

Together let's fight against noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) to achieve the SDGs

Ministry of Finance

More than 1,000 Thais die of an NCD every day

- NCDs such as heart disease, stroke, cancer, diabetes, and chronic respiratory diseases are the leading causes of illness, disability, and premature death in Thailand.
- NCDs pose a serious threat to Thailand's labour productivity and economic competitiveness thereby hindering overall development progress of the country.
- NCDs exacerbate the health and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Majority of premature deaths from NCDs can be avoided by preventing the use of tobacco and alcohol, promoting healthy diets and regular physical activity, and reducing air pollution.
- Action on NCDs contributes to most of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) across the economic, social and environmental pillars.

Why should the Ministry of Finance take action?

- NCDs are a drag on the economy by reducing productivity and economic growth through losses to the workforce due to illness and premature death or through a reduced performance of unwell workers.
- NCD-related fiscal policies can generate substantial additional revenue for the government, while contributing to the SDGs through better health, reduced poverty and inequalities, and improved environment.
- Preventing NCDs makes economic sense. The investments in NCDs prevention and control far outweigh the costs of treatment and economic impact from NCDs and ensure the financial sustainability of universal health coverage.
- Taxes are generally considered one of the most effective measures or "best buys" in NCD prevention.

The Ministry of Finance can take many actions to combat NCDs and achieve the SDGs

- ✓ Be a key partner in the government's response to NCDs, engaging fully in policy and plan development and implementation.
- ✓ Build political capital for price and tax measures to reduce consumption of health harming products, promote physical activity and reduce air pollution.
- ✓ Ensure mechanisms are in place to protect against industry interference in government policymaking.
- ✓ Implement uniform tier tax on all factory-made cigarettes (single tier) and increase tax on roll-your-own cigarettes to reduce price gaps between factory-made and RYO cigarettes, which will help prevent smokers from switching to cheaper products instead of quitting.
- ✓ Increase taxes on alcohol and sugar-sweetened beverages and initiate salt tax. Subsidize healthy food, physical activity and technologies/products for clean energy.
- ✓ Act against illicit tobacco trade by strengthening customs and border control measures, including the effort to become a Party to the WHO FTCT Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products.

**We can win the war against
NCDs by working together.
The time for action is NOW.**



**World Health
Organization**
Thailand



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