



2023

NARRATIVE REPORT

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



January 2024

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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 2024 – December 2025):

1. Mrs Boi-Jeneh Jalloh	Sierra Leone	- Chairperson
2. Mr Alagie Janneh	Gambia	- Vice chair
3. Mrs Roseline Thomas Richards	Liberia	- Treasurer
4. Dr. Franklin Chukwuma Umenze	Nigeria	- Member
5. Mr Djibril Wele	Senegal	- Member
6. Mr Benjamin Anabila	Ghana	- 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) Adoption and approvals of National Alcohol Policies (NAPs) in Liberia
- 2) Validation of draft National Alcohol Policy in Gambia and Ghana
- 3) WAAPA selected as a member of the World Health Organisation (WHO) Civil Society Organisation (CSO'S) Commission in 2023.
- 4) WAAPA influenced alcohol policy making processes at the regional and global levels through the Forum on Alcohol, Drugs and Addictive Behaviour (FADAB), WAHO NCD, mental health platforms, Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) and Universal Health Coverage (UHC).
- 5) WAAPA supported the adoption of the WHO African Regional Framework on implementing the Global Alcohol Action Plan (GAAP) and called for a global legally binding mechanism on Alcohol, Regional Multi-sectorial Strategy to promote Health and wellbeing, Regional Strategy for Community Engagement and Framework for sustaining Resilient Health Systems to achieve Universal Health Coverage and Promote Health Security (2023-2030)
- 6) WAAPA being consulted by Regional stakeholder in West Africa

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 2023 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.

On the progress in alcohol policy development, ASAAHN of Nigeria which started from 3.0 in 2019, progressed to 4.5 in 2021 and dropped to 4.0 in 2023. GhanAPA of Ghana started from 4.0 in 2019, progressed to 5.0 and has since been stagnant on 5.0. SenAPA/RESECA of Senegal started from 2.5 in 2019, progressed to 3.0 in 2021 and has since not made any progress towards the drafting of the Alcohol Policy. In 2019, APAG of Gambia commenced from 1.5, impressively progressed to 4.0 in 2021 and managed to progress to 5.5 in 2023. LAPA of Liberia in 2019 started from as low as 0.5, massively progressed to 4.0 in 2021, and maintained the momentum and currently at 6.0. SLAPA of Sierra Leone reported starting from 4.0 in 2019 and 2021 and massively progressed to 6.0 in 2023, ApaBurkina of Burkina Faso (which replaced GUIAPA) included in 2022 is currently scored at 3.5. Support given to National Coordinators has contributed to this progress.

2. Quality of draft national alcohol policy documents, Nigeria recorded 11.5 in 2023 from 8.5 in 2019. Ghana recorded 14.0 in 2023 from 11.5 in 2019. Senegal which has not been able to produce a draft document continuous to report 0.0 throughout the five year. Gambia which recorded 0.0 in 2019 has advanced to 14.0 in 2023. Liberia also started with 0.0 and has advanced to 15.0 by the end of 2023. Sierra Leone started from 14.5 and has since advanced to 16.0 in 2023.

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 47 follow-up engagement meetings and interactions with policy-making government officials, institutions and stakeholder were held, through the regular follow-ups and technical support WAAPA advanced to NAPA's. NAPA's are on track and focused on partnership development, policy advocacy, policy development as a results of the terms of reference perused and observed by WAAPA etc. Challenges faced in Senegal has been curbed as both RESECA and SenAPA agreed to work under one consortium. The draft document in Nigeria is stagnated as a result of bureaucracy and alcohol industry interferences.

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 2023, seven (7) NAPA's were reported and confirmed by WAAPA Secretariat as permanently established, upon verification, which indicate an increase from 5 (five) in 2021, 7 (seven) in 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, SLAPA-Sierra Leone and ApaBurkina-Burkina Faso. 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 started from 3.0 in 2019 has in 2023 advanced to 5.5. GhanAPA-Ghana which started with 4.0 in 2019 has advanced to 6. in 2023. RESECA/SenAPA-Senegal which started with 5.0 in 2019, progressed to 5.5 in 2020 but dropped to 4.0 in 2021 and has gradually stepped-up to 4.5 in 2023. APAG-Gambia is now at 5.5 from 3.5 in 2019. LAPA-Liberia is also 5.0 from 4.5 in 2019, SLAPA-Sierra Leone has maintained it maximum score of 6.0 throughout the five years and Guinea Bissau has also maintained the lowest score of 1.0 throughout the five years, ApaBurkina-Burkina Faso currently with 3.5.



Liberia Alcohol Policy Alliance and other partners launched the National Alcohol Policy and Strategy 2023-2032 in Mornrovia at the Royal Grand Hotel.

The West African Regional Alcohol Coordinating Mechanism; an inter government coordinating mechanism of ECOWAS West African Health Organisation, established for the purpose of assessing member states progress and implementation of the WHO Global Strategy and the AFRO Regional Alcohol Strategy

1. Although the objective to establish a regional alcohol coordinating mechanism was not achieved, WAAPA influenced the development of the African Regional Framework on the implementation of the Global Alcohol Action Plan (GAAP). WAAPA through its submission on ADD thematic areas lead to the inclusion of alcohol control in the WHO AFRO Regional Committee Meeting's agenda
2. On countries where organisations and partners are advocating for regional alcohol coordinating mechanism/committee, over the 5-year period, WAAPA scored 3 on the establishment of a regional alcohol coordinating mechanism. WAAPA has received a total of 20 media hits from 2019 to 2023 and made 9 submissions to influence regional consultations on ADD thematic areas.

National authorities in collaboration with other stakeholders are effectively implementing approved national alcohol policies/legislations

1. Sierra Leone and Liberia approved its National Alcohol Policy (NAP) in 2022 and 2023 respectively
2. Out of the five draft National Alcohol Policies drafted and being reviewed by stakeholders, two Policies has been adopted. This was made possible through close collaboration with governments and active CSO advocacy and participation in policy development and regional campaigns. Ghana and Sierra Leone having a target of score of 2.0 and 1.0 respectively have attained the set target as of 2023. On capacity of law enforcement being strengthened in Sierra Leone and Ghana, no major progress has been recorded however WAAPA is anticipating for more works in the next phase.

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 has made gains on OCAP from 2019 to 2023 from 2.5 to 4.5 respectively, among the gaps identified included lack of written Strategic plan, low level of gender participation in leadership. Over the 5-year period, WAAPA and its partners have

considered gender, youth and disability groups into its membership and have started implementing the 5-year Strategic Plan.

2. WAAPA maintained the same scores of 3.3 missing its target of 9.0, however in 2023, WAAPA scored 5.5 as a results of revising its anti-corruption policy and also training of NAPA's on the policy.

3. WAAPA in 2019 and 2021 trained 30% and 50% respectively of its Board members and staff on its Anti-corruption policy. In 2023 during the WAAPA Regional advocacy tour on GAAP and technical assistant visit , Board members, staff and NAPA member were again trained on the policy of which some recommendations were made to improve some aspect of the policy, despite that 60% of the Board and Staff was reached.

4. WAAPA from 2019 to 2023 was expected to have 3 institutional donors by the end of 2023. Although this has not been obtained new partnerships were developed but has not yielded positive result yet. WAAPA Secretariat will continue to reach out to development partners. WAAPA Board will in the near future approve the hiring of Fundraising Officer or Consultant with the availability of additional funds to address the gap.

5 On the number of institutional donors, WAAPA missed its 2019-2023 target of raising alternative or additional funding from domestic (10%), international (40%) and FORUT (50%). Despite the inability to achieve the above, 5 (Five) NAPA's submitted research proposal to the RESET Alcohol Initiative which were all unsuccessful.

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

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 2023. 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.



Alcohol Policy Alliance – Ghana Annual General Meeting and Capacity Building Visit by the Head of Secretariat.

Impact Story:

a. Title: National authorities have passed evidence-based alcohol policies in selected countries.

b. Description: At the end of the five year period WAAPA and its partner in two (2) countries have an approved/adopted alcohol policies and three (3) countries are in the finalization and adoption process.

Why: In 2018 SAFER Initiative reported that ‘Every 10 seconds a person dies from alcohol-related causes including cancers, heart diseases, traffic crashes and violence’ other harm includes liver diseases and mental disorders. The lack of a comprehensive National Alcohol Control Policies and regulatory systems in the West African region to address the above harm has resulted in relatively high levels of alcohol consumption among the vulnerable population. However, many countries in the region also have high proportions of non-drinkers, and some countries even have low consumption levels, due mainly to religious and cultural influences. This therefore makes it important to protect the abstainers and reduce the number of harms associated with alcohol.

What: The purpose of this project is to address alcohol as a developmental issue from a regional perspective and with the expected impact of ‘A low level of alcohol related harms in selected countries in West Africa, especially with regard to alcohol related diseases, mental disorders, gender-based violence and road accidents’.

c. Result(s): In 2019 the government and stakeholders in Nigeria produced a draft National Alcohol Policy which was reviewed and validated in 2021 and presented for adoption in 2022. In 2021, the Legal Office of the Ministry of Health Ghana together with stakeholders developed a new draft Alcohol Regulations, these draft regulations have gone through series of reviews which includes the 2023 written feedback from the Attorney Generals Department. In 2021, SLAPA and its national allies shifted focused from the National NCD Policy and drafted a new National Alcohol Policy which was adopted in 2022. The Ministry of Health, WHO and LAPA consulted and with the support of a local and international consultant produced a draft National Alcohol Policy in 2021 and adopted in 2023. Gambia stakeholders also produced a draft National Alcohol Policy in 2021 and validated it in 2023. The political will among the technical staff of the various Health Ministries is commendable. Several review engagement and consultative meetings were held to improve the content and to capture the views of stakeholder

d. Lessons Learnt/assessments: Establishing cordial and constant working relationships with National Alcohol Control Focal Points, sustained advocacy, lobbying, engagement with decision and policy makers and development partners including WHO Country Offices made it possible to get the draft policies formulated and being reviewed with inputs from stakeholders and adopted. The establishment of National Alcohol Policy Alliances (NAPA’s) as a common national CSO front and voice contributed greatly to this process. NAPA’s are playing the watchdog role on the alcohol policy-making process, providing technical inputs in the process and sharing global best practice to the technical drafting committees so that they will be well informed on global best practices. Global development frameworks including

the SDGs, Global Strategy on Alcohol Harm, and African Strategy on Alcohol Harm, the Global NCDs Voluntary Targets, and Global Alcohol Action Plan (GAAP) etc are important evidence-based tools aiding the campaign on the development of alcohol policies. The review process normally takes longer period depending on skills of the National Alliance, this period can be reduced with effective follow-ups.

e. Sources: Three confidential copies of the draft National Alcohol Policies and two official adopted copies are available as outcomes of the policy development processes.

f. Partners: Liberia Alcohol Policy Alliance (LAPA), Association of Advocates Against Alcohol Harm in Nigeria (ASAAHN), Alcohol Policy Alliance-Ghana (GhanAPA), Sierra Leone Alcohol Policy Alliance (SLAPA), Alcohol Policy Alliance Gambia (APAG), Senegalese Network Against Alcohol Harm (RESECA)/Senegalese Alcohol Policy Alliance (SENAPA) and Burkina Faso Alcohol Policy Alliance (ApaBurkina)



Ministry of Health and Sanitation in partnership with Sierra Leone Alcohol Policy Alliance Launched the Sierra Leone National Alcohol Policy.

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 NAPA's 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

The internal review of 2023 reports from NAPAs, current policy documents as compared against the Global Status Report on Alcohol and Health has indicated some major progress. The current review confirmed that, two countries have successfully adopted their NAP's, one is at the ministerial level awaiting approval and the other two at the departmental levels awaiting finalization. During WAAPA's Regional advocacy tour on GAAP and technical assistant visit to Liberia and Sierra Leone, feedback from National Alliances and government officials indicated readiness towards the implementation of the NAP's through the development of the National Alcohol Legislations for their countries with the support of WAAPA and other Stakeholders. Also Senegal and Burkina Faso are also working towards the drafting of their NAP's, these commitments will be followed-up and be pursued in the next phase (2024-2028). Partnership strengthening and technical assistance trips will be planned to cover priority countries and WAHO Headquarters.

At the 2023 WAAPA's Regional AGM, the operational, financial reports, program of work for 2024- 2025 were reviewed and approved by members. With the availability of resources, WAAPA will be hiring a Resource Mobilization Officer/consultant to assist in fund raising and an external Evaluator to evaluate the 5-Year project.

The previous recommendations such as the development of a 5-Year Strategic Plan and workshop on Anti-Corruption training has been completed. Resource Mobilisation Policy, Human Resource Policy, Code of Conducts, expanding NAPA's membership to include women groups, children serving organisations and disability groups are receiving serious attention.

In 2023 NAPA's program of work was aligned with WAAPA's 5-year Strategic Plan, which includes re-focusing on priority recommendation.

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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