

FCTC 2030 PROJECT:

ANNUAL TECHNICAL REPORT FOR DONOR FOR PERIOD 1 APRIL 2018 TO 31 MARCH 2019

In 2016, the UK Government and the Secretariat of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) 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 (2018/19) 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 2018 to 31 March 2019. 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 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 nine FCTC 2030 Parties at their request. Some examples of outputs at country level include:

- *Cabo Verde:* Tobacco taxation increased, with introduction of a specific tobacco excise tax, and multisectoral coordination mechanisms have been established.
- *Cambodia:* Decree on enforcement of tobacco control legislation issued, inspectors trained, and compliance building activities for the country's new tobacco control law have been undertaken at sub-national levels.
- *Chad:* Tobacco taxation increased with dedication of part of this new revenue to tobacco control activities, and enforcement of smokefree laws has commenced.
- *Colombia:* Sub-national authorities sensitized about the procedures for enforcing the country's tobacco control law, and health professionals trained to provide tobacco cessation.



- *Egypt*: Multisectoral tobacco control strategy published and capacity of sub-national tobacco control focal points built.
 - *El Salvador*: Multisectoral tobacco control policy launched, tobacco control bill drafted, and plans to raise tobacco taxation defined (including with assistance from the World Bank).
 - *Georgia*: New comprehensive tobacco control law continues to be implemented. High levels of compliance with smokefree laws, and effective implementation of graphic health warnings and bans of tobacco advertising promotion and sponsorship.
 - *Jordan*: First meeting of the committee responsible for improving graphic health warnings organized, and review of tobacco control law finalized.
 - *Madagascar*: Evaluation of impact of graphic health warnings undertaken, Global Youth Tobacco Survey conducted, and Tobacco control strategy finalized.
 - *Myanmar*: National Multisectoral Coordination Mechanisms reinforced, and revision of the tobacco control legislative framework initiated.
 - *Nepal*: Multisectoral Tobacco Control Strategy developed, national consultations undertaken, and plans for plain packaging announced by Minister of Health.
 - *Samoa*: Tobacco Control Amendment Bill approved by the Parliament, which includes dedication of licencing fees to tobacco control.
 - *Sierra Leone*: Draft tobacco control bill currently being finalized, tobacco taxation increased, and tobacco tax stamps to be introduced.
 - *Sri Lanka*: National guidelines for implementing Article 5.3 drafted, and amendments to the national tobacco control law finalized.
 - *Zambia*: Multisectoral consultation on the tobacco control bill undertaken, and feasibility study on alternative livelihoods for tobacco farmers initiated.
- b. **Specialist consultant support:** Three specialist consultants have been selected in accordance with WHO procedures and are available to support FCTC 2030 Parties. Each consultant provides intensive support to five FCTC 2030 Parties. These consultants are actively working with FCTC focal points in Ministries of Health to support the implementation of the project.
- c. **FCTC Investment Cases:** UNDP has started FCTC Investment Cases in all FCTC 2030 Parties. FCTC Investment Cases have been handed over in Georgia, El Salvador, Myanmar and Zambia. All the remaining FCTC 2030 Parties should launch their FCTC Investment Case by October 2019. The finalized FCTC Investment Cases will be published.



- d. **Governance missions:** Members of the FCTC 2030 Team have participated in missions to Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Chad, Egypt, El Salvador, Georgia, Jordan, Madagascar, Myanmar, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, and Zambia. During these missions the team members have used the opportunity to monitor progress, identify issues and generate momentum for continued FCTC 2030 implementation (including meeting Ministers and senior government officials, and engaging with local media). Constant contact with FCTC 2030 countries through electronic means of communication has also been maintained.
- e. **Support for implementation of Article 5:** Based on Guidance Notes developed in collaboration with the FCTC Secretariat, UNDP Offices at Global, Regional and Country levels have been supporting FCTC 2030 Parties to create or strengthen national tobacco control strategic plans and establish or reform FCTC national tobacco control coordination mechanisms. Assistance has been provided to several countries including Cambodia, Chad, El Salvador, Jordan, Madagascar, Myanmar, Nepal, and Zambia.
- f. **Guidance note on tobacco and communicable disease co-morbidities:** The issue brief *Integrating Tobacco Control into Tuberculosis and HIV Responses: Implementing the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control to address co-morbidities of guidance note on addressing tobacco and infectious disease co-morbidities* was launched during the United Nations General Assembly High-Level Meeting on Ending TB on 26 September 2018 in New York as a model for aligning work for TB, HIV and NCDs. Publication is available at: <http://www.who.int/fctc/publications/WHO-FCTC-HIV-TB.pdf>
- g. **FCTC 2030 Side Event during COP8:** The Government of Georgia, together with Cabo Verde, Samoa, Zambia, Sri Lanka, the United Kingdom and Australia, organized a side event during the Eighth Session of the Conference of the Parties to the WHO FCTC. The event was very well attended and served as an opportunity to demonstrate that progress is being achieved in Parties to the WHO FCTC supported by the FCTC 2030 project.
- h. **Monitoring and evaluation:** A senior consultant has been engaged to provide advice on the process to commission the External Independent Evaluation. The “Request for Proposals” will be published by end of May 2019. In parallel, [REDACTED] from ACS and its team are providing assistance to monitor the progress achieved by the FCTC 2030 project through the Outcome Mapping methodology.
- i. **FCTC 2030 Annual Planning Workshop:** The second FCTC 2030 Annual Planning Workshop was organized in San Salvador, El Salvador, on 20-22 March 2019. The opening ceremony was attended by H.E. Salvador Sánchez Cerén, the President of El Salvador. Participants from the 15 FCTC 2030 Parties together with organizations providing support to FCTC 2030 countries under the project including three intergovernmental organizations, two WHO FCTC Knowledge Hubs, and five non-governmental organizations, participated in the meeting. Staff from the British Embassy in El Salvador attended the opening ceremony. The workshop was an

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opportunity to review progress, promote international cooperation and plan for the following financial year.

- j. **Parliamentarian Forum:** UNDP's health and parliamentary capacity building teams, in collaboration with the Secretariat of the WHO FCTC (Convention Secretariat) and the Parliament of Georgia, organized a Parliamentarians Forum on Tobacco Control in Tbilisi on 10-11 April 2019. The objectives of the forum are to support parliamentary capacity in FCTC 2030 countries to prioritize, adopt, and oversee the enforcement of new and amended national tobacco control laws; and to build the capacity of parliamentarians to address the complexities of tobacco industry interference.
- k. **Strengthening tobacco taxation:** Cabo Verde, Chad and Sierra Leone have increased tobacco taxation. Other FCTC 2030 Parties are also working to strengthen price and tax measures. The FCTC Tobacco Taxation Knowledge Hub (based at University of Cape Town, South Africa) continues to prioritise support to FCTC 2030 Parties and is organizing a workshop for English speaking countries on the first week of July 2019. Many FCTC 2030 Parties will participate.
- l. **Regional activities to support FCTC 2030 project:** Necessary travel by WHO Regional Office staff to support the FCTC 2030 project at country level has been funded. Financial resources have been allocated for WHO Regional Offices to define joint projects that will advance FCTC 2030 priorities at regional level.
- m. **Connection with UK FCO to promote FCTC 2030 at country level:** Mr Michael Head, Deputy Head of Mission, British Embassy San Salvador, had attended the FCTC 2030 Annual Planning Workshop. The Convention Secretariat has remained in communication with diplomatic posts in FCTC 2030 Parties to promote FCTC 2030 project.
- n. **Fundraising:** Fundraising efforts continue to be undertaken. The Government of [REDACTED] is providing direct in-kind technical support to Cabo Verde. The FCTC 2030 Team has met with representatives from many WHO FCTC Parties to discuss about how they can support the FCTC 2030 project in the future.

Budget:

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

Convention Secretariat, Geneva

16 August 2019

Funded by
UK Government