The process towards approving a comprehensive tobacco control legislation: the case of Suriname.

Ministry of Health Suriname
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Purpose of the tobacco law

• To protect current and future generations from the effects of tobacco consumption and to reduce tobacco use and exposure to tobacco smoke.
Key components of the tobacco law

• Measures proved highly effective in reducing tobacco consumption and have health benefits
Tobacco Law SB 2013 no 39

- Smoking ban in indoor public places
- Tobacco advertising ban
- A ban on the sale of tobacco products to minors
- A ban on vending machines and a ban on importation and distribution of electronic cigarettes
- Pictorial health warnings required on packaging
- The development, implementation, and monitoring of a national tobacco control strategic plan
- Promote research and epidemiological surveillance of tobacco use
- Promote intersectoral collaboration for legislation implementation
- Compliance and enforcement regulations
- Strict penalties for non-compliance
- Allows for the development of future regulations to ensure full implementation of the law
Legislation Timeline 2004-2013

• Suriname signed the FCTC on June 24, 2004
• Suriname ratifies the FCTC on December 16, 2008
• World No Tobacco Day on May 31, 2012 includes over 5,000 supporters
• The National Assembly passes comprehensive, smoke-free legislation unanimously on February 7, 2013
Legislation Timeline, cont’d

• President Bouterse signs legislation on February 20, 2013
• The smoke-free legislation goes into effect on June 7, 2013
• Implementation, enforcement, and monitoring & evaluation efforts are ongoing
Legislation Context

• Worldwide FCTC implementation with model case studies in the region
• Support of key decision makers throughout the policy process
• National legislation developed and refined through intersectoral input
Important steps before the Passing since signing in 2004

• Activities taken place in the area of:
  - Leadership (signing; ratification)
  - Data to action: tax increase on tobacco & tobacco products (2006)
  - Research: Global Youth Tobacco Survey/Global School Health Survey/ AQM
  - Capacity building: Legislators / Law students
  - Advocacy/coalition building: Parliamentary Briefing/ Fact sheets
Important steps before the Passing

- Dec 2011: draft Tobacco Law sent for approval to Council of Ministers
- May 2012: State Council received final version of MoH
- Oct 2012: Approval State Council
- Nov 2012: Submitted to Parliament
- Nov 2012: Commission of Rapporteurs installed
- 15 Jan 2013: On agenda of Parliament
- 15 Jan 2013: amendment version of Tobacco law submitted to Parliament
- 16 Jan 2013: Parliament closed session to discuss situation
Important steps before the Passing

• During deliberations at Parliament:
  - Teleconferences with PAHO Regional Tobacco Control and NCDs to provide technical support
  - Building coalition in Parliament by providing data on studies
  - Public awareness activities
Results/Achievements

• The legislation is designed to protect vulnerable populations
  – Children
  – Pregnant Women
  – Employees
  – Residents in the Interior

• Anecdotal evidence of socialization
Key Elements of Success

• The political will of key decision makers
  – Members of the National Assembly
  – President Desi Bouterse

• Regional countries are models for successful implementation of the FCTC guidelines
  – Intersectoral approach (different line Ministries)
  – Advocacy, education and building coalition with strategic partners > Network of interdisciplinary partnerships
Lessons learned and challenges

• Be aware and prepared that the industry might obstruct the development of the law and or the passing of the legislation.

• Evidence on your tobacco control situation is crucial: Make sure you have good data at hand to push when your parliament needs it.

• Never go alone as Ministry of Health; a health sector shouldn’t act alone. It’s important to have a common goal with other sectors involved.

• Learn from other countries to build strong laws.
Lessons learned and challenges

• Continue education of policymakers and the society that tobacco use is not just a health issue
  – but also a development
  – human right and
  – an environmental issue
Lessons learned and challenges

• Keep building on the momentum created from one successful initiative to address other policy issues.
Project Partners & Donors

- Ministry of Health
- PAHO
- Ministry of Trade and Industry
- Ministry of Justice
- Ministry of Labor
- Ministry of Environment
- Members of the National Assembly
- Sports Groups
- Youth organizations
- District Commissioners and District Councils
- Informal Transportation Organizations (bus and taxi drivers)
- Chamber of Commerce
- Anton de Kom University, Law Department for legislation consultation

9/2/18

Approving tobacco legislation: the case of Suriname
WET van 20 februari 2013, houdende regels ter beperking van het gebruik van tabak en tabaksproducten (Tabakswet)

Thank you!

Bedankt!