

FCTC 2030 PROJECT:

ANNUAL TECHNICAL REPORT FOR DONOR FOR PERIOD 1 APRIL 2019 TO 31 MARCH 2020

In 2016, the UK Government and the WHO FCTC 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 WHO FCTC Secretariat and the UK Government on 16 October 2016. The FCTC 2030 work plan for this UK financial year (2019/20) 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 2019 to 31 March 2020. This report is provided in accordance with the reporting requirements set out at section VI (reporting) of the donor agreement.

Overview of outputs and achievements:

a) **Support for selected Phase I FCTC 2030 Parties:** FCTC 2030 funded activities at country level have continued. All FCTC 2030 Parties have FCTC 2030 strategies approved by their Minister of Health. All FCTC 2030 Parties developed work plans for this financial year that were agreed by the Convention Secretariat and have implemented activities accordingly. Human resource at country level has been provided in 11 FCTC 2030 Parties at their request. Some examples of outputs at country level include:

- *Cabo Verde:* New tobacco control draft bill finalized and currently in Parliament; expected to pass in April 2020.
- *Cambodia:* Training on Article 6 conducted for tax officials at local levels; workshop held to inform local authorities and implementing partners about the tobacco control law and compliance requirements; and training on tobacco cessation and counselling of health professionals organized at sub-national levels (Article 14 of the WHO FCTC).
- *Chad:* Workshop held to inform local stakeholders such as managers of public places about the tobacco control law and the ban on smoking in public places.

- *Colombia*: Bill aimed at updating the Tobacco Control Law analysed for strengths and limitations and presented at the Ministry of Health.
 - *Egypt*: Trained tobacco control focal points at local levels on the WHO FCTC; assessed public attitudes towards the tobacco control law and plain packaging.
 - *El Salvador*: National coordination mechanism (NCM) and arguments for stakeholders/sectors to be included in the NCM were developed.
 - *Georgia*: National tobacco survey conducted and preliminary data available.
 - *Jordan*: Cessation training provided to quit line center staff; use of shisha in public places banned following the WHO FCTC Knowledge Hub on Waterpipes and WHO's statement on smoking and increased risk of COVID-19 infection.
 - *Madagascar*: Two workshops held to develop the draft tobacco control bill; tobacco control bill drafted.
 - *Myanmar*: Consultations held to develop the National Tobacco Control Policy-Strategy and define provisions to be included in the new Tobacco Control Law; and Minister of Health agreed to issue plain packaging decree by June 2020.
 - *Nepal*: Training on key WHO FCTC Articles 5, 6, 8, 11, 13 and 20 conducted for representatives from various Ministries and staff of the National Health Education Information Communication Centre.
 - *Samoa*: Presented WHO FCTC Investment Case findings to the Prime Minister and his Cabinet, during which the Prime Minister called on the Minister of Finance to increase taxes on tobacco products.
 - *Sierra Leone*: Draft tobacco control bill is with the Ministry of Justice for final review before it is sent to the Parliament.
 - *Sri Lanka*: National Strategy for Tobacco Control in Sri Lanka 2020-2025 finalized; draft compliance and enforcement guide template developed.
 - *Zambia*: Consultations with national stakeholders on the Draft Tobacco Control Bill held and inputs incorporated into the draft.
- b) **Expansion of the FCTC 2030 project (Phase II)**: The application due date initially set for 10 November 2019 was extended to 22 November 2019 upon request by countries. Twenty-eight Parties submitted applications. The Convention Secretariat selected nine new Parties and informed them on 13 January 2020. These are: Armenia, Costa Rica, Eswatini, Fiji, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mozambique, Serbia, Suriname and Tunisia. A public announcement was made on 4 February 2020.¹ Inception calls were

¹ <https://www.who.int/fctc/mediacentre/news/2020/new-fctc-2030-parties/en/>

organized with each of the nine Parties to congratulate them and to plan for the inception-investment case-needs assessment missions. Missions to the following countries took place in the first two weeks of March 2020 and the rest are to be scheduled once the COVID-19 pandemic situation has stabilized and improved and WHO duty travel can recommence. The Convention Secretariat is working closely with all FCTC 2030 project countries to identify what work can be undertaken at the present time.

- *Eswatini*: Inception, investment case and needs assessment mission conducted in Eswatini.
 - *Lao People's Democratic Republic*: Inception and investment case mission conducted.
- c) **Specialist consultant support:** Four specialist consultants have been selected in accordance with WHO policies and procedures and one more will be recruited in April 2020 to support the FCTC 2030 Parties. Two of the consultants provide intensive support to three Parties and three of the consultants provide intensive support to six Parties. 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 pending Egypt, which is finalized and will be launched in 2020. UNDP will publish the Phase I WHO FCTC Investment Cases on their official website by Q2 of 2020.

UNDP is preparing the investment cases for the nine Phase II FCTC 2030 countries. Data sheets have been prepared and will be sent to countries for their validation at an appropriate time, taking into consideration that some FCTC 2030 project countries are now focussed entirely on COVID-19 work. Once data sources have been validated, UNDP and their technical partner, [REDACTED], will prepare the draft findings. Subsequently, a webinar will be held to go through the methodology, findings and key messages with the country for their strategic inputs.

- e) **Governance missions:** Members of the FCTC 2030 Team and UNDP have participated in missions to all Phase I countries. During these missions, the team members used the opportunity to discuss and evaluate progress, identify issues and generate momentum for continued FCTC 2030 implementation (including meeting Ministers and senior government officials, and engaging with local media). Further, the team maintains regular contact with FCTC 2030 countries through electronic means of communication.

- f) **Monitoring and evaluation:** The Convention Secretariat raised the contract for an External Independent Evaluation with the selected supplier, [REDACTED] on 10 February 2020. The Convention Secretariat then held a call with [REDACTED] to discuss the project and agree on a timeline on 23 March 2020.
- g) **FCTC 2030 Annual Planning Workshop:** A Call for Expression of the Interest in hosting the third FCTC 2030 Annual Planning Workshop was issued in July 2019. Cabo Verde was selected as the host country and the next FCTC 2030 Annual Planning Workshop was to be held in Praia to enable progress review and planning for the next financial year. However, due to COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting has now been postponed.
- h) **Parliamentarian Forum:** UNDP's health and parliamentary capacity building teams have initiated the establishment of an informal parliamentary network to support the implementation of the WHO FCTC. UNDP and other partners will maintain the network through the [REDACTED] online platform, the leading knowledge hub for the parliamentary development community. This will be initiated in Q2 of 2020.
- i) **Regional activities to support FCTC 2030 project:** Financial resources have been allocated for WHO Regional Offices to define joint projects that will advance FCTC 2030 priorities at regional level. Agreements were reached with the Regional Offices and resources have been provided to conduct surveys, for a workshop to strengthen enforcement, for strengthening tobacco control legislation and for the Meeting on Implementation of the WHO FCTC by Parties Experiencing Complex Emergency Situations scheduled for March 2020. The meeting for Parties experiencing complex emergency situations was subsequently postponed due to COVID-19. Funds have also been provided for necessary travel by WHO Regional Office staff to support the FCTC 2030 project at country level.
- j) **Strengthening tobacco taxation:** Many FCTC 2030 Parties are working to strengthen price and tax measures. The WHO FCTC Tobacco Taxation Knowledge Hub (based at University of Cape Town, South Africa) organized another workshop from 11 to 15 November 2019 and several FCTC 2030 Parties were supported to attend. Other partners such as the World Bank, WHO and American Cancer Society have also been activated to support FCTC 2030 countries to strengthen taxation.



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- k) **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 FCTC 2030 project at country-level.
- l) **Fundraising:** Fundraising efforts continue to be undertaken. [REDACTED] has provided funds to the FCTC 2030 project.

Budget:

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

Convention Secretariat, Geneva

31 March 2020

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