

HELPING UN COUNTRY TEAMS IMPLEMENT THE WHO FCTC

About UNDP

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is the United Nations' global development network. The organization operates in some 170 countries and territories, working towards eradicating poverty, and reducing inequalities and exclusion. UNDP offers support and expertise for developing policies and strategies so that communities may evolve and flourish. Founded in 1965, its headquarters are in New York.

In what ways is UNDP involved in activity to implement the WHO FCTC at country level?

UNDP works to strengthen implementation of the WHO FCTC at country level and to engage UN Country Teams (UNCTs). UNDP and the Convention Secretariat collaborate extensively to promote increased WHO FCTC implementation, with a focus on South-South and 'triangular' collaboration (the partnering of Southern organizations with traditional donors). UNDP participates in all WHO FCTC needs-assessment missions, which develop country-specific recommendations on ways to implement the treaty (see box below).

CUTTING TOBACCO USE AND PROMOTING HEALTH IN LEBANON

In April 2016, a team led by the Convention Secretariat and including representatives from WHO and UNDP undertook a needs-assessment mission in Lebanon at the request of its government. Lebanon is not currently on target to meet the WHO goal of reducing tobacco consumption by 30% by 2025. To meet that goal, Lebanon must scale up implementation on a range of WHO FCTC measures.

The assessment noted the need to develop an investment case on tobacco control, to counter common industry arguments that increasing tobacco control will harm the economy. Tobacco prices are currently very low in Lebanon, and the team identified an urgent need to increase tobacco taxes. Increasing taxes would help to reduce tobacco use and increase state revenues, enabling the government to fund health-promotion efforts.

How UN Country Teams can support implementation of the WHO FCTC

UNDP and the Convention Secretariat jointly published a *Discussion Paper on Development Planning and Tobacco Control* in 2014. The paper reflected the urgent need to integrate WHO FCTC implementation into countries' health and development plans, and to ensure its inclusion in the UN System response as articulated through the UN Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs). UNDAFs are the strategic programme frameworks jointly agreed between governments and the UN system, outlining priorities in national development.

In addition to integrating implementation of the WHO FCTC into UNDAFs, UNCTs can help promote tobacco control as a development issue, recognizing its inclusion in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (see box below). They can do this by: making it a standing item on UNCT meeting agendas; promoting the establishment of thematic groups on health that address tobacco control; and working to ensure inter-agency collaboration to address the social, economic and environmental impacts of tobacco control.



EARLY SDG ACTION TACKLES TOBACCO SCOURGE

Only two days after the UN General Assembly formally endorsed the SDGs in late 2015, UNDP and the Convention Secretariat convened 22 government delegations in Uruguay to plan a way forward to harness South-South and triangular cooperation, or nurture active solidarity between developing countries, to tackle issues around tobacco. This supported Goals 3.a and 17 (to nurture global partnerships) of the SDGs. The meeting was among the first international gatherings to actively work towards achieving the SDGs.



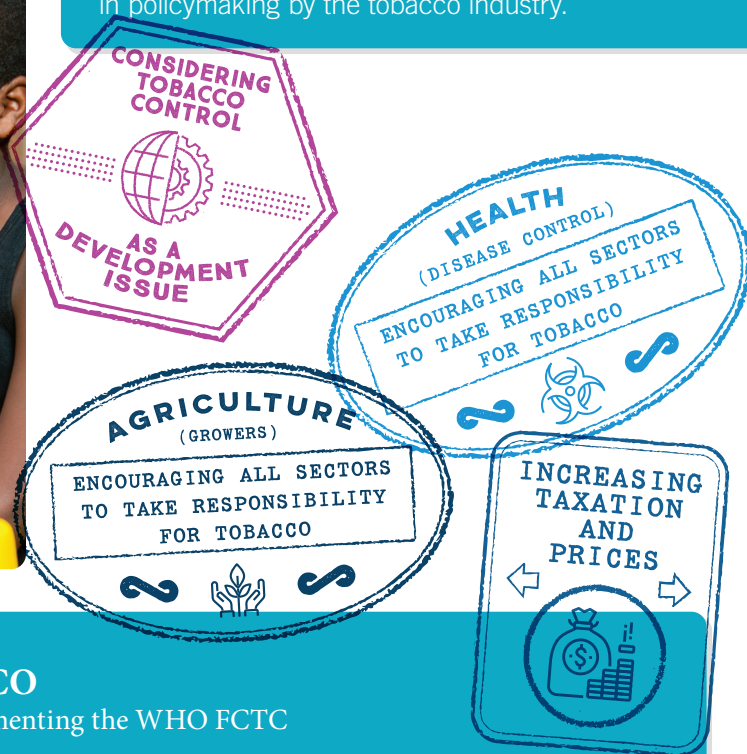
How is UNDP involved with implementing the WHO FCTC at regional and global levels?

UNDP works with the Convention Secretariat at global and regional levels to help support implementation of the treaty. UNDP's five regional hubs are highly engaged in addressing WHO FCTC implementation as a development priority. For example, UNDP and the Convention Secretariat undertook research into the current state of implementation of the WHO FCTC within sub-Saharan Africa (see box right).



QUELLING AFRICA'S EXPONENTIAL RISE IN SMOKING

Young populations and rising incomes have made sub-Saharan Africa a primary target of the tobacco industry; tobacco use is increasing dramatically across the region. Research undertaken by the Convention Secretariat and UNDP explored the lessons, experiences and good practices that accrued among the 43 sub-Saharan Africa Parties to the Convention as they sought to establish and deliver effective tobacco-control policies. The resulting report *Tobacco control governance in sub-Saharan Africa* provides recommendations to guide efforts to establish or strengthen dedicated tobacco-control governance mechanisms, encourage joined-up action across sectors and protect against interference in policymaking by the tobacco industry.



EXPAND 'OWNERSHIP' OF TOBACCO

UNDP's view on challenges and responses to implementing the WHO FCTC

“First, tobacco control is commonly viewed exclusively as the domain of the health sector. This can be overcome by promoting the ‘ownership’ of tobacco control among other sectors, such as agriculture, finance and justice, drawing on their own particular incentives and capacities. Second, governments often view tobacco control policies as subordinate to industry interests. Developing national investment cases for scaling-up tobacco control, illustrating the costs of inaction (such as elevated cancer levels and lower workforce productivity) compared to the benefits of taking action, can help change this mindset.”

How can Parties approach UNDP for support?

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