



Togo

25-29 AUGUST
2014

NEEDS ASSESSMENT MISSION



FCTC
WHO FRAMEWORK CONVENTION
ON TOBACCO CONTROL
SECRETARIAT

Introduction

The needs assessment mission for the implementation of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) was conducted August 25-29, 2014, by the Convention Secretariat jointly with the Ministry of Health of the Togolese Republic. The international team, which came at the government's invitation, included representatives of the WHO Regional Office for Africa (AFRO). The team met with the leaders of government agencies, NGOs and civil society who are involved in implementing the WHO FCTC at country level.

Tobacco control milestones in Togo

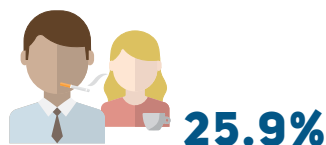


- 2005** Togo ratifies the WHO FCTC.
- 2006** The WHO FCTC enters into force in Togo.
- 2010** Togo adopts the Tobacco Control Act.
- 2012** Togo adopts three bylaws and five decrees to implement the Tobacco Control Act.

Volume of legally imported tobacco products in Togo

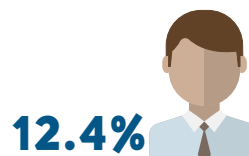
YEAR	IMPORTS
2009	1.575 million kg
2010	1.471 million kg
2011	2.025 million kg
2012	2.474 million kg
2013	3.091 million kg

Key facts



of **youths** aged 13-15 have been exposed to tobacco **smoke** in **enclosed public places**.

28.9% of boys
21.6% of girls



of **men** aged 15-64 are current **smokers**.



54.2%

of current **cigarette smokers** aged 13-15 have obtained cigarettes by **buying** them from a store, shop, street vendor or kiosk.



of **women** aged 15-64 are current **smokers**.

11.2%

of **boys** aged 13-15 are current **smokers**.



3.6%

of **girls** aged 13-15 are current **smokers**.



14.4%

of **boys** aged 13-15 use **other tobacco products**.



6.6%

of **girls** aged 13-15 use **other tobacco products**.



Tobacco taxation - **ad valorem tax ceiling**

35% in 2010
40% in 2012
45% in 2013

Main findings and recommendations

● Togo adopted the Tobacco Control Act in 2010 and five decrees and three bylaws to implement the Tobacco Control Act in 2012. The Tobacco Control Act establishes WHO FCTC provisions in domestic law in a comprehensive way. Together with its implementing decrees and bylaws, the Tobacco Control Act establishes strong provisions to set up a National Tobacco Control Committee, comprehensively ban tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship and ban sales to minors.
Recommendation: Fully implement the Tobacco Control Act and its bylaws and decrees.

● The Tobacco Control Act allows smoking in designated areas in a few public places.
Recommendation: Amend the act to be fully compliant with WHO FCTC provisions.

● The Tobacco Control Act provides a legal basis for the introduction of pictorial health warnings and plain packaging for tobacco. So far only textual warnings with 65% of the principal display areas of tobacco packaging have been implemented.
Recommendation: Implement large pictorial health warnings at the earliest possible time.

● The Tobacco Control Act and its regulations have not been fully implemented and enforced. In particular, there is a need for enforcement training.

There is significant tobacco industry interference in tobacco control legislation and implementation. The tobacco industry reportedly succeeded in weakening certain provisions, such as the ones for 100% smoke-free public places and increased taxation. A decree with a code of conduct for civil servants has been drafted but not implemented.
Recommendation: Adopt and promulgate the decree with a code of conduct for civil servants as soon as possible.

Recommendation: The Ministry of Health should work closely with the Ministry of Security and Civil Protection to develop a circular to inform all police officers and other law enforcement personnel about the Tobacco Control Act. Copies of the Tobacco Control Act should also be distributed to judges around the country.

● Togo's National Health Development Plan (2012-2015) identifies noncommunicable disease prevention, including tobacco control, as a priority. There is also a multisectoral Integrated Strategic Plan on Noncommunicable Diseases (2012-2015). There is a target of reducing smoking from 8.5% to 6.4% of the population. Funds to implement these programs have not been allocated.
Recommendation: Develop a multisectoral action plan to implement the WHO FCTC with a clear timeline, objectives and expected outcomes. Clearly identify and allocate resources for implementation.

● There is a tobacco control focal point within the noncommunicable disease program. There is no full-time staff, no separate budget allocation and no office space allocated to the focal point. There is a noncommunicable disease working group that has been functioning for over two years, with focal points in all ministries. This group is also involved in implementing the WHO FCTC. The Tobacco Control Act has provisions for a Tobacco Control Committee, though it has not yet been appointed.

Recommendation: Establish the National Tobacco Control Committee as soon as possible and continue to use the noncommunicable disease working group to support day-to-day WHO FCTC implementation. Allocate the necessary staff, facilities and funds for this purpose.

● Togo fully recognizes price and tax measures as effective means of reducing tobacco consumption.
Recommendation: Continue working with the WHO Regional Office for Africa (WHO AFRO) on tobacco price and tax policies.

● The Ministry of Health, other ministries, NGOs and media groups have conducted significant activities to educate the public.
Recommendation: All relevant ministries should work together to develop a multisectoral education and communication strategy.

● The United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) is a strategic program framework agreed between Togo and the UN system to outline priorities for national development. The current UNDAF (2014-2018) has included implementation of the WHO FCTC.
Recommendation: Include supporting implementation for the WHO FCTC in the current UNDAF.

Post needs assessment assistance available from the Convention Secretariat

● Supporting and facilitating a national multisectoral stakeholder workshop to consider the needs assessment report and develop the multisectoral National Tobacco Control Strategic/Action Plan.

● Providing support for the establishment of a multisectoral National Tobacco Control Committee.

● Providing immediate support for any priorities identified by the Ministry of Health and any other relevant ministries.

Outcomes



- 1) The need assessment exercise was very useful for the Togolese Republic.
- 2) It helped the focal point to advocate for tobacco control among all relevant sectors and to strengthen the implementation of the WHO FCTC.
- 3) After the mission, a new curriculum, which includes tobacco control and prevention of non-communicable diseases, was developed to be introduced in primary and secondary schools.
- 4) The needs assessment facilitated the engagement of stakeholders that were not previously involved in the implementation of the Convention.