

This bulletin highlights the key activities, focusing on Tobacco Control and TB, carried out in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Nepal, Philippines and Vietnam during May 2023.

MONTHLY BULLETIN

May 2023

Vol. 009

INDONESIA

HIGHLIGHTS

Thriving Transformations: Windusari District transitions from tobacco to lucrative crops for prosperous farming



World Health Organization presented the World No Tobacco Day 2023 Award to Indonesia Multicultural Farmers Forum

Magelang Regency, Central Java is a major producer of tobacco. The Union together with Muhammadiyah Tobacco Control Support Centre, The University of Magelang (MTCC UMM) are working with farmers in Central Java to create mitigation solutions for tobacco farmers and counter industry messages about farming.

Istanto, a dedicated sweet potato farmer from Candisari Village, Windusari District and member of the Indonesia Multicultural Farmers Forum, has been helping to drive the program by sharing his story with other farmers. During the field trip of 8th Indonesia Conference on Tobacco or Health, he highlighted that there was a significant shift in the community's mindset from tobacco to more lucrative agricultural ventures. The empirical evidence clearly demonstrates that farmers who have transitioned from tobacco cultivation to vegetables have experienced remarkable prosperity and substantially higher profits. Therefore, the areas once dedicated to tobacco cultivation have now become thriving cassava plantations.

Following his example and with the aid of the Muhammadiyah School for Farmers, tobacco farmers from 12 out of 20 villages in the Windusari Sub-District have started growing sweet potatoes in addition or instead of tobacco. Currently, they export sweet potatoes to Malaysia, Singapore, Korea and Japan and for local distribution, and prepare them in various forms – raw, baked or as snacks. Processing is done locally, which not only empowers but also creates job opportunities in the local community, leading to positively impact the economic well-being of the community and improve the quality of education for children.

Muhammad Muhaimin, another successful cultivator of Madusari sweet potatoes, emphasizes the economic advantages of this crop. He elaborates, "On an equal-sized plot of land, tobacco yields around 2 million rupiahs per season, whereas Madusari sweet potatoes can generate a staggering 4 million rupiahs per season with the added benefit of being able to harvest three times a year."

In recognition of these efforts, the Indonesia Multicultural Farmers Forum was presented with a World Health Organization Director-General 'World No Tobacco Day 2023 Award' at the World No Tobacco Day Ceremony in Jakarta on 8 June, 2023.

Overall, The Union in collaboration with the farmers school, Indonesia Multicultural Farmers Forum and MTCC UMM, has helped approximately 2,500 farmers in Central Java shift or diversify their crops to include produce such as sweet potatoes, coffee and chili. The program has also engaged over 400 young farmers to shift attitudes towards tobacco farming. The Magelang Regency has reduced the area of tobacco plantation from 7,573 hectares in 2012 to 5,265 hectares in 2022.

In light of these developments, it becomes crucial for the government to provide subsidies and extend support to farmers as they transition from tobacco farming to cultivating more nutritious crops. Such measures would contribute to the creation of healthier communities and sustainable agricultural practices.

Airlangga University leads the way: Indonesia's first tobacco-free university sets a healthier standard

Airlangga University in Surabaya, Indonesia, has implemented a tobacco-free campus policy, which not only prohibits smoking, vaping, and the sale of tobacco products on campus but also includes a comprehensive ban on advertising, promotion, and sponsorship from harmful industries, including the tobacco industry. The university also now prohibits industry donations, direct or indirect engagements. With 35,000 students and 10,000 faculty and staff, the university aims to protect their well-being from tobacco-related harms. The university has installed no smoking signs and established an enforcement team to ensure compliance. Despite being located in a tobacco-producing region, the university has taken a stand against prevailing norms. Airlangga's achievement is commendable, as no other cities in East Java have implemented similar comprehensive bans. The Union has been collaborating with the Public Health Faculty of Airlangga University since 2008 to accelerate tobacco control in Surabaya and the surrounding region. This partnership has contributed to the university's dedication to make it tobacco-free.



The Union team and its partners at Airlangga University

National Tobacco Control

8th Indonesian Conference on Tobacco or Health 2023



8th Indonesian Conference on Tobacco or Health 2023

The 8th Indonesia Conference on Tobacco or Health (ICTOH) under the theme "We need food, not tobacco" was conducted from 29 May to 1 May 2023. The conference gathered government representatives, civil society organizations, farmers, media, and youth to strengthen the tobacco control agenda at national and subnational levels. With an average daily attendance of 1,000 participants, the three-day program facilitated meaningful discussions and collaboration. Key ministries and mayors' involvement demonstrated a strong commitment to tobacco control. The conference aimed to raise awareness, promote policies, and foster multi-sectoral strategies to reduce tobacco consumption. The theme emphasized prioritizing food security and agricultural development over tobacco production. Overall, the 8th ICTOH played a vital role in sustaining enthusiasm for tobacco control in Indonesia and promoting collaboration across sectors.

Uniting for a smoke-free future: Mayor of Pontianak City leads the way on World No Tobacco Day



Meeting with the Mayor of Pontianak City

In commemoration of World No Tobacco Day, a high-level meeting was convened with the Mayor of Pontianak City. Esteemed leaders from government agencies, stakeholders, and hospitality sector associations graced the occasion. The Mayor emphasized the importance of safeguarding the public from tobacco smoke, urging all participants to join forces in bolstering the implementation of smoke-free initiatives throughout the city. During a one-to-one meeting with the Mayor, his unwavering commitment to advancing tobacco control regulations, including the prohibition of tobacco advertising, was evident, reflecting his steadfast dedication to attaining a higher level of health-conscious and child-friendly urban environment.

Advancing tuberculosis and tobacco control programs in Balikpapan

To conduct advocacy for the tuberculosis (TB) program and enhance the implementation of the tobacco control (TC) program, a collaborative visit by the All Indonesia Public Health Services Association (ADINKES) took place in Balikpapan. The meeting was conducted on May 14 and attended by the East Borneo Secretary of the Province (representing the Governor), the Mayor of Balikpapan, the Head of the Subnational Health Authority, representatives from six districts/cities, and section heads of disease control from seven Dinas Kesehatan offices. A total of 37 participants joined the meeting. The primary objective of the meeting was to strengthen the relationship between TB, growth stunting, and smoking, emphasizing the critical importance of implementing comprehensive tobacco control regulations. Moreover, ADINKES also convened a meeting with officials from Ministry of Health, Head of Villages and community on May 15, to broaden the implementation of tobacco control initiatives at the village level of Balikpapan City. These efforts aim to create a healthier and more prosperous future for the people of Balikpapan.



Advocay meeting on TC implementation in Balikpapan

Collaborative leadership paves the way for smoke-free Sumatera

Officials from Ministry of Health and Ministry of Finance met with 20 cities and district leaders in North Sumatera province including the Governor to build commitments for the immediate adoption and implementation of smoke-free policies. Furthermore, the governor called on government staff to quit smoking. This demonstrates leadership by example and sends a strong message about the importance of tobacco cessation. When public officials and employees are encouraged to quit smoking, it not only benefits their own health but also sets a positive precedent for the broader community.

Depok City Mayor's circular calls for action

Depok City Mayor Circular Letter No. 440/258-Dinkes, regarding the implementation of a smoke-free environment, has recently been adopted. This imperative circular letter summons government agency leaders to establish dedicated smoke-free task forces within their respective organizations. Its primary aim is to fortify the implementation of smoke-free regulations, ensuring a healthier and cleaner environment for all.

Advocating for development of Tobacco Control Local Act in Tanah Papua



ADINKES meeting on development of TC Local Act in Tanah Papua

As a move towards combating tuberculosis (TB) and enhancing tobacco control efforts, ADINKES held a pivotal meeting in Tanah Papua. The gathering aimed to advocate for the development of a Tobacco Control (TC) Local Act while focusing on TB-related issues. Attended by 21 individuals representing six districts/cities, this collaborative effort sought to strengthen the correlation between TB and smoking, emphasizing the urgent need for enacting robust tobacco control regulations. ADINKES also met with the Head of Dinkes and Head of the Law Bureau in Papua to facilitate a provincial meeting dedicated to the development of comprehensive Tobacco Regulations. The visit to Tanah Papua by ADINKES underscores the commitment to fostering a healthier future and promoting the well-being of the local community.

Banda Aceh's enforcement drive removes 57 Tobacco Ads

Banda Aceh City conducted two random inspections led by the Civil Police. 57 retailers were found to be in violation of TAPS (Tobacco Advertising, Promotion, and Sponsorship) policies. A total of 164 tobacco advertisements were removed as a result of these inspections. By conducting these inspections and taking action against violators, Banda Aceh City is demonstrating its commitment to enforcing TAPS policies and ensuring compliance within the retail sector. Such efforts can contribute to creating a healthier environment and reducing the prevalence of tobacco use within the community.



Enforcement drive conducted in Banda Aceh city during May



Capacity building for comprehensive tobacco control implementation



Comprehensive Tobacco Control Implementation training in Pangandaran

The Union grantee, No Tobacco Community, conducted comprehensive training sessions on the implementation and enforcement of tobacco Advertising, promotion, and sponsorship (TAPS), point of sale, and smoke-free policies at Pangandaran District, West Java on 23-24 May 2023. This hybrid meeting brought together 165 participants from various departments of six jurisdictions. The training also included a practical experience of random inspection around the city for those attended in person.

18 municipalities step up for tobacco-free initiatives

On World No Tobacco Day, 18 municipalities in Bangladesh initiated various day-long programs, with their own budget to demonstrate their dedication in enhancing tobacco control efforts at the sub-national level. The followings are some of the highlights:



Dhamrai Municipality

Dhamrai Municipality: Mayor of Dhamrai Municipality set up awareness-raising boards mentioning the ban of using, selling and promotion of tobacco products within 100 meters of various educational institutions of Dhamrai Municipality.

Manohardi Municipality: Manohardi Municipality celebrated a day-long program on May 31 World No Tobacco Day. Municipal Mayor Mr. Aminur Rashid Sujon inaugurated the event, which includes awareness-raising mini marathon.

Thakurgaon Municipality: Mayor of Thakurgaon Municipality installed boards stating the banning the use, sale, and promotion of tobacco products within 100 meters of various educational institutions and health care centers in the city. An awareness raising rally was also organized under the leadership of Mayor of Thakurgaon Municipality.



Tangail Municipality

Tangail Municipality: Tangail Municipality organized a colorful awareness rally to raise awareness about tobacco-related issues. In addition to the rally, the municipality set up a board declaring the prohibition of the use, sale, and promotion of tobacco products within 100 meters of educational institutions.

Harinakundu Municipality: Harinakundu Municipality organized a colorful awareness rally.

Goalanda Municipality: Goalanda Municipality organized various activities such as awareness-raising discussion meetings, rallies, and the distribution of leaflets.

Cox's Bazar Municipality: An awareness rally was held under the leadership of Honourable Mayor Mujibur Rahman of Cox's Bazar Municipality, Chairman of Mayor Alliance for Healthy City.



Cox's Bazar Municipality



Thakurgaon Municipality



Manohardi Municipality



Goalanda Municipality

Integration of smoking cessation in TB control programs



Meeting with Director Aleli Sudiagal of Metro Manila CHD

The Union met with Director Ariel Valencia of Center for Health Development (CHD) Region 4 and Director Aleli Sudiagal of Metro Manila CHD in April to share The Union and its grantees' work in the region and discuss the possible integration of smoking cessation and TB program. Both Regional Directors exhibited strong support for TB prevention and control initiatives and expressed concern regarding the rising prevalence of vape and e-cigarette use among youth. In National Capital Region (NCR), prior to the pandemic, there were smoking cessation clinics in all City Hospitals, and their staff were trained on Brief Tobacco Intervention. Director Sudiagal assured the revival of this program. On the other hand, Director Valencia expressed interest in piloting the integration of TB and smoking cessation in Laguna, the identified City of The Union grantee - South Central Luzon Conference.

Preparations for fifth round of PHWs

On 28 April, The Union attended the meeting of the Technical Working Group on Tobacco Prevention and Control to discuss the draft Administrative Order on the fifth set of graphic health warnings and updates on the World No Tobacco Day and No Smoking Month initiatives of the Department of Health. The Union and other partners reviewed the revised GHWs and provided technical support to make it more comprehensive.

Strategizing tobacco control activities for enhanced public health



Strategic Planning Workshop for Tobacco Control Program

In April, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) collaborated with the Department of Health Metro Manila Center for Health Development to organize a Strategic Planning Workshop for the Tobacco Control Program in Metro Manila. The objective of the workshop is to align the Tobacco Control program of Local Government Units (LGUs) with the National Tobacco Control Program (NTCP) Strategies 2023-2030. The workshop was participated by a total of 57 representatives from the 16 Metro Manila LGUs and partner agencies. During the session, the LGUs formulated their activities for the years 2023-2024, based on their approved Local Investment Plan for Health (LIPH) and Annual Operations Plan. In order to ensure comprehensive support for all NTCP strategies, a follow-up meeting is scheduled for August to draft the LIPH for the next term (2025-2028).

Empowering Police trainees: Smoke-free orientation initiate changes in Baguio

In Baguio City, on May 9, 2023, a Smoke-Free Orientation was successfully held at the Philippine National Police Cordillera Administrative Region Training Center (PNP CARTC), in collaboration with Smoke-Free Baguio and Benguet. The orientation targeted approximately 300 police trainees and aimed to provide them with crucial information regarding the Smoke-Free Baguio Ordinance, recent enforcement updates, the Smoke-Free Program, and the detrimental effects of smoking, vaping, and betel quid/momma consumption. PNP CARTC expressed its unwavering support for the implementation of the Smoke-Free Program, highlighting their commitment to promoting a smoke-free environment. This initiative demonstrates the collaborative efforts of Smoke-Free Baguio, Benguet, and the PNP CARTC in creating awareness, fostering compliance, and safeguarding public health.



Smoke-Free Orientation at PNP CARTC

Building capacity of local stakeholders

- **Refresher course on the Smoke-Free Ordinance and Enforcement Protocol** : Smoke-Free Aklan gave a refresher course on the Smoke-Free Ordinance and Enforcement Protocol/Apprehension on April 20 to all 40 deputized enforcers of LGU Tangalan in preparation for the strict and full implementation of the municipal ordinance.
- **MPOWER and Deputation Trainings**: Two MPOWER and Deputation Trainings were conducted for Smoke-free Task Force members for effective implementation of the #SmokeFreeBenguet Program. A total of 111 participants from the municipalities of Bokod (50 participants) and La Trinidad (61 participants). were participated in the trainings. During workshop, the participants were tasked to identify gaps in the implementation of the Smoke-Free and formulate action plans for the enforcement of the said ordinance at the municipal and barangay level.
- **Brief Tobacco Intervention Trainings**: 3 batches of Brief Tobacco Intervention Trainings were held in Taguig City, with the aim to equip the Taguig City Health Workforce with the necessary skills and knowledge on smoking cessation. Approximately 150 health workers, including nurses, midwives and Barangay health workers, assigned in various health centers of Taguig City attended the training.
- **Smoking Cessation Training**: In collaboration with the Benguet Provincial Tobacco Control Network, a two-day Smoking Cessation Training was conducted on April 24-25, 2023 in La Trinidad, Benguet. A total 25 doctors and nurses from Rural Health Units were participated in the activity. Moreover, establishment of the Smoke Cessation Clinic and referral system of patients that are ready to quit and needs NRT were discussed during the training.

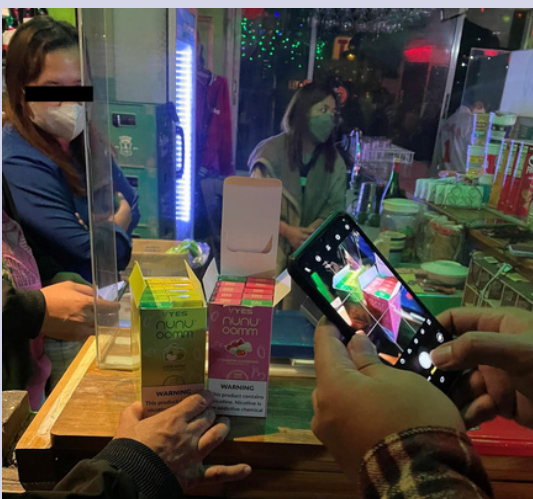


MPOWER and Deputation Training in Benguet



Smoking Cessation Training in La Trinidad

Compliance monitoring in 4 Municipalities



Night Smoke-Free inspection in Banguio

- **Metro Manila**: MMDA personnel inspected the vicinity of 149 schools and 35 public transportation terminals in the Metro Manila for tobacco/vapor products, TAPS and No Smoking signage display. A total of 1,744 violations were identified and reported to concerned LGUs for verification and appropriate intervention.
- **Tangalan and Nabas Municipalities**: Smoke-Free Aklan conducted compliance monitoring in Tangalan and Nabas Municipalities last April 28, 2023. During the compliance monitoring, LGU Nabas jumpstarted the "Oplan Baklas" or dismantling and clearing of all related tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship materials.
- **Banguio Municipality**: Smoke-Free Baguio and Public Order and Safety Division conducted a night Smoke-Free inspection in resto-bars and clubs located in Magsaysay, Bokawkan, Campo Filipino, Dominican Mirador Hill, Naguilian Road, and Fairview of Banguio Municipality on May 19, 2023. The Union's grantee Smoke-Free Benguet/Transcend staffs joined the said inspection.

Commemoration of World No Tobacco Day 2023 in 2 provinces



World No Tobacco Day Campaign in Phnom Penh

The National Centre for Health Promotion (NCHP), Ministry of Health (MoH) organized two separate campaigns for World No Tobacco Day 2023 under the theme “We need food, not tobacco.” The objectives of the campaigns are to:

- Promote for enforcement of tobacco control law and further development of more comprehensive tobacco control policies as needed
- Reveal tricks and exploitation of tobacco company benefits to farmers
- Raise public awareness about the impact of tobacco not only on health but on food insecurity
- Seek support from the government, policymakers, and relevant institutions to assist farmers in converting tobacco crops to food crops.



Dr. Hang Chon Naron, Minister of Education, Youth and Sport of Cambodia, accepted the World No Tobacco Day Award

Phnom Penh: The first campaign was conducted at the Ministry of Health, Phnom Penh on 29 May 2023. Total 250 participants from the tobacco control committee, MoH officials, the rector of MoH University, the Director of the Department of National Centers and National Hospitals, WHO representative, development partners, university students and media joined the campaign. At there, WHO Director-General “World No Tobacco Day Award 2023” was presented to Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport - one of the four awardees from WHO Western Pacific Region.

Kampong Cham: The second campaign was conducted at Kampong Cham province on 31 May 2023. About 500 participants from relevant departments, municipalities, districts, , students, youths and community joined the commemoration of World No Tobacco Day.



World No Tobacco Day Campaign in Kampong Cham



Quiz Game Session

Evidences show tobacco consumption leads to poor household's welfare



VATJ 1st consultation workshop in February

On 26 May 2023, the Vietnam Center for Economic and Strategic Studies (VESS) and Vietnam Alliance for Tax Justice (VATJ) organized 2nd consultation workshop on the "study on impact of tobacco tax on households' multi-dimensional welfare: evidence from Viet Nam". This is the follow-up workshop after the 1st consultation in February. The study was conducted with technical support from the Union with an aim to provide evidence for advocacy for tobacco tax raise. The study used data from the Viet Nam Household Living Standard Survey in 2012-2020 and found that there is a correlation between smoking and multi-dimensional welfare indicators of households. The increase of tobacco tax would lead to less consumption and hence leading to improving welfare for household's members. The Union will continue to support VESS and VATJ to formulate advocacy messages based on study findings.

Community monitoring on the implementation of TC Law in 28 schools

On 24 May 2023, Center for Creative Initiatives in Health and Population (CCIHP) organized a consultation workshop with representatives from 28 schools participating in the monitoring on the implementation of Tobacco Control (TC) Law. The survey found that while understanding on tobacco harms is high, children in 28 schools are still exposed to tobacco through their friends, teachers, workers or parents smoking in and near school premises. There are still violations in schools regarding TC Law and most common violations are the lack of no-smoking signages in schools or TAPS ban violations at point-of-sale near schools. CCIHP works with schools to plan actions to improve compliance to TC Law.



Consultation workshop on findings from community monitoring on the implementation of TC Law in 28 schools

Awareness-raising seminars on tobacco control from child right and gender equality perspectives

Briefing newspaper managers on dangers of noval tobacco products

On 23th May 2023 The Union supported Vietnam Tobacco Control Fund (VNTCF) to work with the Central Propaganda Committee to conduct a briefing for news manager on the harm of new tobacco products and MOH position to ban it. MOH and Ministry of Trade and Industry have opposite views on this matter and the Union media monitoring shows that Tobacco Industry have used media to convey incorrect information to people.



Participants of 3rd seminar organized by CCIHP

CCIHP has conducted a series of seminars with members of Child Right Working Group, Gender-based Violence Prevention Network and Network of Youth Sexual and Reproductive Health Educators, to raise awareness on the harms of tobacco use. The 1st seminar was organized in October 2022 on Children and Tobacco, the 2nd workshop was in April 2023 on Women and Tobacco and the 3rd one was organized on 31st May 2023 on the topic of man, masculinity and tobacco.

Meeting with Minister of Health and Population for increasing tobacco tax in Nepal



Meeting with Minister of Health and Population

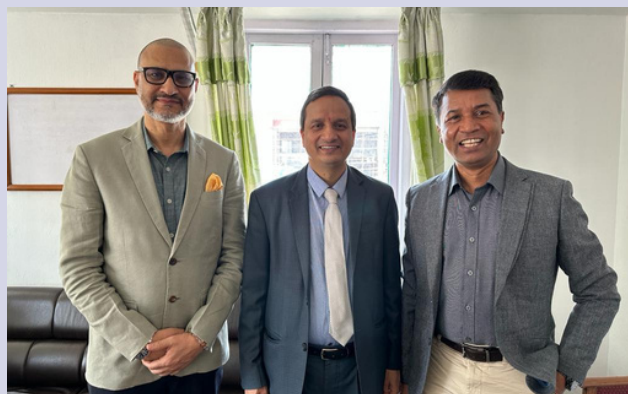
Dr. Tara Singh Bam, Director of UAP Asia Pacific, and Mr. Ananda Bahadur Chand, Chairperson of Action Nepal, held a meeting with Hon. Mohan Bahadur Basnet, the Minister of Health and Population, to discuss the implementation of 90% pictorial health warnings and the imperative of raising tobacco product taxes in Nepal. During the meeting, compelling data was presented, revealing that Nepal possesses the lowest tax rates on tobacco products among South Asian countries, necessitating an increase in line with recommendations from the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Bank. They also suggested that raising tobacco taxes would not only generate revenue for the government but also discourage people from smoking and alleviate the burden of tobacco-related diseases.

The Minister of Health and Population acknowledged the significance of reducing tobacco consumption to improve public health. He demonstrated a strong commitment to tobacco control and promised to undertake the necessary measures to pursue this objective.

Collaborating with Ministry of Finance to develop plan for increased tobacco tax and funding public health initiatives

Dr. Tara Singh Bam and Mr. Ananda Bahadur Chand had a meeting with Mr. Gunakar Bhatta, Finance Advisor to the Minister of Finance. The objective of the meeting was to address the issue of raising taxes and prices on tobacco products and devise a comprehensive plan for raising taxes on tobacco products. Furthermore, they emphasized the importance of this action for both public health and the economy, mentioning that the government could utilize the generated revenue to support public health programs and initiatives aimed at curbing tobacco consumption.

Mr. Bhatta, assuring his commitment, affirmed that he would effectively convey the proposal to the Minister of Finance. This collaborative effort demonstrates a positive step towards addressing tobacco-related concerns in Nepal.



Meeting with Finance Advisor to the Minister of Finance

Collaborating for sustainable tobacco control in Bharatpur: Mayor's participation highlights commitment



Snapshot from Program for sustainable tobacco control in Bharatpur Metropolitan city

In a collaborative effort, The Union's grantee Action Nepal joined forces with the Health Journalist Forum Nepal, Bharatpur Metropolitan City, and the Industry Association of Chiwan to organize a program focused on sustainable tobacco control in Bharatpur Metropolitan City. The program aimed to achieve several key objectives, including reducing the prevalence of tobacco use in Bharatpur Metropolitan City, increasing awareness about the harmful effects of tobacco use, promoting healthier lifestyles among residents, enforcing tobacco control laws and regulations, and ensuring the sustainability of a smoke-free Bharatpur Metropolitan City. The program received participation from notable figures, including the Mayor of Bharatpur Metropolitan City, underscoring the significance of the initiative in fostering positive change and promoting a tobacco-free environment.

Advocating for increased tobacco taxation and sustainable livelihoods

On May 31 2023, The Union's grantee Action Nepal organized a press conference in Bijulibazar, Kathmandu, in honor of World No Tobacco Day 2023. With the theme "Grow Food, Not Tobacco," the event aimed to raise awareness about the detrimental consequences of tobacco consumption, encourage individuals to quit smoking, and foster discussions about the current state of tobacco taxation in Nepal. Distinguished representatives from various media outlets attended the press meet. During the conference, significant emphasis was placed on the urgent necessity for Nepal to raise tobacco tax rates, considering the public health crisis stemming from tobacco usage. It was emphasized that the government should prioritize public health and alleviate the burden of tobacco-related illnesses on the population. Additionally, raising awareness about the harmful effects of tobacco use and promoting sustainable livelihoods that do not depend on tobacco cultivation were deemed essential. A total of 27 journalists from diverse media houses actively participated in the program.



Snapshot from Press meet on WNTD 2023



Action Nepal awarded with "Health Minister Bloomberg award 2023"

Action Nepal receives "Health Minister Bloomberg Award 2023" on WNTD

On May 31st, 2023, in commemoration of World No Tobacco Day (WNTD), Action Nepal was honored with the "Health Minister Bloomberg Award 2023" by the Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) for its notable efforts in tobacco control in Nepal. The award ceremony witnessed the presence of several esteemed individuals, including the Health Minister of Nepal, who extended their congratulations to the recipients and acknowledged their endeavors in promoting tobacco control across the country.

Meeting with Action Nepal for upcoming initiatives

Dr. Tara Singh Bam had a meeting with Action Nepal to address two key agendas of importance. The primary focus was centered on organizing Mayor's meeting with enhanced preparedness and effectiveness. Secondly, a series of action plans were identified for implementation in the upcoming quarter.

The identified actions include conducting a comprehensive survey on pictorial health warnings, conducting pre-tests on selected images, advocating for higher taxes on tobacco products, and monitoring compliance with smoke-free regulations. These measures aim to strengthen tobacco control efforts and promote public health.

Through this meeting, The Union and Action Nepal demonstrated their commitments to actively engage in strategic actions that contribute to the overall well-being of the community.

Ad Ban & Smoking Ban: Government takes action in Kathmandu

National Health Education Information and Communication Center (NHEICC) issued a notice regarding ban on advertisement on point of sale. Additionally, District Administration office of Kathmandu also issued a notice regarding ban on smoking on public places of Kathmandu district.

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