

# Research for International Tobacco Control

*Jacqui Drope*



# Outline

- ▶ Tobacco as a development issue
- ▶ RITC's role
- ▶ The role of Canadian researchers

# Tobacco in Developing Countries

- ▶ 70% of tobacco grown in developing countries
- ▶ 70% of tobacco consumed in developing countries
- ▶ By 2025, 70% of approximately 10 million tobacco-related deaths will occur in developing countries
- ▶ Tobacco kills people in their productive middle years depriving families of breadwinners and countries of a productive workforce

# Tobacco and Development

- ▶ Tobacco linked to poverty (both on the consumption and production side)
- ▶ Tobacco farmers reap little profits
- ▶ Women and youth at particularly high risk
- ▶ Health systems impacted by high healthcare costs

# RITC's Mission

To create a strong research and knowledge base for the development of effective tobacco control policies and programs that will minimize the threat of tobacco production and consumption to health and human development in developing countries.

# RITC's Target Group

**Mission:** To create knowledge for the development of policies and programs that will minimize the threat of tobacco production and consumption to health and human development in developing countries.

**Target Group:** Vulnerable and marginalized populations in developing countries.

**Focus:** Tobacco as a development issue.

# Why is RITC Unique?

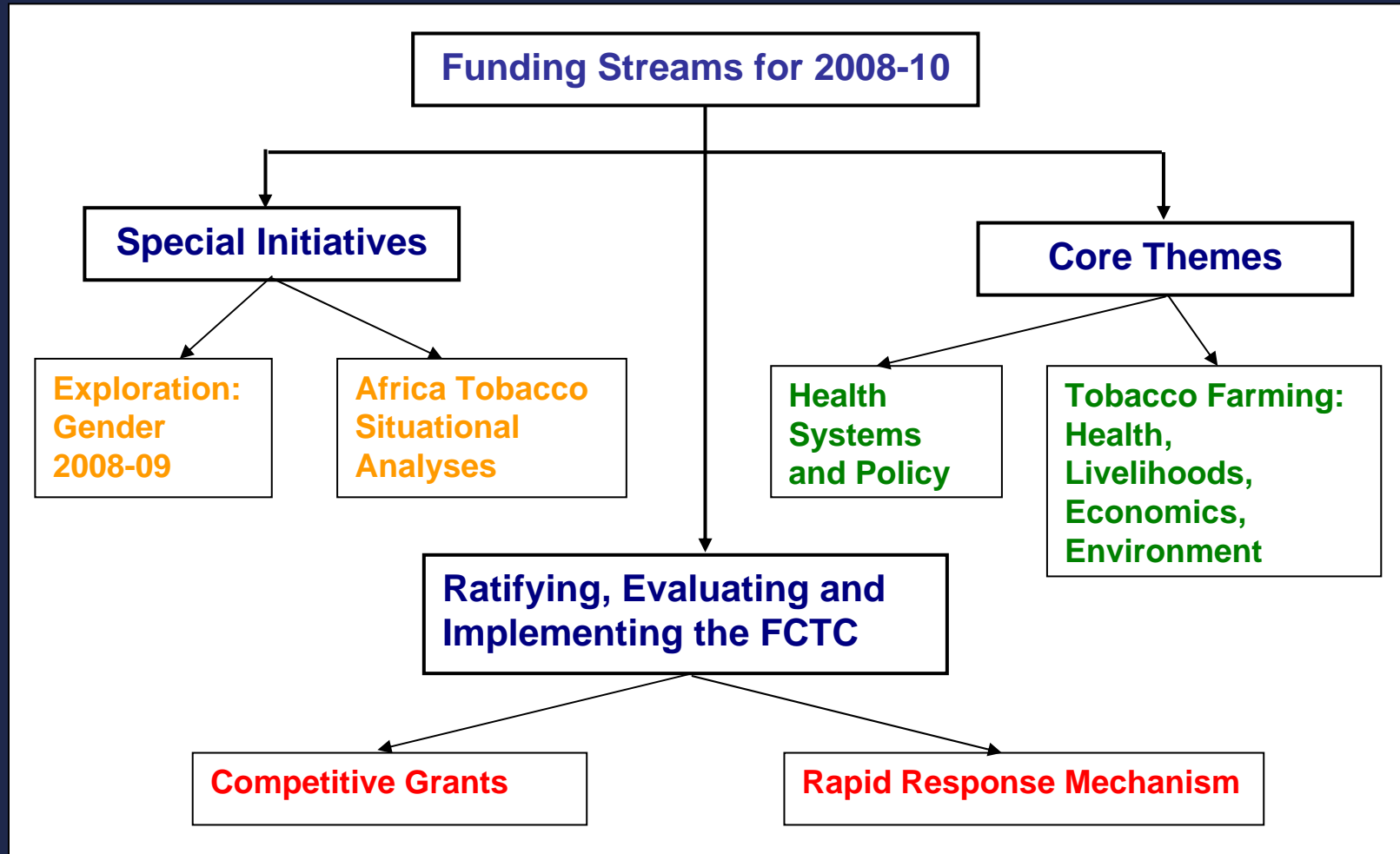
- ▶ RITC is exclusively devoted to supporting research for tobacco control policy development in low- and middle-income countries
- ▶ It fills a vacuum of multi-disciplinary policy-relevant research that addresses the negative impacts of both tobacco consumption and production

# IDRC/RITC's Approach

- ▶ Support Southern-led research
- ▶ Support capacity enhancement among researchers
- ▶ Promote research-to-policy
- ▶ Promote collaboration with key tobacco control organizations in the South and North
- ▶ Provides monitoring and technical assistance through the life of the project



# Funding Streams



# Capacity Enhancement

- ▶ Leadership development
- ▶ Strengthen networks
- ▶ Training

# Core Themes

- ▶ Tobacco Farming: Health, Livelihoods, Economics and the Environment
- ▶ Health Systems & Policy
- ▶ Poverty and Tobacco
- ▶ Globalization, Trade and Tobacco
- ▶ Alternate Forms of Tobacco Use

# Tobacco Farming

- ▶ Bangladesh - Moving out of tobacco into producing a variety of food crops
- ▶ Kenya – Replacing tobacco crops with bamboo
- ▶ Malawi – Looking at diversifying and slowly moving out of tobacco, movement toward legumes (ground nuts)

# Health Systems and Policy

- ▶ Think of health systems in a broader context
- ▶ Connection between non-communicable and communicable diseases
- ▶ How the 'double burden' impacts health systems in low and middle income countries
- ▶ Explore how health policy interventions impact health systems

# Ratifying, Evaluating and Implementing the FCTC

- ▶ Small grants program
- ▶ Medium grants program
- ▶ Rapid response grant program

# Examples of FCTC Research

- ▶ Advertising, promotion and sponsorship
- ▶ Price and tax measures
- ▶ Passive smoking and smoke-free environments
- ▶ Packaging and labelling
- ▶ Product regulation
- ▶ Tobacco sales to and by young people
- ▶ Treatment of tobacco dependence
- ▶ Education, communication and public awareness

# African Tobacco Situational Analyses (ATSA)

- ▶ Partnership between the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation



# ATSA Goal

- ▶ To understand the critical determinants of success for tobacco control in Africa
- ▶ To inform the development and implementation of tobacco control strategies in Africa

# ATSA Objectives

- ▶ Conduct Situational Analyses in 10-14 sub-Saharan countries
- ▶ Strengthen the capacity of African tobacco control researchers to gather, synthesize and analyze the information necessary for the Situational Analysis
- ▶ Use the information to inform broader development and support of tobacco control strategies in the immediate and longer-term
- ▶ Engage global partners in responding to the tobacco epidemic in Africa in a coordinated and collaborative manner.

# Situational Analyses

- ▶ Tobacco use prevalence
- ▶ Tobacco control stakeholders or “champions”
- ▶ Existing tobacco control policies (including level of implementation)
- ▶ Existing research on the dynamics and economics of tobacco production and consumption
- ▶ Existing capacity to take action on tobacco control
- ▶ Key gaps in knowledge and evidence

# Role of Canadian Researchers in the Small Grant Program

- ▶ After round 1, short-listed applicants were offered technical assistance in proposal writing through CTCRI's network
- ▶ The Canadian researchers reviewed and commented on research methodology, survey designs, etc.
- ▶ Some researchers have extended this assistance and worked with international partners through the implementation stage

# Capacity Enhancement Mentoring and Leadership

- ▶ Out of the small grants process came requests for other types of mentoring
- ▶ A new project was developed to support South-South mentorship
- ▶ Eight mentorship trainees were identified from the small grants program for a pilot project
- ▶ The aim is to provide the support and resources for trainees to be effective mentors to new researchers in their countries

# Mentorship

- ▶ The program is in collaboration with the CCGHR to create linkages between our researchers and researchers within the broader health research community
- ▶ The program includes an element of reciprocal knowledge exchange (South-North and North-South)
- ▶ Some Canadian researchers and advocates have already benefited from being a part of the program

# Challenges for Southern Researchers

- ▶ Lack of human and financial resources
- ▶ Lack of a formal institutional research infrastructure
- ▶ Research undervalued, often volunteer on top of other work responsibilities
- ▶ Lack of political will in the country
- ▶ Low in the list of health priorities
- ▶ Political instability

# How Can We Contribute?

- ▶ Share technologies and ideas
- ▶ Act locally, think globally
- ▶ Read articles on your area coming out of other countries – contact other researchers
- ▶ Network with international colleagues at conferences
- ▶ Realize that we aren't just offering up expertise, we've got a lot to learn about tobacco control in different contexts
- ▶ Get in touch with RITC



*Thank You*

*Jacqui Drope*

[Jdrope@idrc.ca](mailto:Jdrope@idrc.ca)

*<http://www.idrc.ca/ritc>*

