

# Index for Tobacco Control Sustainability

CAMBODIA

INDICATORS		Present (P)/ Absent (A)	Weighted Score	Country Score
1	Prerequisite Indicator: >4 MPOWER policies in place	A	9	0
2	National tobacco control budget (annual)	A	7	0
3	National tobacco control law	P	6	6
4	National budget allocation for tobacco control capacity building	P	6	6
5	Tobacco taxation >75% of retail sales price	A	6	0
6	Tobacco taxation increases faster than inflation plus gross domestic product growth	A	6	0
7	National tobacco control unit	P	5	5
8	Civil society tobacco control network	P	5	5
9	Civil society representation in national tobacco control advisory committees	A	5	0
10	Health promotion fund for, or including, tobacco control	A	5	0
11	National policy against tobacco industry corporate social responsibility	P	5	5
12	Tobacco-related mortality and morbidity recording system	A	5	0
13	National evaluation framework in place	P	5	5
14	Evaluation built into all major policy implementation plans	P	5	5
15	National tobacco control strategy	P	4	4
16	Tobacco control and non-communicable diseases form part of national health policy	P	4	4
17	Tobacco control forms part of national development plan	P	4	4
18	Human resource for implementation (national)	P	4	4
19	Global Tobacco Surveillance System surveys	P	4	4
20	Intergovernmental coordination mechanism	P	3	3
21	Capacity building plan for tobacco control personnel	P	3	3
22	Developmental assistance funding includes tobacco control	P	3	3
23	Code of conduct for government officials and staff	P	3	3
24	Ministry of health WHO FCTC Article 5.3 policy	P	3	3
25	WHO FCTC Article 5.3 policy across all ministries	A	3	0
26	Economic and social tobacco costs data	P	3	3
27	National focal point post	P	3	3
28	National advisory committee	P	2	2
29	Capacity building plans on research and evaluation	A	2	0
30	Mass media campaigns funded	P	1	1
31	Capacity building plan for non tobacco control specific personnel	A	1	0
<b>Total Score</b>			<b>130</b>	<b>81</b>

## Explanation of the scores:

- 1. Pre-requisite Indicator: >4 MPOWER policies in place:** According to the 2021 WHO Report, Cambodia has successfully implemented three out of six MPOWER measures: Monitoring, Protection, and Warning.
- 2. National tobacco control budget (annual):** Although a budget allocation for tobacco control exists within the Ministry of Health, it is insufficient to meet the recommended indicator of at least \$0.11 per capita.
- 3. National tobacco control law:** In 2015, Cambodia's National Assembly passed a tobacco control law to regulate tobacco products, raise public awareness of tobacco-related dangers, and collaborate with public and private sectors to reduce tobacco consumption.
- 4. National budget allocation for tobacco control capacity building:** The Ministry of Health has dedicated funds towards enhancing capacity building efforts in tobacco control. As part of this budget, approximately four capacity building trainings are conducted on an annual basis.
- 5. Tobacco taxation >75% of retail sales price:** According to the 2021 WHO Report, Cambodia's average tobacco tax on retail selling price is 26.4% – below the WHO-recommended level of >75%.
- 6. Tobacco taxation increases faster than inflation plus gross domestic product growth:** The increases observed were considerably low and failed to align with the combined effects of inflation and GDP.
- 7. National tobacco control unit:** The National Tobacco Control unit operates under the auspices of the National Centre for Health Promotion, a division of the Ministry of Health.
- 8. Civil society tobacco control network:** This exists with the involvement of civil societies, subnational leaders and international partners.
- 9. Civil society representation in national tobacco control advisory committees:** National tobacco control advisory committees include no civil society representation.
- 10. Health promotion fund for, or including, tobacco control:** No dedicated health promotion fund exists for tobacco control.
- 11. National policy against tobacco industry corporate social responsibility:** This is included in Cambodia Tobacco Control Law 2015.
- 12. Tobacco-related mortality and morbidity recording system:** There is as yet no mortality and morbidity recording system specific to tobacco in Cambodia.
- 13. National evaluation framework in place:** A national tobacco control framework has been included in the National Strategic Plan on Tobacco Control 2012–2026 and assessment tools are in place.
- 14. Evaluation built into all major policy implementation plans:** The National Tobacco Control Tool Assessment covers progress on PHW, Smoke-free and TAPS Ban implementation. Results of the M & E are used to support the development of the tobacco control strategic plan and relevant legislations.
- 15. National tobacco control strategy:** The National Strategic Plan on Tobacco Education and Reduction of Tobacco Use has been formulated as a part of the National Strategic Plan for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases. Its primary objective is to outline the specific goals and strategies for tobacco control, with the aim of achieving the highest possible outcomes.
- 16. Tobacco control and noncommunicable diseases form part of national health policy:** Both tobacco control and

noncommunicable disease reduction strategies and targets are included in the 2017–2028 multisectoral action plans and the 2015–2020 health sector strategic plan.

17. **Tobacco control forms part of national development plan:** Tobacco control is a part of the 2017–2028 multisectoral action plans.
18. **Human resource for implementation (national):** The National Center for Health Promotion, Ministry of Health, has dedicated staff for tobacco control.
19. **Global Tobacco Surveillance System surveys:** National tobacco survey systems and global youth tobacco surveys are conducted to monitor tobacco burden and develop strategies to address the tobacco epidemic.
20. **Intergovernmental coordination mechanism:** Cambodia's National Tobacco Control Committee, involving representatives from various ministries, coordinates with stakeholders and provides input on strategic plans and legal documents related to tobacco control.
21. **Capacity building plan for tobacco control personnel:** Annually, Cambodia's Ministry of Health allocates funds for capacity building in tobacco control, providing training to enforcement agencies at national and subnational levels.
22. **Developmental assistance funding includes tobacco control:** Cambodia has been receiving development assistance funding for tobacco control from The Union and WHO.
23. **Code of conduct for government officials and staff:** Cambodia has implemented a national code of conduct for civil servants, promoting professional behavior and ethical standards. Additionally, the 2015 Tobacco Control Law prohibits the Ministry of Health and the National Committee on Tobacco Control from collaborating with tobacco industries.
24. **Ministry of Health WHO FCTC Article 5.3 policy:** There is a national code of conduct for officials of the Ministry of Health in Cambodia.
25. **WHO FCTC Article 5.3 policy across all ministries:** There is no WHO FCTC Article 5.3 policy across all ministries.
26. **Economic and social tobacco costs data:** The Cambodia Tobacco Control Investment Case 2019 provides a comprehensive analysis of the economic and social ramifications of tobacco consumption within the nation.
27. **National focal point post:** A dedicated tobacco control focal point exists at the national level.
28. **National advisory committee:** The National Tobacco Control Committee (NTCC) and the Secretariat of Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) work to establish and implement tobacco control laws, regulations, and policies. Chaired by the Minister of Health, the NTCC includes 48 members from 25 ministries and institutions, as well as 25 provincial governors, supporting the Ministry of Health in developing strategic plans and implementing tobacco control activities.
29. **Capacity building plans on research and evaluation:** There is no such plan yet in 2022.
30. **Mass media campaigns funded:** The National Centre for Health Promotion conducts an annual mass media campaign through various channels including television, radio, and social media.
31. **Capacity building plan for personnel nonspecific to tobacco control:** There is no specific plan for capacity building of non-tobacco-control personnel.

## Main findings:

### Progress in tobacco control sustainability since 2016

Cambodia has demonstrated commendable efforts in strengthening its tobacco control measures at both the national and subnational levels. The National Tobacco Control Committee (NTCC) and the Secretariat of FCTC, comprising representatives from 25 ministries and institutions, are responsible for establishing, advocating, and implementing tobacco control laws, regulations and policies. The NTCC provides support to the Ministry of Health in developing strategic plans and implementing tobacco control activities.

To alleviate the burden of tobacco use, tobacco control strategies and targets have been incorporated into the 2017-2028 multisectorial action plans and the 2015–2020 health sector strategic plan. The National Tobacco Control framework has been included in the 2012–2026 National Strategic Plan on tobacco control, which is utilized to monitor the implementation of the sub-decree on smoke-free workplaces and public places, and 55% pictorial health warning and TAPS ban annually. Findings from the National Adults Tobacco Survey (NATS) and GYTS surveys are used to support the development of tobacco control strategic plans and relevant legislations.

The Cambodia Tobacco Control Investment Case, formulated in 2019, identifies the costs and benefits, in health and economic terms, of implementing five priority tobacco control measures, in line with the WHO FCTC. Furthermore, the sub-decree on smoke-free workplaces and public places has been adopted since 2016, and the smoke-free city alliance has been established in 2018, which has been expanded to 16 provinces in 2021, to safeguard citizens from the hazards of tobacco smoke.

Cambodia's Ministry of Health has also allocated a national budget for tobacco control, which is utilized to conduct capacity building trainings for tobacco control enforcement agencies at national and subnational levels. The National Centre for Health Promotion carries out mass media campaigns on television, radio and social media each year. These initiatives reflect Cambodia's unwavering commitment to promoting sustainable tobacco control measures and safeguarding public health.

### Remaining gaps in tobacco control sustainability

Cambodia's commendable achievement in effectively implementing three of the six MPOWER policies at the highest level is a testament to the significance of enhancing tobacco control laws and their enforcement. Immediate action is imperative to execute priority interventions, including increased tobacco taxation, easily accessible smoking cessation programs, and comprehensive bans on TAPS. To prevent interference from the tobacco industry, it is crucial to extend the national code of conduct for Ministry of Health officials to other ministries. Such measures will undoubtedly contribute to the overall success of tobacco control efforts in Cambodia.