

Saudi Arabia

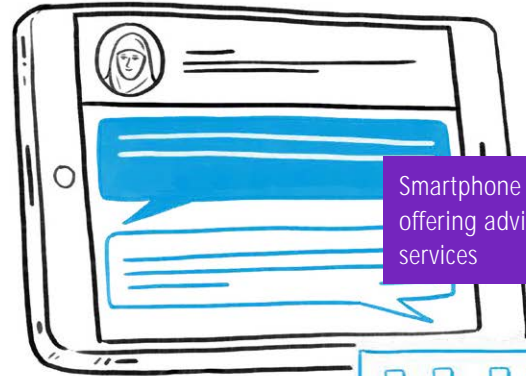


SEHHATY



WASFATY

Transforming health care is an important aspect of The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's ambitious Vision 2030 strategy. Saudi Arabia is therefore taking decisive action to combat noncommunicable diseases (NCDs), which are responsible for approximately 78% of all deaths in the country. Imposing taxes, adopting legislation and using new technology have all been essential tools for mitigating NCDs both before and during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Smartphone apps offering advice and services



Saudi Arabia enforced a ban on the use of waterpipes in public places, while running multiple tobacco and COVID-19 awareness campaigns through broadcast and via social media.

Over 1000 specialized tobacco cessation clinics offered free services across Saudi Arabia. These services were successfully adapted to online and phone consultations during the pandemic.

The country is continuing to take great strides in tackling tobacco use, including the implementation of advertising bans, making changes to packaging and controlling illicit tobacco trade.

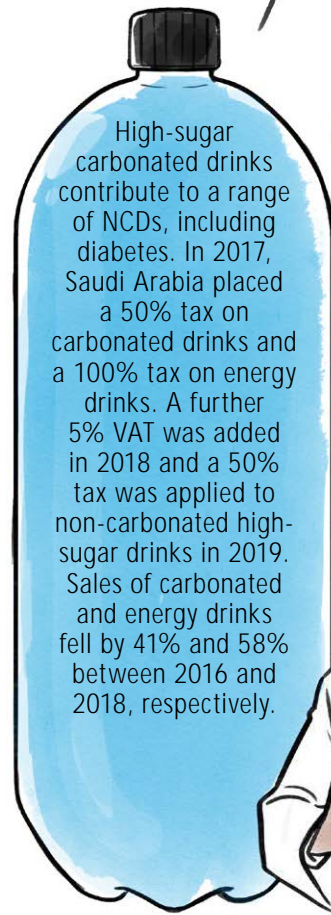


By using a wide range of smartphone apps, consultations online and via telephone, Saudi Arabia successfully ensured the continued delivery of essential health services throughout pandemic lockdowns.



Saudi Arabia has prioritized mental health services by integrating them into primary health care through extensive training, links with mental health specialists and increasing community awareness.

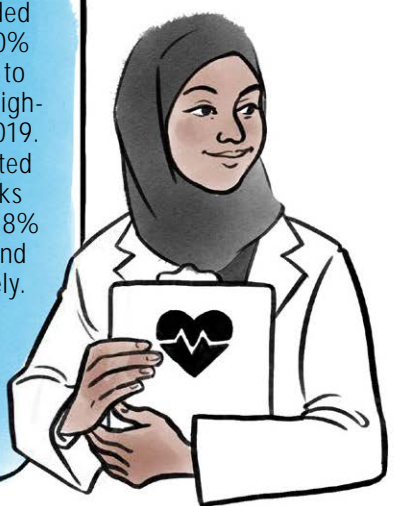
WHO mhGAP programme to integrate mental health services within PHC



High-sugar carbonated drinks contribute to a range of NCDs, including diabetes. In 2017, Saudi Arabia placed a 50% tax on carbonated drinks and a 100% tax on energy drinks. A further 5% VAT was added in 2018 and a 50% tax was applied to non-carbonated high-sugar drinks in 2019. Sales of carbonated and energy drinks fell by 41% and 58% between 2016 and 2018, respectively.



Seen in **60%** of patients presenting to PHC



TOBACCO CHECKLIST	
WHO FCTC Ratified	2005
Packaging Warnings	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Waterpipe Ban	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ratified Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products	2015