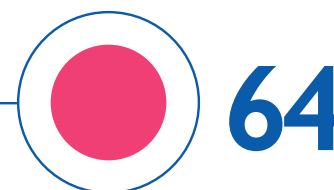


Yemen



SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

1. Industry Participation in Policy Development

The Yemeni government, primarily through its Ministry of Public Health and Population (MOPH), develops and implements tobacco control policies independently, without direct influence from the tobacco industry (TI). However, concerns remain about conflicts of interest due to the government's association with the state-owned tobacco enterprise, Kamaran Industry and Investments (Kamran). There is no evidence of TI representatives serving on governmental policy-making committees or joining official delegations to international forums such as the Conference of the Parties.

2. Industry CSR Activities

Despite a 2013 resolution prohibiting tobacco company sponsorship of cultural, sporting, and social activities, corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives persist in Yemen. Major companies such as United Industries Company (HSA Group), National Tobacco and Sulfur Company Limited (through the Althawab Charity Foundation), and Kamran continue to fund community projects. These include building public facilities such as Aden Mall Park, providing financial aid, funding schools, supporting youth initiatives, and supplying emergency relief such as fuel for power stations. Government officials have attended and praised these contributions, enhancing the TI's public image.

3. Benefits to the Industry

The TI benefits from the lack of enforcement of existing regulations. Laws prohibiting indirect tobacco promotion are not consistently applied, and there is no record of penalties for companies failing to disclose product compositions or apply health warnings. Tobacco companies established before 1991 received tax exemptions on imported fixed assets, and Kamran has recently faced tax evasion accusations. The actual total tax on cigarette retail prices was 57.03 percent in 2023, far below the mandated 90 percent. The legal status of e-cigarettes remains unclear, with no specific ban in place, creating an environment for unregulated operations.

4. Unnecessary Interaction

High-level government officials have engaged with the TI by attending industry events and making supportive statements. As there are no specific laws prohibiting such interactions, these engagements have included participation in official ceremonies and promotional activities.

5. Transparency

Communication between the Yemeni government and the TI lacks transparency. There are no laws requiring the disclosure of interactions with TI representatives or mandating lobbying disclosures by tobacco companies and their affiliates. The absence of a regulatory framework, including a dedicated national tobacco control committee, further hinders oversight of industry influence.



6. Conflict of Interest

There are no laws prohibiting or requiring disclosure of TI contributions to political entities. The government's partial ownership of Kamran raises potential conflicts of interest in policymaking. No evidence was found of retired or current officials, or their relatives, being involved in the TI.

7. Preventive Measures

There is no formal procedure for disclosing records of government–TI interactions, such as agendas, attendees, or

outcomes. No code of conduct has been adopted to guide public officials in their dealings with the TI. The National Tobacco Control Program under the MOPH reportedly restricts its officials from such interactions. While tobacco companies must submit some information to trade and tax authorities, such as production and revenue, this data is not public and excludes marketing, lobbying, and philanthropy. There is no evidence of government efforts to promote awareness of Article 5.3 of the WHO FCTC across departments, and no policies prohibit officials or agencies from accepting TI contributions or gifts.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Enforce existing tobacco control laws, including the Prime Minister's Resolution No. 379 of 2013, which bans all TI-related CSR activities.
2. Remove tax exemptions and privileges accorded to TI companies, implement stringent monitoring to prevent tax evasion, halt preferential treatment, and enact a law to ban e-cigarette sales and use.
3. Establish a national registry of the TI and require disclosure of its activities, including market share, profits, tax exemptions, and privileges, on official websites. Government officials should also disclose all interactions with the TI, and industry representatives and affiliates must be registered.
4. Accelerate the completion of the national tobacco control plan, focusing on the enforcement of Article 5.3 of the WHO FCTC and its guidelines to limit TI interference in public health policymaking.
5. Formulate and enforce a code of conduct for public officials to provide clear standards for interactions with the TI.
6. Develop strategic capacity-building programs for officials and policymakers to raise awareness, prevent conflicts of interest, and reduce unintentional support for the TI.
7. Establish a national supreme committee for tobacco control, with representatives from multiple ministries, to oversee and monitor TI operations nationwide.