

This bulletin highlights key activities, focusing on Tobacco Control and Tuberculosis, carried out in Indonesia, Cambodia, Nepal, Myanmar and Timor-Leste during July 2022.

INDONESIA

NATIONAL TOBACCO CONTROL



Vice-Minister of Health presenting the evidence-based information

Efforts to improve national policies on tobacco control

The Union and partners supported the Ministry of Health and the Coordinating Ministry for Human Development and Culture to host a public consultation where strong evidence-based information was presented and shared by the Vice-Minister of Health.

Despite some traditional industry arguments, attendees from civil society, academia, students, farmers' groups and the public strongly countered them and shared best practices to support amendments to government regulation (PP109), which includes 90% pictorial health warnings, ban tobacco ads online and sale of single cigarettes.

The Union continues to provide evidence-based technical assistance and legal support in the development of the PP109 amendments, mobilizing civil society and media to accelerate policy advocacy and countering industry interferences.

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2022 The Union Grantees Meeting

The Union Grantees meet to strategize for tobacco control

The Union conducted a grantee meeting in Indonesia to identify challenges, priorities, and actions to improve tobacco control, especially for raising taxes on tobacco products, increasing the size of pictorial health warnings on tobacco packs, banning tobacco advertising, and implementing smoke-free.

Key actions identified are encouraging mayoral advocacy, civil society one-on-one advocacy meetings with relevant ministries, use of the latest data, media briefings and intensive social media campaigns.

Tobacco control contributes to end TB



Meeting with National TB Program Manager

The Union met with the National TB Program (NTP) Manager Indonesia to discuss scaling up smoking cessation in tuberculosis (TB) control, as well as The Union's role in TB monitoring, capacity building and operational research.

The Union shared the *Diagnostic CXR Atlas for Tuberculosis in Children* guide, which the NTP Manager was keen to use the resource and possibly translate in Bahasa Indonesia.

ADINKES - a key player for tobacco control

The Union met with Dr. Md. Subuh, Chair of the Association of All Indonesian Health Offices (ADINKES), who also serves as Advisor to the Minister of Health, to discuss the effective implementation of tobacco control at subnational level and the PP109 amendments.

ADINKES will initiate the drafting of a joint ministerial decree and index on subnational tobacco control. They will also advocate for the integration of smoking cessation within TB control programs.



Meeting with Chair of AKINKES

SUBNATIONAL TOBACCO CONTROL IN INDONESIA

BUILDING MAYORAL LEADERSHIP AND ACCOUNTABILITY



Meeting with Mayor I Nyuman Suwirta, Klungkung district, Bali

Throughout July, The Union met with 10 district and city mayors and other key stakeholders to discuss the implementation of smoke-free, ban tobacco advertising, tobacco control enforcement, and much more. Alongside local grantees, The Union met with:

- The Mayor of Klungkung, Bali, and Chair of the Indonesian Mayor Alliance for Health and Development - leading toward a tobacco-free district
- The Mayor of Makassar City - creating a smoke-free city
- The Mayors of Kediri, Blitar, and Tulungagung cities, where they all signed a smoke-free commitment
- The Mayor of Sukabumi city - committing to banning the display of tobacco products at the point-of-sale
- The Vice-Mayor of Denpasar City - taking action to ban tobacco adverts
- The Mayor of Banda Aceh - gaining commitment for smoke-free enforcement
- The Kulon Progo district Smoke-Free Team - preventing tobacco industry interference.

For more detail about the meetings, [read the full article on The Union website.](#)



Working with the Smoke-free team in Kulon Progo



Mayor of Kediri, Blitar, and Tulungagung cities signed a Smoke-free Commitment



Capacity Building workshop on smoke-free environments and tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship ban

Building tobacco control capacity in Central Java Province

The Union and its local partner organization, Muhammadiyah Tobacco Control Centre at the University of Muhammadiyah, held a high-level roundtable meeting with the mayors of nine cities and districts in Central Java, followed by a capacity-building workshop on smoke-free.

Training to strengthen smoke-free implementation and policy adoption was delivered to 70 government officials from 22 jurisdictions.

CAMBODIA



Deputy Director of NCHP, MOH Cambodia in Talk Show

The Union provides technical and grant support to the National Centre for Health Promotion (NCHP) at the Ministry of Health (MOH) Cambodia. The support includes effectively implementing the WHO MPOWER strategy and prohibition of e-cigarettes and heated-tobacco-products (HTPs).

Deputy Director of NCHP joined a TV talk show by CTN channel to educate the public about the harms of e-cigarettes, HTPs and shisha and provide an update on the enforcement of the regulation banning the sale, advertising, distribution and use of such products.

CAMBODIA

- A meeting of the Sub-Committee on Tobacco Products Control on Preventing the Use of E-Cigarettes, Heated Tobacco Products and Shisha was conducted in Kampong Cham province.
- A meeting with the Secretary of State of the Ministry of Tourism was held to review and monitor the progress of a smoke-free environment in tourism. As a result, the Ministry of Tourism issued, on 1 July 2022, official regulations to ban the use, distribution, and sale of e-cigarettes and HTPs products at all hospitality facilities.



Sub-Committee Meeting on Tobacco Products Control on Preventing the Use of E-Cigarettes, Heated Tobacco Products, and Shisha

NEPAL

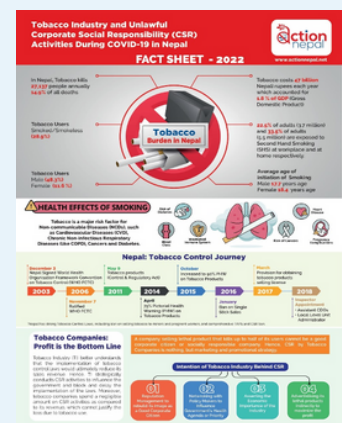


**WITH CHIEF MINISTER,
GANDAKI PROVINCE, NEPAL -
NO TOBACCO INDUSTRY CSR**

Meeting with Chief Minister, Gandaki Province, Nepal

The Union works with the Ministry of Health Nepal and civil society organization Action Nepal to build political commitments and accountability for tobacco control at the national and sub-national levels. The Action Nepal team, along with health journalists, met Honorable Krishna Chandra Nepali Pokharel and his team about the tobacco industry's unlawful corporate social responsibility (CSR) activities. The Chief Minister condemned the tobacco industry's CSR and made a commitment to ensure comprehensive implementation of tobacco control laws in the Gandaki Province.

Additionally, a tobacco industry CSR fact sheet, policy brief, interviews with key stakeholders, a documentary, and social media posts have been disseminated to the media to run evidence-based advocacy and raise awareness among the key stakeholders and general public.



IEC material on tobacco industry CSR activities during COVID-19 in Nepal

MYANMAR

Preparation for Plain Packaging

The Union plays a key role in providing the technical assistance to design and implement the tobacco control program in Myanmar. In July 2022:

- Myanmar is preparing the implementation of Plain Packaging, which is set to take effect on 1st January 2023.
- Conducting random monitoring to assess the compliance of pictorial health warnings implementation.



Current Tobacco Products Vs. Plain Packaging of Tobacco Products in Myanmar

TIMOR-LESTE

Monitoring Tobacco Control Policies

The Union provides technical assistance and grants support to the civil society organization Timor-Leste Alliance for Tobacco Control and works closely with the Ministry of Health to advance tobacco control. In July, the key focus was to monitor tobacco control policies and programs, which includes:

- Conducted inspections in 295 venues to monitor tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship and smoke-free in three Municipalities.
- A price monitoring survey is being conducted in three locations to assess compliance with the government regulation on tobacco taxes and prices.
- A proposal to assess the effectiveness of pictorial health warnings has been developed and it has been submitted to the National Institute of Health for approval.
- Supported the Ministry of Finance to assess the illicit trade of tobacco products in Dili, the capital city of Timor-Leste. More than three boxes of illicit cigarettes were seized by the authority.



Fig 18: Current PHWs in Timor-Leste

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For more information, please contact

THE UNION ASIA PACIFIC OFFICE (UAP)



**6A Shenton Way,
#04-01, OUE Downtown Gallery,
Singapore 068815
E-mail: ap-cat@theunion.org**