



2022

NARRATIVE REPORT

"ADVANCING ALCOHOL POLICIES & LEGISLATIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN WEST AFRICA"



January 2023

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Abbreviations

AFRO:	African Region
APABurkina:	Alcohol Policy Alliance Burkina Faso
APAG:	Alcohol Policy Alliance Gambia
ASAAHN:	Association of Advocates Against Alcohol Harm in Nigeria
BP:	Boundary Partners
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
EAAPA:	East Africa Alcohol Policy Alliance
ECOWAS:	Economic Community of West African States
FADAB:	Food, Alcohol, Drugs and Addictive Behaviors
FCAC:	Framework Convention on Alcohol Control
FCTC:	Framework Convention on Tobacco Control
FORUT:	FORUT MAKING A DIFFERENCE
GAPA:	Global Alcohol Policy Alliance
GhanAPA:	Alcohol Policy Alliance- Ghana
GUIAPA:	Alcohol Policy Alliance- Guinea Bissau
IMF:	International Monetary Fund
IOGT:	IOGT International
LAPA:	Liberia Alcohol Policy Alliance
MOH:	Ministry of Health, Ghana
NAP:	National Alcohol Policy
NAPA:	National Alcohol Policy Alliance
NCDA:	Non-Communicable Disease Alliance
NCDs:	Non-Communicable Diseases
NORAD:	Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation
OCAP:	Organizational Capacity Assessment Process
RAPA:	Regional Alcohol Policy Alliances
RCM	Regional Coordinating Mechanism
RFF:	Results Framework Format
RMP	Resource Mobilization Plan
RESECA:	Reseau Senegalais Contre La Cons Al /Senegalese Network Against the Consumption of Alcohol
SAAPA :	Southern Africa Alcohol Policy Alliance
SDGs:	Sustainable Development Goals
SenAPA:	Senegalese Alcohol Policy Alliance
SLAPA:	Sierra Leone Alcohol Policy Alliance
UHC:	Universal Health Coverage
UN:	United Nations
UNODC:	United Nations Office on Crime and Drugs
USAPA:	United States Alcohol Policy Alliance
WAAPA:	West African Alcohol Policy Alliance
WHA:	World Health Assembly
WAHO:	West African Health Organization
WHO:	World Health Organization

West African Alcohol Policy Alliance (WAAPA)

Introduction:

The West African Alcohol Policy Alliance (WAAPA) is a coalition of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and public health practitioners with the goal of advocating and assisting in the development, implementation and enforcement of evidence-based alcohol policies, programmes and legislations in West Africa.

WAAPA is involved in the monitoring and sharing of information on alcohol and alcohol related issues among its member organizations, development and international partners.

WAAPA is currently operating in Nigeria, Liberia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Ghana, The Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Burkina Faso and Benin.

Mission:

Coordinating, sharing and supporting members and CSOs working on alcohol prevention and control to influence governance, policies, legislations and programmes in West Africa and beyond.

Vision:

‘We envision healthy nations free from alcohol related harm and an empowered population’

Objectives:

1. To promote and facilitate information sharing on alcohol and alcohol related issues;
2. To initiate, facilitate and conduct research on alcohol prevention, policies and programmes;
3. To strengthen the capacities of civil society organizations and development professionals involved in alcohol policies and programmes;
4. To encourage, support and strengthen partnerships between member organizations and governments on the implementation of alcohol policies and programmes;
5. To promote and advocate for national, regional and continental policies, programmes and regulatory frameworks on alcohol and alcohol related issues and;
6. To mobilize and facilitate access to financial, human and technical assistance and resources required for the development, implementation and evaluation of alcohol policies and programmes.

7. To collaborate with regional and international Inter-Governmental Organizations (IGOs) on alcohol policies and programmes.

Board of Directors (January 2022 – December 2023):

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Dr. Franklin Chukwuma Umenze | Nigeria | - Chairman |
| 2. Mr Maguette Thiandoume | Senegal | - Vice chair |
| 3. Mrs Boi-Jeneh Jalloh | Sierra Leone | - Treasurer |
| 4. Mr Benjamin Anabila | Ghana | - Member |
| 5. Mr Joseph Shariff | Liberia | - Member |
| 6. Mr Alagie Janneh | Gambia | - Member |
| 7. Mr Anuar Djedjo | Guinea Bissau | - Member |
| 8. Dr Thomas Yameogo | Burkina Faso | - Member |
| 9. Mr. Augustin Faton | Benin | - Member |
| 10. Prof Isidore S. Obot | Nigeria | - Advisor |
| 11. Prof Abdul-Rahman Adam Musah | USA | - Advisor/US Rep. |
| 12. Mr Issah Ali | | - Head of Secretariat |

Affiliations/Membership/Interim Observer:

1. Global Alcohol Policy Alliance (GAPA)
2. Global NCDs Alliance (NCDA)
3. World Health Organization (WHO) Africa Region(AFRO)

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Partners and Collaborators



National Alcohol Policy Alliance (NAPA's)



Summary of results achieved

- 1) Validation of draft National Alcohol Policies in Nigeria, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Ghana
- 2) Adoption/approval of National Alcohol Policy (NAP) in Sierra Leone
- 3) WAAPA granted an official Observer Status by the WHO Regional Committee for Africa (AFRO)
- 4) WAAPA being consulted by Regional stakeholder in West Africa
- 5) WAAPA Launched 5-years Strategic Plan (2022-2026)

Impact assessment and Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)

It has been outlined that alcohol is linked to over 13 of the 17 SDGs. The links are obvious, such as for target 3.4 regarding non-communicable diseases and mental health and 3.6 regarding road traffic safety. Targets 1.1 on poverty, 5.2 on gender based violence, and 16.2 on child rights are other targets where the link to alcohol is present. Alcohol policy is also relevant to SDGs that focus on international trade, which, for example, call for policy coherence (target 17.14) between sectors, such as public health and trade. Substance use problems have been recognised by the SDGs. SDG 3 “Good health and well-being” speaks directly to alcohol-related harms and has a target to reduce such harms (3.5): “Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol”.

The progress achieved in 2022 together with the previous year’s changes will contribute greatly to the over-reaching project vision and the UN SDGs in several ways.

The additional development, further reviews of draft National Alcohol Policies and capacity building during WAAPA’s site visit to NAPAs continued to facilitate interactions among government, NAPA’s and development partners, this process is providing opportunities to CSOs to influence the scope of control and preventing alcohol harm by making the environment safe for humans within the global framework.

The acceptance and credibility of alcohol policy advocates in national alcohol policy dialogue will continue to afford NAPA’s the opportunities to influence non-communicable disease prevention and control including alcohol control towards the achievement of the UN SDG 3.5.

Sustaining the interest and commitment of stakeholders in the initiation, development and implementation of alcohol policies and legislations will in the subsequent years help to domesticate SDG 3.5 which will also ensure a healthy generation which humans will realise the potentials. The necessary framework is currently being included in draft policies

National authorities have passed evidence-based alcohol policies and or legislations in selected countries.

Five (5) National Alcohol Policy Documents were tactically drafted, out of the five draft documents, one has been approved in Sierra Leone, the other four which are currently under consideration at higher ministerial levels are expected to be approved by the end of 2023. The above achievement was made possible through several factors, amongst them includes, formation of credible national CSO coalitions (National Alcohol Policy Alliances -NAPAs), effective and transparent partnership with government/secured political will, follow-up advocacy at regional levels and regular technical support from WAAPA Secretariat, others are fruitful collaboration with WHO Country and Regional Offices and the formation and support to National Multi-Sectorial Committee working on alcohol policy development. By re-strategizing operations in Senegal and replacement of Guinea Bissau with Burkina Faso, one (1) or two (2) additional draft policy documents will be expected to be produced with assurances received from government officials and stakeholders in both Senegal and Burkina Faso. This has further resulted into 42 working relationships and activities between NAPAs and government institutions.

2. Quality of the draft national alcohol policy documents, Nigeria recorded 11.0 in both 2021 and 2022. Ghana recorded 13.0 in 2021 and moved to 14.0 in 2022. Senegal has still not produced any draft document hence recorded 0.0 for 2021 and 2022. Gambia moved from 5.5 in 2021 to 11.0 in 2022. Liberia which recorded 6.0 pushed massively to 12.0 in 2022. Sierra Leone reporting a 15.0 in 2021 has since achieved to 16.0 in 2022 and Guinea Bissau which has not been able to produce a draft document also continuous to report 0.0 in 2022.

3. Four (4) of the draft alcohol policy documents have gone through series of reviews at local, national and international levels with the goal of improving the quality of the final documents. Notable institutions involved in the reviews includes WAAPA Secretariat, GAPA, WHO officials and Consultants. In an effort to improve the quality of the documents to the WHO Global Alcohol Strategy over 37 follow-up engagement meetings and interactions with policy-making government officials, institutions and stakeholder were held. The regular follow-ups and technical support to NAPAs is ongoing, the outstanding outcomes and outputs on 1.c could be achieved by the end of 2023.

National Alcohol Policy Alliances (NAPA's) In the West African Region are Permanently Established and Advocate for the Development, Passing and/or Implementation of Effective Alcohol Policies and Legislations

1. In 2022, six (6) NAPA's were reported and confirmed by WAAPA Secretariat as permanently established, upon verification, which indicate an increase from 5 (five) in 2021, 6 (six) NAPA's legally established and advocating for the development of national alcohol policies. They include ASAAHN-Nigeria, GhanAPA-Ghana, RESECA/SenAPA-Senegal, APAG-Gambia, LAPA-Liberia and SLAPA-Sierra

Leone. All the above have National Alcohol Policy Alliances have submitted their legal status from their respective governments and have been issued with Membership Certificates.

2. In assessing the quality of National Alcohol Policy Alliances (NAPA's) in each project country; ASAAHN-Nigeria in 2021 scored 4.5 and has in 2022 advanced to 5.0. GhanAPA-Ghana scored 5.5 in both 2021 and 2022. RESECA/SenAPA-Senegal has improved its structure and its operation as a results of virtual WAAPA Alcohol Policy Forum and a physical site visits, Senegal had an improvement from 4.0 in 2021 to 4.5 in 2022. APAG-Gambia still maintains a 5.5 for both 2022 and 2021. LAPA-Liberia also maintained a score of 5.0 for both 2021 and 2022, SLAPA-Sierra Leone has maintained it maximum score of 6.0 for 2021 and 2022 and Guinea Bissau has also maintained the lowest score of 1.0 which has brought about the replacement of GUIPA with ApaBurkina and a re-strategizing in Senegal, improvement in the scores is anticipated by mid-year and the end of 2023. A contributory factor in the anticipated success in Burkina Faso is the existence of a National Alliance and in Senegal, experienced policy advocates in tobacco control and tax field have join the campaign.



Ghana's Dep Minister of Health; Hon Mahama A. Seini launching WAAPA's 5-Year Strategic Plan (SP)

WAAPA is a sustainable regional CSO network with a high level of legitimacy and ability to carry out effective intervention in the ADD thematic areas; it has anti-corruption mechanism of good quality in place, which are known in the organization; and it benefit from diverse sources of funding

1. WAAPA OCAP review made progress in 2021 to 2022 from 3.5 to 4.5 respectively and is expected that more progress will be made by 2023 in addressing some of the issues identified, among the gabs identified included lack of written Strategic plan, low level of gender participation in leadership. Some progress is expected by December 2023 with the implementation of the new Strategic Plan, adoption and implementation of gender, youth and disability resolution.

2. WAAPA missed its target for 2022 of 70% of Board and staff being trained on its anti-corruption policy. In 2022 during the WAAPA Alcohol Policy Forum, Board members, staff and NAPA member were trained on the policy. Recommendations were made to improve it, despite that 51% of the Board and Staff has been reached.

3. WAAPA is expected to have 3 institutional donors by the end of 2022. New partnerships were developed but has not yielded positive result. WAAPA Secretariat will continue to reach out to development partner. It is also anticipated that WAAPA Board will in the near future approve the hiring of Fundraising Officer or Consultant with the availability of additional funds.

4. WAAPA has missed its 2022 target of raising alternative or additional funding from domestic (5%), international (35%) and FORUT (60%). WAAPA is hopeful that, the RESET Alcohol Initiative will make some funds available in the region to help advance alcohol policy development and implementation. Some of the challenges making it difficult to achieve these indicators includes inadequate funds to engage the services of Fundraising Consultant, allocation of funds between in-country policy activities and investment in fundraising.

5 On the # of institutional donors, WAAPA scored zero (0) in 2022 despite the target of 3 in the year's score. WAAPA is also looking at the opportunity that GAAP may present, it is expected that, with the prioritization of alcohol control in the WHO plan, more donors and governments may focus on funding alcohol policy initiatives at the national and regional level. WAAPA is also looking up to GAPA to use its global reputation to attract funds for regional and national activities.

6 WAAPA score on a scale measuring quality of their anti-corruption policy, WAAPA continued to sustain its previous score of 3.3 despite the target of 9.0 for 2022. Going forward, WAAPA is determined to review its Anti-Corruption policy in the first half of 2023 to strengthen the provisions and to also ensure that NAPA's developed their anti-corruption policy per country level



Alcohol Policy Alliance-Ghana (GhanAPA) held a National Forum on Alcohol, Drugs and Mental Health

Risk Analysis

External Risk #1: Replacement of Health Ministers, democratic or non-democratic change of government will automatically stall the process of development and implementation of NAPs and legislation until a new debrief. WAAPA has managed to keep national and regional stakeholders up-to-date on its alcohol policy advocacy campaign; monthly newsletter, social media campaign was deployed to make the work of WAAPA and NAPA's visible and stronger. All the democratic change of government and Health Ministers did not affect the project because WAAPA and NAPA's work closely with the technical officers and as soon as a new Minister is appointed, the alcohol control officer's brief's the new Minister and it makes NAPAs work recognised by the new Minister.

External Risk #2: Conflict of interest situation of some government officials within the policy and decision making process may undermine the development of an evidence based policies and legislation due to the benefit they derive from the alcohol industry. WAAPA and NAPAs presents themselves and operate as a reputable CSO voice as such government officials are aware of CSOs residence in the alcohol policy making process. WAAPA has always been advocating for a regime to regulate alcohol industry interferences.

Internal Risk #1: The executive Board does not fill its role in strategic matters and financial control. WAAPA's annual Programme of Work (POW), Operational/Narrative and Financial Report has been revised, reviewed and approved by the WAAPA Board at its AGM from 2019 to 2022. Almost all Feedback and recommendations revived by WAAPA Secretariat from the WAAPA Board have been considered and being implemented, long term recommendations have been included in the Strategic Plan.

Internal Risk #2: Cases of corruption and fraud among staff members. WAAPA has develop and implementing its Anti-Corruption Policies. Leadership of NAPAs at a virtual workshop made recommendations for the strengthening of the policy in the immediate future.

2. WAAPA is also ensuring that, its National Alliances respect and operate with the Regional Constitution to prevent and reduce corruption and fraud.



Dr. Caroline R. Amissah Deputy CEO @ mhaghana.com speaking at the Official launch of WAAPA's 5-year Strategic Plan at the Oak Plaza Hotel.

Cross Cutting Issues

1. Good governance and anti-corruption: good governance practices ensure efficient processes, financial sustainability, good reputation and better delivery, as the project implementation advances into the fourth year, elements of good governance practices such as transparency, accountability and due diligence continued to be observed and practiced. The WAAPA and NAPA Boards having the mandate continued to supervise the activities of the regional and national secretariat. A workshop on WAAPA's Anti-Corruption Policy (ACP) was held in 2022, some recommendations were suggested towards the improvement of the content. NAPA's have since taken the commitment of developing country anti-corruption policies to help reduce and prevent fraud and other mal-practices.

2. The environment and vulnerability to climate change: warmer temperatures over time are changing weather patterns and disrupting the usual balance of natural environment. This poses many risks to human beings and all other forms of life on earth, human activities have been the main driver of climate change, primarily due to

the burning of fossil fuels (like coal, oil and gas), which produces heat-trapping gases, though WAAPA's project is focused on capacity building, policy development and implementation, WAAPA and its NAPA's affirmed the importance of stable environment to the success of its projects, in ensuring that the impact of climate change is reduced and minimized, WAAPA will in it possible ways continue to safeguard best environmental practices by discouraging human activities fuelling climate change.

3. Human rights, including women and children rights and the rights of people with disabilities: The Universal Declaration on Human Rights aims to recognize, "the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family, the declaration kicks against discrimination, proclaimed equality. Protecting the rights of women, children, people with disabilities. This provision is enshrined in WAAPA's Constitution to further implement this provision, WAAPA has followed-up on its directives on the inclusion of children focused organizations and disability groups/networks into its membership at the national levels. Through our National Alliances, opportunities were given to children serving and disability organizations to make inputs in the development and review processes of National Alcohol Policies. With the availability of funds, WAAPA will be mobilizing and engaging regional networks of those vulnerable groups. NAPAs are ensuring that, CSOs, including disability groups, children serving groups and CBOs attend NAPAs annual General Meeting.

- a. It is important to note that, all the four draft National Alcohol Policies have strong provision that will safe-guiding and protect children disability and other groups.
- b. With the approval and implementation of NAPs, long term protection to children and other vulnerable groups will be guaranteed through this framework which is being funded by NORAD through FORUT.

4. Women's rights and gender equality (gender sensitive programming, women empowerment, etc): Though some traditional practices have led to gender inequality, several efforts are being done to reverse that practices, WAAPA has identified such challenge within its structure and has been encouraging NAPA Boards to make their activities more attractive to women. Despite the challenge, the following National Alliances have some women represented; Sierra Leone, Ghana, Senegal and Liberia. Staff at the regional secretariat is equally balanced. WAAPA will in addition implement GAPA's Gender recommendations. WAAPA will be conducting membership audit to help identify National Alliances without women involved at decision making levels



Dr Mrs Olivia Boateng, Director, Tobacco and Substances of Abuse Directorate of FDA Ghana addressing participants at WAAPA's 5-Year Strategic Plan launch

Linkage with Alcohol, Drugs and Development (ADD)

1. The project is being implemented within the framework of ADD; Alcohol, Drugs and Development, at the regional level, WAAPA has been engaging stakeholders for the strengthening alcohol control in the West Africa Regional Mental Health Strategic Plan, WAAPA through its social media post, highlighted on the negative effect of alcohol intake and the effect it has on citizens and the country at large. At the national levels NAPAs are advocating for the development of national alcohol policies as a developmental tool to address alcohol related mortalities which includes cancers, heart diseases, road crashes and violence. WAAPA will continue strengthened NAPAs to advocate on ADD framework.
2. The project has made progress in the institutional changes in WAAPA's structure in a sense that, some NAPAs for instant in Gambia are invited to contribute to other developmental issues covering governance, health, etc and in Ghana.
3. Funding and staff time continues to be a challenge in the year under review, despite that, in the coming years, WAAPA is taking advantage of budget increase in 2021 to roll-out ADMD (Alcohol, Drugs, Mental Health and Development) activities, this will help address the challenges in implementing ADMA components.

Reviews & Evaluations

Internal review of 2022 reports from NAPAs conducted by WAAPA Secretariat has help to identify the successes, strength and opportunities, the follow-ups on the recommendations of the 2022 reports has yielded some results. The current review has confirmed that, Sierra Leone (SLAPA) has successfully adopted its NAP and two are at the ministerial levels awaiting approval.

In the last quarter of 2022 during site visits to Senegal and Burkina Faso, feedback from National Alliances and government officials indicate some readiness on their part to re-strategize and work towards the development of a National Alcohol Policies for their countries with the support of WAAPA, this commitment will be followed-up and be pursued in 2023. Partnership strengthening and technical assistance trips will be planned to cover priority countries and WAHO Headquarters.

At the 2022 WAAPA Regional AGM, the WAAPA Secretariat's operational and financial reports were reviewed and approved via zoom. With the availability of resources, WAAPA will be hiring an independent/external Evaluator to evaluate its 5-Year project.

The 2020 and 2021 review recommendations such as the development of a 5-Year Strategic Plan and workshop on Anti-Corruption training has been completed, with some work on expanding NAPA membership to include women groups, children serving organisations and disability groups are receiving serious attention.

Cost Efficiency

WAAPA Secretariat continues to replicate its sub-granting guidelines with strong focus on ensuring that, activities are aligned with deliverables. Upon request and submission of brief Concept Note and Budget, both documents are reviewed within the WAF-29 RFF and the requested budget is negotiated between NAPA and WAAPA Secretariat. This process has enable WAAPA Secretariat to reduce the funding of unrelated activities and travels expenses are allocated between NAPAs and WAAPA Secretariat.

Technical Assistance

WAAPA Secretariat continuous to guide NAPA's in their project implementation through regular technical assistance. The Head of WAAPA Secretariat work closely with National Coordinator's to redirect activities towards deliverables and this has help yield the needed results. Another factor facilitating results is the trust and cordial relationship among National Alcohol Focal Points, NAPAs and WAAPA Secretariat.

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