



Implementing Policies to Curb Alcohol Harm in Uganda. Gains, Losses, and prospects

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Introduction

01

Lowering alcohol use is a worldwide commitment

Decreasing alcohol use is a key target within the SDGs
WHO adopted the Global Strategy to Reduce Harmful Use of alcohol

02

Implementation of alcohol control policies is challenging globally

- need for collaboration from diverse stakeholders outside the health sector,
- resistance from various vested interests
- influence of social and cultural factors within organizations and society at large



Historical perspective

The implementation of alcohol control policies globally has undergone a dynamic historical trajectory, reflecting shifting societal attitudes and cultural norms.

The history of alcohol control in Africa reveals a complex interaction of colonial influences, cultural traditions, and modern public health challenges (Owusu, 2019).

Colonial powers introduced various regulatory measures, often aimed at managing alcohol production and trade for economic exploitation rather than public health (Hames, 2014).

Uganda has established several policies and regulations aimed at controlling alcohol consumption and reducing its associated harms, these include; The Liquor Act, The Enguli Act, The Potable Spirits Act

National Alcohol Control Policy (NACP).....

In 2019, the Ugandan Cabinet approved the NACP establishing a framework for the Government of Uganda, alongside other key stakeholders, to create targeted interventions aimed at benefiting all Ugandans on several key areas

Strong leadership and commitment to prevent harmful alcohol use

Enhancing health service capacity to address alcohol-related disorders and conditions

Empowering communities to take collective action in alcohol control

Enforcing measures against drink-driving

Limiting availability and regulating the marketing of alcohol

Implementing pricing and taxation policies for alcoholic beverages

Controlling the production and sale of illegal and informal alcohol

Prohibiting alcohol sales to and by minors

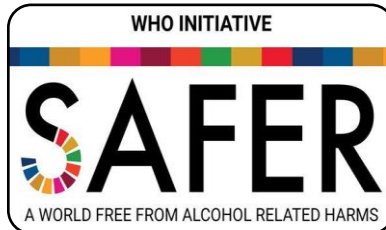
Promoting research on alcohol-related issues

National Alcohol Control Policy (NACP).....

The health sector is the primary government body charged with public health policy, including alcohol regulation

- MoTIC
- URA
- UPF
- MoFED
- MoES
- UNBS
- MoTWA
- MoJCA
- MoGLSD
- Local Authorities
- Civil Society, NGOs, Development partners
- Academia

Progress in Implementing the NACP



The policy provided a framework for Uganda to adopt the WHO's SAFER initiative

- A key achievement under this initiative is the development of SBIRT guidelines for PHC
- Draft communication strategy
- Investment case

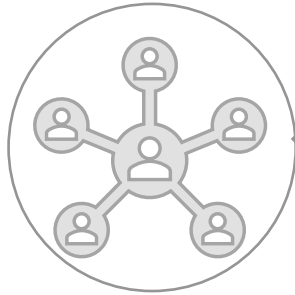


Scientific conferences held every 2 years



Strong collaboration between CSOs, NGOs and the Ministry of Health

What has facilitated the progress made



Existence of a coordination office at MoH

- **Coordination meetings with stakeholders,**
- **Development of guidelines**
- **Technical guidance and partnerships, etc**



Existence of public addiction treatment facility and decentralized health system



Committed partners (CSOs, NGOs, Development partners)

Areas that can be implemented better....



Regulation on alcohol advertisements, promotion and sponsorship

- These continue to influence public consumption patterns



Restricting the sale or consumption of alcohol within specific timeframes.



Enforcement of age restrictions,

- resulted in widespread underage alcohol consumption.



Mechanism to monitor the implementation of the policy

Enemies of progress.....1

Lack of a legal framework to enforce and ensure compliance with the policy

existing legal frameworks are outdated and rarely enforced

Absence of dedicated funds to advance for alcohol control activities

Low risk perception of alcohol harms at all levels leading to resistance to the policy

Inadequate capacity of the health system to provide specialized addiction treatment services

Enemies of progress.....2

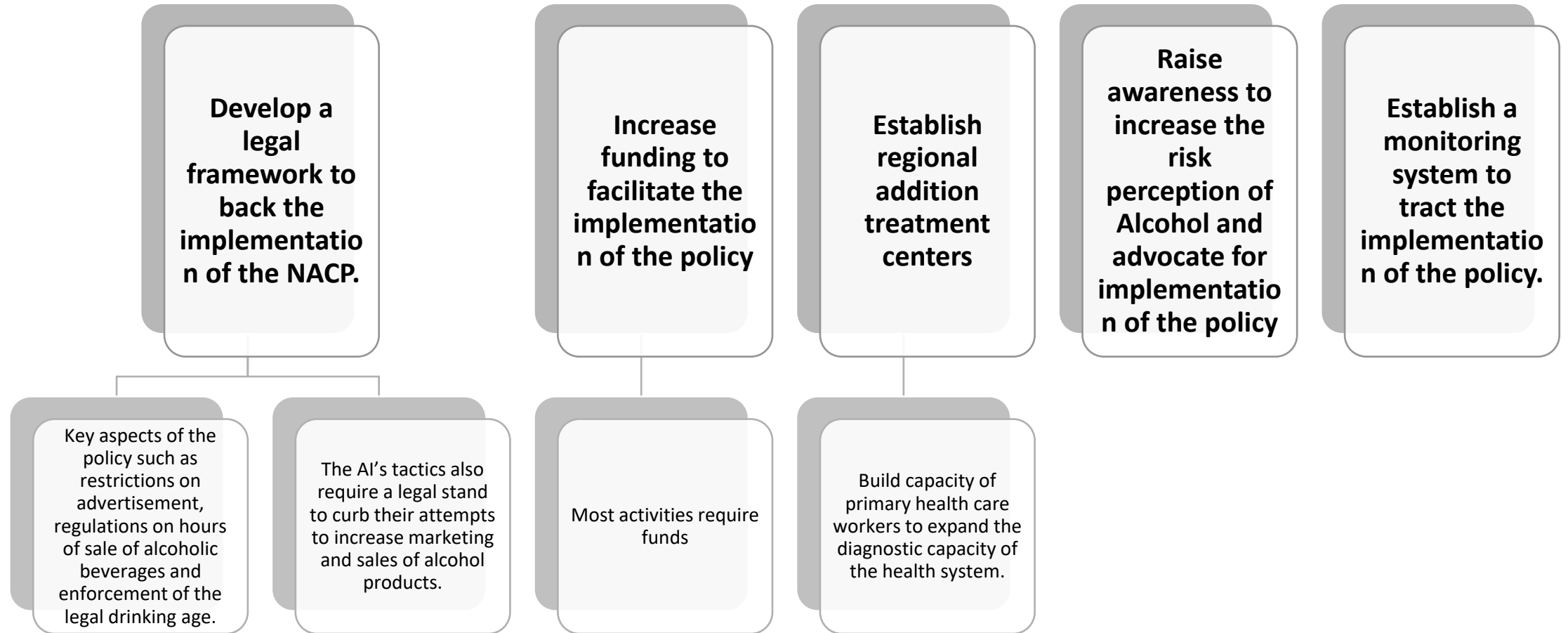
**Limitations in the
coordination
structure**

AI interference

**COVID-19
pandemic
disrupted efforts
to advance drink
driving**

Employs several tactics that work against policy implementation to protect its interests, often influencing the marketing of alcoholic beverages to increase their sales

Recommendations



Thank you