

## IAEA Response Assistance Network

## Incident and Emergency Centre

DATE EFFECTIVE: 1 MAY 2006





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This publication has been prepared by the:

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## Foreword

The Parties to the Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency (the Assistance Convention) have undertaken to cooperate between themselves and with the IAEA to facilitate the prompt provision of assistance in the case of a nuclear accident or radiological emergency, in order to mitigate its consequences.

In September 2000 the General Conference of the IAEA in resolution GC(44)/RES/16: "encouraged Member States to implement instruments for improving their response, in particular their contribution to international response, to nuclear or radiological emergencies as well as to participate actively in the process of strengthening international, national and regional capabilities for responding to nuclear or radiological emergencies and to make those capabilities more consistent and coherent."

The Secretariat, as part of the IAEA's strategy for supporting the practical implementation of the Assistance Convention, established in 2000 a global Emergency Response Network (ERNET) of teams suitably qualified to respond rapidly and, in principal, on a regional basis, to nuclear or radiological emergencies. The Secretariat published the IAEA Emergency Response Network, ERNET, EPR-ERNET in 2000, which set out the criteria and requirements to be met by members of the network. An updated edition was published in 2002.

The Second Meeting of Competent Authorities identified under the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident and the Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency, held in Vienna in June 2003, recommended that the Secretariat of the IAEA convene a Technical Meeting to formulate recommendations on steps to be taken to overcome problems in the network participation. Participants of a Technical Meeting held in March 2004 developed a new concept for the network and a completely new draft of the report.

At the IAEA Board of Governors meeting held in June 2004, an international Action Plan, GOV/2004/40 (Corrected), was approved for strengthening the international preparedness and response system for nuclear and radiological emergencies. Action B.7 of that action plan is to review and develop the assistance network concept, with the aim of having enhanced arrangements necessary to ensure the efficient, effective and safe implementation of IAEA brokered assistance through the network concept of registering, in advance of an emergency, qualified capabilities to provide certain types of assistance through the IAEA should the need arise. The present revision of the report is seen as a major step that will contribute to completion of Action B.7.

In February 2005, the Director General of the IAEA approved the establishment of the Incident and Emergency Centre (IEC) to serve as the Agency's focal point for responding to nuclear or radiological incidents and emergencies. It will, inter alia, provide for an integrated system through which States, their competent authorities, international organizations, technical experts and the Secretariat can effectively coordinate the provision of assistance for response to incidents or emergencies. The new report has been worded on the assumption that it can be used to provide assistance to incidents as well as emergencies.

In July 2005, the Third Meeting of Competent Authorities identified under the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident and the Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency accepted the new draft of the assistance as resolving the critical issues that had been hindering participation.

This resulting publication is, therefore, the third edition of the main assistance network document. It is a complete revision of the previous edition either with all relevant sections updated, withdrawn or replaced with new material to reflect a new operational and broader concept for the network and to better meet competent authorities'

expectations. To reflect the new concept of the network it was also decided to rename the network to: **Response** Assistance Network (RANET).

The publication is worded on the assumption that a State's Competent Authority designated as the body responsible for responding to nuclear or radiological emergencies that occur outside the jurisdiction of their own State, the Competent Authority (Abroad), CA(A), will 1) additionally be responsible for receiving and acting on requests for assistance in the case of a nuclear or radiological incident, and 2), if party to the Assistance Convention, be the State's competent authority authorised to make and receive requests for and to accept offers of assistance under the Convention in the event of a nuclear accident or radiological emergency.

In September 2004, the General Conference in resolution GC(48)/RES/10 encouraged Member States to "put in place arrangements for effective response to requests made under the Assistance Convention and, within their respective capabilities, to make resources available for responding to such requests, and to consider joining the IAEA response network, ERNET". All States parties to the Assistance Convention are therefore invited to join the RANET to facilitate the prompt provision of assistance in the case of nuclear or radiological incidents or emergencies.

#### **EDITORIAL NOTE**

The views expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the governments of States that are IAEA Member States and/or Parties to the Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency, or of other relevant international intergovernmental organizations, or of the governments of other States.

Although great care has been taken to maintain the accuracy of information contained in this manual, neither the IAEA nor its Member States assume any responsibility for consequences that may arise from its use.

#### **NOTES FOR THE USER**

This publication enters into effect on 1 May 2006. It supersedes all previous versions of the EPR-ERNET publication. All copies of previous editions of EPR-ERNET should be removed from operational response systems and either archived or destroyed.

This edition contains major changes in the concept, organization and name of network as well as in the requirements for its membership. In addition, the structure of the EPR-ERNET (2002) edition was modified and appendices were removed. The network was also renamed. EPR-RANET (2006) has three attachments, which are issued separately: a) Attachment 1 – Assistance Action Plans; b) Attachment 2 – Registry and c) Attachment 3 – Technical Guidelines.

The IAEA's Incident and Emergency Centre is ready to provide any clarification on the implementation of the arrangements described here.

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## Section

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

#### 1.1. Objectives

This publication is intended to serve as a tool for supporting the provision of international assistance in the case of nuclear or radiological incident or emergency, cooperation between States, their Competent Authorities and the IAEA, and harmonization of response capabilities of States offering assistance.

#### 1.2. Scope

The publication is issued under the authority of the Director General of the IAEA:

(1) under the auspices of the Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency (the Assistance Convention) [1], to promote, facilitate and support cooperation between States Parties to coordinate and/or provide assistance to a State Party and/or Member State; and

(2) in the case of an incident or emergency, as statutory functions, to provide for the application of its safety standards, upon request by a Member State, and to act as an intermediary for the purposes of securing the performance of services or the supplying of materials, equipment or facilities by one Member State for another.

The publication sets out the following:

- a) the RANET concept and the organizational structure for providing assistance;
- **b)** functions, responsibilities and activities within the RANET;
- **c)** the RANET response operations and arrangements needed for preparedness; and
- **d)** the prerequisites for RANET membership and conditions of registration.

#### 1.3. Structure

The RANET is divided into four sections. After the introduction in Section 1, the RANET concept, objectives and scope are described in Section 2. Section 3 presents the concept of operations of the RANET and Section 4 describes expected tasks, capabilities and resources.

In addition, EPR-RANET (2006) has three supporting documents, which are issued separately, as follows:

- 1. Assistance Action Plans with samples of Assistance Action Plans for providing international assistance.
- 2. *Registry* with the details of the registry and instructions on how to register national assistance capabilities for the RANET.
- 3. *Technical Guidelines* with detailed technical characteristics suggested for assistance capabilities and resources.

#### 1.4. Definitions

Assistance Normally consists of a small group of qualified experts to address lesser nuclear Mission events providing advice, assessment, training, medical, monitoring or other specialized assistance. It can also be an evaluation, assessment or fact-finding mission. Assistance The individual appointed by the IAEA and/or by the relevant Competent **Mission Leader** Authority to head an Assistance Mission Assistance A plan for the provision of assistance, including all financial, diplomatic, **Action Plan** organizational and logistical aspects, formulated and proposed by the IAEA in coordination with the requesting State, Competent Authority(ies) providing assistance and relevant international organizations as appropriate. A contact point that is authorized to issue a notification, advisory<sup>1</sup> message, Competent Authority request for assistance or other emergency information as appropriate, and to reply to requests for information or assistance. A non-routine situation or event that necessitates prompt action, primarily to Emergency mitigate a hazard or adverse consequences for human health and safety/security, quality of life, property or the environment; it includes situations for which prompt action is warranted to mitigate the effects of a perceived hazard.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> As described in IAEA Emergency Notification and Assistance Technical Manual - ENATOM.

External Based Support	Technical advice and analytical expertise to address nuclear or radiological events provided from home offices or other offsite locations. This support is not deployed to the event scene.	
Field Assistance Team	A group of technically qualified and equipped personnel from a State Party that may be called upon to provide in situ assistance in a requesting State.	
Field Assistance Team Leader	The individual appointed by the relevant Competent Authority to head a Field Assistance Team.	
IAEA Field Response Team	A group of qualified and equipped IAEA personnel that may be deployed to provide in-situ assessment and assistance in a requested State.	
Incident	Any event or situations that may have actual or threaten radiological consequences to health, property or the environment, or that may be of concern to the media or public, and that could require timely action; any event that is not an emergency and requires a coordinated and timely response.	
Incident and Emergency Centre	Serves as a centre for management and coordination of the IAEA's response to nuclear or radiological incidents and emergencies. The Incident and Emergency Centre (IEC) is located at the IAEA's Headquarters in Vienna, Austria.	
Intercomparison exercise	Measurement campaign organized to check the quality of different monitoring teams or laboratories.	
Joint Assistance Team	A team composed of the IAEA Field Response Team and one or more Field Assistance Team(s).	
Joint Assistance Team Chairperson	A Chairperson, who is identified and agreed upon before deployment, heads the Joint Assistance Team Command. He/she manages the on-scene international assistance within the context of the RANET and coordinates its implementation with the requesting State.	
Joint Assistance Team Command	The coordinating body on scene composed of all Field Assistance Team leaders and the IAEA Field Response Team leader.	
National Assistance Capabilities Coordinator	An individual appointed by the CA(A) to coordinate assistance activities. He or she is the IEC's single official RANET contact in case assistance is requested.	
National Assistance Capability	A State's identified experts, equipment and materials that can be made available by a State's Competent Authority (Abroad) either by deployment to the event scene or from home offices or other offsite location.	
National Warning Point	A contact point that is staffed or able to be alerted at all times for promptly responding to, or initiating a response to, an incoming notification, advisory message, request for assistance or request for verification of a message as appropriate, from the IAEA.	
Orphan source	A radioactive source that is not under regulatory control, either because it has never been under regulatory control, or because it has been abandoned, lost,	

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misplaced, stolen or transferred without proper authorization.

- **Qualified expert** An individual who, by virtue of certification by appropriate boards or societies, professional licences or academic qualifications and experience, is duly recognized as having expertise in a relevant field of specialization, e.g. medical physics, radiation protection, occupational health, fire safety, quality assurance or an engineering or safety speciality.
- QualityPlanned and systematic actions necessary to provide adequate confidence that anassuranceitem, process or service will satisfy given requirements for quality.

#### 1.5. Abbreviations

Competent Authority

- **CONVEX** A regime of emergency exercises organized by the IAEA in co-operation with Member States to verify the arrangements for responding under the Early Notification and/or Assistance Conventions.
- **ENATOM** IAEA Emergency Notification and Assistance Technical Operations Manual
- **EPR** According to context, Electron Paramagnetic Resonance or the IAEA's Emergency Preparedness and Response series of publications, of which this report is one.
- **ERNET** IAEA Event Response Network
- FAT Field Assistance Team
- FRT IAEA Field Response Team
- IAEA International Atomic Energy Agency
- ICRP International Commission on Radiological Protection
- IEC IAEA's Incident and Emergency Centre
- **RANET** IAEA Response Assistance Network
- JAT Joint Assistance Team
- NAC National Assistance Capabilities
- **CA(A)** Competent Authority for an emergency abroad
- NWP National Warning Point
- **REMPAN** Radiological Emergency Medical Preparedness and Assistance Network of the World Health Organization



## 2. RESPONSE ASSISTANCE NETWORK

#### 2.1. Background

The current international framework for response to a nuclear accident or radiological emergency includes but is not limited to the following:

- Statute of the International Atomic Energy Agency
- The Early Notification and Assistance Conventions [1];
- 'International Basic Safety Standards' [2];
- IAEA Safety Requirements GS-R-2 [3];
- IAEA Safety publications on emergency preparedness and response [4–17];
- IAEA Emergency Notification and Assistance Technical Operations Manual – ENATOM [18];
- Joint Radiation Emergency Management Plan of the international organizations – JPLAN [19]; and
- Relevant documents of other international organizations such as the World Health Organization [20], the World Meteorological Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs; and bilateral/multilateral agreements and arrangements.

Assistance provided in the past included:

• Provision, by the IAEA, of official information to requesting States about a nuclear or radiological emergency;

- Provision, by States and the IAEA, of technical advice on emergency planning, preparedness and response;
- Provision, by States and the IAEA, of means to facilitate the implementation of: a) radiological surveys; b) source recovery; and c) insitu verification of radiological conditions and the respective technical advice;
- Provision, by States and the IAEA, of medical advice and assistance in cases of a real or suspected radiation exposure.

In order to meet States Parties' obligations and the IAEA functions in relation to the Assistance Convention it has been recognised that appropriate mechanisms need to be organized. The Response Assistance Network (RANET) is intended, inter alia, to strengthen the worldwide capability to provide assistance and advice and/or to coordinate the provision of assistance as specified within the framework of this Convention including nuclear or radiological incidents.

#### 2.2. Objectives of RANET

The aim of RANET is to facilitate:

- The provision of requested international assistance;
- The harmonization of emergency assistance capabilities; and
- The relevant exchange of information and feedback of experience.

In addition, RANET complements other IAEA initiatives to promote emergency preparedness and response among its Member States in accordance with the Safety Requirements GS-R-2 [3].

#### 2.3. Concept of RANET

RANET is designed to provide a compatible and integrated system for the provision of international assistance to minimise the actual or potential radiological consequences of an incident or emergency for health<sup>2</sup>, environment and property.

RANET serves to facilitate response to specific requests for assistance in accordance with the Assistance Convention and also applies to nuclear and radiological incidents. However, it does not affect the co-operation arrangements defined in any bilateral and/or multilateral agreements between States.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The in-depth diagnosis, treatment, rehabilitation and follow-up of overexposed persons are addressed within the framework of the World Health Organization, which has established the network of collaborating centres for radiation emergency medical preparedness and assistance (REMPAN).

#### 2.4. Scope of RANET

RANET is a system for providing timely assistance in the following areas: advisory, assessment and evaluation, monitoring and recovery. These areas of assistance would be applied in nuclear accidents or radiological emergencies<sup>3</sup> in the context of the Early Notification and Assistance Conventions, in nuclear or radiological incidents<sup>4</sup>, and where the radiological consequences exceed a State's response capabilities.

#### 2.5. Responsibilities within RANET

#### 2.5.1. Requesting State

The requesting State, in accordance with Article 3 of the Assistance Convention, is responsible for the overall direction, support and supervision of any assistance within its territory. In addition, the requesting State is expected to:

- Identify and evaluate nuclear accidents and radiological emergencies or other nuclear or radiological events;
- Notify the IAEA's Incident and Emergency Centre (IEC) of an event that may have actual or potential radiological consequences for another State;
- Submit, if deemed appropriate, an official request for assistance to the IAEA;
- Participate in the development of the Assistance Action Plan for the requested assistance and accept the proposed Assistance Action Plan for implementation;
- Ensure that the implementation of the Assistance Action Plan will be conducted in a safe and secure manner; and
- Provide, as necessary, technical, financial, diplomatic, organizational, and logistical support as designated in the Assistance Action Plan for the requested assistance.

#### 2.5.2. Member States' Resources

Member States are expected, within the limits of their capabilities, to identify qualified experts, equipment, and materials that could be made available to assist another State in a nuclear or radiological incident or emergency. These experts, equipment, and materials comprise of the Member State's National Assistance Capabilities (NAC) that can be activated by a State's CA(A) to provide assistance either by deploying or from an external base.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Related to any nuclear reactor wherever it is located; any nuclear fuel cycle facility; any radioactive waste management facility; the transport and storage of nuclear fuels or radioactive wastes; the manufacture, use, storage, disposal and transport of radioisotopes for agricultural, industrial, medical and related scientific and research purposes; and the use of radioisotopes for power generation in space objects.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> For example, involving loss, unauthorized removal, misuse or abuse of radioactive/nuclear material; involving health effects and provision of medical care; involving spill or spread of radioactive material.

The CA(A) is expected to:

- Formally identify and maintain NAC resources to be included in the RANET;
- Provide periodic information on continued availability of NAC resources;
- Ensure that appropriately qualified staff are maintained for NAC resources;
- Inform the IEC of resources available for activation;
- Place NAC resources on standby, if requested;
- Participate in the development of the Assistance Action Plan including the identification of an Assistance Mission Leader and Joint Assistance Team Chairperson, as appropriate, in coordination with all parties;
- Provide on-scene and/or External Based Support assistance according to the Assistance Action Plan;
- Identify any terms, especially financial, for the provision of assistance;
- Ensure coordination with the requesting State, IEC, and any External Based Support;
- Demobilize NAC resources upon termination; and
- Participate, as appropriate, in IAEA meetings concerning the RANET.

Member States participating in RANET are expected to designate a NAC Coordinator. The NAC Coordinator is expected to ensure that these tasks are carried out as appropriate.

#### 2.5.3. The International Atomic Energy Agency

In the framework of the RANET the IAEA's IEC:

- Evaluates the situation and may deploy an IAEA Field Response Team (FRT) to the requesting State to further assess the emergency/event;
- Recommends activation of specific RANET capabilities, if appropriate;
- Alerts appropriate National Warning Points (NWP) and requests coordination with Member States' CA(A);
- Ensures development of an Assistance Action Plan including identification of an Assistance Mission Leader or Joint Assistance Team Chairperson, as appropriate, in coordination with all parties;
- Liaises with the requesting State to reach agreement on the Assistance Action Plan and coordinates any proposed changes;
- Establishes and maintains communications links with Joint Assistance Team Command;
- Provides financial, organizational and logistics support, as appropriate;
- Declares the official termination of assistance; and
- Establishes follow-up mechanisms if deemed appropriate.

Additionally, the IEC serves as the focal point for the following RANET preparedness activities:

• Performs official registration of the Member State's NAC;

- Maintains the RANET Registry;
- Biennially requests Member State's CA certification of continued NAC resource availability;
- Periodically provides information on RANET's status and activities.

These roles are more clearly delineated in the following sections.



## 3. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

The RANET consists of a network of Competent Authorities (CAs) that is capable and willing to provide, upon request, specialized assistance by appropriately trained, equipped and qualified personnel with the ability to respond in a timely and effective manner: to a) nuclear or radiological emergencies or b) other nuclear or radiological incidents.

#### 3.1. Operations

Whether an incident or emergency originates on a State's territory or other area under its jurisdiction or control, a State may, in accordance with provisions of the Assistance Convention, request assistance from the IAEA.

Upon receiving an official assistance request, the IAEA through its IEC becomes the focal point for the facilitation and coordination of international assistance. The IEC assesses the request and provides initial advice to the requesting State. The IEC may deploy an IAEA Field Response Team (FRT) to perform an initial evaluation of the situation and to recommend whether activation of RANET capabilities is necessary. RANET response will be then tailored to the specific situation e.g. it may include deployment of assets as well as provision of advice or assistance from an external base.

If the activation of NAC resources is recommended, the IEC will alert the appropriate NWPs and request coordination with appropriate CAs. The CAs will inform the IEC regarding the availability of their resources for assistance and, if required, the resources will be placed on standby. This concept is outlined in Figure 1.



Figure 1: Outline of the RANET concept. State sends request for assistance to the IEC (1). The IEC may deploy an IAEA Field Response Team (1a) to assess situation and needs (1b). If activation of RANET assets is deemed necessary the IEC alerts NWPs (2), which notify Competent Authorities (Abroad) (3). CA(A)s then coordinate provision of assistance with the IEC (4). The IEC proposes an Assistance Action Plan in consultation with participating CA(A)s and international organisations (4). Required assistance capabilities are utilized or deployed according to accepted Assistance Action Plan (5).

#### 3.2. Assistance Action Plan

An Assistance Action Plan for the requested assistance will be developed by the IEC in coordination with the requesting State, CAs providing assistance and other international organizations, as appropriate. This plan will specify the responses needed and whether they will be deployed and/or provided from an external base. The Assistance Action Plan should include all technical, financial, diplomatic, organizational and logistical aspects of the assistance to be provided. Templates for Assistance Action Plans are issued in Attachment 1 of this publication.

Upon acceptance of the Assistance Action Plan by the requesting State, the IEC will notify the assisting States' CAs and request activation of NAC resources. The

Assistance Action Plan should contain provisions for inclusion of other CA's NAC resources, if needed. Changes to the Assistance Action Plan must be coordinated with all parties before the changes are implemented.

#### 3.3. NAC activation

NAC activation could involve one or more of the following: an Assistance Mission, a Field Assistance Team (FAT) as part of the Joint Assistance Team (JAT) and/or an External Based Support. The type of assistance will be specified in the Assistance Action Plan. The following defines different types of capabilities that can be activated.

#### 3.3.1. Assistance Mission

The Assistance Mission consists of a group of qualified experts to address nuclear or radiological incidents providing advice, assessment, training, medical, monitoring or other specialized assistance. It can also be an evaluation, assessment, or fact-finding mission. The exact nature of the Assistance Mission will be specified in the Assistance Action Plan developed and agreed upon for that mission.

A team leader, who is identified and agreed upon before deployment, leads the Assistance Mission. The team leader is responsible for all on-scene assistance activities and ensures coordination with the requesting State, IEC and any External Based Support.

The concept of an Assistance Mission is outlined in Figure 2.



Figure 2: The concept of an Assistance Mission.

#### 3.3.2. Joint Assistance Team (JAT)

A Joint Assistance Team is normally requested to address more complex assistance. The exact nature of the JAT will be specified in the Assistance Action Plan developed and agreed upon for that mission. The JAT consists of IAEA Field Response Team and all deployed FAT(s).

A Joint Assistance Team Command, composed of all FAT leaders and an IAEA FRT leader, manages all on-scene JAT assistance and ensures coordination with the requesting State, IEC and External Based Support.

A Chairperson, who is identified and agreed upon before deployment, heads the JAT Command.

The concept of JAT is outlined in Figure 3.



Figure 3: The concept of the Joint Assistance Team.

#### 3.3.3. External Based Support

External Based Support is any support to an Assistance Mission, a JAT, IEC or to a requesting State. Such support can be expert advice on assessment, monitoring, analytical, and medical or other specialized emergency response function. This support is not deployed to the event scene but is provided from another location, such as the donor country offices.

#### 3.4. Field operational safety

The Assistance Mission leader or JAT Command should implement the activities set by the Assistance Action Plan. They are responsible to ensure that all activities are performed in a safe manner by following procedures, which at a minimum should meet appropriate IAEA safety standards. In an emergency response, priority will be placed on the safety of personnel and members of the public. Unsafe or possible unsafe conditions, operations and/or activities should not be conducted until JAT Command or the Assistance Mission leader have provided an acceptable, safe solution.

#### 3.5. Assistance termination

The requesting State or the assisting party may at any time, after appropriate consultations and by notification in writing, request termination of assistance received or provided under the Assistance Convention. Once such a request has been made, the parties involved should consult with each other to make arrangements for the proper conclusion of the assistance.

Termination of assistance could be through any of the following:

- 1. All Assistance Action Plan tasks are certified as completed by the parties.
- **2.** The requesting State may declare at any time the end of the requested IAEA assistance.
- 3. The IEC may declare at any time the end of assistance due to failure to resolve unsafe or unsecured conditions or practices, or the failure of the requesting State to comply with the Assistance Action Plan or JAT Command/NAC has completed all Assistance Action Plan items.
- 4. JAT Command/NAC considers individual Assistance Action Plan tasks completed. JAT Command can release certain assets as Assistance Action Plan tasks are completed.

Upon termination of assistance NAC resources will be demobilized. Partial demobilization of resources can occur as the individual Assistance Action Plan tasks are completed.

#### 3.6. Financial arrangements

The financial principles of the response operations to a nuclear or radiological emergency must be in accordance with Article 7 of the Assistance Convention, and it is expected that these principles will also be applied in response to incidents.

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Some financial support for RANET activities may be provided through the IAEA's regular budget or from other IAEA resources. The IAEA may cover the expenses for the initial mobilization and deployment of the Assistance Mission or Joint Assistance Team. If the IAEA cannot cover these initial expenses (for reasons of timing, for example), the CAs may cover the expenses, which may be reimbursed at a later stage.

It is expected that the State that is a member of RANET will provide financial support to maintain its national preparedness and response capabilities that may be available for any international assistance.

States are responsible for maintaining basic insurance for, or otherwise assume financial liability, for responders and equipment that they deploy. The IAEA assumes no liability for personnel or equipment.

# Section

## 4. NATIONAL ASSISTANCE CAPABILITIES

#### 4.1. Competencies of the NAC

To ensure an effective RANET, NAC resources of the States should be able to provide the following functional elements: advice, assessment and evaluation, monitoring and recovery.

The general tasks are:

- 1. To assess the current event;
- 2. To predict possible evolution of the radiological situation;
- 3. To provide technical advice as appropriate;
- 4. To initiate stabilization activities, including, where appropriate, source recovery;
- 5. To provide medical advice and/or consultation, medical assistance as necessary and advice on public health; and
- 6. To provide laboratory analysis, modelling and prognosis.

The following will support the performance of these tasks<sup>5</sup>.

#### 4.1.1. Aerial survey

- Functions
- To detect, locate and identify radioactive material or lost or orphan sources over a wide area; and/or
- To obtain information on ground contamination over a wide area.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> See Attachment 3 for specific technical guidelines on equipment and other resources.

Resources	An airborne detection system (radionuclide specific and/or dose rate) and a ground based capability for analysis and evaluation.
Expected output	Detection, location and identification of radioactive material(s) or lost or orphan radiation source(s) and/or measured data, such as ground contamination, dose rates and integrated doses that can be displayed on contour maps.
Mode of utilization	Deployed:The Field Assistance Team.External support:Analysis and evaluation (optional).
Application	Radiological survey over a wide area.
4.1.2.	Radiation monitoring
Functions	<ul> <li>To search for source(s) by ground survey;</li> <li>To search for source(s) by ground survey;</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>To monitor area(s) by ground survey;</li> <li>To detect, locate and demarcate contaminated area(s) or area(s) with elevated dose rates and to perform sampling if necessary;</li> <li>To identify a radionuclide;</li> <li>To measure dose rates by ground survey;</li> <li>To identify the need for immediate protective actions, if necessary; and</li> </ul>
	• To monitor personnel, equipment and other objects for external contamination.
Resources	Hand held radiation survey instruments and radionuclide identifiers and/or vehicle-borne dose rate and/or radionuclide identification survey system; sampling equipment.
Expected output	Detection, location and identification of lost or orphan radiation source(s) and/or measured data, such as ground contamination, dose rates and integrated doses that can be displayed on contour maps; detection and location of external contamination on persons, equipment and objects.
Mode of utilization	Deployed:The Field Assistance Team.External support:Survey evaluation (optional).
Application	Situations for which elevated levels of dose rate or contamination are suspected.
4.1.3.	Environmental measurements
Functions	<ul> <li>To identify and quantify specific radionuclides in the environment;</li> <li>To sample environmental media;</li> <li>To prepare samples for measurement; and</li> <li>To measure concentration of radionuclide(s) in samples.</li> </ul>

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Resources	In-situ gamma ray spectrometry system; laboratory spectrometry systems (possibly mobile); hand held radiation survey instruments; sampling (and sample preparation) equipment.	
Expected output	Identification of radionuclide composition and concentrations in various environmental samples.	
Mode of utilization	Deployed:The Field Assistance Team.External support:Laboratory analysis of samples and evaluation (optional).	
Application	Situation for which detailed analysis is needed of radionuclide composition and concentrations for ground contamination and/or environmental samples.	
4.1.4.	Source search/recovery	
Functions	<ul> <li>To develop a plan for searching for a source or sources;</li> <li>To conduct the search operation on the basis of the plan;</li> <li>To provide advice on source recovery, transportation and secure/safe storage; and</li> <li>To organize/conduct source recovery operations, if necessary.</li> </ul>	
Resources	Hand held radiation survey instruments; specialised tools for source handling.	
Expected output	Safety and security of source(s).	
Mode of utilization	Deployed:The Field Assistance Team.External support:Advice and planning for source search and recovery (optional).	
Application	Source(s) over which control has been lost.	
4.1.5.	Assessment and advice	
Functions	<ul> <li>To assess and evaluate radiological consequences of an incident or emergency;</li> <li>To assess possible evolutions of an incident or emergency; and</li> <li>To give recommendations on the following subjects: monitoring strategies; mitigatory actions; protection of workers; management of medical response; protection of public health including urgent protective actions, agricultural countermeasures, countermeasures against ingestion and longer term protective actions; public information; recovery operations and management of waste resulting from an event.</li> </ul>	
Resources	Plume dispersion models, dose assessment tools, data processing and presentation systems.	

Expected output	Assessment of radiological consequences of an event; prognosis of the evolution of an event; expert advice/recommendations in areas of competence.	
Mode of utilization	Deployed: External support:	The Field Assistance Team (optional). Developing recommendations, executing modelling tools and providing prognoses (optional).
Application	Nuclear or radiologic	cal incident or emergency.
4.1.6.	Medical support	
Functions	<ul> <li>To collect all inf</li> <li>To recommend</li> <li>To advise and/o</li> <li>To achieve speceration and</li> <li>To provide advise</li> <li>To provide speceration</li> <li>To recommend specialized center potential impact</li> </ul>	Formation needed for analysis of medical consequences; adequate analysis; or manage the collection of adequate samples (if required); ecialized radiopathology consultation including medical l interpretation of analysis; ce and recommend treatment, if necessary; ific drugs, if necessary, and and possibly coordinate the transfer of the patient(s) to a re(s) outside the requesting State, in consideration of the c on the patient's psychological status <sup>6</sup> (if required).
Resources	Medical instrumentat	tion and drugs as necessary.
Expected output	Adequate medical ca medical consequence	re for overexposed and/or contaminated patients; analysis of es.
Mode of utilization	Deployed: External support:	The Field Assistance Team to the event scene or the location of the patients (optional). Support in patients' treatment and/or advice; treatment of patients (optional).
Application	Cases of overexpose and cases in which in and symptoms of a internal contaminati injuries (radiation inju-	ure and/or contamination (externally and/or internally) medical care is needed for persons with: (1) clinical signs cute radiation syndrome, (2) external contamination, (3) on, (4) local radiation injuries, and/or (5) combined uries plus conventional injuries).
4.1.7.	Public health protec	ction
Functions	<ul><li>To provide advi of further radiat</li><li>To provide advi</li></ul>	ce and recommend actions if necessary for the prevention ion exposures to the population; and ce on public health actions.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> The written informed consent of the patient(s) is required prior to transferal to another country.

Resources		Well-qualified person	nel in public health issues.
Expected output		Advice and recomme (epidemiology).	endation on public health protection; public health follow-up
Mode of utilization		Deployed: External support:	The Field Assistance Team (optional). Advice and recommendations.
Application		Suspected or actual warranted.	exposure to radiation when public health actions may be
	4.1.8.	Biodosimetry	
Functions		<ul><li>To obtain and pr</li><li>To handle sampl</li><li>To conduct samp</li></ul>	repare appropriate samples (blood, bone or tooth enamel); es in a timely manner; and ble analysis and evaluation (data interpretation).
Resources		For cytogenetic-base preparation well-esta Electron Paramagneti	ed biodosimetry: cell culture facility; microscope slides ablished techniques; microscopes, reference curves; for c Resonance (EPR) biodosimetry: counting instrumentation.
Expected output		Dose estimates obt dosimetry; prepared specific patients.	ained through cytogenetic-based biodosimetry and EPR and archived biodosimetry samples cross-referenced to
Mode of utilization		Deployed: External support:	The Field Assistance Team (optional). Laboratory analysis, EPR dosimetry.
Application		Suspected or actual e dosimetry.	exposure to radiation requiring dose evaluation by biological
	4.1.9.	Internal dose assess	sment
Function		<ul> <li>To identify radio</li> <li>To assess the lev</li> <li>To estimate the r</li> <li>To interpret the appropriate mode</li> </ul>	nuclides giving rise to internal contamination; el and location of internal contamination; reduction of internal contamination by decorporation; and data in terms of committed effective dose and risks using els.
Resources		Whole body counter model(s) endorsed by	r(s), organ counter(s), wound counter(s); dose assessment the IAEA or the ICRP; individual retention functions.
Expected output		Assessments of comm	nitted effective dose and dose to critical organs.

Mode of utilization		Deployed: External support:	The Field Assistance Team (optional). Laboratory analysis, dose assessment.
		11	
Application		Internally contamin	nated individual(s).
	4.1.10.	Bioassay	
Function		<ul> <li>To identify and other biologica</li> <li>To interpret appropriate mo</li> <li>To interpret d of treatment and the second secon</li></ul>	d determine levels of specific radionuclides in excreta and in al materials such as nasal mucus, hair, blood; the data in terms of committed effective dose, using odels; and ata during decorporation treatment, evaluate the efficiency and to assess consequent committed doses.
Resources		Counting instrume model(s) endorsed	nts; hand held radiation survey instruments; dose assessment by the IAEA or the ICRP; individual retention functions.
Expected output		Assessed levels of committed effective	specific radionuclides in biological samples and estimates of e dose.
Mode of utilization		Deployed: External support:	The Field Assistance Team (optional). Analysis, advice, dose assessment (optional).
Application		Internally contamin	nated individual(s).
	4.1.11.	Histopathology	
Function		<ul> <li>To obtain the appropriate tissue samples through biopsy or autopsy procedures;</li> <li>To prepare samples for histopathological analysis; and</li> <li>To conduct analysis and evaluation of the samples.</li> </ul>	
Resources		Biopsy and/or auto	opsy instruments, histopathology laboratory
Expected output		Timely and detail radiopathological sa	ed radiopathological evaluation; prepared and archived amples cross-referenced to specific individuals.
Mode of utilization		Deployed: External support:	The Field Assistance Team (optional). Sample analysis and evaluation.
Application		Accidental exposur	e of individuals requiring radiopathological evaluation.

	4.1.12.	Dose reconstructi	ion
Function		<ul><li>To collect info</li><li>To conduct do</li></ul>	rmation needed for dose reconstruction; and se reconstruction with special attention to critical organs.
Resources		Dose assessment to	pol(s) and model(s).
Expected output		Estimates of external and internal dose by all exposure pathways and of dose distribution throughout the body and doses to critical organs.	
Mode of utilization		Deployed: External support:	The Field Assistance Team (optional). Dose reconstruction.
Application		Exposure of individ	lual(s).

#### 4.2. Guidelines for the NAC

Each CA(A) is responsible for ensuring that NAC responding personnel are qualified to perform the functions and duties they are assigned. The CA(A) is expected to ensure that responders are equipped with all items necessary for the efficient performance of emergency tasks in compliance with Attachment 3.

Responders must use appropriate methods and procedures for all emergency tasks, medical management and related activities within its competence, including monitoring, dose assessment, personnel protection, sampling, sample handling and preparation, estimation of uncertainty of measurements and analysis of results.

Where possible, methods selected should be consistent with IAEA publications [6–8].

#### 4.3. Training, drills and exercises

In addition to their national training, NAC members must be trained on and be aware of international guidelines and other aspects of international assistance and be prepared to respond.

Effective drills and exercises focusing on the international aspects of assistance should be developed and conducted as appropriate by the participating organizations of the NAC.

When possible and appropriate, participating organizations of NAC should participate in international exercises such as CONVEX or intercomparison exercises.

#### 4.4. Registration

#### 4.4.1. Prerequisites

The following are prerequisites for the RANET registration:

- **a)** The State or International Organisation must be a Party to the Assistance Convention.
- **b)** The State's Competent Authority (Abroad) must complete and submit the application for registration.

#### 4.4.2. Information needed for registration

Parties should provide the following information:

- a) Statement of endorsement by the State Competent Authority (Abroad);
- **b)** Information on resources and areas of expertise of the NAC. This may include a nominal list of generalized experience and equipment lists, a statement of ability, quality and timeline for deployment of FAT and activation of External Based Support.

The application for the registration should be sent to the IAEA through official channels.

#### 4.4.3. Registration update

If resources and areas of expertise undergo significant changes, the IAEA's IEC must be immediately notified.

Details of the RANET Registry and instructions how to register are presented in Attachment 2.

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