

Index for Tobacco Control Sustainability

THAILAND

Indicators	Present (P) / Absent (A)	Weighted Score	Country Score	Explanation
Prerequisite Indicator: >4 MPOWER policies in place	P	9	9	All MPOWER policies are in place “at the highest level of achievement according to their status except cessation and advertising ban in the most recent WHO Report on the Global Tobacco Epidemic”
National TC budget (annual)	P	7	7	Government allocates annual budget to the Office of Tobacco Products Control Committee
National TC law	P	6	6	The amended TC law was passed in 2017 (Tobacco Products Control Act B.E. 2560 (2017))
National budget allocation for TC capacity building	P	6	6	Yes, part of national budget is allocated for TC capacity building, including both TC unit’s staff and others.
Tobacco taxation >75% of retail sales price	A	6	0	Thailand has two main types of tobacco products with different excise rate. Manufactured cigarette was taxed at 68–70% of retail price, while hand-roll tobacco is at 28%
Tobacco taxation increases faster than inflation plus GDP growth	P	6	6	The latest tax increase is 10%–26%, so it is higher than inflation
National TC unit/cell	P	5	5	Yes, the national TC unit has 24 staff
Civil society TC network	P	5	5	There are eight major TC NGOs with more than 500 networks across the country
Civil society representation in national TC advisory committees	P	5	5	Two representatives from CSOs are member of National TC Committee, chaired by the minister of health
Health Promotion Fund for/including TC	P	5	5	Thailand has a health promotion fund (ThaiHealth Promotion Fund), where revenue comes from a 2% surcharge on the tobacco excise
National policy against TI CSR	P	5	5	TI CSR is banned by TC law
TC-related mortality and morbidity recording system	P	5	5	Yes, there is a system recording mortality and morbidity from tobacco related diseases.
National evaluation framework/plan in place	P	5	5	National Tobacco Control Action Plan, Third Edition (2022–2027)
Evaluation built into all major policy implementation plans	P	5	5	An evaluation of Implementation of The National Strategic Plan for Tobacco Control No. 2 (NSPFTC NO.2) Year 2016–2019

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National TC strategy	P	4	4	Strategy of the National Tobacco Control Action Plan, third edition, 2022–2027 (B.E.2565 - 2570) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategy 1: Strengthen and enhance the country's tobacco control capability • Strategy 2: Prevent the emergence of new tobacco users and monitor tobacco businesses • Strategy 3: Provide treatment help addicted people stop using tobacco • Strategy 4: Control, inspect, monitor, and disclose the ingredient lists of tobacco products • Strategy 5: Create a smoke-free environment • Strategy 6: Enforce measures for tax collection and for the prevention and suppression of illegal tobacco products
TC and NCDs form part of national health policy	P	4	4	Yes, National Tobacco Control Action Plan, third edition (2022–2027) is consistent with national health policy and the National Strategy (2018–2037).
TC forms part of National Development Plan	A	4	0	Tobacco control is not specifically included in National Development Plan
Human resources for implementation (national)	P	4	4	Twenty-four full-time MOH staff members work on tobacco control
GTSS Surveys (GATS / GYTS)	P	4	4	The latest GYTS, conducted in October 2022, was submitted to CDC for analysis in January 2023. GATS was conducted in two rounds, 2009 and 2011. Since then, National Statistic Office has integrated and applied GATS questionnaires to the national tobacco use survey, which is conducted every two years.
Intergovernmental coordination mechanism	P	3	3	The National Tobacco Control Committee is established by tobacco-control law. The committee is the intergovernmental coordination mechanism and is chaired by the minister of public health. The committee consists of high-level officials from 12 ministries.
Capacity building plan for TC-specific personnel	P	3	3	Capacity development programs are in place both at national and provincial levels. Additional activities are available to improve the capacity of law enforcers under the Tobacco Products Control Act.
Developmental assistance funding includes TC	P	3	3	Thailand has a health promotion fund (ThaiHealth Promotion Fund), which allocates tobacco-control funding to both government agencies and civil society.
Code of conduct for government officials/staff	P	3	3	1.Regulation of Ministry of Public Health Re: How to Contact Tobacco Entrepreneurs and Related Persons B.E.2559 (2016) 2. Regulation of Department of Disease Control Re: How to Contact Tobacco Entrepreneurs and Related Persons B.E. 2555 (2012)

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Ministry of Health 5.3 Policy	P	3	3	Thailand implementation is according to Article 5.3 of the WHO-FCTC, such as raising awareness about tobacco industry (TI) interference, banning CSR, not giving preferential treatment to the TI and the Tobacco Authority of Thailand. The tobacco state and enterprise are treated the same way as other TI entities.
5.3 Policy across all ministries	A	3	0	There is a code of conduct for all government officials in the Civil Service Commission, but it is not fully in accordance with WHO FCTC Art 5.3.
Economic/social TC costs data	P	3	3	In 2017, the direct morbidity cost attributable to smoking and secondhand smoke exposure at home in Thailand was estimated to be at least US\$265.97 million and US\$23.66 million, respectively. Indirect morbidity costs from workday losses totaled US\$25.04 million. https://tobaccocontrol.bmj.com/content/31/6/714?with-ds=yes
National focal point post	P	3	3	The Office of Tobacco Product Control at the Ministry of Public Health is the national focal point.
National advisory committee	P	2	2	The National Tobacco Control Committee was established by tobacco control law. The committee is the intergovernmental coordination mechanism, chaired by the minister of public health. The committee comprises of high-level officials from 12 ministries.
Capacity building plans on research and evaluation	P	2	2	The Tobacco Control Research and Knowledge Management Center is the lead organization in building research and capacity evaluation.
Mass media campaigns funded	P	1	1	Mass media is well funded by ThaiHealth. It covers both traditional media and new media, using both earned and paid media.
Capacity building plan for non-tobacco control specific personnel	P	1	1	Competency development training exists for: the expertise potential of the Tobacco Products Control Committee; capacity building for Gen Z on protecting young people from e-cigarettes; capacity building for Gen Z on the TC Law, including training with the teacher network on the harmful effects of e-cigarettes; seminars with local media; training with local administrative organizations; seminars with kindergarten teachers; and children's development centers at local administrative organizations.
Total Score		130	117	

Summary of progress in TC sustainability since 2016:

In 2017, Thailand passed its Tobacco Product Control Law, which fully covers all MPOWER policies save for tobacco taxation, which is covered under a separate excise tax law. The 2017 law gives authority to the Ministry of Health to enact relevant regulations, such as on standardized packaging. Thailand also requires the tobacco and alcohol industry to pay a 2% surcharge on excise taxes to the government to fund the ThaiHealth Promotion Fund (approximately US\$130 million), which allocates funds to tobacco control and other health promotion programs. Government organizations and civil society organizations can apply to this fund for resources to support tobacco control programs.