In Mexico, 72% of adult smokers wish to stop smoking, but only 24% among them seek treatment and from those, only 16% receive short term counseling to quit smoking. In 2008 there were 325 tobacco cessation clinics, but by 2015 their number had decreased to 231. In any case, this type of service is centralized, outdated and limited to a few cities. It is not accessible at the primary care level and its availability is not made public. There is lack of information about health professional experts in smoking cessation treatment. Together with the National Commission Against Addictions [Comisión Nacional contra las Adicciones] and the National Office for Tobacco Control [Oficina Nacional para el Control del Tabaco] the project is currently assessing the situation regarding the treatment for tobacco dependency in order to produce, together with the leading organizations in the field, a concept paper to analyze the situation in the country at a national level [Análisis de la Situación Nacional (ASN)] and to support the development of a comprehensive policy in accordance with the guidelines of Article 14 of the FCTC. The strategy is expected to increase the number of Mexican professionals that provide treatment, expand access and affordability, promote the recording of tobacco use in medical histories, and broadly provide brief advice in all primary care settings.

**Who**

15 government agencies participate in the project: The National Commission Against Addictions, the National Center for the Prevention and Control of Addictions, the National Office for Tobacco Control, the National Social Security Institution, the Institute for Security and Social Services for State Workers, the Ministry of Defense, the Ministry of the Navy, the National Oil Company, the Youth Integration Centers, the National Cancer Institute, the National Institute of Respiratory Diseases, the General Hospital of Mexico, the National Polytechnic Institute, the Faculty of Medicine at the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM); 2 private entities: The clinic Aida in Sonora and “Thank you, I do not Smoke” in Querétaro. The InterAmerican Heart Foundation Mexico and the National Alliance for the Control of Tobacco (ALIENTO) are project leads.*

**Where and When**

The project is implemented at the Public Institutions of the Health Sector in Mexico, in some institutions of higher education and in private clinics. It was originally scheduled to be executed between October 2014 and March 2016; however, due to administrative changes in the lead government agencies on addictions, the deadline was extended to December 2016.

**Results**

Leading health professionals on the treatment of tobacco dependency participated in an Analysis of the National Situation. This step was essential to develop a National Cessation Strategy that is well-grounded in the realities of Mexico. We are already involved in the design of a comprehensive policy within the framework of the National Program against Tobacco Use 2015-2018. With their participation, treating professionals have assumed a leadership role that is hoped will help in the implementation of the national strategy.

The establishment, in collaboration with the National Office for Tobacco Control, of the Interagency Group for the Cessation of Tobacco Consumption [Grupo Interinstitucional para la Cessación del Consumo de Tabaco], which will be a permanent working group focused on cessation.

Increased efforts to build capacity among healthcare professionals for implementing Article 14 of the FCTC and expanding the treatment for tobacco addiction. The National Institute of Respiratory Diseases has been a key partner.

The updating of key concepts and characteristics of cessation services regarding tobacco consumption in order to incorporate them into the Mexican Official Norm 028-SSA2-2009 this same year.

**Next Steps**

To organize a meeting with the project's leading international consultants on tobacco treatment to review the results of the National Situation Analysis and identify major findings; To draft the report resulting from applying the National Situation Analysis tool; To complement the catalog of smoking cessation services in the country, stressing their scope and limitations, and to define the relevant profiles of the healthcare personnel in charge of this task; To gather information regarding the number of tobacco treatment services and other indicators of progress; To broadcast the existence of the Coalition of Professionals on Nicotine Dependency Treatment, and To make the most out of the World No Tobacco Day, on May 31, 2016, in order to increase public awareness on smoking cessation.

**Methods**

The project team sent the National Situation Analysis tool, the corresponding instructions and the Guidelines of Article 14 of the FCTC to participants. Meetings were held at the InterAmerican Heart Foundation (FIC/Mexico), the National Commission against Addictions, and the National Office for the Control of Tobacco. The project was presented at the premises of the Ministry of Health. The members of the Interagency Group for the Cessation of Tobacco Consumption were incorporated on a permanent basis in the updating of the National Program against Tobacco Use 2015-2018.

**Additional Accomplishments**

Releasing statements from the InterAmerican Heart Foundation (IAHF) to the different heads of the National Commission Against Addictions; a personal interview by the executive director of the IAHF with the National Commissioner on Addictions; and in parallel, drafting and sending initial communications to the successive heads of the National Office for the Control of Tobacco and the well-known professionals on tobacco treatment, besides sending them Internet messages, calling them on the phone and interviewing each one of them to explain the details of the project, its importance, scope and potential participants. It is noteworthy to underline that there is constant communication with the people who agreed to participate.