

Tobacco Control Asia Pacific Monthly Bulletin

Issue 19 (June 2026)

Highlights

Indonesian Sub-national Governments Strengthen Capacity to Enforce Tobacco Point-of-Sale Display Ban



Delegates of POS display ban training at Tasikmalaya city

Representatives from nine regencies and cities in West Java and two cities in Central Java gathered in Tasikmalaya City on 29-30 June 2026 for a two-day training on implementing and enforcing tobacco and e-cigarette point-of-sale (POS) display bans. The training was officially opened by Tasikmalaya Mayor Viman Alfarizi Ramadhan, reflecting strong political commitment to advancing comprehensive tobacco control at the sub-national level.

The activity brought together participants from Tasikmalaya City, Ciamis Regency, Majalengka Regency, Pangandaran Regency, Depok City, Bogor City, Bekasi Regency, Sukabumi City, Cimahi City, Magelang City, Salatiga City, and the West Java Provincial Government. Through technical sessions, participants strengthened their knowledge of policy implementation, compliance monitoring, and enforcement strategies for POS display bans.

A key feature of the training was a field simulation conducted at 18 retail outlets in Tasikmalaya City and Ciamis Regency, where participants practiced monitoring compliance and enforcing regulations prohibiting the display of tobacco and e-cigarette products. The hands-on exercise enhanced local enforcement capacity and supported broader efforts to reduce the visibility and appeal of tobacco and nicotine products in communities.



Field simulation to assess the compliance of POS display ban

World No Tobacco Day 2026

Indonesia: During the World No Tobacco Day commemoration on 7 June 2026, the Mayor of Makassar reaffirmed the city's commitment to strengthening smoke-free policy implementation. The event engaged more than 250 community members and demonstrated high-level political support for tobacco control.



WNTD celebration in Makassar



Community fun walk and health awareness campaign in Kapangan

Philippines: To commemorate World No Tobacco Day and Hypertension Awareness Month, the Municipality of Kapangan organized a community fun walk and health awareness campaign promoting smoke-free lifestyles. The event combined tobacco control advocacy with health education, environmental clean-up activities, and public awareness on the municipality's smoke-free ordinance, reinforcing community commitment to healthier, tobacco-free environments.

Protecting people from tobacco smoke

Indonesia: On 15 June 2026, Banda Aceh conducted a smoke-free implementation workshop for its city task force, bringing together 33 representatives from relevant government agencies. The workshop strengthened coordination and capacity for implementing and enforcing smoke-free policies.



Smoke-free implementation workshop in Banda Aceh



Meeting with the Head of the One Stop Service Agency

On 17 June 2026, Banda Aceh held a meeting with the Head of the One Stop Service Agency to strengthen support for citywide smoke-free implementation. The meeting secured the agency's commitment to participate in upcoming random smoke-free compliance inspections. Moreover, on 24 June 2026, a coordination meeting with the Civil Police, Health Office, One Stop Service Agency, and Puskesmas representatives was conducted to prepare for citywide random smoke-free compliance inspections. The meeting brought together 39 participants to strengthen interagency coordination for enforcement.

Philippines: Vital Strategies sub-grantees conducted a two-day Smoke-Free MPOWER and Enforcement Training for local government officials, health officers, tobacco control coordinators, and enforcement teams from Iloilo Province. The training strengthened local capacity to implement and enforce smoke-free policies through discussions on MPOWER strategies, policy implementation, and best practices.



Participants of Smoke-Free MPOWER and Enforcement Training



Installation of No Smoking signs and posters in Pasig

Pasig City, through its Smoke-Free Task Force, Barangay Rosario, and the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA), installed no-smoking signs and educational posters in strategic locations across Barangay Rosario on 30 May 2026. The initiative reinforced public awareness and supported compliance with the city's smoke-free policies.

Vital Strategies sub-grantee Partnerships for Health, Agriculture, Nation-Building, and Socio-economic Upliftment, Inc. (PNBI) conducted a meeting with the Mayor of Agoo, La Union, to support implementation of the Smoke-Free Project. The discussion secured local government support for upcoming MPOWER training to strengthen tobacco control and promote smoke-free and vape-free communities.



Meeting with the Mayor of Agoo, La Union



Removal of tobacco ads during compliance monitoring

The Tabuk City Smoke-Free Task Force conducted compliance monitoring of retail establishments in Bulanao to enforce the city's Comprehensive Smoke-Free Ordinance. Inspectors checked tobacco sales permits, prohibited cigarette advertising, compliance with restrictions on sales to minors and single-stick sales, and advised non-compliant establishments to address violations before follow-up inspections.

Timor-Leste: In June 2026, the National Alliance for Tobacco Control (ANCT-TL) completed field data collection for the third nationwide Smoke-Free Compliance Survey across all 13 municipalities. The survey assessed compliance with the smoke-free provisions of Decree-Law No. 14/2016, including smoke-free environments, designated smoking areas, and required signage, while comparing findings with previous survey rounds to measure progress. The results, currently being finalized, will provide evidence to guide enforcement, strengthen policy implementation, and support tobacco control efforts nationwide.



Data collectors of nationwide Smoke-Free Compliance Survey

Offering help to quit tobacco use



Expert Consultation on DOH-DPCB Cessation Training Modules

Philippines: Vital Strategies sub-grantee Ateneo School of Government (ASOG), in collaboration with the Department of Health-Disease Prevention and Control Bureau and the Lung Center of the Philippines, convened an expert consultation to develop standardized national smoking cessation training modules for healthcare providers. The consultation brought together government, medical, and civil society experts to refine an evidence-based curriculum covering brief interventions, intensive behavioral counseling, pharmacotherapy, and youth-focused cessation, supporting implementation of the National Tobacco Cessation Infrastructure Plan 2030.

Cambodia: On 17 and 19 June 2026, the National Center for Health Promotion (NCHP), in collaboration with the National Center for Tuberculosis and Leprosy Control (CENAT), organized two workshops to strengthen tobacco cessation implementation among TB patients and Primary Health Care (PHC) in Cambodia. The first workshop, attended by 60 participants from the Ministry of Health, Provincial Health Departments, WHO, and partner organizations, focused on implementing Government Directive No. 02 BB on electronic smoking devices and enhancing public awareness, multi-sectoral enforcement, and tobacco control. The second consultative workshop brought together 25 representatives from national health departments, the Phnom Penh Municipal Health Department, operational districts, and health centers to support the implementation of tobacco cessation counseling guidelines for TB patients and strengthen the integration of cessation services into TB care.



Participants from the workshop to strengthen tobacco cessation implementation among TB patients and PHC in Cambodia

Warning about the dangers of tobacco

- **Cambodia:** The Minister of Health approved the fifth rotation of pictorial health warnings (PHWs) for tobacco products. The new PHWs are scheduled to take effect on 1 March 2027.



New pictograms for the fifth rotation of pictorial health warnings (PHWs) on tobacco products

Enforcing bans on tobacco advertising, promotion, and sponsorship

- Philippines:** The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) continued its public awareness campaign reminding retailers and the public that the sale of cigarettes and vape products to minors is prohibited. The campaign reinforced compliance with tobacco control laws and promoted a nicotine-free future for Filipino youth. Additionally, the team inspected 166 retailers near 10 schools across Quezon City, Manila, Makati, and Malabon to strengthen enforcement of tobacco sales restrictions. The team also distributed educational materials and no-smoking stickers to reinforce the prohibition on tobacco sales within 100 meters of schools and to minors.



Awareness campaign on sales of cigarettes and vape products

Novel tobacco and nicotine products

- Cambodia:** The Ministry of Health approved new educational materials, including a leaflet and video spot on e-cigarettes. The materials will be disseminated to all 25 provinces and municipalities, shared with partners, and promoted through social media to support implementation of Government Directive No. 02 BB and strengthen public awareness of the harms of e-cigarettes.

General Tobacco Control



Launching of Anti-Smoking and Anti-Vaping Ordinance

Philippines: Koronadal City officially launched its Anti-Smoking and Anti-Vaping Ordinance No. 9, Series of 2025, during the observance of No Smoking Month 2026. Supported by Vital Strategies sub-grantee Data and Implementation Sciences for Health (DISH), the event brought together government officials and community stakeholders to strengthen commitment to implementing and enforcing the ordinance.

Vital Strategies sub-grantee ASOG supported the Department of Health-Center for Health Development Caraga Region in establishing the Regional Tobacco Control Network (RTCN). ASOG facilitated the development of the network's policy and operational framework to strengthen regional coordination and evidence-informed tobacco control.



Delegates from formation of Caraga RTCN



Courtesy Visit to Department of Health
CaLaBaRZon Center for Health and Development

Health Futures Foundation, Inc. (HFI) held an advocacy meeting with the Department of Health-CALABARZON Center for Health Development to explore collaboration on future tobacco control initiatives. The meeting strengthened engagement with regional health authorities to support tobacco control implementation.

Vital Strategies sub-grantee TRANSCEND conducted sustainability assessments of tobacco control policies in Itogon, Kibungan, and La Trinidad using the Index for Tobacco Control Sustainability-Philippines (ITCS-PH). The assessment evaluated the long-term sustainability of local tobacco control policies and identified opportunities to strengthen implementation and protect communities from tobacco and vape use.



Meeting for ITCS-PH Validation in Itogon, La Trinidad



Some of the confiscated tobacco products

TRANSCEND supported the Municipality of Tuba's No Smoking Month celebration, which featured the ceremonial destruction of confiscated cigarettes, vapes, and other tobacco products. The event reaffirmed the municipality's commitment to protecting youth and strengthening smoke-free and vape-free communities.

Benguet State University College of Nursing, in partnership with Vital Strategies sub-grantee TRANSCEND, conducted an MPOWER tobacco and vape control training for 38 school nurses and teachers as part of its adolescent health program. The training strengthened participants' capacity to implement tobacco control policies, promote cessation services, recognize tobacco industry tactics targeting youth, and support smoke-free school environments.



MPOWER training for school nurses and teachers



Health promotion campaign in La Trinidad

More than 1,000 senior high school students in La Trinidad participated in a health promotion campaign marking World Blood Donor Day, National Kidney Month, and National No Smoking Month. The event included education on smoke-free policies, vaping harms, blood donation, kidney health, and HIV prevention, alongside free health services to strengthen youth health advocacy.

Vietnam: Vital Strategies supported the Vietnam Tobacco Control Fund in convening a technical meeting to review tobacco control in the context of its integration into the Disease Prevention Fund. Participants assessed current tobacco control policies, identified implementation gaps and financing needs, and developed recommendations to strengthen the long-term sustainability of tobacco control programs and financing.



Technical meeting to review tobacco control by integration into the Disease Prevention Fund

- With support from Vital Strategies, the Hanoi University of Public Health conducted training workshops for data collectors in Phu Tho and Ho Chi Minh City to support a compliance survey and the development of standardized tools for measuring compliance with Vietnam's tobacco control law. Data collection was completed in Phu Tho and is underway in Ho Chi Minh City.



Installation of No-smoking signage during field simulation in Tasikmalaya City

For more information, please contact

Vital Strategies Singapore Office

6A SHENTON WAY, #04-01, OUE DOWNTOWN GALLERY,
SINGAPORE 068815