



Capacity Development
Workshop for
TOBACCO
CONTROL

E V E N T R E P O R T



Introduction

The Centre for the Study of the Economies of Africa, with support from the Cancer Research UK (CRUK) and Development Gateway, hosted a one-day Capacity Development Workshop on the Roles of States in Tobacco Control in Nigeria. The event was held on June 21, 2023, at the Centre for the Study of the Economies of Africa (CSEA) in Abuja, Nigeria.

Aver Michaels, Research Assistant at CSEA, moderated the workshop, which began at 10:20 a.m. and allowed time for brief introductions from each participant. In his opening remarks, Dr Chukwuka Onyekwena, Executive Director of CSEA, expressed gratitude to Cancer Research UK for funding the capacity training. He went further to present data showing the harmful effects of smoking, leading to 8.8 million tobacco-related deaths around the world. He highlighted the importance of policies such as higher taxes on tobacco products, public smoking bans, tobacco product regulation, and a ban on tobacco product advertisements. He also noted that CSEA's tobacco control efforts focus on disseminating tobacco control efforts at the subnational and grassroots levels.

Dr. Onyekwena concluded that the capacity workshop will guide stakeholders, including policymakers, at the state level on using tobacco control measures to improve public health outcomes.

Presentations

Accessing Data for Tobacco Control Development Gateway by Seember Ali

Seember Ali, a senior consultant at **Development Gateway (An IREX venture)**, demonstrated the use of the Tobacco Control Data Initiative (TCDI) dashboard on the Devt Gateway platform, which can be accessed at <https://nigeria.tobaccocontroldata.org/en>.

She disclosed that the Development Gateway had built a fully functional dashboard for use and that their projects extend beyond the development sector into the agro- and development industries. She provided additional information about the database and stated that the endeavour would span three years.

In her presentation, she explained that the website focused on Nigeria's top priorities for tobacco control data gaps. It validated the data by interviewing over twenty-three prominent organisations and individuals within the tobacco control stakeholder industry.

She went further to review the six themes of the website, which include tobacco prevalence, tobacco harm, illicit trade, taxation, industry interference, and Shisha. The dashboard is updated daily to reflect the most recent data.

According to Ms Ali, depending on the data type, participants could view the data by day, month, quarter, and year, Biannually or annually, on the website. This will be in addition to historical data, so facts from previous years can still be accessed. She stated that users could email the Development Gateway for their work to be showcased, which must be vetted.

Collective Approach to Tobacco Control in Nigeria: Leaving No Tier of Government Behind Presentation: MPOWER Framework and Role of Sub-National Government

Dr Adedeji Adeniran, Director of Research at CSEA, presented the research findings from the policy brief titled “The Nigeria Tobacco Policy Landscape: The Role of States in Tobacco Control”. During his presentation, he noted that much work has been done on the Nigerian Tobacco policy landscape at the federal government level over the years. For instance, the World Health Organisation (WHO) framework had been disseminated at the federal level, but little had been done at the state level. He highlighted that the one major challenge at the state level is the lack of implementation of the Tobacco control guidelines that have been set at the national level. He noted that the Ministry of Finance had used taxation policies to raise taxes, monitor tobacco use, and implement prevention policies; the Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS) for monitoring only speaks to states, not local governments.

Nevertheless, he emphasised that knowledge about policy framing and tobacco control can still be given to states to enable them to carry out these policies. He recommended that states can do a lot to control tobacco use, as well as secondhand smoking, through sensitisation campaigns to help people quit smoking.

Feedback from participants noted that media involvement in tobacco control at the state level is poor. People should know that taking all the measures—enforcing smoke-free spaces, raising taxes, etc.—at the same time is where the impact will be felt. While sensitisation is important, it should not be used in isolation. Tobacco control should be a luxury product. Revenue generation can be a sub-objective of tobacco control to get buy-in from stakeholders.

Group Break-out Session

The participants were divided into two groups.

Mr Iraoya Augustine, a Research Associate at CSEA, moderated Group 1, where discussions centred on knowledge transfer and the sharing of experiences from the federal government to state governments. Participants discussed prevention at the federal level, noting the contributions of organisations like the Federal Competition & Consumer Protection Commission (FCCPC) and the Advertising Regulatory Council of Nigeria (ARCON), formerly the Advertising Practitioners Council of Nigeria (APCON), but noting, however, that at the state level, more work needs to be done. They recommended campaigns begin in nursery schools, citing developed countries like Japan as an example.

Dr Adeniran suggested that measurement through data collection and research is critical for gaining interest across the federal and state levels to solve problems like poverty. A partnership is equally important at the State level, and CSOs and religious bodies are critical to working with the federal government and states to drive these monitoring efforts. To close the gap between the government and state parastatals caused by structural issues, CSOs at the federal and state levels should collaborate.

Group 2 was facilitated by Ezra Ihezue, Research Associate at CSEA, and it featured: Knowledge Transfer and Sharing of Experiences from the Federal Government to State Governments., The toolkit was shared among participants in this group, and it was aimed at helping participants assess their various units on the effectiveness of tobacco control policies and assess the toolkit to determine its suitability for the state level.

The participants filled out the assessment questionnaire (toolkit) to assess their internal units in their organisations to know how many tobacco control measures are in effect.

Discussions: Toolkit assessment was the score for the toolkit to be developed properly. Some participants noted that the section of the toolkit on constraints goes beyond what is recorded in the questionnaire; there was also a lack of political will and conflict of interest that should be included in that section. Also, participants recommended that the toolkit be collapsed into one point to avoid repetition.

Closing session and next steps

Overall, the workshop successfully achieved its objective of building capacity for tobacco control in Africa. The breakout sessions provided valuable insights and strategies for advocacy, research, and implementation. The group presentations and feedback allowed for further discussion and collaboration among participants.

The next steps considered by all participants are to continue building on the momentum of this workshop and implementing the recommendations made.

SUMMARY

The Centre for the Study of the Economies of Africa (CSEA) held a one-day Capacity Development Workshop for Tobacco Control in Abuja, Nigeria, on June 21, 2023. The workshop, funded by Cancer Research UK, discussed the harmful effects of smoking, its global impact, and the importance of policies like higher taxes, public bans, regulation, and advertising bans.

Seember Ali, a senior consultant at Development Gateway, demonstrated the use of the Tobacco Control Data Initiative (TCDI) dashboard on the Devt Gateway platform. Dr. Adedeji Adeniran presented a document on the Nigerian Tobacco Policy Landscape, highlighting the role of states in tobacco control

Participants categorized into two groups: Group 1A focused on knowledge transfer and sharing experiences, recommending campaigns start as early as in nursery schools and partnerships between the CSOs and religious bodies with the federal government, and Group 2B assessed the effectiveness of the tobacco control toolkit developed by CSEA.

Overall, the workshop successfully achieved its objective of building capacity for tobacco control in Africa.