

Introductory Letter from GYTS Partners to MOH

[NAME]
[TITLE]
Ministry Of Health [COUNTRY]
[ADDRESS]

Subject: Introducing and Inviting MOH [COUNTRY] Participation in the Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS)

Dear [NAME]:

On behalf of the World Health Organization (WHO) and the US Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) it is my pleasure to introduce you to a global initiative to monitor youth tobacco use and key tobacco control policies.

In 1998, WHO and CDC developed a Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS) protocol in consultation with surveillance and tobacco control experts. GYTS is a part of the Global Tobacco Surveillance System (GTSS), which monitors tobacco use and key tobacco control policies for youth and adults using a globally standardized protocol.

[COUNTRY] has already implemented GYTS. Tobacco use still remains the leading preventable cause of premature disease and death. Systematic monitoring of this epidemic is essential to managing it. GYTS is a nationally representative survey of students aged 13 to 15 years, using a consistent and standard protocol across countries. It is intended to enhance countries' capacity to design, implement, and evaluate tobacco control and prevention programs. In addition, it aims to assist countries in tracking the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) and the WHO MPOWER Technical Package.

GYTS is funded by CDC in collaboration with the WHO. As of [MONTH, YEAR], GYTS has been successfully implemented in [NUMBER] countries and expanded to [NUMBER] countries in [YEAR].

[COUNTRY] was identified by the partners to implement GYTS in [YEAR]. Given your leadership in tobacco control, and in view of the above, we would like to extend an invitation to you to participate in this initiative. We would also like to mention that both technical and financial support would be provided.

As partners in this process, we would appreciate the MOH's input on suggested agencies to implement this survey in your country, as well as nominations for a potential Research Coordinator (RC) to oversee the process in-country from beginning to end. Details on specifically what is expected of an implementing agency and RC are outlined in the attached *GYTS Implementation Instructions*.

We look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

WHO (WR)
Copy: WHO Region / WHO HQ / CDC
Encl: *GYTS Implementation Instructions*