

BANGLADESH

Tobacco Policy Status



TOBACCO TAXATION AND PRICES Taxation on tobacco products in Bangladesh is low. Tobacco products are priced at widely affordable rates. **SMOKE-FREE ENVIRONMENTS** Bangladesh has virtually no ban on smoking in public places. For the few public places where smoking bans do exist, enforcement of existing regulations is minimal. **BANS ON ADVERTISING, PROMOTION AND SPONSORSHIP** No complete ban on advertising and promotion exists. Tobacco companies are permitted to advertise through international mass media, sponsorship, through the internet and at the point of sale among other formats. **HEALTH WARNINGS ON TOBACCO PACKAGES** Health warnings labels on tobacco products do not meet minimum requirements for effective tobacco product warning labeling. Warnings are non graphic and contain text only. **TREATMENT OF TOBACCO DEPENDENCE** There is little support available to smokers who want to quit. Only one form of cessation medication is available for purchase and counseling assistance is virtually non-existent. **TOBACCO PREVENTION FUNDING** The national tobacco control unit consists of a staff of 2 with a budget of just USD \$ 50,000 to support one the world's poorest, most densely populated and fastest growing populations. Development implications of such inadequate tobacco prevention capacity are dire for the country, especially, where study findings indicate that smoking is most prevalent among men with a household income of less than USD \$24 a month (per capita income is USD \$ 444)^{1,2}.

WHO Report on the Global Tobacco Epidemic, Bangladesh, 2008

TOBACCO TAXATION AND PRICES			
PRICE OF MOST POPULAR BRAND ²		USD at official rate	\$0.26
In currency reported by country	18.00 BOT	International dollars ³	\$1.38
SMOKE-FREE ENVIRONMENTS			
Health care facilities	Yes	Indoor offices	No
Educational facilities (except universities)	Yes	Restaurants	No
Universities	No	Pubs and bars	No
Governmental facilities	No	Enforcement*	0 / 10
HEALTH WARNINGS ON TOBACCO PACKAGES			
Laws or regulations banning misleading terms	No	Warnings are large, clear, visible and legible	Yes
% of principal display areas covered by warnings	30%	Warnings rotate	Yes
Warnings are mandated and specific	Yes	Warnings are written in the principal language(s)	Yes
Warnings appear in/on each package/label	Yes	Warnings include a picture	No
Warnings describe harmful effects of tobacco use	Yes		
TREATMENT OF TOBACCO DEPENDENCE			
Quitline	No	Counseling in hospitals	No
Nicotine replacement therapies (NRT) sold	Yes	Counseling in offices of health professionals	No
Bupropion sold	No	Counseling in the community	Yes, in some
Counseling in health clinics	No		
BANS ON ADVERTISING, PROMOTION AND SPONSORSHIP			
National TV and radio	Yes	Free distribution	Yes
International TV and radio	No	Promotional discounts	No
Local magazines/newspapers	Yes	Non-tobacco products with tobacco brand names	Yes
International magazines/newspapers	No	Non-tobacco brand used for tobacco product ⁴	No
Billboards/outdoor advertising	Yes	Appearance of tobacco products in TV and/or films	No
Point of sale	No	Sponsored events	Yes
Internet	No	Enforcement*	5 / 10
TOBACCO PREVENTION FUNDING			
Specific national government objectives	Yes	GOVERNMENT'S EXPENDITURE ON TOBACCO CONTROL	
National agency or technical unit for tobacco control	Yes	In currency reported by country	50 000 USD
Number of full-time equivalent staff	2	In USD at official exchange rate	\$50 000

¹Efroymsen D, Ahmed S, Townsend J, Alam SM, Dey AR, Saha R, et al. Hungry for tobacco: an analysis of the economic impact of tobacco consumption on the poor in Bangladesh. Tobacco Control. 2001;10: 212-217. ²UNFPA. About Bangladesh. http://www.unfpa-bangladesh.org/php/about_bangladesh.php. (Accessed 2/15/08).