

BUILDING SYNERGIES FOR A COMMON ALCOHOL RESPONSE: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FROM THE EAST AFRICAN ALCOHOL POLICY ALLIANCE (EAAPA)

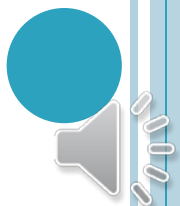
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Paper Presentation at the
2nd Global Alcohol Policy Conference,
Seoul, South Korea at Co-ex Convention Center, Room 2
Monday 7th October 2013, 12:30PM



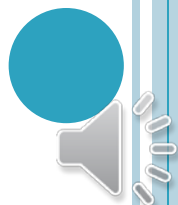
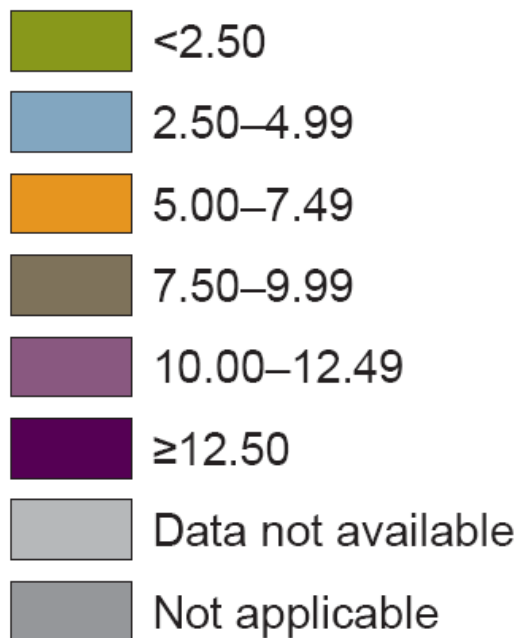
BACKGROUND:

- Africa's 6.15 litres of pure alcohol per capita, is above the global average of 6.13l
- 55% of the African populations do not consume alcohol signifying huge consumption levels for particular countries/communities.
- East African countries like Uganda and Burundi are among the Africa's highest per capita consumers (WHO 2011).



MAP SHOWING TOTAL ADULT (15+) PER CAPITA CONSUMPTION, IN LITRES OF PURE ALCOHOL, 2005

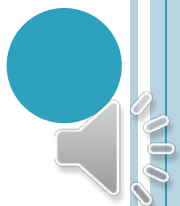
Per capita consumption (litres)



Problem statement



Absence of a common approach to the rampant alcohol challenge among the East African Communities



OBJECTIVES OF THE PAPER

- Highlight the alcohol problem in the East African communities
- Share the interventional experiences of EAAPA

Methodology

Documentary review



EFFECT OF ALCOHOL ON THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITIES (EAC)

Alcohol has introduced new problems and as well compounded the already existing social economic problems leading to:

- **Disability and Death:** Alcohol is among the most significant risk factors for death and disability in the Sub-Saharan (WHO, 2009).
- **Poverty:** 25% of Ugandan drinkers believes alcohol affected their finances negatively (Kathryn, 2011)
- **Intimate partner violence:** 49% of the harassments are attributed to alcohol use (Gunner, 2013).



EFFECTS OF ALCOHOL ON EAC. (CONT.)

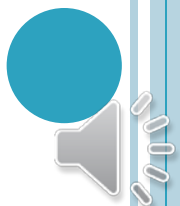


Road accidents: 5.6% of the total road fatalities are due to drunken driving.
(Uganda Police, 2013)



EFFECTS OF ALCOHOL ON EAC. (CONTINUED)

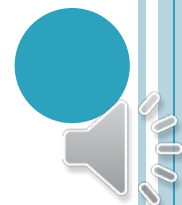
- **Addiction and academic failure in young people:** Children are introduced to alcohol as early as 10 years and as a result;
 - 17% believe that alcohol consumption was harming their studies (Kathryn G., 2011)
 - 33% missed school due to alcohol use by parents.
- **Insecurity:** 48% attribute crime to alcohol use (Gunner, 2013).
- **Food shortages:** Some areas face famine due to conversion of resources from food production into raw materials for the beer industry. (State of Alcohol and Drug Abuse report in Uganda, 2013).
- **Increased Public Expenditure** especially on health and justice to mitigation the above.





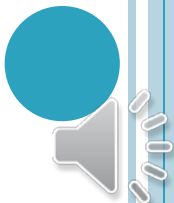
ROLE OF EAAPA

- **EAAPA** was formed in 2009 to unite civil society in advocacy for policy response by the East African governments so as to reduce both the total alcohol consumption and risky drinking patterns in the region.
- EAAPA is made of the alcohol policy country networks of Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda and Burundi.
- EAAPA is a democratic association with quarterly sittings of the board which is constitutionally elected from the general assembly
- EAAPA holds bi-annual regional alcohol conferences bringing together stakeholders to share good practices.



ROLE OF EAAPA (CONTD.)

EAAPA engages in Capacity building of member by training them in Advocacy skills.



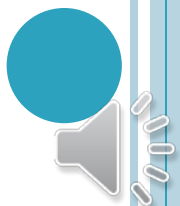
RESULTS OF EAAPA IN THE EAC

- Co-ordination and information sharing of alcohol related issues
- High awareness levels of the alcohol related consequences: 70% (Gunner, 2013)
- EAAPA has a 3 year advocacy plan to highlight major alcohol related concerns in the region
- Policy development: Kenya has enacted alcohol laws and Uganda and Burundi have put alcohol policies to discussion in parliamentary foras.



CHALLENGES

- Divergence of approaches to the problems by governments hence complications in handling cross border violations.
- Limited research on alcohol: The region lacks comprehensive studies on the consequences of alcohol use
- Interferences of the beer industry
- Inadequate human and financial resources to fully undertake advocacy activities. (EAAPA, 2012)



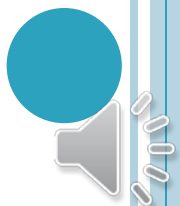
LESSONS LEARNT AND RECOMMENDATION

- **Prioritization is essential:** EAAPA has prioritized addressing of Informal Alcohol, Underage Drinking and Availability of Alcohol as key issues to address in 2014–2017.
- **Networking is crucial:** EAAPA has created rapport with the East African Civil Society Organisations' Forum, Global Alcohol Policy Alliance and other regional networks such as Southern Africa Alcohol Policy Alliance and in process of soliciting support of donors,.

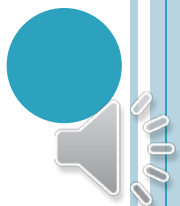


STRATEGIES FOR ACHIEVING AN EAC POLICY ON ALCOHOL

- Promotion of WHO Best Buys
- Capacity Building of members to monitor research and the Alcohol industry actions
- Promotion of alcohol related research through:
 - Collaborations with research/academic institutions
 - East Africa Conference on Alcohol (dissemination).
- Building a data base of Policies, laws & Regulations on Alcohol in the EAC Region (EAAPA, 2013)



- **Acknowledgements:** EAAPA is deeply grateful to IOGT–NTO for the financial and technical support received to carry out the activities the mentioned.
- **Appeal :** EAAPA extends her appeal to for financial and technical support to all organizations and institutions without commercial interest in Alcohol to support her to achieve her objectives.
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