As of November 2013, Egypt’s health warning labels (HWLs) – which fulfill the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) Article 11 minimum requirements – included the following:

1. 50 percent coverage of the front and back of the pack, with color pictorial HWLs
2. Text warning displayed on contrasting background color
3. Four different tobacco use health warning messages, in Arabic

Egypt’s HWL size tied for 1st in the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region and tied for 19th globally in 2012. Egypt meets FCTC guidelines for warning size on the front and back of the pack.

TPackSS assesses health warning label compliance as HWL requirements improve in countries. In November 2013, TPackSS collected cigarette packs in Cairo, Alexandria, and Mansoura using a systematic protocol. Cigarette packs were assessed for compliance with the current HWL policy in place at the time of data collection.

TPackSS systematically collected a sample of 55 unique cigarette packs that displayed the HWLs mandated by Egypt. Packs were assessed for compliance with two key requirements.

**Warning Size**

- **73 percent** of packs had a health warning that covered 50 percent of both the front and back of the pack.

**Warning Label Elements**

- **100 percent** of packs had health warning text printed on a black background and a smoking quit line printed on a yellow background.

This non-compliant pack has extended red and white branding into the space which should be used for the HWL.

73% of the unique cigarette packs assessed were compliant with the two key HWL requirements.
**Breakdown of packs collected and presence of required HWLs**

Total number of unique packs collected: 58
- **95 percent** of total packs had a current mandated HWL (n=55)
- **5 percent** of total packs had no HWL or a non-Egyptian HWL (n=3)

Nearly all of the packs collected in Egypt displayed a current Egyptian HWL. Egypt should consider placing the health warning label at the top of the pack to improve visibility, and adopting plain and standardized packaging to further improve the effectiveness of HWLs in Egypt.

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