

Working Towards a Tobacco-Free World

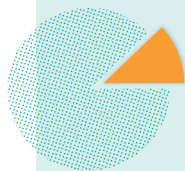
THE CROSS-CUTTING NATURE OF THE WHO FCTC

Tobacco is not just one of the world's most pressing health concerns – virtually no major development objective is spared from tobacco's extensive harms

Health

Tobacco kills more than **8 million** people a year and is the one risk factor common to the 4 main noncommunicable diseases:

- cardiovascular disease,
- cancer,
- diabetes and
- chronic respiratory disease.



14%

of all NCD deaths among adults aged 30 years and over are attributable to tobacco.

Economic

The economic costs of tobacco use are substantial and include **significant health care costs** for treating the diseases caused by tobacco use and the lost productivity that results from tobacco-attributable **morbidity and mortality**.

Global economy loss due to tobacco

\$1.4 trillion

~2%
of global GDP

Environmental

Tobacco farming – itself health-harming – often relies on unlawful or exploitative labour, including child labour, and contributes to environmental degradation.

Tobacco farming is responsible for nearly **5%** of global deforestation with **200,000 hectares** of woody biomass loss per year.

Cigarette butts are by far the **largest** single type of litter by count.

Since the 1980s cigarette butts have consistently comprised

30-40%

of all items picked up in annual international coastal and urban clean-ups.



Poverty/Social

Poor health **robs wage earners** of the ability to provide for their families. Unpaid care work rises for women and girls, with the latter risking being **pulled out of school** to care for sick or disabled relatives.

Tobacco-related medical expenditures, often out-of-pocket, can drive vulnerable households into **poverty**, or force individuals to forgo life-saving care altogether.

Tobacco use contributes to poverty by diverting household spending from **basic needs** such as food and shelter to tobacco.

Solution

The WHO FCTC is the first and only global public health treaty and represents the internationally agreed and evidence-based response to the tobacco epidemic. This legally binding treaty was negotiated to promote stronger coherence across national and international policies and actions

Needed

Multisectoral response

- Good governance is necessary to develop and support, at the national, regional and international levels, comprehensive and coordinated responses.
- Develop multisectoral tobacco control strategies

WHO FCTC and the SDGs

Inclusion of the WHO FCTC within the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is a major step toward reducing the devastating health and development impacts of tobacco.

Together, targets 3.a (**Strengthen the implementation of the WHO FCTC in all countries, as appropriate**) and 3.4 (**By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from NCDs and promote mental health and well-being**) have the potential to raise awareness of tobacco as a key sustainable development issue, commit national governments and other stakeholders to tackle tobacco for the next **15 years**, intensify and harmonize tobacco control efforts, and mobilize resources for WHO FCTC implementation, thus better aligning health financing priorities with epidemiological burdens.

That the WHO FCTC is captured in Agenda 2030 as a 'means of implementation' recognizes its potential, as an international treaty supported by the binding obligation of domestic legislation, to accelerate sustainable development progress, particularly in developing countries.