

FACTSHEET: AFRICA TOBACCO INDUSTRY INTERFERENCE INDEX - 2021

In 2020, nine countries (Kenya, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Ethiopia, Ghana, Mozambique, Nigeria, Zambia) participated in the survey. In 2021, five new countries (Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Gabon and Senegal) joined the survey bringing the total to fourteen (14) countries.

As compared to the ranking of countries in 2020, Ethiopia dropped by 17% in 2021 (from 42 to 49). Although modest improvement in score, Ghana was the best improved country in 2021 (from 58 to 56).



The tobacco industry interfered in policy development

Burkina-Faso: The tobacco industry provided financial support to the Ministry of Economy and Finance and the Ministry of Trade for the facilitation and adoption of a system to authenticate, track and trace, and fiscal verification of tobacco products.

Nigeria: The Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment received a tobacco industry proposal on the need for a Policy on Conventional Tobacco and Non-Combusted Alternatives to Cigarette Smoking.¹

Tanzania: Relevant departments of the government were well represented in COP8, including the Tanzania Tobacco Board member. The board is established to render services to tobacco industry by 'regulating and improving the performance of the tobacco industry in Tanzania'².

Governments endorsed Tobacco industry related CSR charity

Senegal: Mauritanian Businessman Mohamed Ould Bouamatou, an importer of cigarettes, released 1 billion CFA francs (\$1.6 million) to Senegal as part of the Force COVID-19 fund.

Zambia: Japan Tobacco International (JTI) spent US\$300,000 providing materials towards the government's fight against the Covid-19 pandemic in public health facilities and schools in Western and Eastern provinces of the country.

Benefits were given to the tobacco industry

Cote d'Ivoire: The Confederation of Côte d'Ivoire Companies (CGECI) negotiated tax breaks to benefit tobacco companies as these reliefs allowed tobacco tax increase to be revised by only a single point (35 to 36% in 2018) and from 38 to 39% in 2021.

Ghana: The Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA) entered into a partnership with De La Rue who subsequently outsourced the contract to IT giant Atos, a longstanding tobacco industry partner, to create a track-and-trace tax stamp system to combat illicit tobacco trade in Ghana³.

Kenya: The Kenyan Government listed tobacco products as part of the essential products under Foods and Beverages during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020⁴⁻⁶.

Governments had unnecessary interactions with the tobacco industry

Zambia: The acting Minister of Commerce, Trade and Industry toured the BAT processing plant after which BAT claimed they have invested an additional US\$800,000 in its production line and assured support to Zambia's economic development agenda.

Gabon: The "Régie Gabonaise de Tabacs", a government entity that regulates the marketing of tobacco products, is ran by CECA GADIS (Compagnie d'exploitations commerciales africaines – Société gabonaise de distribution), an agency that represents the interests of tobacco manufacturers.

Lack of transparency facilitated industry interference

Uganda: A consultative meeting between BAT Uganda and the Office of the Prime Minister about the implementation of the Tobacco Control Act was not publicized.

South Africa: Some government departments and local authorities continue to interact with the industry through previous agreements/Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) as reported in the 2019 TII Index and through partnerships with NGOs that are funded by the industry.

Reduce conflict of interest

South Africa: The President signed the proclamation on the Commencement of the Political Party Funding Act, 2018 (Act no. 6 of 2018), which came into effect from 1 April 2021. This will regulate public and private funding of political parties and for the first time, political parties will need to disclose the sources and amounts of private funding received.

Ethiopia: Members of the tobacco control board must declare any affiliation to the tobacco industry per proclamation 1112/2019 to help determine any potential conflict of interest.

Governments must act to protect themselves from tobacco industry interference

Botswana: The Tobacco Control Bill, gazetted for public comments in 2021 seeks to limit interactions between the government and the tobacco industry including government partnerships and endorsements of tobacco industry.

Gabon: Interactions between the public authorities and the tobacco industry are covered by Decree 0286/PR/MSPSSN of 17 May 2016 on the prevention of interference by the tobacco industry in health policies.

Uganda: The Government of Uganda has devised measures to embed Article 5.3 of the WHO FCTC in its National legislation and policy process in order to protect these TC policies with respect to tobacco control from commercial and other vested interests of the tobacco industry.

¹ Reject tobacco industry-sponsored draft policy on cigarettes alternatives, Groups urge Minister of Industry. Premium Times.

<https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/more-news/405753-reject-tobacco-industry-sponsored-draft-policy-on-cigarettes-alternatives-groups-urge-minister-of-industry.html>

² Eighth Session of the Conference of the Parties to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control; FCTC/COP/8. List of Participants.

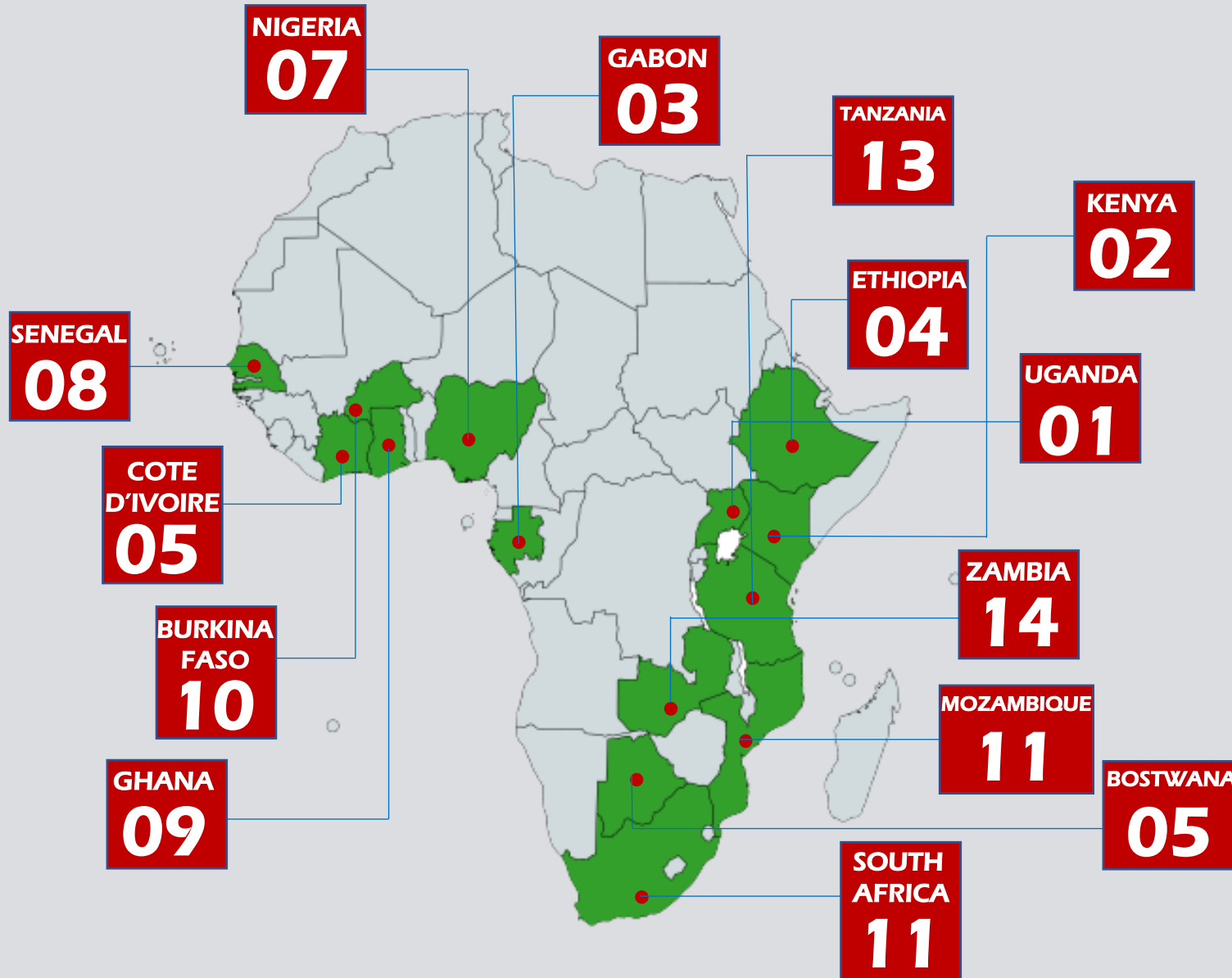
³ Confronting illicit tobacco trade a global review of country experiences. <https://thebftonline.com/29/10/2020/a-call-for-transparency-ppa-takes-steps-to-address-lack-of-fairness-in-large-gra-procurement-but-more-needs-to-be-done/>. Published 2020. Accessed April 28, 2021

⁴ Frequently asked questions for business, Kenya. <https://www.industrialization.go.ke/images/downloads/frequently-asked-questions-for-business.pdf>

⁵ Essential Product-list, Kenya. <https://sdgkenyaforum.org/content/covid/essential-product-list.pdf>.

⁶ Kenya Lists alcohol-tobacco-among Essential-Products, <https://www.the-star.co.ke/news/2020-04-08-kenya-lists-alcohol-tobacco-among-essential-products/>

RANKING



RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The government must protect policy development from tobacco industry interference.
2. All Corporate Social Responsibility activities by the tobacco industry should be banned.
3. Establish and or enforce a code of conduct to guide all government to officials with the aim to limit interactions between government officials and tobacco industry to only when strictly necessary and such interactions be transparent.
4. Where code of conduct exists, conduct regular training and awareness on tobacco industry inferences in line with Article 5.3 for public officials.
5. Prohibit preferential treatment given to the tobacco industry,

We must strive to protect our tobacco control policies from tobacco industry interference



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