

JORDAN

2020

TOBACCO
INDUSTRY
INTERFERENCE
INDEX

1. Background

Tobacco use is a leading cause of preventable morbidity and mortality (Warner & MacKay, 2006; World Health Organization, 2012). To combat this global pandemic, the World Health Organization's (WHO) Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) was adopted in 2003 (World Health Organization, 2003, 2020c). It is an evidence-based international legally binding treaty that provides the necessary policies to curb the tobacco pandemic (World Health Organization, 2020b). One of the main obstacles to the full implementation of the FCTC is tobacco industry interference (Mary Assunta, 2019; World Health Organization, 2003, 2008). Tobacco industries' power are backed by their seemingly unlimited resources, which are used to lobby governmental officials through the establishment of false scientific findings, as well as provide debunked information (Tobacco Atlas, 2018; World Health Organization, 2008). This leads to difficulty in the implementation of the FCTC (Mary Assunta, 2019; Tobacco Atlas, 2018; World Health Organization, 2008).

Jordan is one of the hardest hit countries to be affected by tobacco industry interference (Mary Assunta, 2019; Mawya Al Zawawi, 2019), has a prevalence of current tobacco use among adult males estimated at 70.2% (Drope J, 2018; World Health Organization, 2019c). Additionally, the prevalence is also high among youths aged 13-15; 45% consumed tobacco products (Arrazola et al., 2017; Ministry of Health, 2014). It is expected that the prevalence would increase, as evidenced by the World Health Organization's STEPs survey conducted in partnership with the Ministry of Health (MOH) in 2019 (Jordan Times, 2019b; World Health Organization Jordan, 2019). Although the results have not been made public, the Ministry of Health has notified the public that the number of smokers have increased (Haitham Baroudi, 2020).

Jordan was selected in 2017 to be one of the countries participating in the first phase of the FCTC 2030 project (World Health Organization, 2020a). Accordingly, an annual action plan was constructed with Ministry of Health, WHO and Tobacco Control NGOs to tackle the different articles of FCTC and accelerate their implementation (Ministry of Health, 2019c).

Jordan was one of the first countries to sign and ratify the FCTC (United Nations Treaty Collection, 2019), and passed the Public Health Law (47/2008) to facilitate the enforcement of the FCTC in Jordan (Ministry of Health, 2008) with its amendments in 2017 (Ministry of Health, 2017). However, challenges in implementation are still in sight (Haitham Baroudi, 2020; M, Al Zawawi, 2019; World Health Organization, 2019b).

Article 5.3 of the WHO FCTC calls on parties to establish formal mechanisms to protect against tobacco industry influence in tobacco control policies (World Health Organization, 2003, 2008). Jordan has experienced continual interference from the tobacco industry (M, Al Zawawi, 2019). In 2019, Jordan has published its first Tobacco Industry Interference index report (Mafoya Dossoumon, 2019; M, Al Zawawi, 2019). Despite all tobacco control efforts, Jordan scored a poor 79%, marking it as the second highest reported country with tobacco industry interference in the world (Mary Assunta, 2019; Mawya Al Zawawi, 2019).

2. Tobacco Industry Interference Index 2020 Report:

Tobacco industry lobbying continues to have a significant impact in Jordan, directly influencing many key decisions through duplicitous means, such as support provided by its front groups. Despite the efforts of MOH, WHO and NGO activities, resistance to implementation of public health policies and abidance to FCTC Article 5.3 was evident. Having high-level governmental officials that own shares in the industry or own establishments that serve shisha continues to contribute to the slow implementation of tobacco control laws and regulations, like the smoke-free public places law (Jarasanews.com, 2014; Mawya Al Zawawi, 2019; Sarayanews.com, 2012). Several governmental agencies and ministries supported the tobacco industry in their decisions and procedures, even after they were provided with awareness, evidence and training to support their understanding of tobacco industry strategies. On top of that, MOH, WHO and NGOs continued their work based on the recommendations of the previous report, which had the Minister of Health announce a ban on all forms of corporate social responsibility activities (CSR) including sponsorship activities, (Ministry of Health, 2019a). Overall, the report shows a modest improvement of one-point decrease compared to last year, but as other governmental agencies play a negative role in allowing, accepting and supporting tobacco industry interference, this improvement might not be noticeable.

3. Objectives

The objective of the 2020 Tobacco Industry Interference Index report is to perform a second comprehensive summary and assessment of tobacco industry interference in Jordan across the year 2019 and the government's response to these instances of interferences to protect tobacco control policy.

4. Summary Findings

Tobacco industry influence in Jordan still remains high at 78 points. If no drastic measures are taken by the government to limit tobacco industry interference in the country, this score is expected to get higher next year.

a) INDUSTRY PARTICIPATION IN POLICY DEVELOPMENT

There is still no law that limits the presence of tobacco companies and excludes them during developing or regulating tobacco products in Jordan. Tobacco companies are part of the Jordan Standards and Metrology Organization (JSMO) committee, which is responsible for the standards and technical regulations of tobacco products (Jordan Standards and Metrology Organization, 2019c, 2019d). Following our first report, we noticed no change in the relations of JRA and Ministry of Tourism (MOT) board, which drafted the law on inspection of touristic establishments forbidding any public health law inspection without JRA and MOT being present (Ministry of Tourism, 2015). Because the government approves tobacco industry interactions and accepts, supports or endorses policy or legislation drafted by or in collaboration with tobacco industry (M, Al Zawawi, 2019), and have a permanent tobacco industry committee related to standards and technical regulations, the opportunity for the tobacco industry to increase its influence on policy has increased (Jordan Standards and Metrology Organization, 2017a, 2017b, 2019c, 2019d).

b) INDUSTRY RELATED CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSABILITY (CSR) ACTIVITIES

Circulated bans from the Minister of Health to all government institutions (Ministry of Health, 2019a), and the prime minister to all educational institutions to ban any form of interactions with tobacco companies (**reference**), including accepting funds/support from the tobacco industry in line with the government adaptation of FCTC article 5.3, were issued. In spite of that, tobacco companies continue to participate in community CSR activities and provide their support through local charities/NGOs (Kolona Al Urdon Society, 2019), targeting youth through their collage funds/training initiatives (El-Eqbal Investments, 2019) and internship programs (Philip Morris International, 2019).

c) BENEFITS TO THE INDUSTRY

The government of Jordan still accommodates requests from the tobacco industry for a longer period for implementation of the law as separation measurements in restaurants are still in force,

as well as the postponement of banning indoor water pipe usage in restaurants and cafes. We recorded in this report benefits given to tobacco companies, such as advertisement platforms on Duty Free shops and online platforms (Jordanian Duty Free Shops, 2020b).

d) UNNECESSARY INTERACTION

Government officials are engaging unnecessarily with tobacco companies, with one such example involving Japan Tobacco International (JTI) receiving the Environmental Stewardship Award from the ministry of environment and the World Bank for its usage of direct Solar Steam Generation in its tobacco factory in Amman, Jordan (Japan Tobacco International, 2020).

e) TRANSPARENCY

The government of Jordan and other agencies do not publicly disclose meetings/ interactions with the tobacco industry. It is worth noting this since the code of conduct for ministers (Prime Ministry of Jordan, 2018) and governmental workers (Ministry of Public Sector Development, 2013) calls for them to disclose any conflict of interest or previous work with the industry. However, this doesn't apply to parliamentarians (House of Representatives of Jordan, 2015).

f) CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There is no evidence that the government prohibits contributions from the tobacco industry to political parties, candidates or campaigns, nor is there a law that prohibits government officials and relatives from holding positions in tobacco companies. As a result, some of the house of representative members and ministers have shares in tobacco companies, or own restaurants that serve tobacco products (water pipes) (M, Al Zawawi, 2019). Additionally, the husband of the Director General of a leading health institute in Jordan holds a consultancy position at a leading tobacco company, (Jordan Standards and Metrology Organization, 2019c, 2019d).

In March 2019, the trial on fake-brand cigarette cases began in Jordan: 29 former officials and businesspersons, including a former minister, were called for questioning at the country's state security court (Frank Andrews, 2019). They are accused of organizing, manufacturing, and importing fake brand cigarettes, which cost the government an estimated \$200 million in lost fees and taxes (Kamal, 2018).

g) PREVENTIVE MEASURES

The Minister of Health made the decision of banning all forms of sponsorship activities, including CSR of the tobacco industry, with the government. This decision was shared with all governmental agencies (Ministry of Health, 2019a). The Ministry of Health, in collaboration with WHO, has conducted several awareness and policy activities, including workshops on pictorial health warnings, a ban on smoking indoors, as well as initiated a draft for the new public health law (Jordan Times, 2019a; Ministry of Health, 2019b). To reduce shisha consumption, no new licenses were issued to cafes and restaurants as of 2017 (Prime Ministry of Jordan, 2017). MOH drafted 5.3-guidelines, which have yet to be adopted.

5. Conclusions and Recommendations

Since publishing the first report, the index score shows that the level of industry interference is still high with a slight improvement (78). **The main causes for that**

- The industry and their front groups' influence, as they continue to be part of policymaking committees
- The lack of laws or regulations that demands transparency by disclosing all meetings and necessary interactions between government agencies with the industry,
- Alarming level of tobacco industry interaction with governmental employees,
- The tobacco industry CSR activities and their support in communities, especially youth initiatives among other community base projects.
- Certain governmental institutions are prone to having more interaction with the industry, such as the Ministry of Trade and Industry, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Tourism, and Jordan Standards and Metrology Organization (JSMO) among others.

Areas of improvement are evident and should not be undermined by increased efforts of the tobacco industry. The Ministry of Health, after publishing the first report, worked in collaboration with WHO and NGOs to push toward the implementation of FCTC Article 5.3, conducting workshops and awareness sessions, circulating instructions to all governmental institutes, prohibiting acceptance of any support, including gifts, sponsorship, from the tobacco industry, and prohibits any form of unnecessary interaction. The MOH has drafted a guideline for Jordan's implementation of Article 5.3, but have not finalized the work on it yet.

6. Author's review

The first report published in 2019 contained several recommendations. Even though some were implemented, there is an urgent need for all recommendations to be implemented for an immediate and greater impact.

Since the first report, we have been following and observing the government's challenge between eliminating tobacco industry interference, and treating the tobacco industry as a legitimate stakeholder and partner of the government. The issue lies in that some ministries and governmental officials do not view the tobacco industry as a harmful industry, or believe that their participation would be disastrous to public health policy and implementation. It is not lack of awareness on the harms of industry strategies, as this was effectively communicated to relevant and a significant proportion of agencies that are involved in tobacco control implementation, but rather the resistance to change. Although government officials are aware of the deleterious effect of tobacco use on health and economy, there seems to be a gap between internalizing the burden and seeing how it originates from tobacco use. This scenario would be expected in 1960s when evidence was scarce. Resistance from tobacco industry allies and government officials with conflict of interest is a powerful barrier to meaningful change.

What is needed is a strong, honest and clear political will from top decision makers and law enforcement. The current measures will always be held back from achieving full potential if no political will is present. Jordan has reached alarming levels of tobacco use, economic and health loss, and tobacco industry interference. Improving the tobacco industry interference index score will require full cooperation between all stakeholders from the government of Jordan- and not limited to MOH, WHO and Tobacco Control NGOs. WHO's FCTC is needed to provide help and guidance for implementation of the treaty in an active approach rather than a passive one. Together with governmental effort, civil society's role in grassroots campaigning and support of the government will lead to positive change and elimination of tobacco industry influence.

7. A look into the next report

In 2020, the measures taken to curb the COVID-19 pandemic by Jordan have resulted in implementation of one of the strictest lockdowns in the world to drastically slow the spread of the coronavirus (Arraf, 2020; Gavlak, 2020). After three days of complete lockdown, the government has commandeered city buses to deliver bread and other essentials directly to neighborhoods (Alsarayra, 2020; Arraf, 2020). The Minister of Labor announced on public television that the Government will initiate distribution of cigarettes to smokers as well (Alsarayra, 2020). Tobacco is not an essential consumer good, but the tobacco industry was

given priority in opening up and distributing tobacco products to shops (Majdi Albatieh, 2020). While other countries have noticed a decrease in tobacco consumption (Jan Cronje, 2020), Jordan has documented more than 50% increase in consumption of tobacco during the lockdown (Petra Governmental News, 2020). The government released the illicit products and donated them to the military for consumption (Roya News, 2020b). Additionally, the government classified water pipe serving cafes as one of the most affected sectors economically during COVID-19 (Roya News, 2020a), and to support them decided to allow shisha to be served in outdoor areas (Khaberni.com, 2020).

2020 Tobacco Industry Interference Index

Results and Findings

	0	1	2	3	4	5
INDICATOR 1: Level of Industry Participation in Policy-Development						
1. The government ¹ accepts, supports or endorses any offer for assistance by or in collaboration with the tobacco industry ² in setting or implementing public health policies in relation to tobacco control ³ (Rec 3.1)						5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No change in the score. • Following the letters of WHO/FCTC Secretariat to the Government of Jordan requesting the exclusion of tobacco industry from the committee of Jordan and Standards Metrology Organization (JSMO) that is responsible for the standards and technical regulations of tobacco products (World Health Organization, 2019a), the request was declined as they have been invited to participate in that committee (Jordan Standards and Metrology Organization, 2019c, 2019d). The Industry was given the opportunity to escape direct membership and participate as representatives of chamber of industry (Jordan Standards and Metrology Organization, 2017b, 2017c). JSMO claims that the participation of representatives of industry and trade are mandated according to directive number 5/2014 Article 6 (Jordan Standards and Metrology Organization, 2014). JSMO has also established the committee as a permanent committee (Jordan Standards and Metrology Organization, 2017a). Henceforth, the participation of tobacco industry in all standards and technical regulations related to tobacco will be continuous unless the government takes direct action. • The chamber of industry is a non-governmental institute but is registered officially in the country (Jordan Industry Chamber, 2020). The tobacco industries are registered in the chamber of industry as the members of the tobacco industry who attended JSMO meetings were there on behalf of the chamber of industry. • In July 2019, JSMO has initiated the work on two standards related to heated tobacco products and e-cigarettes (Jordan Standards and Metrology Organization, 2019a, 2019b). However, during the outbreak of e-cigarettes related deaths in the USA (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 2020), JSMO has stopped working on e-cigarettes standards and shifted to heated tobacco products (Zarqa Trade Chamber, 2019). As of early 2020 they renewed the work of the e-cigarettes standards (Jordan Standards and Metrology Organization, 2020). The reason why they went back to working on e-cigarettes remains undisclosed, but we found out during the last year the previous General Manager of PMI in Jordan Fadi Maayta was promoted to be the head of JUUL Labs for MENA and Turkey region (Linkedin, 2020a). He is a prominent figure in tobacco industry in Jordan as he appeared on the Prime Ministry page and Investment 						

¹ The term “government” refers to any public official whether or not acting within the scope of authority as long as cloaked with such authority or holding out to another as having such authority

² The term, “tobacco industry” includes those representing its interests or working to further its interests, including the State-owned tobacco industry.

³ “Offer of assistance” may include draft legislation, technical input, recommendations, oversees study tour

	0	1	2	3	4	5
Commission to promote PMI which was the first time that tobacco industry were given such a platform (Investment Commission, 2019; Prime Ministry of Jordan, 2019).						
2. The government accepts, supports or endorses <u>policies or legislation drafted by or in collaboration with the tobacco industry.</u> (Rec 3.4)						5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following the public approval of participation of tobacco industry in permanent tobacco committee related to standards and technical regulations, the opportunity for the tobacco industry to increase its influence on policy has increased. 						
3. The government allows/invites the tobacco industry to sit in government interagency/ multi-sectoral committee/ advisory group body that sets public health policy. (Rec 4.8)						5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tobacco companies are part of the JSMO committee that decided on pictorial health warnings. See point 1 						
4. The government nominates or allows representatives from the tobacco industry (including State-owned) in the delegation to the COP or other subsidiary bodies or accepts their sponsorship for delegates. (i.e. COP 4 & 5, INB 4 5, WG) ⁴ (Rec 4.9 & 8.3)		1				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tobacco industry representatives do not form part of the government delegation to the COP and its related meetings. However, we found evidence of a company “Trade Pacts” meeting with the Minister of Trade and Industry to request the representative of Jordan to lobby in COP 8 exclusion of any restrictions on molasses, claiming that the FCTC does not cover molasses in the treaty (Ministry of Trade Industry and Supply, 2018), the Minister of Trade and Industry approved their request, and sent a letter to Minister of Health to direct their representative to do so (Ministry of Trade Industry and Supply, 2018). However, the representative of MOH didn’t attend the meeting. 						
INDICATOR 2: Industry CSR activities						
5. A. The government agencies or its officials endorses, supports, forms partnerships with or participates in so-called CSR activities organized by the tobacco industry. (Rec 6.2)						5
B. The government (its agencies and officials) receives contributions ⁵ (monetary or otherwise) from the tobacco industry (including so-called CSR contributions). (Rec 6.4)						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Change in the score Philip Morris International (PMI) has sponsored a CSR activity with an NGO in Naour to support the education of high school students from the area (Kolona Al Urdon Society, 2019). This was done following a ban from the Prime Ministry of Jordan on Tobacco Industry sponsoring any activity related to the educational sector (reference). In an effort to go around the ban, they have used this NGO to work with high schools in Naour. 						

⁴ Please annex a list since 2009 so that the respondent can quantify the frequency, <http://www.who.int/fctc/cop/en/>

⁵ political, social financial, educations, community, technical expertise or training to counter smuggling or any other forms of contributions

	0	1	2	3	4	5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PMI global Internship Program “Inkompass” targets exceptional, talented youth from universities to promote their products and hire outstanding participants to work for them and promote their products for the future generation. (Philip Morris International, 2019). Al-Eqbal Investment provides 12 scholarships to students perusing a university degree in partnership with Ministry of Higher Education (El-Eqbal Investments, 2019). 						
INDICATOR 3: Benefits to the Tobacco Industry						
6. The government accommodates requests from the tobacco industry for a longer time frame for implementation or postponement of tobacco control law. (e.g. 180 days is common for PHW, Tax increase can be implemented within 1 month) (Rec 7.1)						5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2019, there were many press reports on the exposé of senior government officials from the custom department being involved in graft involving illicit tobacco trade that benefited the tobacco industry (Frank Andrews, 2019). 						
7. The government gives privileges, incentives, exemptions or benefits to the tobacco industry (Rec 7.3)					4	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change in the score We have followed up on the benefits, privileges and exemptions they were given and noticed that there were not changes from the amount of tobacco people can bring into the country from duty free (IATA, 2020; Queen Alia International Airport, 2020; Roya News, 2019; VisaHQ, 2020). It depends on the type of tobacco and includes 200 cigarettes, 25 cigars, and 200 gm of pipe tobacco (IATA, 2020; Queen Alia International Airport, 2020; VisaHQ, 2020). At Queen Alia Airport, molasses is considered a fluid at the person can put up to 100 gm in their hand bag, and a person is allowed to put e-cigarettes in their luggage (Queen Alia International Airport, 2020). They are also provided with special platform for advertisement on the Jordanian Duty-Free Shops (JDFS) page with mentions of cigarettes and tobacco and showing their logos as part of selected brands they are featuring on their page (Jordanian Duty Free Shops, 2020b). It is worth mentioning that JDFS donates to major institutes with linkages to schools and health like King Hussein Cancer Foundation, Jordan River Foundation, King Academy, among other institutions (Jordanian Duty Free Shops, 2020a). As highlighted in point 4, the Minister of Trade and Industry supported Molasses industry and lobbied on their behalf to change the position of the Government of Jordan in COP 8. 						
INDICATOR 4: Forms of Unnecessary Interaction						
8. Top level government officials (such as President/ Prime Minister or Minister ⁶) meet with/ foster relations with the tobacco companies such as attending social functions and other events sponsored or organized by the tobacco companies or those furthering its interests. (Rec 2.1)						5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministry of Environment in Jordan and the World Bank awarded the “Environmental Stewardship Award” JTI. This is due to the usage of the solar steam generation in their factory in Jordan (Japan Tobacco International, 2020). However, it 						

⁶ Includes immediate members of the families of the high-level officials

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<p>is important to highlight that the high environmental burden and contribution to climate change JTI -and by extension the tobacco industry- generates, as only 12% of their CO₂ emissions are 500 tons a year, representing the reduction due to the installation of their new system (Japan Tobacco International, 2020). Based on this information, almost 4170 tons of CO₂ emissions were produced by them annually before the installation of their new system.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Princess Sumaya University for Technology a pioneer in Tobacco Control and the first smoke-free campus in Jordan has invited Alzawrae Company the manufacturing company of Mazaya molasses into a conference (Princess Sumaya University for Technology, 2018). The conference was attended by key figures in the country, including governmental agencies like the director of Jordan Food and Drug Administration (JFDA) (Princess Sumaya University for Technology, 2018). The university is owned by members of the royal family and they sit on their board of directors (Princess Sumaya University for Technology, 2020). 						
<p>9. The government accepts assistance/ offers of assistance from the tobacco industry on enforcement such as conducting raids on tobacco smuggling or enforcing smoke free policies or no sales to minors. (including monetary contribution for these activities) (Rec 4.3)</p>						5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change in the score During the meeting of the National Coordination Mechanism’s Executive Committee on Tobacco Control, the representatives of taxation department and representatives of customs have shared that the government has outsourced the tobacco products tracking and tracing system (digital tax stamp) that was approved by the Ministerial Cabinet to the tobacco industry to sponsor the government with procurement, creation of unit, training of staff and establishment of system (Government of Jordan, 2019; Husam Abu Ali, 2019a). It is vital to mention that Jordan has not signed nor ratified the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products (United Nations Treaty Collection, 2020). Multiple letters were sent from World Health Organization and United Nations to Jordan, encouraging them to sign and ratify the protocol (Framework Convention on Tobacco Control Secretariat, 2017; United Nations, 2018; World Health Organization, 2018) The Government has delegated the issue to Ministry of Justice who have left the topic in limbo since then (Government of Jordan, 2019; Ministry of Health, 2015; Ministry of Justice, 2014; Ministry of Trade Industry and Supply, 2014), and even though the Prime Minister has personally requested to accelerate the process (reference), no new updates were documented. 						
<p>10. The government accepts, supports, endorses, or enters into partnerships or agreements with the tobacco industry. (Rec 3.1) NOTE: This must <i>not</i> involve CSR, enforcement activity, or tobacco control policy development since these are already covered in the previous questions.</p>						5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change in status quo As mentioned in point 9, a new partnership was formed with the government for the tracking and tracing system (digital tax stamp). 						

INDICATOR 5: Transparency

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11. The government does not publicly disclose meetings/ interactions with the tobacco industry in cases where such interactions are strictly necessary for regulation. (Rec 2.2)						5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No change in status quo as meetings with the tobacco industry or any other interactions are not disclosed. 						
12. The government requires rules for the disclosure or registration of tobacco industry entities, affiliated organizations, and individuals acting on their behalf including lobbyists (Rec 5.3)				3		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • According to the Industry and Trade Law, industries are required to register, but all information they provide is secretive unless accessible otherwise (Ministry of Trade Industry and Supply, 1998). However, we did not find evident that include lobbyists and organizations acting on their behalf. 						
INDICATOR 6: Conflict of Interest						
13. The government does not prohibit contributions from the tobacco industry or any entity working to further its interests to political parties, candidates, or campaigns or to require full disclosure of such contributions. (Rec 4.11)						5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No change in status quo <p>There is no evidence of any prohibition or disclosure requirement, regarding any form of contributions from TI to political parties, candidates.</p>						
14. Retired senior government officials form part of the tobacco industry (former Prime Minister, Minister, Attorney General) (Rec 4.4)			2			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No change in status quo <p>We could not find additional public documents that give further evidence on any senior government officials to be part of the tobacco industry.</p>						
15. <u>Current government officials</u> and relatives hold positions in the tobacco business including consultancy positions. (Rec 4.5, 4.8, 4.10)						5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No change in status quo • The Director General's husband of a leading NGO that works intensely in tobacco control was hired by JTI as a consultant related to governmental relations (Director General of KHCF, 2019). The posting to this job came after the formulation of National Coordination Mechanism (NCM) on Tobacco Control by the Prime Minister of Jordan (Al Mamlaka News, 2019; LinkedIn, 2019). He has participated and attended the meetings of JSMO on tobacco products standards and technical regulations (Jordan Standards and Metrology Organization, 2019c, 2019d). 						
INDICATOR 7: Preventive Measures						
16. The government has put in place a procedure for disclosing the records of the interaction (such as agenda, attendees, minutes and outcome) with the tobacco industry and its representatives. (Rec 5.1)				3		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ministry of Health has initiated a draft on a new tobacco control law that includes disclosing of records of interaction with tobacco industry (Ministry of Health, 2019b). 						

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additionally, we were notified through personal communication from Ministry of Agriculture's legal department that they received a request for allowing tobacco agriculture but they denied the request (Ministry of Agriculture, 2019). 						
17. The government has formulated, adopted or implemented a code of conduct for public officials, prescribing the standards with which they should comply in their dealings with the tobacco industry. (Rec 4.2)			2			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MOH decision to ban accepting gifts and sponsorship opportunities from tobacco industry (Ministry of Health, 2019a). Prime Minister decision to ban tobacco industry sponsorship of educational sector (reference) 						
18. The government requires the tobacco industry to periodically submit information on tobacco production, manufacture, market share, marketing expenditures, revenues and any other activity, including lobbying, philanthropy, political contributions and all other activities. (5.2)				3		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change in status quo We were informed by Taxation Department that the general procedure of monitoring production of tobacco in Jordan is through a Ministry of Finance/Taxation Department employees who will work at the factories for monitoring of production (Husam Abu Ali, 2019b). However, this is designated as a weaker form of monitoring to prevent tax evasion and illicit trade compared to the best practice recommended by WHO (World Health Organization, 2019d). We were informed by Taxation department in our visits that not all molasses manufacturers have on-site ministry of finance employee monitoring the production, so the government relies on what they supplement (Husam Abu Ali, 2019b). 						
19. The government has a program / system/ plan to consistently ⁷ raise awareness within its departments on policies relating to FCTC Article 5.3 Guidelines. (Rec 1.1, 1.2)				3		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FCTC 2030 annual plan that is in collaboration with MOH (includes a plan on raising awareness on Article 5.3) (Ministry of Health, 2019c). 						
20. The government has put in place a policy to disallow the acceptance of all forms of contributions/ gifts from the tobacco industry (monetary or otherwise) including offers of assistance, policy drafts, or study visit invitations given or offered to the government, its agencies, officials and their relatives. (3.4)			2			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MOH has initiated a draft of an independent tobacco control law that covers all aspects mandated by FCTC article 5.3 and its guidelines of implementation (Ministry of Health, 2019b). However, the law draft was fought back by Jordan Food and Drug Agency (JFDA) was put since on hold (Jordan Food and Drug Administration, 2019). JFDA justified the decision by stating that this law draft will harm the tobacco industry 						

⁷ For purposes of this question, "consistently" means: a. Each time the FCTC is discussed, 5.3 is explained. AND b. Whenever the opportunity arises such when the tobacco industry intervention is discovered or reported.

	0	1	2	3	4	5
(Jordan Food and Drug Administration, 2019).						
TOTAL						78

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