

## **FCTC 2030 PROJECT:**

### **TECHNICAL REPORT FOR DONOR FOR PERIOD 1 APRIL 2020 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2020**

In 2016, the UK Government and the WHO FCTC (Convention Secretariat) established the FCTC 2030 project, with the aim of accelerating the implementation of the WHO FCTC in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs).

The objectives and scope of the FCTC 2030 project are set out in the donor agreement that was signed by the Convention Secretariat and the UK Government on 16 October 2016. The FCTC 2030 work plan for this UK financial year (2020/21) was agreed with the UK Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC).

This annual technical report for the FCTC 2030 project provides an overview of the outcomes and achievements of the project for the period 1 April 2020 to 30 September 2020. This report is provided in accordance with the reporting requirements set out at section VI (reporting) of the donor agreement.

Globally, the coronavirus disease pandemic has substantially impacted international development work. Consequently, the Convention Secretariat reassessed the final year workplan and budget to make projections on activities that could continue and discussed alternative modalities of delivering support to FCTC 2030 Parties. Given the current limitations due to the pandemic, the Convention Secretariat is making maximizing use of virtual communications for remote support, getting necessary desk research undertaken and we are promoting implementation action at country-level as much as possible.

#### **Overview of outputs and achievements:**

- a) **Support for selected Phase I FCTC 2030 Parties:** All FCTC 2030 Parties have work plans for this financial year that have been agreed by the Convention Secretariat. Project countries have been able to implement activities and the rate of implementation is picking up after a slow down due to the pandemic. We are seeing many public health officials at country-level now returning to tobacco control activities after being shifted to pandemic-related duties. At the request of FCTC 2030 Parties, 11<sup>1</sup> were provided with human resource at country level. Some examples of outputs at country level include:

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<sup>1</sup> Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Colombia, Egypt, Georgia, Jordan, Myanmar, Nepal, Samoa, Sierra Leone, Zambia

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S E C R E T A R I A T

- *Cabo Verde*: Launched a tobacco observatory which will collate data and information on tobacco control, monitor progress and inform policies and actions. Proposals for new tobacco control legislation developed and will be considered by Parliament once it resumes.
- *Cambodia*: Conducted subnational workshops to disseminate information about the tobacco control law; assessed compliance of the tobacco control law at subnational levels and disseminated findings with recommendations on preventive measures (integrated with COVID-19 prevention); actions against tobacco companies for violations of the law ongoing; Ministry of Tourism issued guidelines for stringent implementation of smoke-free environments in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic; conducted cessation training of health professionals and evaluated post-training application at primary health care facilities.
- *Chad*: Broadcasted a television and radio social marketing communications to raise awareness about smoking and COVID-19; conducted consultations with managers of public places to discuss implementation of the smoke-free law; organized school programmes and trained tobacco control youth leaders; and preparations underway for a new set of health warnings for tobacco packaging.
- *Colombia*: Prepared proposal for plain packaging; developing draft tobacco control Bills to be presented to the Parliament.
- *Egypt*: Developed national guidelines to enforce tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship; examined current law and developing options for amendments; developing terms of reference for a tobacco industry observatory (not to be funded by the FCTC 2030 project).
- *El Salvador*: Developed proposed amendments to national tobacco control law; prepared draft Code of Conduct to protect public health policies from commercial and other vested interests of the tobacco industry; developed terms of reference for national tobacco control coordinating mechanism and roadmap for implementation of WHO FCTC Article 5.2.
- *Georgia*: Conducted study to model taxation and tobacco end-game scenario with results to be publicly disseminated; held consultations to discuss amendments to the tobacco control law; developed strategic communications to explain need for legislative amendments; conducted workshop to strengthen enforcement and compliance with smoke-free law; and designed and distributed signages to all sport federations for smoke-free stadiums.
- *Jordan*: Prepared Ministerial decree for graphic health warnings; preparing guidance for inspection of public places to assess compliance and enforce smoke-free law.

- *Madagascar*: National Tobacco Control Strategy approved; developing draft tobacco control Bills; and revitalized multisectoral coordinating mechanism.
  - *Myanmar*: Issued a “Directive to Comply with Guidelines on Contact with Cigar and Tobacco Product Manufacturer, Distributor, Seller or Related Person”; developed draft plain packaging decree which is currently undergoing expert review; initiated drafting of new tobacco control law; Ministry of Health and Sports submitted a formal request to the Ministry of Finance to increase tobacco tax in the upcoming Taxation Bill (October 2020), with decision pending on this request.
  - *Nepal*: Preparing to conduct cessation training for healthcare providers.
  - *Samoa*: Developed draft Code of Conduct to protect public health policies from commercial and other vested interests of the tobacco industry. In the process of finalizing national cessation training manual.
  - *Sierra Leone*: Final stages of drafting of tobacco control bill, with Ministry of Finance in agreement and Ministry of Justice conducting final review of the bill to ensure its constitutionality before submission to Parliament.
  - *Sri Lanka*: Developing an online course for medical students and doctors to support patients to quit tobacco use. Engagement with new senior government appointees with responsibility for tobacco (post elections).
  - *Zambia*: The Business Review Regulatory Authority approved the Draft Tobacco Control Bill; Draft Tobacco Control Bill is near finalization; and currently drafting an implementation plan for the Tobacco Control Law.
- b) **Expansion of the FCTC 2030 project (Phase II)**: Six FCTC 2030 Parties have developed workplans and have initiated implementation, and three are in process of drafting their workplans. Two countries<sup>2</sup> have requested and been provided with human resource support. Some examples of outputs at country level include:
- *Armenia*: Conducted the Convention Secretariat’s first virtual needs assessment mission; draft needs assessment report under review by the government and mission team; and validated data for the WHO FCTC investment case.
  - *Costa Rica*: In process of validating data for the WHO FCTC investment case. Virtual launch of the project scheduled for 13 October 2020.
  - *Eswatini*: Held webinar to review preliminary investment case results.

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<sup>2</sup> Lao People’s Democratic Republic and Serbia.

- *Fiji*: Held workshop to strengthen tobacco control enforcement; completed an Institutional Capacity Assessment as part of the WHO FCTC Investment Case development; in process of validating data for the WHO FCTC investment case.
  - *Lao People's Democratic Republic*: Held discussions on the current enforcement situation and planning for development of enforcement guidelines; validated data and reviewed preliminary findings for the WHO FCTC investment case; conducted compliance assessments of health warnings; organized workshop on smoke-free tourist sites and to disseminate smoke-free guidelines; and UNDP provided training on Article 5 and assisted with development of roadmap for Article 5.1.
  - *Mozambique*: Initiated pre-needs assessment exercise and in process of validating data for the WHO FCTC investment case.
  - *Serbia*: Initiated pre-needs assessment exercise; in process of validating data for the WHO FCTC investment case; initiating development of national tobacco control strategy.
  - *Suriname*: Launched the FCTC 2030 project virtually; validated data for investment case; prepared draft needs assessment report.
  - *Tunisia*: Initiated review of tobacco control legislation to identify areas for strengthening.
- c) **Specialist consultant support:** The FCTC 2030 project currently has four specialist consultants selected in accordance with WHO policies and procedures. These consultants work closely with WHO FCTC focal points in Ministries of Health and technical partners to support the implementation of the project.
- d) **FCTC Investment Cases:** WHO FCTC Investment Cases have been handed over in all Phase I FCTC 2030 countries. The Convention Secretariat and UNDP will publish the Phase I WHO FCTC Investment Cases on the web by Q4 of 2020.

UNDP is preparing the investment cases for the nine Phase II FCTC 2030 countries. Default data have been collected for all nine new countries and imported into data validations sheets. The sheets have been sent to all countries for validation. Six countries have validated the data sheet; three countries have preliminary findings modelled, webinars have been held to go through the findings with the government and the first draft of the report have been sent to the Ministry of Health for clearance. Format of handovers when all investment cases are completed will be planned in light of pandemic travel limitations.

- e) **SDG Briefs:** UNDP has drafted SDG briefs for seven project countries as planned. Three are currently being reviewed by the Ministries of Health Zambia, Sierra Leone and Cabo Verde; Colombia is next on the list for review.
- f) **Development planning and FCTC Analyses:** UNDP is currently drafting a paper titled “Centering tobacco control in sustainable development – an analysis of 24 countries’ integration of the WHO FCTC in development planning”, which will be finalized in Q4 2020.
- g) **Parliamentarian Forum:** UNDP conducted a search for a platform to host the parliamentarians’ network on tobacco control – likely to sign an agreement with Idea International for it to be hosted on the [REDACTED] platform, and guidance for parliamentarians is being drafted now.
- h) **Review of national COVID-19 response strategies:** UNDP worked with the Convention Secretariat to undertake an early review of 65 national COVID response strategies to determine whether tobacco control was included. Only three have specifically made reference to tobacco control.
- i) **Governance missions:** Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, no missions have been conducted since April 2020. The FCTC 2030 team continues to be accessible via electronic means of communication with Parties. Regional consultants hold regular calls with countries and with the FCTC 2030 team to discuss and evaluate progress, address issues and provide support.
- j) **Monitoring and evaluation:** The [REDACTED] is on track with the independent external evaluation of the FCTC 2030 project.
- k) **FCTC 2030 Annual Planning Workshop:** Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the March 2020 meeting did not take place and the 2021 meeting is to be confirmed.
- l) **FCTC 2030 Illicit Tobacco Summit:** Due to COVID-19 pandemic, the summit was postponed and will be rescheduled.
- m) **Regional activities to support FCTC 2030 project:** Financial resources are available for WHO Regional Offices to implement joint projects that will advance FCTC 2030 priorities at the regional level. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, plans were reviewed and revised. The FCTC 2030 team has agreements with the Regional Offices and allocated resources for surveys, for webinars and development of video case studies to strengthen enforcement, for building cessation capacity and to support Parties experiencing complex emergency situations.

- n) **Strengthening tobacco taxation:** Many FCTC 2030 Parties are working to strengthen price and tax measures. The FCTC 2030 team reviewed the Parties' priorities and identified expert support for each Party. The FCTC 2030 team had a discussion with the WHO FCTC Tobacco Taxation Knowledge Hub (based at University of Cape Town, South Africa) to agree on countries the Knowledge Hub will prioritize support for. The Knowledge Hub conducted three webinars participated by the FCTC 2030 countries and is planning another series in discussion with the FCTC 2030 team.
- o) **Connection with UK FCO to promote FCTC 2030 at country level:** As the UK has requested, the Convention Secretariat has remained in communication with UK diplomatic posts in FCTC 2030 Parties to encourage them to also promote the full implementation of the FCTC 2030 project at country-level. The UK FCO participated in Armenia's virtual launch of the FCTC 2030 project. The UK DHSC participated in the FCTC 2030 virtual launch in Suriname.
- p) **Fundraising:** The FCTC 2030 team is developing a prospectus to support future fundraising efforts.

**Budget:**

Certified financial statements of income and expenditure shall be provided in accordance with the donor agreement.

Convention Secretariat, Geneva

30 September 2020

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