



Mongolia

7-11 SEPTEMBER
2015

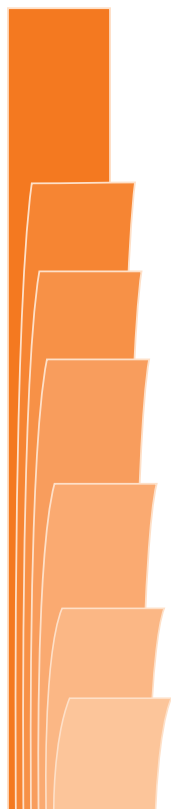
NEEDS ASSESSMENT MISSION



Introduction

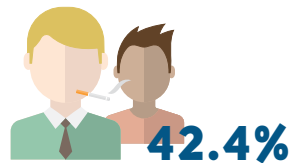
The needs assessment mission for the implementation of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) was conducted September 7-11, 2015, by the Convention Secretariat jointly with the Ministry of Health and Sports of Mongolia. The international team, which came at the government's invitation, included representatives of the WHO Prevention of Noncommunicable Diseases (NCD) Department and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The team met with the leaders of government agencies, NGOs and civil society who are involved in implementing the WHO FCTC at country level. The needs assessment was undertaken in conjunction with a joint programming mission of the UN Interagency Task Force on NCDs.

Tobacco control milestones in Mongolia



- 2003** Mongolia ratifies the WHO FCTC, becoming the sixth country in the world and the second country in the Western Pacific Region to become a Party.
- 2004** The WHO FCTC enters into force in Mongolia.
- 2005** Law of Mongolia on Tobacco Control adopted.
- 2013** Mongolia develops a National Strategy to Combat and Prevent Tobacco Harms 2014-2020.
- 2013** Tobacco Control Law of 2005, which was revised in 2012, enters into force.
- 2014** Technical standards for cigarette and pipe tobacco enter into force.
- 2015** Revisions were made to the 2012 Tobacco Control Law to permit designated smoking rooms and areas in specific public places.

Key facts

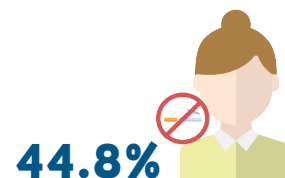


of **youths** were exposed to secondhand **smoke** at **home**.

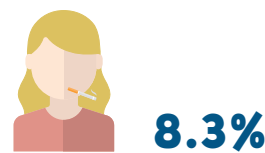
42.5% of **boys**
41.9% of **girls**



of **females** aged 15-64 are **current** tobacco **smokers**.

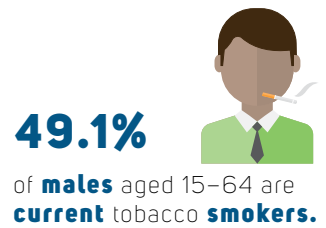


of **female** smokers aged 15-64 have tried to **stop** **smoking**.

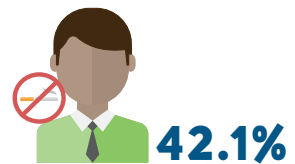


of **girls** aged 13-15 are **current** users of any **tobacco product**.

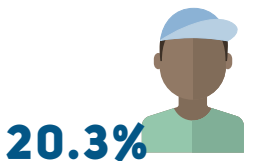
Notable **achievements** have been made in implementing the **WHO FCTC** through legislation.



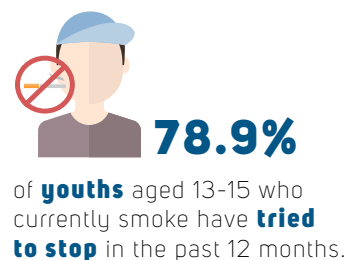
of **males** aged 15-64 are **current** tobacco **smokers**.



of **male** smokers aged 15-64 have tried to **stop** **smoking**.

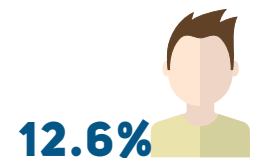


of **boys** aged 13-15 are **current** users of any **tobacco product**.



of **youths** aged 13-15 who currently smoke have **tried to stop** in the past 12 months.

76.4% of **boys**
93.9% of **girls**



of current **youth** smokers have received **help** from a program or professional.

Main findings and recommendations

- Mongolia has a National Strategy to Combat and Prevent Tobacco Harms 2014-2020 that highlights WHO FCTC implementation.

Recommendation: Include WHO FCTC implementation in all relevant policy documents and use the needs assessment report as a reference in finalizing these documents.

- Mongolia has established a focal point for tobacco control within the Ministry of Health. Several ministries and agencies are currently responsible for implementing the Tobacco Control Law and meet to provide updates on activities, though there is no formalized national multisectoral coordinating mechanism that meets on a regular basis.

Recommendation: Designate full-time staff for tobacco control and establish a multisectoral coordinating mechanism that includes civil society organizations to implement the WHO FCTC.

- The Tobacco Control Law has strong provisions in some areas. However, to fully implement the requirements of the Convention, the TC Law needs to be further strengthened in several areas.

Recommendation: Strengthen the Tobacco Control Law to fully implement the WHO FCTC requirements.

- The Tobacco Control Law established the Health Promotion Foundation to promote healthy lifestyles and reduce tobacco consumption. Due to

The Tobacco Control Law aims to protect public health policy from tobacco industry influence and the Law on Anti-Corruption prohibits people from using an official position to engage in conduct that adversely affects tobacco control. Notwithstanding, the tobacco industry still has substantial influence and access to high-level policymakers, which has weakened anti-tobacco legislation.

Recommendation: Enforce these provisions to avoid tobacco industry influence.

the current economic situation and governance concerns, the Health Promotion Foundation has been temporarily decommissioned.

Recommendation: Make the Health Promotion Foundation operational as soon as possible and review different models for the health promotion foundation or equivalent and consider the best structure to make it sustainable, accountable and effective.

- The tax burden on cigarettes is 42.4% in Mongolia, which is low when compared to 66% in Singapore and 74% in the Philippines. The price of a pack of cigarettes is also low in Mongolia (US\$ 1.50).

Recommendation: Increase taxes on tobacco products in keeping with Article 6 of the guidelines and continue raising taxes on a regular basis to make tobacco products less affordable over time.

- The Tobacco Control Law has provisions to create smoke-free environments in public places. The 2015 amended Tobacco Control Law requires local government to provide a budget for establishing smoking rooms and areas in certain outdoor public places and allows designated smoking areas and rooms in public eateries, shops, bars, places of entertainment, restaurants and companies and business organizations that are 300 m² or larger.

Recommendation: Implement 100% smoke-free indoor environments as required by the WHO FCTC, revising the Tobacco Control Law to be fully compliant.

- The Tobacco Control Law requires certain label standards in health warnings on cigarettes. Shisha and electronic nicotine delivery systems are not currently regulated.

Recommendation: Revise the Tobacco Control Law and related standards to comply with the WHO FCTC and include shisha and electronic nicotine delivery systems within the regulations.

- Mongolia has a comprehensive ban on tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship. There is no provision banning the free distribution of tobacco products and the display of tobacco products, with brand-name and price, is allowed at points of sale.

Recommendation: Amend the Tobacco Control Law to comply with the WHO FCTC.

- The Tobacco Control Law has not been fully implemented and enforced.

Recommendation: Implement and enforce the Tobacco Control Law, with the cooperation of the pertinent government agencies.

- The United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) is a strategic program framework jointly agreed between Mongolia and the UN system. The current UNDAF does not include prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases or implementation of the WHO FCTC.

Recommendation: Include the WHO FCTC in the next UNDAF.

Post needs assessment assistance available from the Convention Secretariat

- Supporting submission of a proposal to raise the tobacco excise tax, including conducting a cost-benefit analysis.
- Supporting and facilitating a stakeholder workshop to consider the needs assessment report.
- Providing immediate support for any priorities identified by the Ministry of Health.

Outcomes



- 1) The needs assessment helped Mongolia improve the quality of its policy, thus leading to progress in performance and eventually delivering the desired results.
- 2) It facilitated the estimation of revenues and number of lives saved in Mongolia by increasing the tobacco excise tax.
- 3) After the mission, Mongolia started the process of submitting a bill to Parliament aimed at increasing the tobacco excise tax.
- 4) The needs assessment recommendations were shared with all relevant stakeholders and helped to strengthen cooperation on tobacco control.