

The way forward: Innovative national financing solutions

In many countries tobacco control is often not a national priority. Consequently, domestic resources for WHO FCTC implementation are far from secure and must compete with other programmes for government funding. An effective way to address this is the introduction of dedicated surcharge taxes on tobacco and alcohol, which can aid in reducing consumption of these harmful products and, more importantly, provide a more secure funding stream for health promotion and tobacco control programmes.

Four out of ten ASEAN countries have established health promotion or tobacco control funds through surcharged taxes (Thailand, Lao PDR and Vietnam) and treasury budget (Singapore).

Tobacco control and health budgets in ASEAN



Quick Fact

Health is still not given enough priority by government. In low-income countries, health expenditure fell as a share of government spending, from 7.9% in 2000 to 6.8% in 2016. They became increasingly reliant on official development assistance for health.

*The budget use for tobacco related programmes come from the operational budget of Health Promotion Centre, Brunei.

**Budget of USD 261.71 million (SGD 352 million) is for all health promotion programmes and not solely for tobacco control.