

Index for Tobacco Control Sustainability

MEXICO

INDICATORS		Present (P)/ Absent (A)	Weighted Score	Country Score
1.	Prerequisite Indicator: >4 MPOWER policies in place	P	9	9
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	A	6	0
5.	Tobacco taxation >75% of retail sales price	A	6	0
6.	Tobacco taxation increases faster than inflation plus gross domestic product growth	P	6	6
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	P	5	5
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	P	5	5
13.	National evaluation framework in place	A	5	0
14.	Evaluation built into all major policy implementation plans	A	5	0
15.	National tobacco control strategy	P	4	4
16.	Tobacco control and noncommunicable 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	A	3	0
21.	Capacity building plan for tobacco control personnel	A	3	0
22.	Developmental assistance funding includes tobacco control	P	3	3
23.	Code of conduct for government officials and staff	A	3	0
24.	Ministry of Health WHO FCTC Article 5.3 policy	A	3	0
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
Total Score			130	78

Explanation of the scores:

1. Pre-requisite Indicator: >4 MPOWER policies in place: Mexico fulfills four measures out of six of the MPOWER i.e., Protect, Offer, Warn (PHW and mass media) and Enforce.
2. National tobacco control budget (annual): A solid budget exists for tobacco control with support from the MoH.
3. National tobacco control law: The General Law for Tobacco Control and its regulatory framework.
4. National budget allocation for tobacco control capacity building: There is no allocation for tobacco control capacity building activities for staff at the MoH.
5. Tobacco taxation >75% of retail sales price: The total tax share of the retail sale price is at 67.6%, lower than the WHO recommended level of 75%.
6. Tobacco taxation increases faster than inflation plus gross domestic product growth: In January 2020, the specific component of the special tax on cigarettes increased from 35 cents to 49.44 cents. This adjustment of almost 15 cents was made in accordance with the inflation accumulated since January 2011. Furthermore, a mechanism was approved to ensure that the adjustment is automatically made each year based on the inflation rate. As a result, in January 2021 and 2022, the specific component of the tobacco tax increased to 51.08 cents (3.3%) and 54.84 cents (7.4%), respectively.
7. National tobacco control unit: The National Tobacco Control team is functional under the MoH with highly qualified staff implementing the tobacco control agenda at both national and subnational levels.
8. Civil society tobacco control network: Mexico boasts a robust and cohesive tobacco control CSO network that exerts a favorable advocacy impact on a national scale.
9. Civil society representation in national tobacco control advisory committees: Civil society is represented under the so-called "Interinstitutional Committee for the Fight against Tobacco," where government agencies, academia and civil society discuss the tobacco control agenda on a monthly basis.
10. Health promotion fund for, or including, tobacco control: N/A.
11. National policy against tobacco industry corporate social responsibility: CSR activities are included in the total ban on TAPS under the recently published regulation of the law amendment.
12. Tobacco-related mortality and morbidity recording system: There is a system to record the country's tobacco-related mortality and morbidity.
13. National evaluation framework in place: This is achieved because of the current open coordination with the MoH and civil society organizations.
14. Evaluation built into all major policy implementation plans: N/A.
15. National tobacco control strategy: The MoH has internal operational guidelines providing details of tobacco control goals and strategies.
16. Tobacco control and noncommunicable diseases (NCD) form part of national health policy: The national health policy covers tobacco control and NCD prevention.
17. Tobacco control forms part of national development plan: Tobacco control is part of the national strategic plan.
18. Human resources for implementation (national): There are provisions for dedicated staff at the national and subnational levels.

19. Global Tobacco Surveillance System surveys: GATS, ENSANUT, ECODAT are some of the surveys that are part of the tobacco control surveillance system in the country.
20. Intergovernmental coordination mechanism: N/A, but a mechanism will be formally established soon.
21. Capacity building plan for tobacco control personnel: MoH has dedicated funds for the capacity building of officials at national and subnational levels.
22. Developmental assistance funding includes tobacco control: Mexico receives international funding support to implement tobacco control policies from PAHO and the Bloomberg Initiative to Reduce Tobacco Use.
23. Code of conduct for government officials and staff: N/A.
24. Ministry of Health WHO FCTC Article 5.3 policy: N/A.
25. WHO FCTC Article 5.3 policy across all ministries: N/A.
26. Economic and social tobacco costs data: Mexico has solid and updated data with strong scientific evidence.
27. National focal point post: There are dedicated tobacco control focal points at national and subnational levels.
28. National advisory committee: Mexico has an Interinstitutional Committee for the Fight against Tobacco that coordinates advocacy actions among governmental agencies.
29. Capacity building plans on research and evaluation: Several government institutions such as the National Institute of Public Health conduct research and evaluation of tobacco control policies.
30. Mass media campaigns funded: MoH dedicates funds for mass media campaigns with international funding support from organizations such as Vital Strategies.
31. Capacity building plan for non-tobacco-control-specific personnel: N/A.

Main findings.

Progress in tobacco control sustainability since 2016

The recent developments in tobacco control in Mexico have been significant and noteworthy. In 2008, the General Law for Tobacco Control (LGCT) was approved, marking a milestone in the country's efforts to regulate tobacco use. Subsequently, in 2011, the last tobacco tax increase was implemented. In 2018, a new federal government administration took office, with Lic. Andrés Manuel López Obrador assuming the presidency and Dr. Hugo López-Gatell appointed as undersecretary of health. This ushered in a new era of progress in tobacco control in Mexico. In 2019, after a gap of nine years, the tobacco tax was adjusted to inflation, and a presidential decree banned the import and export of all categories of tobacco and nicotine novel products. These measures were instrumental in Mexico being awarded by PAHO/WHO in the frame of WNTD for its progress in tobacco control in 2020. In 2021, after a gap of 13 years, an amendment in the LGCT was approved by Congress, making Mexico a country that is 100% smoke-free and emissions-free, with a comprehensive ban on TAPS. This amendment has made Mexico the ninth country in the Americas region to establish a comprehensive ban on any form of TAPS and the 29th country to implement smoke-free environment. These developments have allowed Mexico to advance two of the most cost-effective MPOWER measures to their maximum level of implementation, particularly measure "P" and measure "E."

Changes in scores from the 2016 survey:

1. Mexico has four MPOWER policies in place nationally. There is no legal guarantee for the "Monitor" measure. The "Protect" measure has been regulated in the General Law for Tobacco Control and the Regulations of the General Law for Tobacco Control, ensuring 100 percent smoke and emission-free spaces. The "Offer" measure is also regulated in the General Health Law, with the quit line being included in the Regulations of the General Health Law. The "Warning" measure is also stipulated in the General Law for Tobacco Control and its regulations, with warning legends on tobacco packages. The "Enforce" measure prohibits all forms of advertising, promotion, and sponsorship in the General Law for Tobacco Control and its regulations. Though tobacco taxes in Mexico do not reach 75% of the sale price of tobacco, the Law on Special Tax on Production and Services was modified in 2019 to update the quota of this tax annually from 2020.

19. GATS was carried out in Mexico in 2009, 2015 and in 2023.

Remaining gaps in tobacco control sustainability:

Fully meeting the goals of the MPOWER measure "M" will require updating the monitoring of tobacco prevalence in youth aged 12 to 15 years old. In addition, Mexico must reach a tobacco taxation rate above 75% to fulfill the requirements of measure "R." An additional need exists to implement a plain packaging policy and adopt a code of conduct for public servants to comply with Article 5.3 of the WHO FCTC.