

National Tobacco Control Programme INFO SHEET

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A **National Tobacco Control Programme** helps governments to develop a structured approach to tobacco control in their countries.

It ensures that they have planned and budgeted for tobacco control and makes sure that the strategies chosen in a **specific country** are appropriate to reduce the tobacco use in the country.

Tobacco has been documented as the main risk factor for non-communicable diseases such as diabetes, cardiovascular disease and cancers. It's also a gateway to other substance use.

It's therefore important that governments implement strategies that **target** tobacco use.

These strategies need to be in line with Universal Health Care priorities and Sustainable Development Goal targets.

In Africa, tobacco use varies from 4.4% of the population in Ethiopia to 20% in South Africa.

A NTCP has four main objectives:

PRIORITISES TOBACCO CONTROL

It helps governments to include a tobacco control response in their health programmes, ensuring staff and finances for it.

STANDARDISES THE APPROACH

It helps governments define an intervention package to have a comprehensive tobacco control response.

ENSURES INTERVENTIONS ARE FINANCED

It helps governments plan and budget for the tobacco control response, making programmes more sustainable.

GENERATES TOBACCO USE DATA

It helps galvanize evidence on tobacco use to support mainstreaming of tobacco control in public health programming.

What are the NTCP components?

Once a country has agreed to set up a **National Tobacco Control Programme**, the CTCA provides a range of onsite services to ensure that the programme is set up effectively.

Every tobacco control programme has **five critical components** to ensure that it moves from conception to implementation.

1

A package of interventions in line with WHO FCTC

National Tobacco Control Programmes differ from country to country. Each country decides on the set of interventions that need to be implemented to help their specific contexts. Countries choose a package of interventions that, once implemented, would best suit their individual contexts and reduce tobacco use. Interventions include graphic health warnings on cigarettes packs, tax increases on the price of cigarettes and smoke-free policies.

2

Governance, Institutional set-up, and implementation arrangements

The key to an effective set up of a programme is ensuring that there is institutional capacity and governance structures in place to drive the process. A core team of stakeholders must be established to draft and review documents, consult and ensure that the programme is enacted by the Health Ministry.

3

Monitoring and Evaluation and a reporting framework

Monitoring and evaluation systems are important because it helps governments assess their programmes and understand, track and measure the success of all the elements of their programme throughout the implementation process.

4

Budgetary obligations and financial implications

To ensure that the intervention packages are implemented sufficiently, the government needs to understand the financial implications of the programme and ensure that there is a budget that can finance this process. The good news is that packages don't only have to be domestically financed. There are other alternatives.

5

Sustainability strategies

Tobacco prevalence in a country can only be reduced with a tobacco control programme that is sustainable. One critical part of the CTCA's engagement with countries is ensuring that the tobacco control programme is domestically financed and sustainable.

How is an NTCP financed? What is needed?

In order for the tobacco control programme to be implemented effectively, it has to be budgeted for from within the Ministry of Health's programmatic offerings.

Tobacco control programmes are financed via four mechanisms:

- Tax
- Grants
- Domestic financing
- Foreign financing



DOMESTIC FINANCING

Effective tobacco control programmes can only be implemented if governments determine the localised budgetary priorities in terms of their health programme needs alongside other health programmes.

However, in addition to this, global research has shown how increases in the tax on tobacco products is considered a "best-buy" and can be ring-fenced and used to effectively finance smoking cessation and other tobacco control programmes in a specific country.

FOREIGN FINANCING

Once countries have been able to establish a viable plan for their tobacco control programmes, they are also likely to be more successful in their quests to apply for international health grants that support countries with the implementation of their programmatic needs.

The advantage that the governments would have in this instance is that they would have evidence of capacity development support that showcases how the programme would eventually be implemented.