since been detecting saxitoxins and helping to avert human sickness. An ongoing monitoring programme analyses samples from the coastal environment, ensuring that no human deaths occurred as the result of 11 known HAB (harmful algal bloom) events in the past 10 years.

LABTOX-UES has received national awards from the Ministry of Education on two occasions, in 2014 and 2019, for their research and for the timely and effective provision of technical data to governmental authorities.

In addition, the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources has been building capacity to conduct studies in isotopic hydrology, helping inform decisions for national water resource management.

Radiation protection

The IAEA has been supporting the Radiological Protection Directorate of the Ministry of Health which is the national regulatory authority for radiological protection, safety and security.

This has helped strengthen the legal and regulatory framework of radiation protection regulations and safety standards and the implementation of the National Radiation Safety Policy. The IAEA also provided radiation protection equipment and training, which increased the skills of radiation protection inspectors.

This safety system is complemented by radiation protection services provided by the Centre for Nuclear Research and Application (CIAN) at the University of El Salvador.

Following a more than 20 year collaboration with the IAEA, CIAN now offers specialized services in radiation protection, quality control, and analytical testing to partners in healthcare and industry, regulatory bodies, and institutions working for the environment and in agriculture.

Human health

El Salvador has strengthened its capacity to provide quality radiation medicine services to its population.

IAEA experts helped the National Center for Radiotherapy deliver improved radiotherapy and brachytherapy services.

The Rosales National Hospital made significant advancements in the past five years,

including remodelling its nuclear medicine area to install a new gamma camera.

The IAEA not only provided equipment but also trained nurses, medical staff and radiation protection officers to ensure safe and high-quality nuclear medicine services.

A 2023 imPACT Review, conducted jointly with the Ministry of Health, provided detailed recommendations to improve cancer management in all areas of cancer control.

Participation in the major initiatives

- NUTEC Plastics
- Rays of Hope
- ZODIAC

Date of imPACT Review(s)

2023, 2015, 2010

IAEA support received in the 21st century



Contributions to South-South and triangular cooperation

