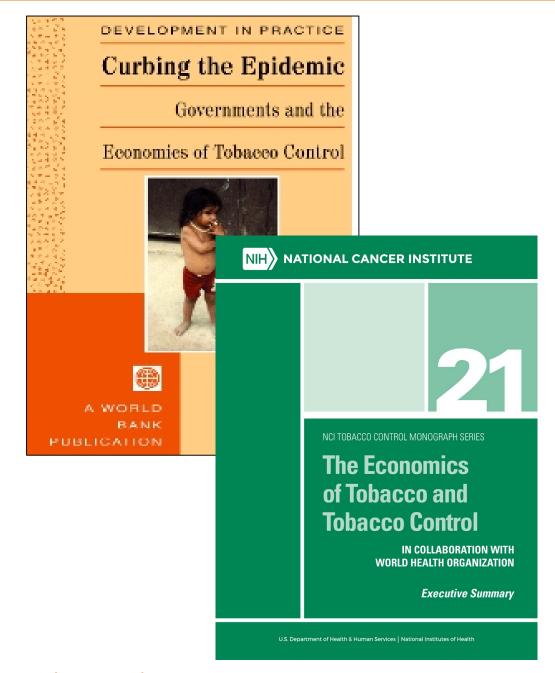


### Accelerating Progress on Tobacco Taxation in Low- and Middle-Income Countries

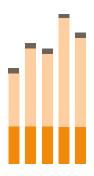
Frank J. Chaloupka, University of Illinois at Chicago World Bank Poverty and Equity Global Practice Washington DC, 23 May 2019

#### **Overview**

- Tax Structure, Tax Revenues & Earmarking
- Myths and Facts
   About Economic
   Impact of Taxes
- UIC/Bloomberg
   Tobacco Tax
   Initiative

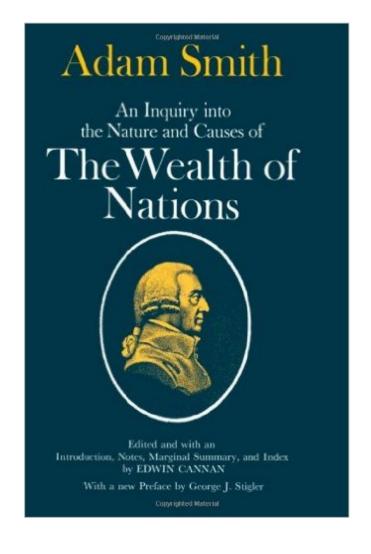






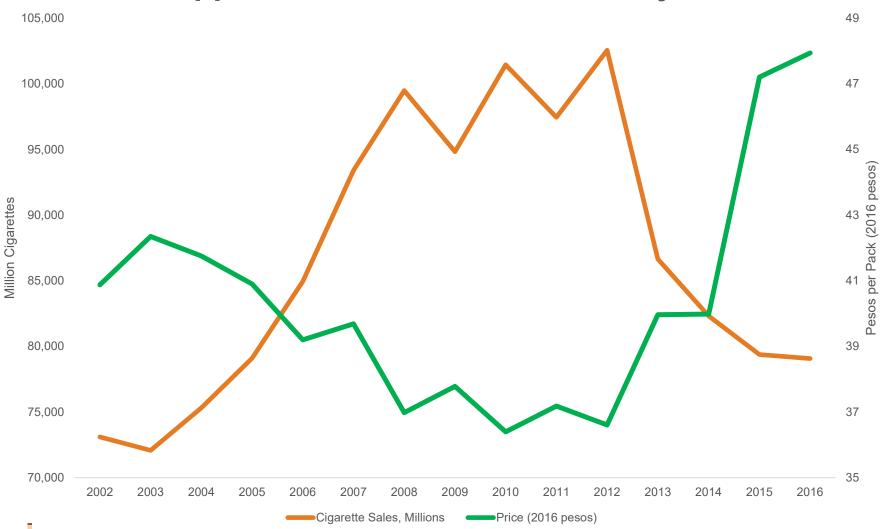
#### Taxes, Prices & Tobacco Use

"**Sugar**, **rum**, and tobacco, are commodities which are no where necessaries of life, which are become objects of almost universal consumption, and which are therefore extremely proper subjects of taxation.





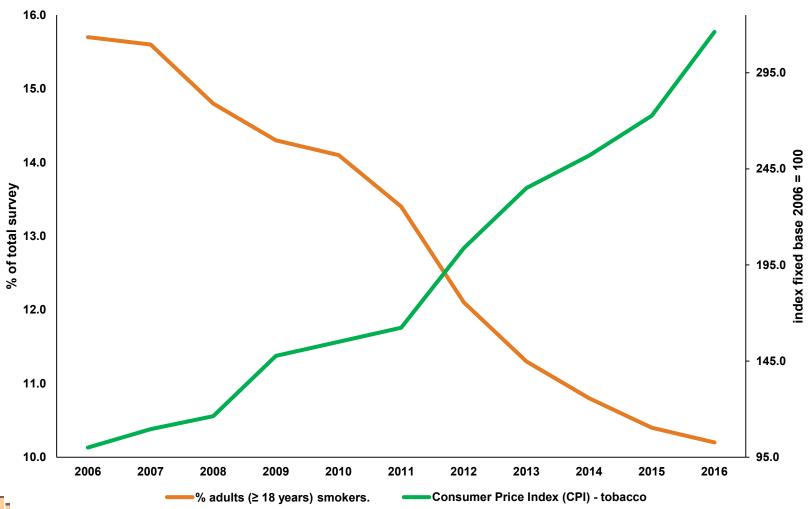
### Cigarette Sales and Prices Philippines, 2002-2016, Inflation Adjusted





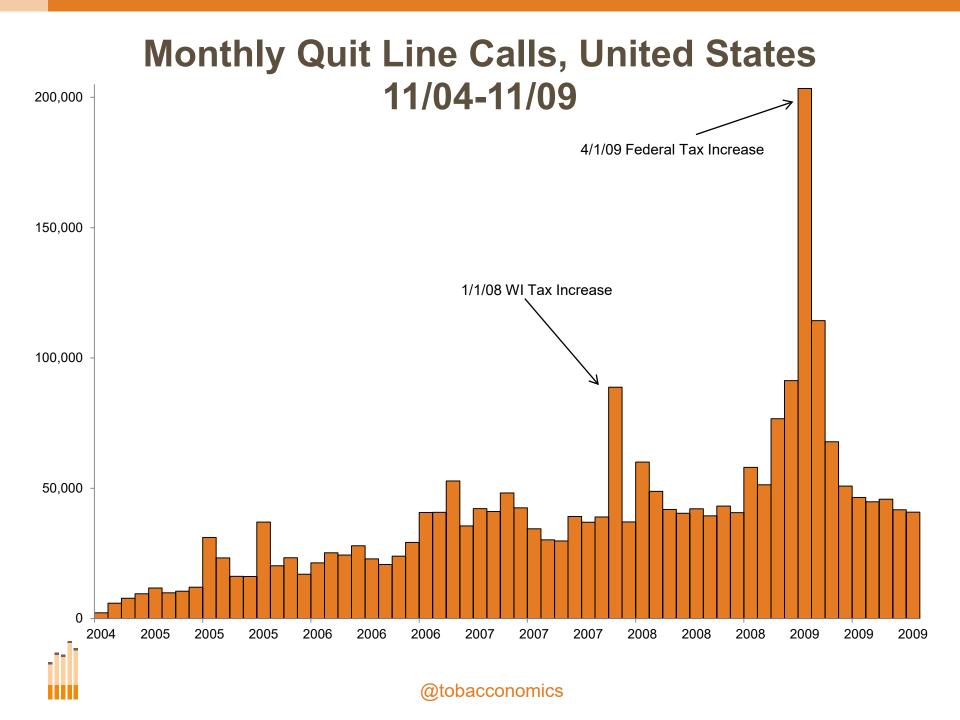
#### **Adult Smoking Prevalence and Price**

Brazil, 2006-2016, inflation adjusted

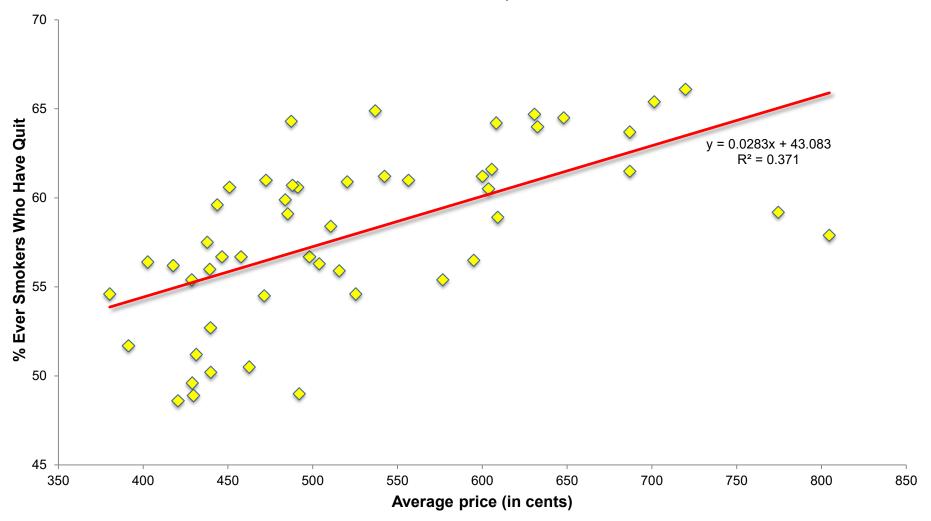




Source: Ribeiro and Pinto, 2019



## Cigarette Prices and Cessation US States, 2009





Source: BRFSS, Tax Burden on Tobacco, 2010, and author's calculations

#### Cigarette Price & Youth Smoking Prevalence Chile, 2000-2015

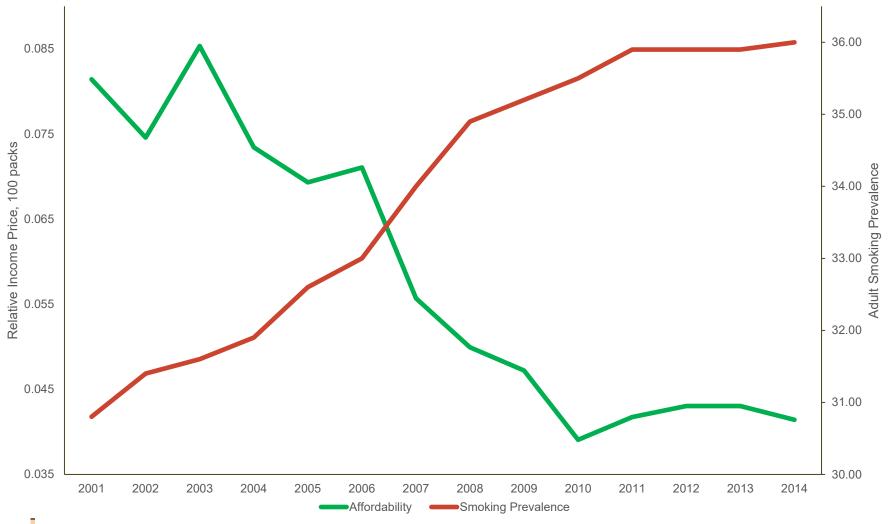




www.tobacconomics.org

#### **Affordability & Tobacco Use**

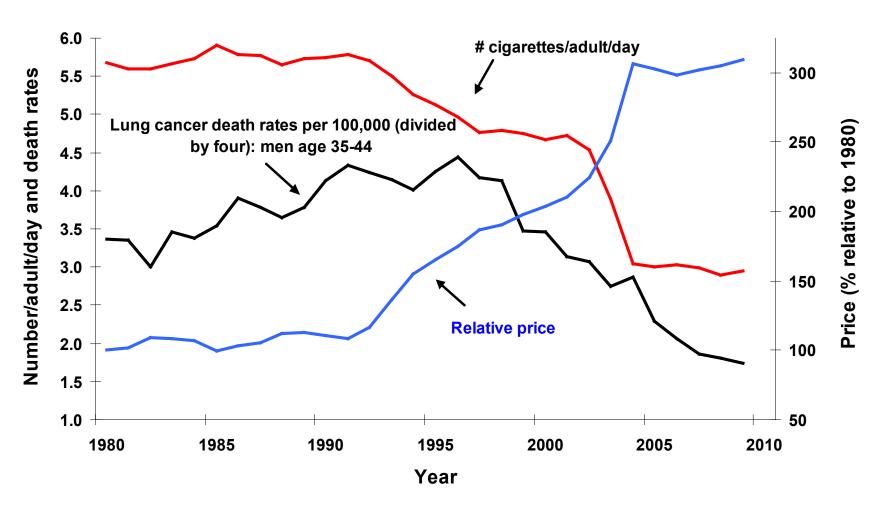
Adult Smoking Prevalence, Indonesia, 2001-2014





Sources: Euromonitor, EIU, World Bank, and Authors' Calculations

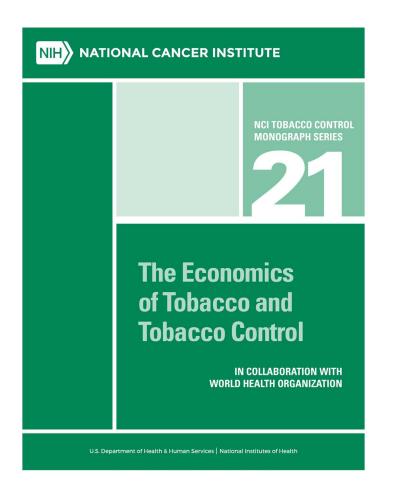
## France: smoking, tax and male lung cancer, 1980-2010





Source: Jha, in progress

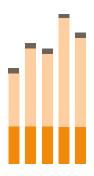
#### **Effectiveness of Tobacco Taxes**



Chapter 4, Conclusion 1:

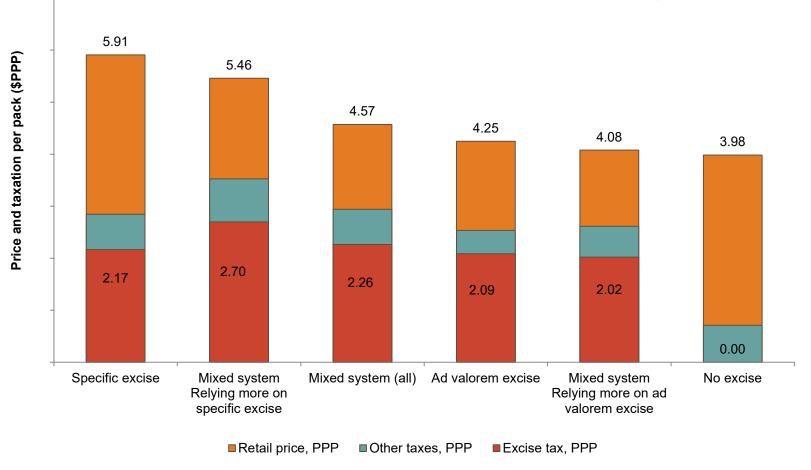
A substantial body of research, which has accumulated over many decades and from many countries, shows that significantly increasing the excise tax and price of tobacco products is the single most consistently effective tool for reducing tobacco use.





# Tax Structure, Tax Revenues & Earmarking Tax Revenues

## Excise tax structure: Specific and mixed relying more on the specific component tend to lead to higher prices

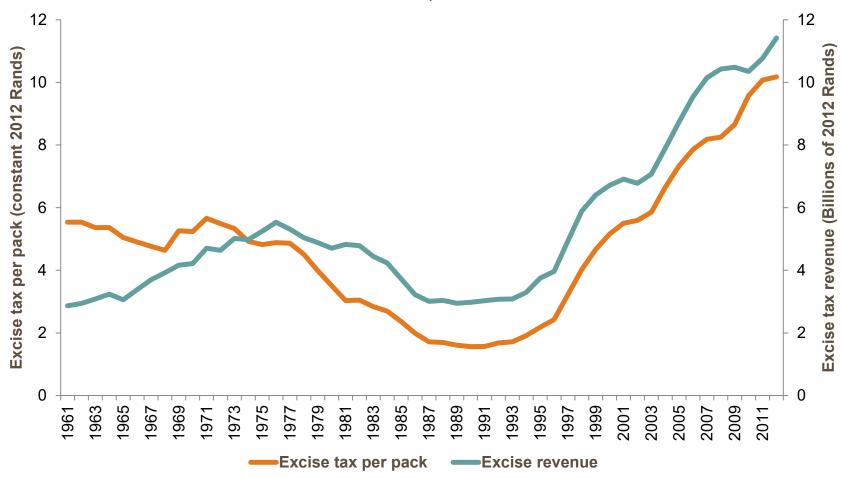


Source: WHO 2017 GTCR data; unpublished figure.

Notes: Averages are weighted by WHO estimates of number of current cigarette smokers ages 15+ in each country in 2015; Prices are expressed in Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) adjusted dollars or international dollars to account for differences in the purchasing power across countries. Based on prices as of July 2016 for 53 high-income, 100 middle-income and 27 low-income countries with data on prices of most sold brand, excise and other taxes, and PPP conversion factors.

#### **Tobacco Taxes and Revenues**

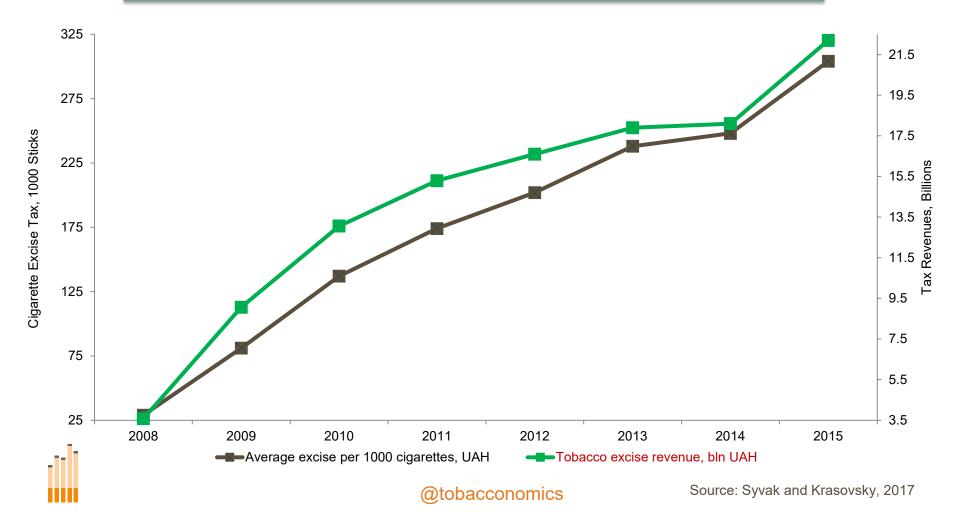




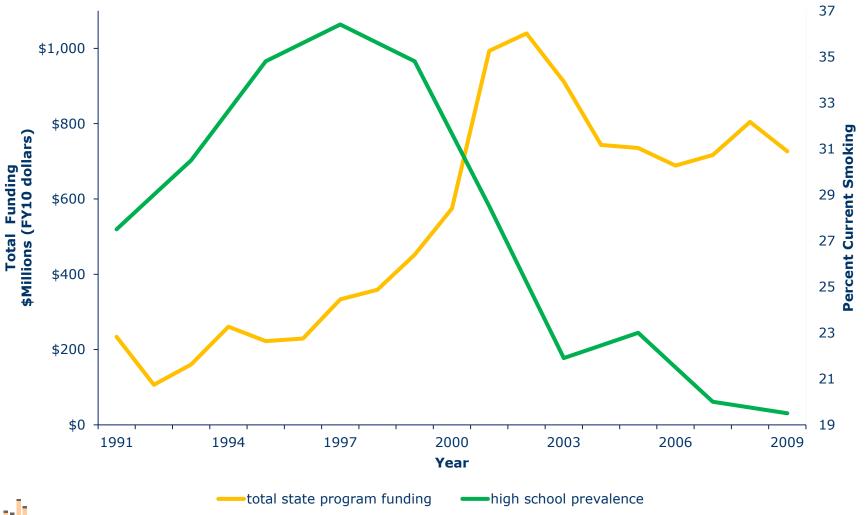


## Cigarette Tax and Tax Revenues Ukraine: 2008-2015

Average excise rate for cigarettes – increased 10-fold Cigarette Tax Revenue – increased 6-fold



## State Tobacco Control Program Funding and Youth Smoking Prevalence, United States, 1991-2009





Source: ImpacTeen Project, UIC; YRBS

#### **Tobacco Taxes and Revenues**

• The Addis Ababa Action Agenda states:

"... price and tax measures on tobacco can be an effective and important means to reduce tobacco consumption and health-care costs, and represent a revenue stream for financing development in many countries"

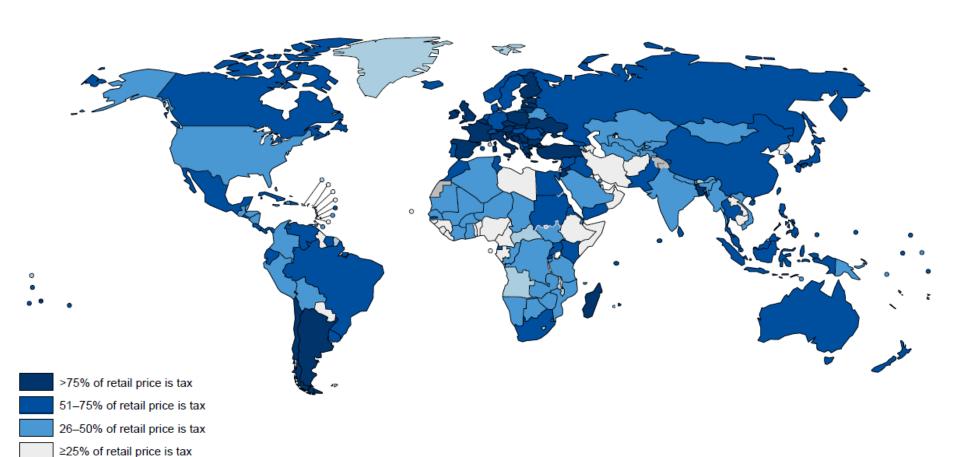






#### **Oppositional Arguments**

#### Cigarette Taxes as Percent of Retail Price July 2016



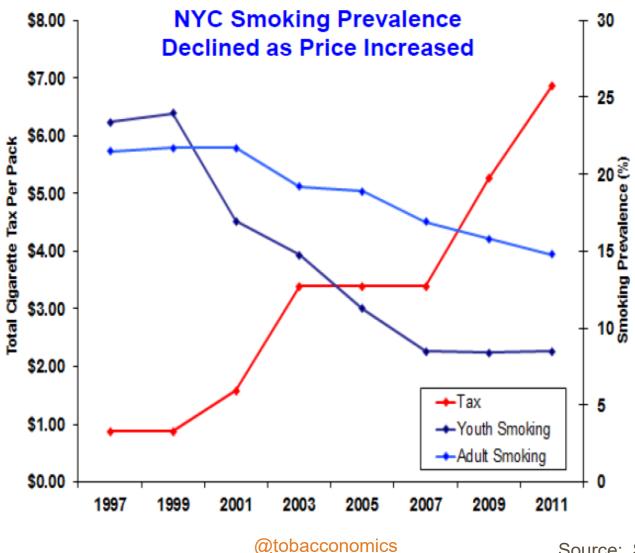
Not classified or data not available

Not applicable



#### Tax Avoidance & Evasion

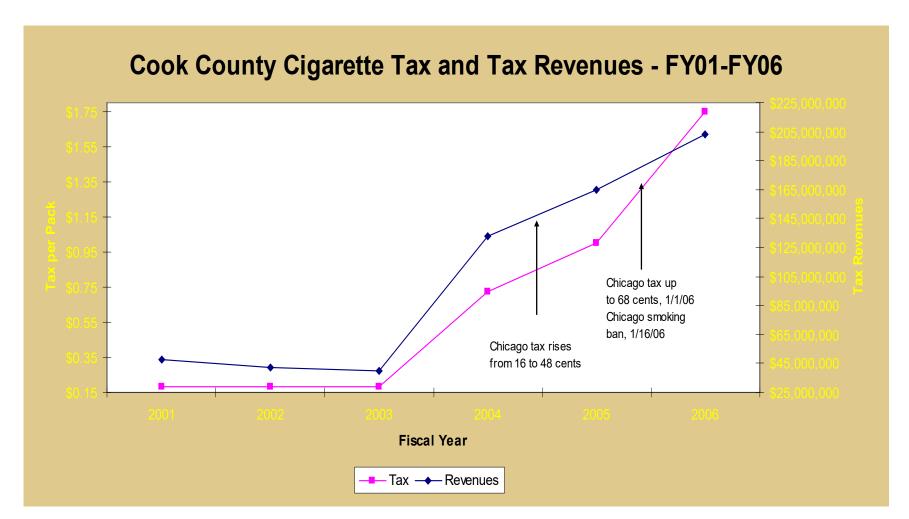
#### Tax Avoidance & Evasion Do NOT Eliminate Health Impact of Higher Taxes





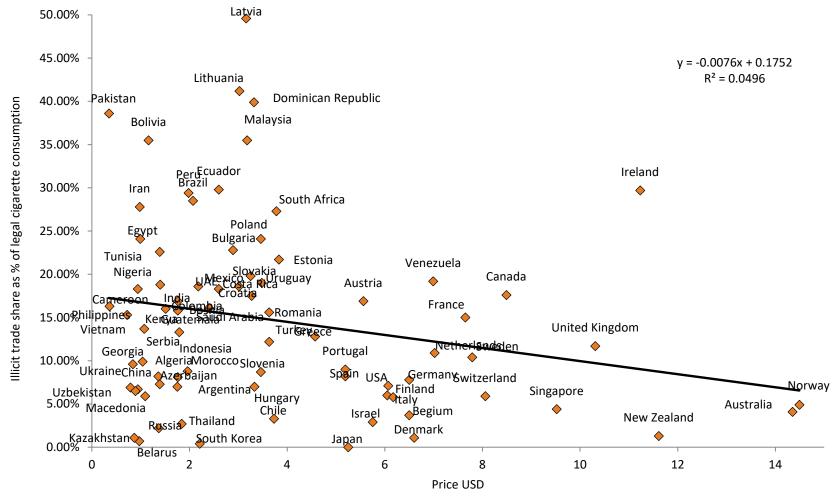
Source: Schroth, 2014

#### Tax Avoidance & Evasion Do NOT Eliminate Revenue Impact of Higher Taxes





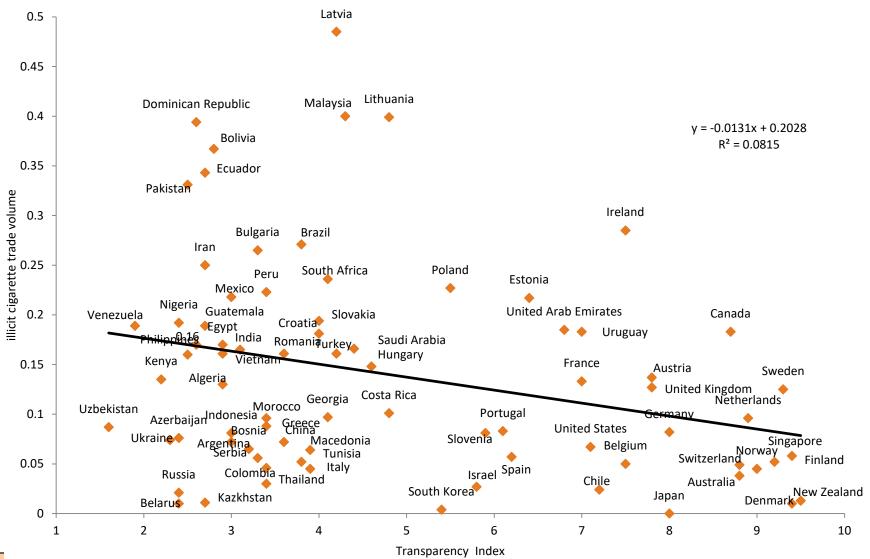
## Illicit Cigarette Market Share & Cigarette Prices, 2012





Sources: Euromonitor, WHO

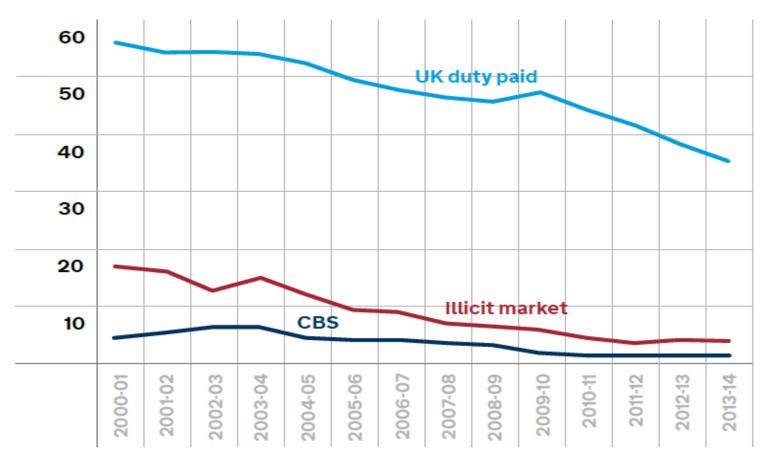
#### Smuggling and Corruption, 2011





## Estimated Volumes of Cigarettes Consumed in the U.K. – Duty paid, illicit, and cross-border shopping, 2000-01 – 2013-14

#### **Billions**



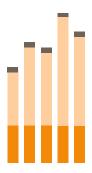


Source: HM Revenue & Customs, 2014

#### **Combating Illicit Tobacco Trade**

- Illicit trade protocol to the WHO FCTC
  - Entered into force September 2018
  - Provisions calling for:
  - Strong tax administration
    - Prominent, high-tech tax stamps and other pack markings
    - Licensing of manufacturers, exporters, distributors, retailers
    - Export bonds
    - Unique identification codes on packages
  - Better enforcement
    - Increased resources
    - Focus on large scale smuggling
  - Swift, severe penalties
  - Multilateral/intersectoral cooperation





#### Impact on the Poor

#### **Tobacco & Poverty**

Family falls into poverty

Forgone Income 3:

Due to premature death

Income increases

Forgone Income 2:

Due to treatment cost and loss of work days

Vicious Cycle of Tobacco and Poverty Youth and women start smoking and men smoke more

Breadwinner gets sick due to tobacco use

Higher prevalence and consumption level

Forgone Income 1:

More money spent on tobacco:
high opportunity cost. Less money spent
on education, nutrition, etc.



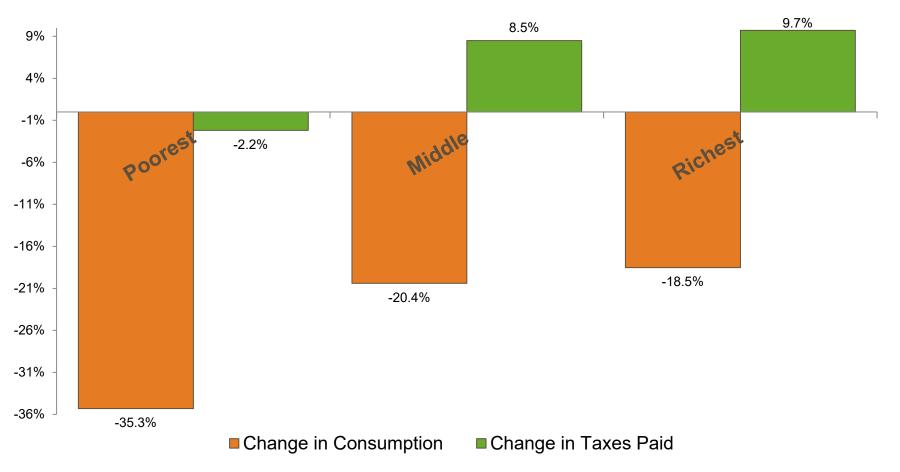
Source: NCI & WHO 2016

#### Impact on the Poor

- Concerns about the regressivity of higher alcohol & tobacco taxes, food/beverage taxes
  - Most excise taxes are regressive, but tax increases can be progressive
    - Greater price sensitivity of poor relatively large reductions in use among lowest income populations, small reductions among higher income populations
    - Health benefits that result from tax increase are progressive
      - Reduced health care spending, increased productivity, higher incomes



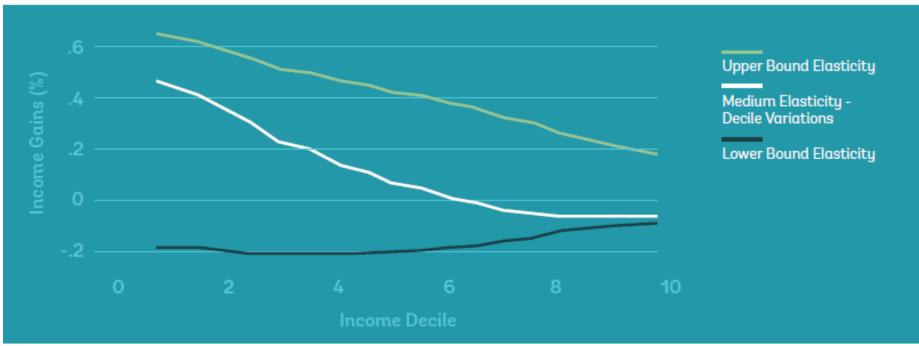
#### Who Pays & Who Benefits Turkey, 25% Tax Increase





#### Who Pays & Who Benefits Chile, 25% Tax Increase

Figure 6: Total Income Effect: Direct and Indirect Effect of Taxes (tobacco price increase, medical expenditure and working years gained)



Source: Author's estimation using a price shock of 25%



Source: Fuchs, et al., 2017

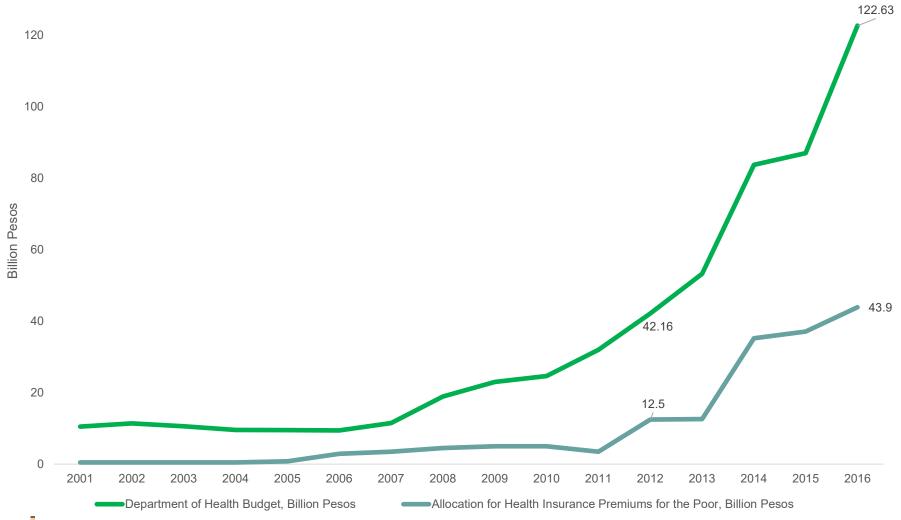
#### Impact on the Poor

#### Need to consider overall fiscal system

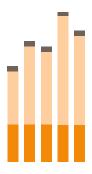
- Key issue with taxes is what's done with the revenues generated by the tax
- Net financial impact on low income households can be positive when taxes are used to support programs targeting the poor
- Concerns about regressivity offset by use of revenues for programs directed to poor



## Incremental Revenues for Health and the Poor, Philippines, 2001-2016







#### Impact on the Economy

#### **Excise Taxes and Jobs**

#### Industry-sponsored studies tell only part of story:

- Focus on the gross impact:
  - New tax or tax increase will lead to decreased consumption of taxed product
  - Results in loss of some jobs dependent on production of taxed product
- Ignore the net impact:
  - Money not spent on taxed product will be spent on other goods and services
  - New/increased tax revenues spent by government
    - Offsetting job gains in other sectors



### **Tobacco Taxes and Jobs**

- Many published studies assess impact of reductions in tobacco use from tax increases and/or other tobacco control measures:
  - Variety of high, middle, and low income countries
  - Use alternative methodologies
- Generally find that employment losses in tobacco sector more than offset by gains in other sectors



### **Tobacco Taxes and Jobs**

Concerns about job losses in tobacco sector have been addressed using new tax revenues:

- Turkey, Philippines among countries that have allocated tobacco tax revenues to helping tobacco farmers and/or those employed in tobacco manufacturing make transition to other livelihoods
  - Crop substitution programs, retraining programs



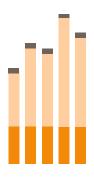


# Summary

# Global Evidence -Summary

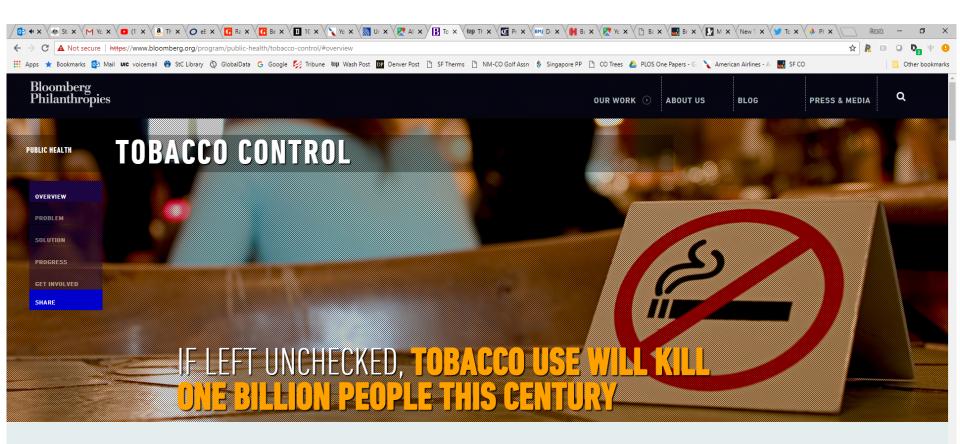
- Higher tobacco taxes significantly reduce consumption and raise new revenue
- Reduced consumption leads to fewer cases of cancer, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and other diseases, reducing health care and other economic costs of NCDs
- Counterarguments about negative economic impact false or greatly overstated
- Tobacco tax increases considered one of the "best buys" in NCD prevention





# Accelerating Progress on Effective Tobacco Tax Policies in Low- and Middle-Income Countries

# **Bloomberg Initiative**



Bloomberg Philanthropies has committed nearly \$1 billion since 2007 to combat tobacco use worldwide.

The **Bloomberg Initiative to Reduce Tobacco Use** aims to reduce the global demand for tobacco through a comprehensive, proven approach that combines policy change with increased public awareness. Key strategies of this approach include creating smoke-free public places, banning tobacco advertising, increasing tax on tobacco products, requiring graphic pack warnings and supporting hard-hitting mass media campaigns.



# Effective tobacco control measures gain momentum



Monitor tobacco use and prevention policies



Protect people from tobacco smoke



Offer help to quit tobacco use



Warn about the dangers of tobacco



Enforce bans on tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship

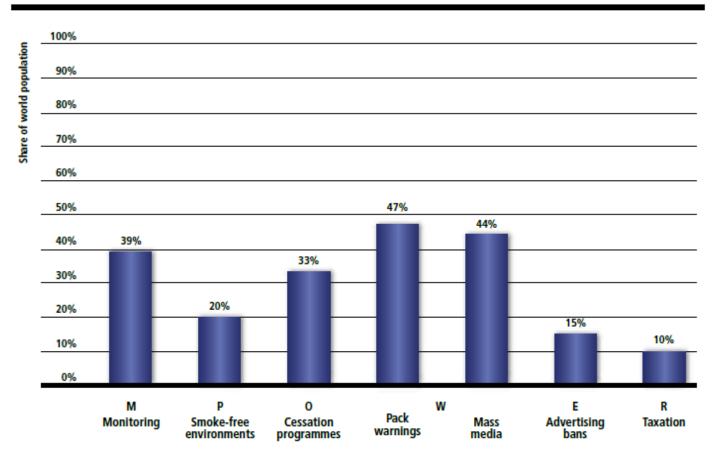


Raise taxes on tobacco

WHO REPORT ON THE GLOBAL TOBACCO EPIDEMIC, 2017 51

# Nearly two thirds of countries – comprising 63% of the world's population – have now at least one MPOWER measure in place at the highest level of achievement.

SHARE OF THE WORLD POPULATION COVERED BY SELECTED TOBACCO CONTROL POLICIES, 2016





# **Project Plan**

- Build capacity of 'think tanks' in selected priority countries/regions to provide in country support for tobacco tax reform and tax increases
- Strategic engagement with policy makers to build technical capacity for tobacco tax policy
- Develop/disseminate resources (policy briefs, white papers, etc.) on tobacco taxation to build knowledge and support for tobacco tax policy



### Finding Partners: What We Look For

- Established independent/credible organization with strong links to MoFs and other relevant government agencies/officials
- Focus on economic issues that could include tobacco control
- Capacity to conduct rapid response, policy relevant research to support efforts to tax increases/reforms
- Track record of working on economic policy issues and influencing political decision makers
- Ability to work collaboratively with existing civil society organizations
- Independence from tobacco industry and its allies
- Ability to help organize/host local/regional strategic engagement events with policy makers and other key audiences



# **Capacity Building Model**

### Partnerships:

- 1. Capacity Building for research and dissemination—
  - Technical Assistance and training for project implementation (in person or webinar)
  - Toolkits, webinars, in person training, etc. on core competencies of economic analysis
  - Assistance in strategic research translation and dissemination in academic and policy forums
- 2. Grants Management—
  - Scoping/selection of potential partners
  - Contract development and maintenance, implementation monitoring, financial/narrative reporting, auditing and evaluation



# **Core Competencies**

### Advancing economic arguments for tax increases:

- Demand elasticity estimations using Household Expenditure survey data;
   and/or time series data
- Simulation modeling of alternative tax structures/rates on revenues and public health impacts
- Measuring distributional impacts of tax increases
- Quantifying economic costs (direct and indirect) of tobacco use and how tobacco taxes can address these costs

### Countering economic arguments against tax increases:

- Macroeconomic impacts of tax increases, e.g., employment, economic growth, supply chain analysis, etc. through I/O, CGE, and other models
- Understanding the dynamics of illicit trade by quantifying levels of illicit trade, measuring trends, geographical areas of leakage, etc. using primary and secondary data sources
- Development of Evidence Matrices



# UIC Think Tank Partnerships 2017-2018





### Partners:

- Social Policy & Development Centre, Karachi
- Pakistan Institute for Development Economics, Islamabad

### Why?

 Both groups have high research capacity in economics and fiscal policy as well as dissemination experience; only specialized training required

### How?

- Remote scoping with BI Partner consultation and Skype interviews with 12 organizations (Sept 2017)
- In person interviews with 5 organizations and BI Partner consultation in Karachi, Lahore, Islamabad (Oct 2017)
- Three organizations invited to submit proposals; two selected
- Grant start dates for SPDC and PIDE: February 1, 2018



### What?

- Research protocol design and approval (April 2018)
- Data acquisition (May 2018)
- Quality assurance on key messages, policy briefs and report drafts (July-December 2018)
  - In-person meetings: July 2018, October 2018, December 2018
  - TA calls and emails: on-going

### – BI Partner consultations:

- In-person meetings: October 2017, February 2018, July 2018, October 2018 (Dubai BI Partners meeting); December 2018
- Email correspondence: on-going
- · BI Partner calls: monthly



Pakistan - 2018					
Research	Methodology	Resources Required			
Demand elasticity estimates (PIDE)	HHE analysis – Deaton	<ul><li>Household Expenditure Toolkit</li><li>Training</li><li>Technical Assistance</li></ul>			
Projecting impacts of tax changes on government revenues and consumption (PIDE)	Simulation modeling	- Technical Assistance			
Macroeconomic impacts (SPDC)	I/O analysis	- Technical Assistance			



### Pakistan Institute for Development Economics

- Report: <u>Economics of Tobacco Taxation and Consumption in Pakistan</u>
- Brief 1: <u>Higher Tobacco Taxes in Pakistan Could Increase Revenue</u>
   <u>& Improve Public Health</u>
- Brief 2: Tobacco Use in Pakistan



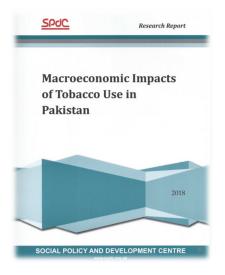




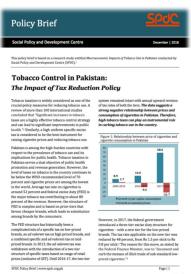


### Social Policy and Development Centre:

- Report: <u>Macroeconomic Impacts of Tobacco Use in Pakistan;</u>
- Brief 1: <u>Tobacco Control in Pakistan: The Impact of Tax Reduction</u> <u>Policy</u>
- Brief 2: Role of Tobacco in Pakistan's Economy: An Untold Reality









### Dissemination

- 34th Annual conference of the Pakistan Society of Development Economists, December 12-14, 2018
  - Business Recorder, <u>A Case Against Multi-Tier Tobacco Taxation</u>, December 17, 2018
  - The News, <u>PIDE Study Casts Doubt on Tobacco Taxation Regime</u>, December 15, 2018
  - Dr. Asma Hyder Baloch, Member Social Sector & Devolution, Ministry of Planning Development & Reforms: "We will use this research in our strategy to combat NCDs for the next five-year plan."
  - Mr. Zaheer Qureshi Secretary, Sales Tax & Federal Excise Budget, Federal Board of Revenue: "We need more research like this to verify information given to us by the tobacco industry."
  - BI Partner, Fouad Aslam, The Union: "This research
    has moved the tobacco tax debate forward in Pakistan."



Pakistan – 2019-2020					
Research	Methodology	Resources Required			
Health & Economic Costs of Smoking (PIDE)	Primary data collection	<ul><li>Technical Assistance</li><li>Training</li></ul>			
Switching Behavior Analysis (PIDE)	Primary data collection	- Technical Assistance			
Tax evasion and Avoidance through Under-reporting (SPDC)	Secondary data analysis	- Technical Assistance			
Macroeconomic Impacts Analysis (SPDC)	CGE Modeling	<ul><li>Technical Assistance</li><li>Training</li></ul>			



- Partner:
  - Institute for Economic Sciences, Consortium Coordinator
- Why?
  - Regional consortium model where all think tanks work on the same topic
  - Good partner think tank with stronger research and dissemination capacity
- How?
  - Remote scoping, BI Partner consultations and Skype interviews with 20 organizations (July-August 2017)
  - In person interviews with 10 organizations in the region (Sept 2017)
  - Two organizations invited to submit proposals; IES selected
  - Grant start date: December 1, 2017



### Who?

- Institute for Economic Sciences, Serbia, Consortium Coordinator
  - Development Solutions Associates, Albania
  - Center for Project Management and Entrepreneurship,
     Faculty of Economics, University of Banja Luka, Bosnia & Herzegovina
  - Faculty of Economics, Business and Tourism, University of Split, Croatia
  - Centre for Political Courage, Kosovo
  - Association for Policy Research "Analytica", Macedonia
  - Institute for Socio-Economic Analyses, Montenegro



### What?

- Research protocol design and approval (May 2018)
- Data acquisition (June 2018)
- Quality assurance on policy briefs and report drafts (October-December 2018)
  - In-person meetings: February 2018, May 2018, June 2018 (HES training), September 2018, December 2018
  - TA calls and emails: on-going
- BI Partner consultations:
  - In-person meetings: May 2018, December 2018
  - Email correspondence: on-going
  - EURO calls: bi-monthly



Southeastern Europe - 2018					
Research	Methodology	Resources Required			
Demand elasticity estimates	HHE analysis – Deaton Time-series analysis	<ul><li>Household Expenditure Toolkit</li><li>Training</li><li>Technical Assistance</li></ul>			
Projecting impacts of tax changes on government revenues and consumption	Simulation modeling	- Technical Assistance			



Research examined the effect of tax and price on demand for tobacco products in each country.

- National reports and policy briefs
- Local policy dialogues



Regional conference:

December 2018

- Ana Mugosa, ISEA: "Before we only had speculation about the effectiveness of tobacco taxes in Montenegro, now we have solid research."
- Zeljana Aljinovic Barac,
   University of Split, tells the story of the recent tobacco tax increase of 10% per year for the next 3 years after holding a national round table with policy makers to present their research findings.





# Research Methodology Resources Required - Technical Assistance - Training - HES data analysis Estimate elasticities of demand by income group Estimate smoking

Primary survey data analysis

Southeastern Europe – 2019-2020



region.

prevalence and level and

trends of tax evasion and

avoidance across the

Technical Assistance

- Training

## Indonesia

Think tank partner	Current Research	<b>Delivery Date</b>	Future Research	Est. Delivery Date
PRAKARSA	Illicit trade Estimation	March 2019		
UI-Tax Centre	Tax legislation framework for tobacco industry and potential leakages	March 2019		
CISDI			Estimation of the direct economic costs of smoking and who pays	December 2019



## **Vietnam**

Think tank partner	Current Research	Delivery Date	Future Research	Est. Delivery Date
DEPOCEN	Illicit Trade Estimation (survey)	February 2018	Estimating individual responses to introduction of a specific tax on cigarettes	December 2019
			Supply-side examination of the tobacco industry, key players, and the joint venture requirements with the national state-owned monopoly and how this might shift with economic liberalization / privatization	December 2020
			Follow up to the illicit trade study after tax increase	December 2020
IPPM	Illicit Trade Estimation (secondary data analysis)	February 2018		

# Bangladesh

Think tank partner	Current Research	Delivery Date	Future Research	Est. Delivery Date
BIGD	Demand elasticity estimates	April 2019		
	Projecting impacts of tax changes on government revenues and consumption	April 2019		
Ark Foundation			Projecting impacts of tax changes on government revenues and consumption	December 2019



### **Latin America**

Think tank partner	Current Research	Delivery Date	Future Think Tank Partner	Future Research	Est. Delivery Date
Red Sur Regional Network	Demand elasticity estimates (PER, ECU, MEX, AR, BR)	March 2018	CIAD – Mexico	Simulation of tax changes impacts on revenues, equity	December 2019
	Projecting impacts of tax changes on government revenues and consumption (PER, ECU, MEX, AR, BR)	March 2018	CIEP - Mexico	Extended Cost-Benefit Analysis	December 2019
	Distributional impacts of tobacco tax increases (MEX)	March 2018	UCB - Brazil	Extended Cost-Benefit Analysis	December 2019
	Supply-chain analysis of tobacco industry (BR, AR)	March 2018	CEDLAS - Argentina	Extended Cost-Benefit Analysis	December 2019

# Comparing Regional Models: LATAM v. SEE

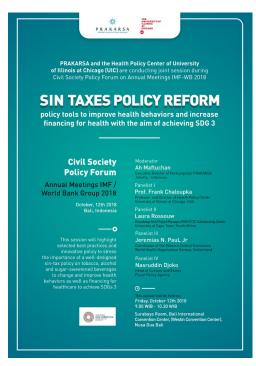
- Consortium v. Open Call for proposals
- Regional or national-level organization
- Need for more direct interaction with partners
- More engagement in the process to ensure quality
- Having a group in the middle more problematic
- Working directly with think tanks in selected countries is a better model for capacity building



# Strategic Engagement

- Economic & fiscal policy circles
  - UN/ECLAC Annual Fiscal Conference (Santiago, Chile, March 2018; March 2019)
  - VEAM (Hanoi, Vietnam, June 2018, June 2019)
  - IMF/WB Annual Meetings (Bali, Indonesia, October 2018)
  - LACEA (Guayaquil, Ecuador, November 2018)







# Strategic Engagement

- Integration of Think Tanks into the tobacco control space
  - NCI/CTFK/UIC Workshop on Tobacco Economics (Warsaw, Poland, May 2018)
  - APACT (Bali, Indonesia, October 2018)
  - SEE partners/ENSP meetings (Mary 2019)
  - PAHO regional tobacco control meetings (July 2019)





### Tobacconomics Resource Hub

- Global, regional, country-specific policy briefs
- White papers



Policy Brief | August 2018

### **Tobacco Taxation Can Reduce Tobacco Consumption and Help Achieve Sustainable Development Goals**

### Introduction

A substantial body of research shows that A substantial body of research shows that significantly increasing the taxes and prices of tobacco products is the single most effective way to reduce tobacco use and its devastating health nces. A tax increase that raises prices by 10% can reduce tobacco consumption average by 5% in low and middle income

Tobacco also poses a threat to developmen especially in the LMICs that have the highest rates of tobacco use. The global economic costs from smoking due to medical expenses and lost productivity in 2012 alone totaled over \$1.4

Besides the growing recognition of the obvious harmful effects of tobacco on health and healthcare, there is a noticeable internation vement recognizing the harmful effects of

United Nations (UN) 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has set 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 related targets. One of those targets focuses specifically on tobacco, and urges "strengthened implementation of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC)." The FCTC is an international treaty created under the auspices of the World Health Organization (WHO). It focuses on reducing the demand and supply of tobacco products. In order to finance the SDGs the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development noted that "price and tax measur on tobacco can be an effective and important means to reduce tobacco consumption and

Raising tobacco excise tax by 1 International Dollar (about US\$ 0.80)







### **Tobacco Taxes & Government Revenues**

Increasing Tobacco Taxes Significantly Will Increase Revenues

Tobacco use is the leading cause of preventable deaths globally, accounting for about 7 million. deaths each year. Reducing this death toll can be achieved through implementation of cost-effective policies, including smoke-free air laws; prominent graphic warning labels; bans on tobacco comp advertising, promotion and sponsorship; and mass media public education campaigns. These policies work, but the single most effective way to reduce the health and economic devastation caused by tobacco is to significantly increase tobacco taxes and prices. Higher taxes lower overall tobacco use, lead current users to quit, prevent young people from taking up tobacco use, and reduce the negative health and economic consequences of tobacco use.<sup>2-2-4</sup>

Increasing tobacco taxes also increase overnment revenue, which can be used to fund health, healthcare and other economic development initiatives. The tobacco industry opposes higher tobacco taxes, often arguing that increases in tobacco taxes will not result in increases in revenues. They argue that increases in taxes will result in substitution to cheaper, less taxed or illicit cigarettes; or alternatively that reductions in consumption will be significant enough to result in a reduction in revenues.

This policy brief examines the impact of tobacco taxes on tobacco consumption and revenues. It shows that concerns about increases in taxes not easing revenues are misguided; in fact, this policy brief shows that at current levels, ses in taxes will almost always

### Impact of Tobacco Taxes on Consumption & Revenues

An increase in the excise tax increases the retail price of tobacco, which in turn reduces tobacco use. Economists look at the relationship between prices and consumption through a measure called "price elasticity of demand," or the percentage change in consumption resulting from a one percent change in price. Even though higher cigarette taxes and prices reduce consumption, cigarettes are relatively price inelastic, meaning that an increase in price will result in a less than proportional decline in consumption. Estimates of the price elasticity generally lie between -0.4 and -0.6, meaning that for every 10% increase in price (in real or inflation adjusted terms), consumption will decline by between 4% and 6%.

Thus, higher tobacco taxes are good for government revenue, because a 10% increase in price does not result in a 10% reduction in consumption. In other words, even though increase in the excise tax per unit is greater than the percentage decrease in tobacco consumption

The example below illustrates the price elasticity of demand and its effect on revenue. Assume that the starting price per unit of tobacco is \$1.00, including the tax which is 37 cents, i.e., the tax is 37% of the price (global median in 2016).4 At that price, assume that there are sales of 1,000 cigarettes. This would generate \$370 in tobacco tax revenues. If the tax doubles, it goes up from 37 to 74 cents, and if the tax increas fully shifted to the consumers, then the new

### tobacconomics The Economics of Tobacco and

**Tobacco Control in Latin America** Based on U.S. National Cancer Institute & World Health Organization's The Economics of Tobacco and Tobacco Control. 2016.

Latin America and Globally

Comprehensive, well-designed, and well-

prevent tobacco use. These programs and

campaigns can make quitting tobacco use, onever starting to use tobacco, the "normal"

for communicating tobacco's health risks.

Evidence from Uruguay, Brazil, and Mexico

shows that health warning labels have the most

sure to tobacco smoke, and evidence from

Mexico shows that these policies do not have a

establishments covered by smoke-free policie

implemented aggressive, comprehensive tobacco control strategies, smoking prevalence has

declined rapidly. In Uruguay, for example, adult smoking prevalence rates declined from 39% to

29.7% for males, and from 28% to 19.1% for

In countries where governments have

impact when they are prominent and include

emotionally engaging imagery.1 Smoke-free

policies protect non-smokers from harmful

negative impact on resta

implemented programs and campaigns can help improve knowledge about tobacco use and

behavior and "denormalize" any form of tobacco use. Graphic warning labels are especially crucial

Nearly 80% of the world's smokers live in low 127 million in the Region of the Americas (North use causes 1 million deaths in the Region of the Americas and that number is expected to

The economic burden of smoking to Latin American health systems in 2015 was US\$ 34 billion, approximately 8% of regional health expenditures.4

In Latin America, as in other parts of the world, common knowledge of the impact of tobacco use on health, and the costs of tobacco use borne by tobacco users and non-users, is not widespread There is even the basic lack of understanding of products. This represents a failure of the market for tobacco and provides a rationale for governments to intervene in the tobacco market

This Policy Brief addresses the challenges and policies in Latin America, with a special focus on







Policy Brief | April 2018

### **Tobacco Products Are Becoming Increasingly Affordable in Bangladesh**

Increasing the price of tobacco products through higher taxes is widely recognized as an important policy for reducing tobacco use. It also raises tax venues. One key challenge, however, is that affordability of tobacco products is what matters most. Affordability is the price of tobacco products in relation to the income of tobacco users. So even if prices go up via higher taxes, if incomes have risen at a greater rate, the impact of increasing taxes is reduced, or even eliminated. Thus, it is important not simply to increase taxes, but to increase taxes so much that the price of tobacco products increases over and above the rate of inflation and income growth. This strategy would make tobacco products less affordable over time, reduce obacco consumption and prevalence, and improve public health.

This Policy Brief is based on a summary of a recently published research paper examining affordability trends of cigarettes, bidis and smokeless tobacco products in Bangladesh, a country that graduated from low-income to lower

The data for this study came primarily from four

International Tobacco Control (ITC) Bangladesh Survey of tobacco users and non-users conducted in 2009, 2010, 2011-12, and 2014-15. Selfreported data on prices of tobacco products paid in the last purchase, household income and other individual and household-specific characteristics also came from the four waves of surveys.

Excise taxes for cigarettes, bidis and smokeless tobacco products over the study period were obtained from the National Board of Revenue (NBR) of the Government of Bangladesh.

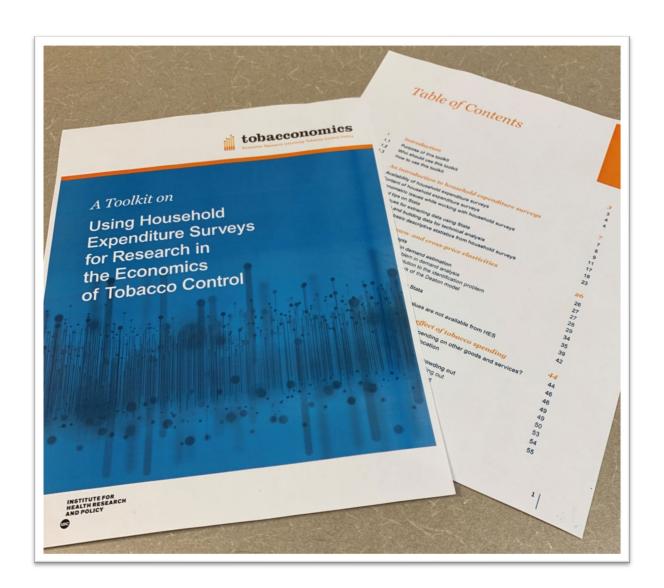
The affordability index, or the Relative Income Price (RIP) is the ratio of hundred times the price per unit of tobacco product divided by the per capita annual household income. The lower the value of RIP, the more affordable the tobacco products are. This measure of affordability of tobacco products is widely used to evaluate progress in tobacco taxation in low- and middle income countries (LMICs), especially in countries that are experiencing rapid economic growth. Based on this measure, the trends in affordability of cigarette, bidi and smokeless tobacco products were examined using statistical analyses that controlled for individual-specific demographic and socio-economic characteristics. The trend in affordability of cigarettes was determined by brands categorized into four price and tax tiers-

omics Policy Brief | www.toba

nies Policy Brief | www.tobe



### **Tobacconomics Resource Hub**







Thank you!

tobacconomics.org

@tobacconomics

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR NEWSLETTER

**CHECK OUT OUR BLOG** 

