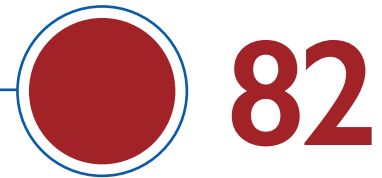


Jordan



Summary of Findings

1. INDUSTRY PARTICIPATION IN POLICY DEVELOPMENT

The tobacco industry (TI) is a member of Jordan Standard and Metrology Organization (JSMO) and attended the e-liquid technical regulations meeting, provided comments, had their revisions accepted, and voted on the technical regulations.

The Jordan Restaurant Association (JRA) lobbying the ministers of tourism and labor in 2021 resulted in overturning the Ministry of Health (MOH) directives banning smoking and waterpipes in restaurants and cafes.

The TI is still present in the JSMO committee, and JRA is part of the tourism committee.

2. INDUSTRY CSR ACTIVITIES

The Minister of Agriculture attended an event hosted by Japan Tobacco International (JTI) to promote environmental action through tree planting.

The Greater Amman Municipality supported and attended a series of workshops aimed at supporting children, women, and youth in learning computer skills as well as the English language to prepare them for secondary and tertiary schools. This program was carried out by a Philip Morris International-sponsored NGO in Naour.

The former Crown Prince is the honorary president of the Jordanian-Japanese partnership, of which JTI is a founding member. The Jordanian-Japanese partnership supports many humanitarian components of work.

3. BENEFITS TO THE INDUSTRY

In 2023, British American Tobacco Jordan announced a partnership with Regie, a Lebanese state-owned tobacco enterprise, to manufacture tobacco products for export. The partnership was officially launched in the presence of the Secretary General of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, Secretary General of the Ministry of Investment, representative of the Director General of the Income and Sales Tax Department, and the Deputy Director of the Jordan Chamber of Industry.

In a violation of public health regulation, the Jordan Food and Drug Administration (JDFA) let an importer bring into Jordan vape related goods bearing the VGOD brand mark. The Customs Department sent an inquiry to the MOH regarding the incident and requested for clear guidance on this issue.

The government authorized the establishment of new tobacco factories in tax-free zones. Following a long moratorium on establishing new facilities, this will enhance tobacco manufacturing in tax-exempt zones.

4. UNNECESSARY INTERACTION

It is common for the high-level government officials to meet frequently with the TI and participate in industry sponsored events.

The work on illicit trade protocol is still pending and no new updates in the last two years, and the TI has conducted campaigns to stop cigarette sales to minors with the endorsement of the government.



5. TRANSPARENCY

The Ministries of Trade, Industry and Finance did not disclose their meetings with the TI. The JSMO and the Jordan Food and Drug Administration was found to have had private meetings with the TI, but these interactions were not disclosed.

6. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

A Jordanian senator is believed to have stakes in waterpipe molasses manufacture, tobacco trading, and ownership of a private university and a huge number of businesses. His firm is well-known for dealing in tobacco products. The senator is also a board member of Orphan Funds Development Cooperation which formerly accepted TI funding.

7. PREVENTIVE MEASURES

No preventive measures were implemented in the country despite its commitment to be part of the FCTC 2030 project. During the 3 years of the FCTC 2030 project, only letters discussing the violations to WHO FCTC Article 5.3 were sent to JSMO, Prime Minister, and Ministry of Trade and Industry in 2019 and 2020. However, no more effort was taken, and no projects were developed. Furthermore, the TI pressured the Jordan's government to assume that WHO FCTC Article 5.3 is non-binding and non-mandatory to implement.