

TNR Team

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Status of effective tobacco control measures in the African Region

Rationale

Tobacco control is an integral part of the development agenda, contributing not only to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 3 (target 3.a calls for strengthening implementation of the WHO FCTC in all countries), but also of other targets, directly or indirectly impacted by tobacco growth and use. The African Region has made progress in the implementation of the WHO FCTC. What has been done to date?

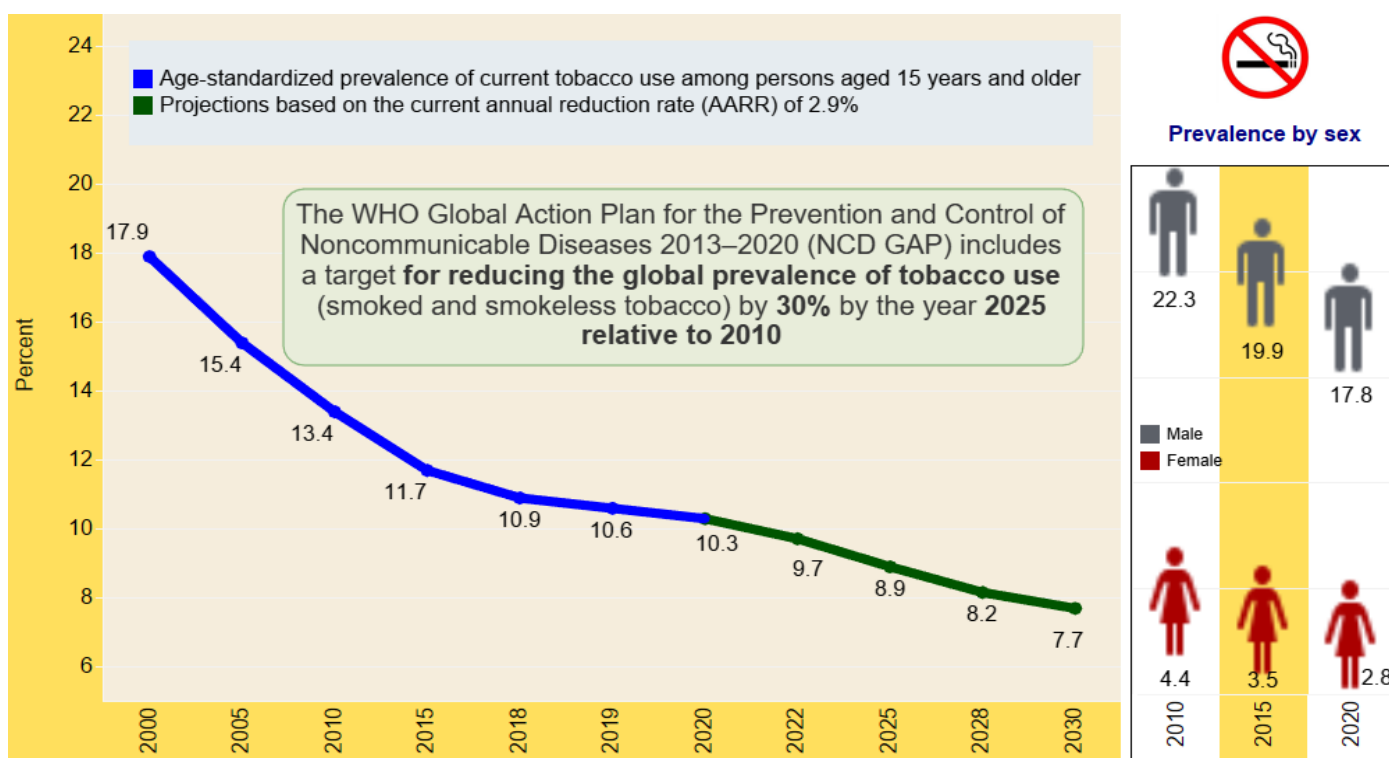
Key messages

- **10.3%** prevalence of current tobacco use among persons aged 15 years and older in 2020.
- **23%** reduction in prevalence of current tobacco use among persons (aged 15 years +) compared to 2010.
- **2703 deaths** due to drug use disorders including 2222 **men (82%)** and **481 women (18%)** in 2019, with **opioids (73% of the total)** being the main type of drug used.
- **4.129 million** people were living with drug use disorders in 2019.
- **1.345 million** additional people began living with drug use disorders in 2019.
- **The African Region is on track to reach the SDG target.** In fact, the estimated value in 2025 will be 8.9%. This will correspond to a reduction of approximately **34%** compared to 2010.

1. Tobacco use

United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) **target 3.a** is to “Strengthen the implementation of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) in all countries, as appropriate”. The **indicator** that demonstrates progress towards this target is **3.a.1**, “Age-standardized prevalence of current tobacco use among persons aged 15 years and older.”

Figure 1: Age-standardized prevalence of current tobacco use among persons aged 15 years and older in the African Region (Source: WHO, 2020)



Available data from 2020 showed a reduction in prevalence of **23%** compared to 2010. Thus, with the current annual average rate of reduction (AARR) of 2.9%, the **African Region is on track to reach the SDG target**. In fact, the estimated value in 2025 will be 8.9%. This will correspond to a reduction of approximately **34%** compared to 2010.

2. Morbidity and mortality due to tobacco use

Figure 2: Burden of drug use disorders in disability-adjusted life years (DALYs), 2019 (Source: IHME)

DALY

Disability adjusted life year is a measure of overall disease burden, expressed as the cumulative numbers of years lost due to ill-health, disability or early death.

= YLD

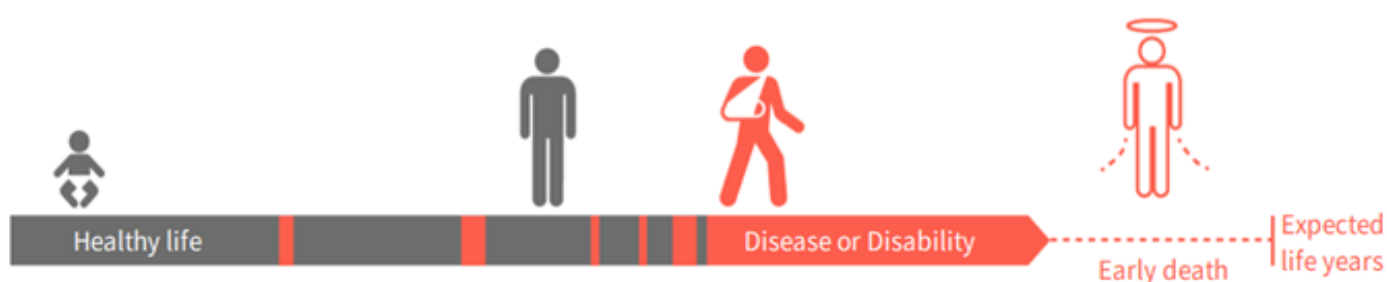
Years lived with disability

808,642

+ YLL

Years of life lost

124,229



932 871

the regional burden of drug use disorders in **DALYs (2019)**

1 033 385

projected regional burden of drug use disorders in **DALYs by 2023**

Regionally, drug use disorders account for

3 months in 30 years

lived with disability

TOBACCO RELATED DISEASES



Lung cancer



Heart diseases



Brain damage



Gastrointestinal diseases



Eye diseases



Teeth diseases



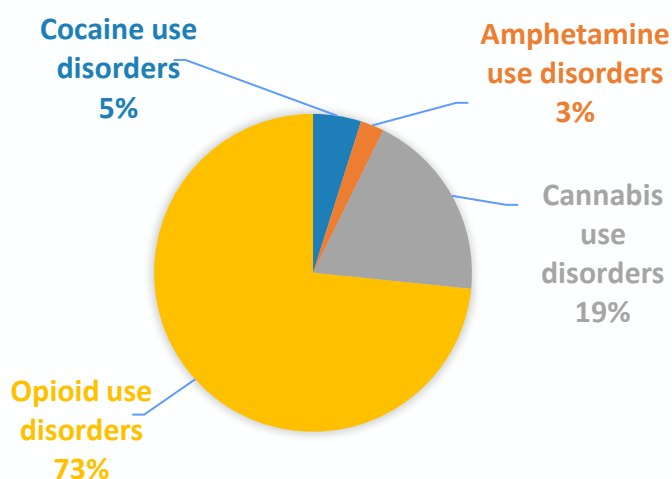
Weak bones



Menstrual disorder

- **Some 129 million** people were living with drug use disorders in 2019.
- In 2019, in the WHO African Region, nearly **1 3450 000 additional people** began living with drug use disorders. This **represented one new case every three seconds**.

Figure 3: Estimated deaths due to drug use, 2019 (Source: IHME)



- In 2019, the African Region recorded **2703 deaths** due to drug use disorders including **2222 men (82%)** and **481 women (18%)**. This represented **7 deaths every day**.
- In addition, **opioid** use (**73% of the total**) was the main type of drug use disorder.

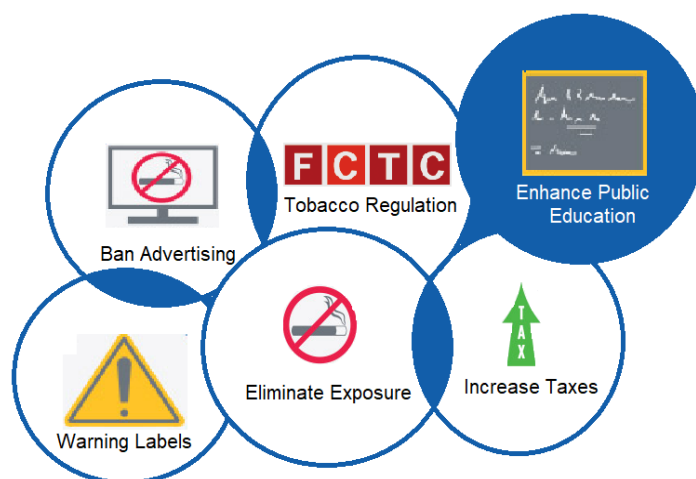
3. The WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control and Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products

In 2008, WHO introduced the **MPOWER** package to support country-level implementation of **six effective measures** to reduce demand for tobacco products. Each measure reflects at least one provision of the **WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control**. Reliable prevalence data provide the information needed **to assess the impacts of tobacco control actions adopted by a country**. Surveys that include **data on tobacco use** should be repeated at regular intervals using comparable **questions, sampling, data analysis and reporting techniques**.



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|----------|---|
| m | Monitor tobacco use and prevention policies |
| p | Protect people from tobacco smoke |
| o | Offer help to quit tobacco use |
| w | Warn about the dangers of tobacco |
| e | Enforce bans on tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship |
| r | Raise taxes on tobacco |

REDUCTION OF EXPOSURE TO CIGARETTE SMOKE



4. Recommendations for policy and strategy

To optimize the implementation of the **MPOWER** package, Member States and partners should be aware of the following priority interventions and actions

Priority interventions and actions

- M.** It is recommended that governments use their existing tobacco surveillance and monitoring systems to assess developments in ENDS (Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems) and nicotine use by sex and age.
- P.** ENDS non-users should be protected from exposure to ENDS emissions. Indoor smoke-free places should never exempt ENDS or ENNDS (electronic non-nicotine delivery systems) or HTPs (heated tobacco products) from a ban.
- O.** Evidence on the use of ENDS as a potential tobacco use cessation aid is still under debate and there is insufficient evidence to support their use at the population level, as compared to proven approaches. Countries should also use evidence-based approaches to support ENDS users who want to quit.
- W.** Strong graphic health warnings should be mandated for all ENDS products, in line with overall tobacco control strategies to deter use by young people.
- E.** Given that the same promotional elements that make ENDS attractive to adult smokers could make them attractive to children and non-smokers, effective banning of ENDS advertising, promotion and sponsorship should be enforced. Further recommendations on the regulation of advertising, promotion and sponsorship of ENDS can be found in FCTC/COP/6/10 Rev.1 (Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems Conference of the Parties to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. FCTC/COP/6/10 Rev.1. 1 September 2014. Moscow: World Health Organization; 2014.)
- R.** ENDS on their own carry health risks. Therefore, taxes should be applied to these products, in line with national standards to prevent uptake, particularly among children and adolescents.

References

1. [WHO report on the global tobacco epidemic 2021: addressing new and emerging products](#), 27 July 2021
 2. [WHO global report on trends in prevalence of tobacco use 2000-2025, fourth edition](#), 30 November 2021
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Sources

- Data on tobacco use come from World Health Organization ([integrated African Health Observatory](#))
- Production of the infographic was supported by the Integrated African Health Observatory.
- **Photography:** <https://photos.hq.who.int/>, <https://photos.afro.who.int/>

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