

Strengthening tobacco taxation policy and structure in Uganda.

Presentation on behalf of
Uganda Tobacco Tax Coalition
Stakeholders' meeting at Golf Course
10th Sept 2024

Campaign goal and objectives

Goal: A FCTC compliant tobacco tax policy and structure that sustainably contributes to reduction of tobacco use in Uganda by 2029.

Objectives

1. To build a strong, well-coordinated Tobacco Tax Coalition of 20 Civil Society Organizations that promotes FCTC compliant tobacco taxation policies in Uganda by 2026.
2. To develop and provide 02 empirical evidence/data products relevant for Tobacco Taxation interventions by 2025
3. To increase and sustain political-will and technical support for the adoption and implementation of FCTC compliant tobacco taxation policy by 2026
4. To monitor and counter tobacco industry interference in the legislative process for increasing tobacco tax by 2026.

Members of Uganda Tobacco Tax Coalition (UTTTC)

1. Uganda National Health Users/Consumers' Organisation (UNHCO) - secretariat
2. Centre for Tobacco Control in Africa (CTCA)
3. Uganda Cancer Society (UCS)
4. Uganda Alcohol Policy Alliance (UAPA)
5. Uganda Health Communication Alliance (UHCA)
6. United Nations Association of Uganda (UNAU)
7. Way Forward Youth Africa (WFYA);

Justification/background

- Uganda's tobacco tax structure is still below the 70% share of tax in the total retail price of cigarettes which is the minimum standard recommended by World Health Organisation. This tax makes Uganda loose critical revenue.
- Currently Uganda is at 35% share of tax in the total retail price of cigarettes (GTIII 2023)
- Taxes on Cigarettes were last increased in 2017 contrary to WHO recommendation of progressive taxation. Also this does not consider the inflation

Justification/background

- The total health cost of tobacco use including the direct cost of treatment and the indirect costs of loss of income and productivity from death and disability in Uganda is UGX 328.82 billion equivalent to US\$126.48 million.
- The total health cost outweighs the market value UGX 211.15 billion (USD 81.22M) of tobacco products or the assumed benefits of tobacco use in Uganda (CTCA Report 2017).
- This implies that every USD1 from tobacco, Uganda spends USD4 in tobacco health related costs

The coalition aspirations

- “Increasing tobacco taxation would increase Government revenue, decrease tobacco consumption, decrease morbidity and mortality accruing from tobacco consumption, improve household incomes and reduce Government expenditure on health”.