STRONG PUBLIC BACKING FOR UNION-SUPPORTED TOBACCO CONTROL LAW IN LEBANON

A survey of 1,500 households across Lebanon showed that 90% support the tobacco control laws that The Union helped bring into force in September 2012. As a result, Lebanon is now a smokefree country with authorised inspection in all regions and bans on all forms of direct tobacco advertising, as well as health warnings covering 40% of every cigarette packet.

In addition, the National Tobacco Control Programme conducted a compliance survey covering 1,200 urban and rural locations with Union technical support. The results found that overall compliance with the smoking ban approaches 70%, with the highest rates in healthcare, education and shopping sectors and the lowest in the hospitality and transport sectors.

The Union has collaborated with Lebanon’s government and Ministry of Public Health since 2010, providing technical assistance for the establishment of working teams and a tobacco control programme, as well as legal advice that was instrumental in the drafting of the current law. The Union continues to support the Lebanese government’s efforts to protect the safety and health of its people through the implementation of tobacco legislation.