

Supporting capacity building of Iraq's Radiation Protection Centre on Radioactive Waste Management

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Background

Following decades of military operations, looting and lack of upkeep, the Al-Tuwaitha Nuclear Site -located southeast of Baghdad- has become a **major health hazard for the Iraqi people**. Aiming to support the country's efforts to collect and dispose safely of its nuclear waste, the Iraq Nuclear Decommissioning Project was launched in 2006. It followed a request from the Iraqi Government to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The programme aims to assist Iraq in **planning and decommissioning nuclear facilities affected areas, managing radioactive waste, treating contaminated sites, and formulating relevant legal and regulatory frameworks**. In 2009, the European Union launched a coordinated effort to contribute to this programme.

In 2022, the **EU Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation (INSC)** launched the second phase of a project seeking to support Iraq's authorities in **strengthening their capacities on nuclear waste management** to achieve a level of efficiency consistent with **international standards, European best practices, and IAEA recommendations**.



DURATION

36 months
(2022 - 2025)



BUDGET

€1.86 million financed
by the European
Commission's INSC
and France



IMPLEMENTERS

Expertise France,
Andra, IRSN



PARTNER



Radiation Protection
Centre - Iraqi Ministry
of Environment

Objectives

Main objective: To support the Iraqi's Radiation Protection Centre to refine its procedures, develop a comprehensive waste management plan, and foster a safety-oriented culture.

- To improve infrastructure rules related to radioactive waste disposal facilities.
- To strengthen the license management (of disposal facilities).
- To improve regulation and monitoring in the field of nuclear safety, focusing on radiation protection in management, decommissioning and clean-up of radioactive waste.

Work Packages

-  **Task 1:** Training in the subject of site licensing application.
-  **Task 2:** Evaluation of input data robustness of radioactive waste inventory, characterisation methods and acceptance criteria development.
-  **Task 3:** Regulatory standard operating procedure for authorisation and inspection of decommissioning, remediation, radioactive waste treatment, storage and disposal facilities.
-  **Task 4:** Development of the inspection programme and support to the medium to long term vision on waste decided by the Iraqi authorities.
-  **Task 5:** Development of safety guides and a standard operating procedure for regulatory review and assessment of the authorisation document of nuclear installations.
-  **Task 6:** Development 'Quality assurance and quality control programme' for ALPHA spectroscopy in the nuclear analytical laboratory at RPC laboratory.



About the RPC



Embedded within the Iraqi Ministry of Environment, the Radiation Protection Centre serves as one of Iraq's regulatory authorities, overseeing all ionising radiation sources as per the Ionizing Radiation Law No. 99 of 1980.

Its responsibilities include regulatory control of radiation sources, inspection, worker protection, and authorisation of relevant facilities and activities.

The RPC aims to build and sustain national competence in regulating nuclear and radiation activities aligned with IAEA standards, ensuring high safety levels for workers, the public, and the environment in a risk-proportionate manner.

Implementing partners



As the second largest agency in Europe, Expertise France designs and implements projects that sustainably strengthen public policies in developing and emerging countries.



Set up in 2002, the Institute for Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety is the French public expert in research on and expertise of nuclear and radiation risks.



The French National Agency for Radioactive Waste Management is responsible for identifying, implementing and guaranteeing safe management solutions for all French radioactive waste.

