22 Capacity building

"While the WHO FCTC provides the framework for action against tobacco, the actual work to combat tobacco use must necessarily occur at country level. The success of the WHO FCTC will depend almost entirely on the ability of countries to implement and enforce its provisions."
Dr Lee Jong-wook, Director-General, WHO, 2005

The United Nations Development Programme defines capacity as "the ability to perform functions, solve problems and achieve objectives" at three levels: individual, institutional and societal." National capacity building is at the forefront of tobacco control initiatives. Since the adoption of WHO's Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in 2003, many countries, especially those in the developing world, face the challenge of developing national plans of action, often without the expertise, leadership or data gathering and surveillance infrastructures. Thus, capacity-building programmes focus on enhancing these elements.

The Framework Convention Alliance (FCA), an umbrella organization of 200 tobacco control organizations, contributes significantly to capacity-building efforts in 80 countries around the world by organizing workshops and providing technical expertise in support of ratification and implementation of the WHO FCTC.

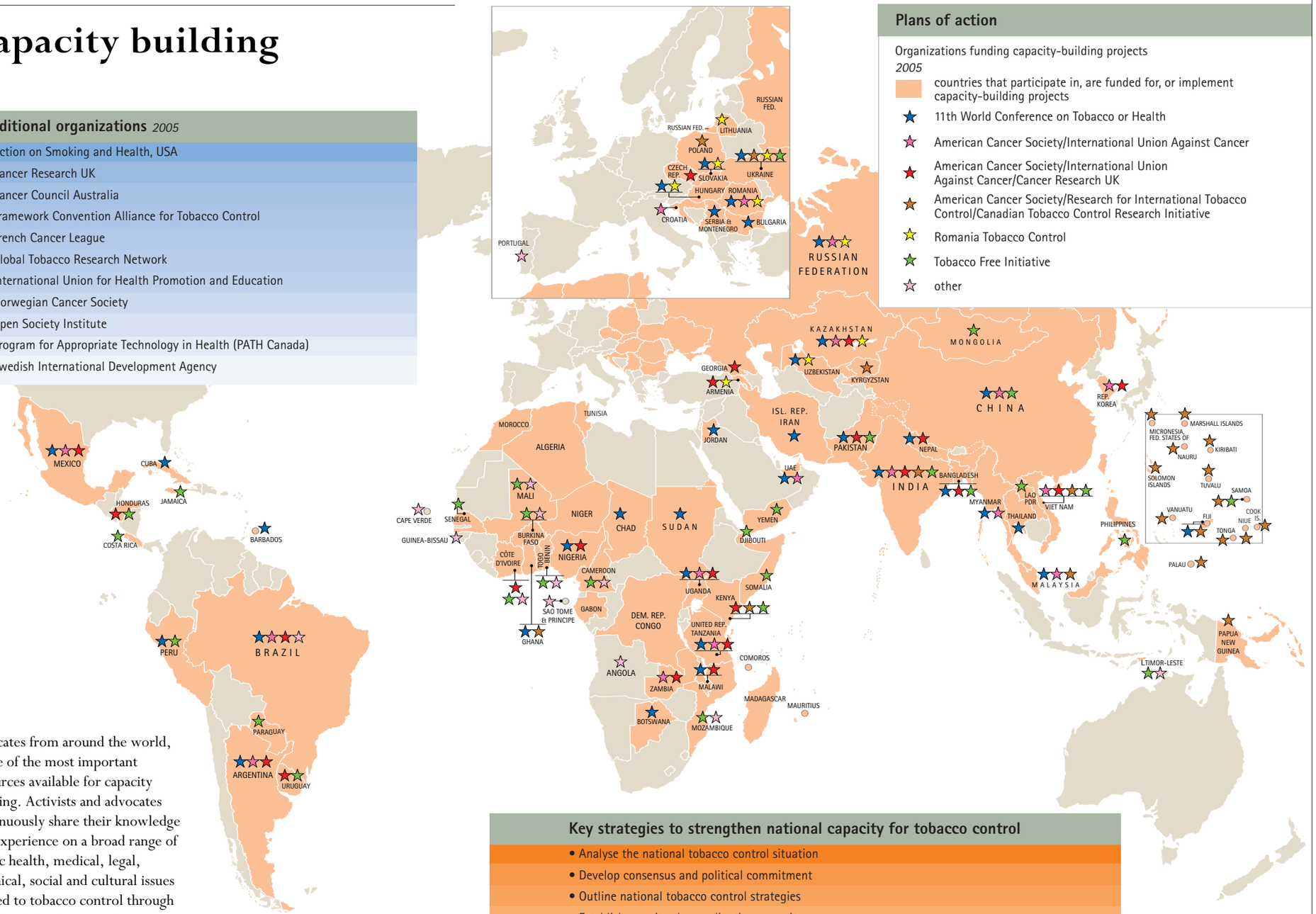
Many organizations work to enhance national capacity-building efforts by facilitating international research communication and collaboration, managing, and disseminating information on the health hazards, economic damage, and environmental costs of tobacco use.

GLOBALink, an internet-based network of tobacco control advocates from around the world, is one of the most important resources available for capacity building. Activists and advocates continuously share their knowledge and experience on a broad range of public health, medical, legal, technical, social and cultural issues related to tobacco control through the GLOBALink network.

Through the unified and coordinated efforts of thousands of dedicated individuals, the Herculean task of global tobacco control is becoming a reality.

Additional organizations *2005*

- Action on Smoking and Health, USA
- Cancer Research UK
- Cancer Council Australia
- Framework Convention Alliance for Tobacco Control
- French Cancer League
- Global Tobacco Research Network
- International Union for Health Promotion and Education
- Norwegian Cancer Society
- Open Society Institute
- Program for Appropriate Technology in Health (PATH Canada)
- Swedish International Development Agency



Plans of action

Organizations funding capacity-building projects
2005

- countries that participate in, are funded for, or implement capacity-building projects
- 11th World Conference on Tobacco or Health
- American Cancer Society/International Union Against Cancer
- American Cancer Society/International Union Against Cancer/Cancer Research UK
- American Cancer Society/Research for International Tobacco Control/Canadian Tobacco Control Research Initiative
- Romania Tobacco Control
- Tobacco Free Initiative
- other

Key strategies to strengthen national capacity for tobacco control

- Analyse the national tobacco control situation
- Develop consensus and political commitment
- Outline national tobacco control strategies
- Establish a national co-ordination committee
- Build a comprehensive national plan of action
- Establish sustained funding mechanisms
- Incorporate national tobacco control efforts into existing health structures to ensure sustainability
- Develop strategies for monitoring and counteraction of tobacco industry activities in rural areas
- Establish a system of monitoring and evaluating tobacco control policies, development and implementation