

# 2025 NARRATIVE REPORT

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



January 2026

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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                               |

# Abbreviations

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| RESECA..... | Reseau Senegalais Contre La Cons AI Senegalese<br>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. Mr David Folaranmi              | Nigeria - Member           |
| 5. Mr Djibril Wele                 | Senegal - Member           |
| 6. Mr Benjamin Anabila             | Ghana - Member             |
| 7. Dr Mohamed Sidi Mohamed Burkina | Faso - Member              |
| 8. Mr. Augustin Faton              | Benin - Member             |
| 9. Prof Isidore S. Obot            | Nigeria - Advisor          |
| 10. Prof Abdul-Rahman Adam Musah   | USA - Advisor/US Rep.      |
| 11. 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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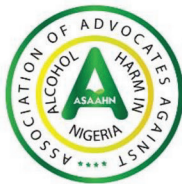
Website: www.waapalliance.org

Location: No. C1010/12 Pig Farm, Accra Ghana

## Partners and Collaborators



## National Alcohol Policy Alliance (NAPA's)



## Summary of results achieved

1. Liberia: LAPA held 1 draft Alcohol Legislation review meetings with CSOs, media, and champions, and 1 technical review meeting with stakeholders. These meetings marked a crucial step toward stronger alcohol regulation in the country.
2. Liberia: The Liberia Alcohol Policy Alliance successfully launched its CSO Shadow Report on the Framework for implementing the Global Alcohol Action Plan 2022–2030 in the WHO African Region.
3. Sierra Leone: SLAPA engaged in consultative meetings with stakeholders for the drafting of the country’s National Alcohol Control Regulation.
4. Sierra Leone: SLAPA successful issued its CSO Shadow Report on the Framework for implementing the Global Alcohol Action Plan 2022-2030 in the WHO African Region.
5. Ghana: GhanAPA developed a draft CSO Shadow Report assessing the country’s implementation of five priority intervention areas of the Regional Framework of the Global Alcohol Action Plan. This report serves as an important advocacy tool for strengthening national alcohol policies and legislation.
6. With support by the WAAPA Secretariat; GhanAPA also developed 2 technical advocacy papers on alcohol harm and interventions and media discussions highlights on alcohol control.
7. WAAPA continued regional advocacy, capacity building, and stakeholder engagement to advance alcohol policy reforms across West Africa.
8. WAAPA participated in the 2025 WHO AFRO Regional Committee Meeting (RCM), advocating for stronger health policies, including: implementing a regional framework to accelerate the Global Oral Health Action Plan, strategies to transform health systems for the well-being of women, children, and adolescents and regional strategy to strengthen rehabilitation services in health systems.
9. WAAPA conducted targeted social media campaigns on UN and international observance days to raise awareness of alcohol harm and promote stricter alcohol control policies.
10. WAAPA and NAPA’s developed infographics and simplified messages for the public, shared across WAAPA and national alliance social media platforms, to sustain engagement and sensitization on alcohol harm.
11. WAAPA Hosted bi-monthly Alcohol Policy Forums (WAPF) to create spaces for knowledge sharing, strategy discussions, and capacity building among NAPAs, government officials, and other stakeholders.
12. WAAPA strengthen its relationship with the AU CDC Western Regional Coordinating Office and the West African Health Organization.

13. WAAPA and NAPA boards were actively engaged in operational oversight through board meetings, extraordinary meetings, and the Annual General Meeting (AGM). Boards provided input, reviewed, and approved operational documents, including the annual programme of work, narrative report, audited financial statements, and management letters. Feedback and recommendations were incorporated into regional secretariat operations.

## 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 2025 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 ensures a healthy generation which humans will realise the potentials. The necessary framework is currently being included in draft policies

## Analysis of Country Situations

In 2025, alcohol policy alliances across West Africa continued efforts in advocacy, stakeholder engagement, and public awareness on alcohol harm reduction. Alliances worked toward policy reforms, institutional strengthening and regional collaboration.

LAPA (Liberia Alcohol Policy Alliance) has been active in promoting alcohol control in Liberia through several initiatives. These include holding a national high-level conference on alcohol policies, convening a sub-technical committee to review its draft national alcohol legislation, and launching public advocacy campaigns to raise awareness about the dangers of alcohol abuse. Additionally, LAPA has gathered a group of prominent champions from various sectors to support and advocate for its work. These efforts aim to create stronger alcohol control policies and ensure their successful implementation in Liberia.

SLAPA (Sierra Leone Alcohol Policy Alliance) made significant progress in its advocacy efforts. The Alliance engaged key stakeholders, conducted public sensitization campaigns programs and developed a draft CSO shadow report. SLAPA is actively consulting with the government on drafting the countries comprehensive national alcohol legislation and identified key champions to support its advocacy campaign in Sierra Leone.

APAG (Alcohol Policy Alliance Gambia) is working and pushing for the adoption of its validated national alcohol policy by engaging various stakeholders, including policymakers, health professionals. The country has identified key "champions" to advocate for the policy's adoption and implementation. Additionally, Gambia has been focusing on sensitizing youth and the general public about the harms of alcohol abuse through public campaigns and educational programs. These efforts aim to promote awareness, reduce alcohol consumption, and encourage healthier lifestyles and ensuring stronger support for the policy.

GhanAPA (Alcohol Policy Alliance – Ghana) is actively engaging stakeholders to advance its national alcohol legislation by working towards presenting the validated legislation to parliament. This process involves consultations with policymakers, health professionals, civil society organizations, and other key stakeholders to ensure broad support for the legislation.

In addition to these legislative efforts, Ghana is strengthening its advocacy work by educating the public about the dangers of alcohol abuse. Through public awareness campaigns, community outreach, and educational programs, the country aims to inform citizens about alcohol-related harm and promote responsible drinking habits. These combined efforts are geared toward ensuring the successful adoption of the legislation and fostering a healthier society.

BAPA (Benin Alcohol Policy Alliance) actively engaged its ministers to gather momentum for the development of the country's national alcohol policy. Alongside this, the country has also pushed for the institutional development of the national alcohol policy alliance. Strengthening the alliance aims to enhance coordination, advocacy, and policy implementation efforts, ensuring a more structured and sustainable approach to alcohol control in Benin.

## Risk Analysis

### External Risk:

1. Changes in government leadership and ministerial reshuffles continue to affect the continuity of alcohol policy development processes. This challenge was observed in The Gambia, where shifts in institutional structure slowed engagement on the national alcohol policy. In Nigeria, responsibility for the national alcohol policy process moved from the Tobacco, Alcohol and NCD Unit to the Food and Drugs Administration of the Federal Ministry of Health, affecting coordination and direction. In Benin, the national alliance noted the government strong focus on tourism further reducing prioritization of alcohol policy engagement with the Ministry of Health. WAAPA is supporting national alliances to engage early with new officials, provide policy briefs, and maintain consistent advocacy to keep alcohol control on the national agenda. Strategic guidance and continuous follow up are being used to sustain momentum in the policy development process.
2. WAAPA and national alliances faced emerging public health emergencies, and climate related events may disrupt planned activities and stakeholder engagement. To reduce this risk, WAAPA adopted flexible planning, virtual engagement approaches, and continuous risk monitoring to maintain implementation. WAAPA and NAPA will observe guidance from national and regional authorities.

### Internal Risk:

- a. WAAPA faced challenges with governance, reporting and coordination compliance among some National Alcohol Policy Alliances. Despite several engagements and corrective measures, ASAAHN, Senegal and Burkina Faso did not comply with Secretariat directives and reporting requirements. This affected the Secretariat's ability to effectively coordinate activities and report accurately on those national alliances. Leading to their expulsion in line with WAAPA's Constitution, to reduce future risks, WAAPA is strengthening

compliance, monitoring, improving engagement with national alliances, and providing clearer guidance to support timely reporting and adherence to governance standards.

- b. WAAPA continues to face technical and advocacy capacity constraints across some National Alcohol Policy Alliances. In countries like The Gambia, limited engagement by the alliance has contributed to delays in the national alcohol policy process. Strategic measures introduced to revive the process have also progressed slowly.
- c. At WAAPA Secretariat level, supervising multiple countries with limited human resources creates coordination pressure. The recruitment of a bilingual officer is expected to ease this burden and improve communication and follow-up, particularly in Francophone countries. Going forward, WAAPA will continue to provide mentorship, peer learning, and targeted technical support to strengthen national alliances and improve their engagement in policy and legislative processes.
- d. WAAPA faced delays in reporting and weak documentation from some alliances which pose a risk timely regional reporting. WAAPA continues to strengthen oversight, improve reporting templates and provide guidance to ensure compliance.

### Impact Story

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

b. **Description:** At the end of 2025 WAAPA and its partner in Liberia have successfully held 3 review meeting on its draft Alcohol Legislation with key partner and stakeholders, Ghana has strengthen its relations with various partners including the Ministry of Health, National Road Safety Authority etc.

**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 2025 LAPA successfully developed a draft National Alcohol Legislation, SLAPA is in consultations with its national allies in drafting its National Alcohol Legislation, GhanAPA’s validated National Alcohol Legislative Instrument is still with the Attorney General awaiting its presentation at the parliament of Ghana. Gambia and stakeholders also produced a draft National Alcohol Policy in 2021 and validated it in 2023 and was revalidated in 2024 and still await its adoption. Nigeria’s validated National Alcohol Policy is being redrafted at the Federal Ministry of Health.

1. **d. Lessons Learnt/assessments:** The 2025 progress marked an important step toward:
  1. Strong technical capacity determines policy progress: Delays in The Gambia and challenges in ASSAHN reinforced that limited technical and advocacy capacity within national alliances can slow policy adoption. Effective engagement with Ministries of Health and drafting committees requires structured alliances, policy literacy, and consistent follow-up. WAAPA will therefore intensify capacity building efforts focusing on governance, administration, and strategic policy engagement skills.
  2. Political transitions require early and structured engagement: Changes in government leadership can stall policy processes if new officials are not adequately briefed. Experience from Ghana shows that sustained engagement with National Alcohol Control Focal Points and early engagement with new leadership is critical to maintaining momentum.
  3. Industry interference remains a persistent threat: The situation in Nigeria demonstrates that without strong technical grounding, industry actors may be perceived as legitimate stakeholders in public health policymaking. This reinforces the need for continued awareness creation, technical guidance, and evidence-based alcohol control.
  4. Policy windows must be acted on quickly: Liberia’s progress in advancing alcohol control legislation and GAAP implementation shows that unexpected opportunities can emerge. Proactive engagement and readiness to respond quickly can create momentum even where progress was not initially anticipated. WAAPA will maintain flexible advocacy approaches to respond to such openings.

5. Good governance strengthens credibility and influence: Well-structured and accountable alliances are more effective in influencing policymakers. Strengthening governance documents, financial systems, and record keeping improves both credibility and sustainability of advocacy efforts.
6. Regional collaboration increases credibility: Engagement at regional level continues to provide additional influence. Participation in the World Health Organization Regional Committee for Africa meetings enabled WAAPA to strengthen relationships with key institutions including Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention and West African Health Organization. These engagements progressed into a follow-up meeting between the WAAPA Secretariat and the West African Regional Coordinating Centre of the Africa CDC in Abuja, creating opportunities for stronger alignment with continental and regional public health frameworks and position alcohol control within broader health and development priorities.

e. **Sources:** Two confidential copies of the draft National Alcohol Policy and Legislation are available as outcomes of the policy and legislation 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), Benin Alcohol Policy Alliance (BAPA) and Burkina Faso Alcohol Policy Alliance (ApaBurkina)

### 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 2025 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 2025 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 2025 WAAPA's Regional AGM, the operational, financial reports, program of work for 2025- 2026 were reviewed and approved by members. With the availability of resources, WAAPA will attend the World Health Assembly, FADAB, explore the opportunity of expanding membership to ivory coast.

The previous recommendations such as the development of a resource mobilization plan has been completed. WAAPA has also adopted its Gender Diversity Policy, Non Engagement Policy and Preventing Sextual Expoitation Policy, expanding NAPA's membership to include women groups, children serving organisations and disability groups are receiving serious attention. In 2025 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 has continued to implement the cost-saving measures while maintaining quality, through it's sub-granting process and ensuring funds are strictly aligned with deliverables, with budgets and concept notes reviewed and negotiated to prevent unnecessary expenses. Instead of a flat-rate budget allocation, funding is allocated based on opportunities and potential of achievement of results in the country, this has contributed to operational

efficiency. Travel costs have been minimized by utilizing virtual meetings where possible. Additionally, local expertise has been prioritized over international consultants to reduce consultancy fees and strengthening local expertise. WAAPA and NAPA's have also pooled resources with partners and organizations by the share of office space or administrative resources which has lead to cutting down of operational costs and still maintaining efficiency.

## Technical Assistance

WAAPA Secretariat continuous to support and 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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