



# **THE UGANDA ALCOHOL CONTROL BILL**

## **WHY IT HAS TO GET BACK ON THE TABLE**

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# Aknowledgement

Ms Claire Biribawa, PhD Student at University of Ghent Belgium  
has contributed a lot to this presentation-Many thanks.



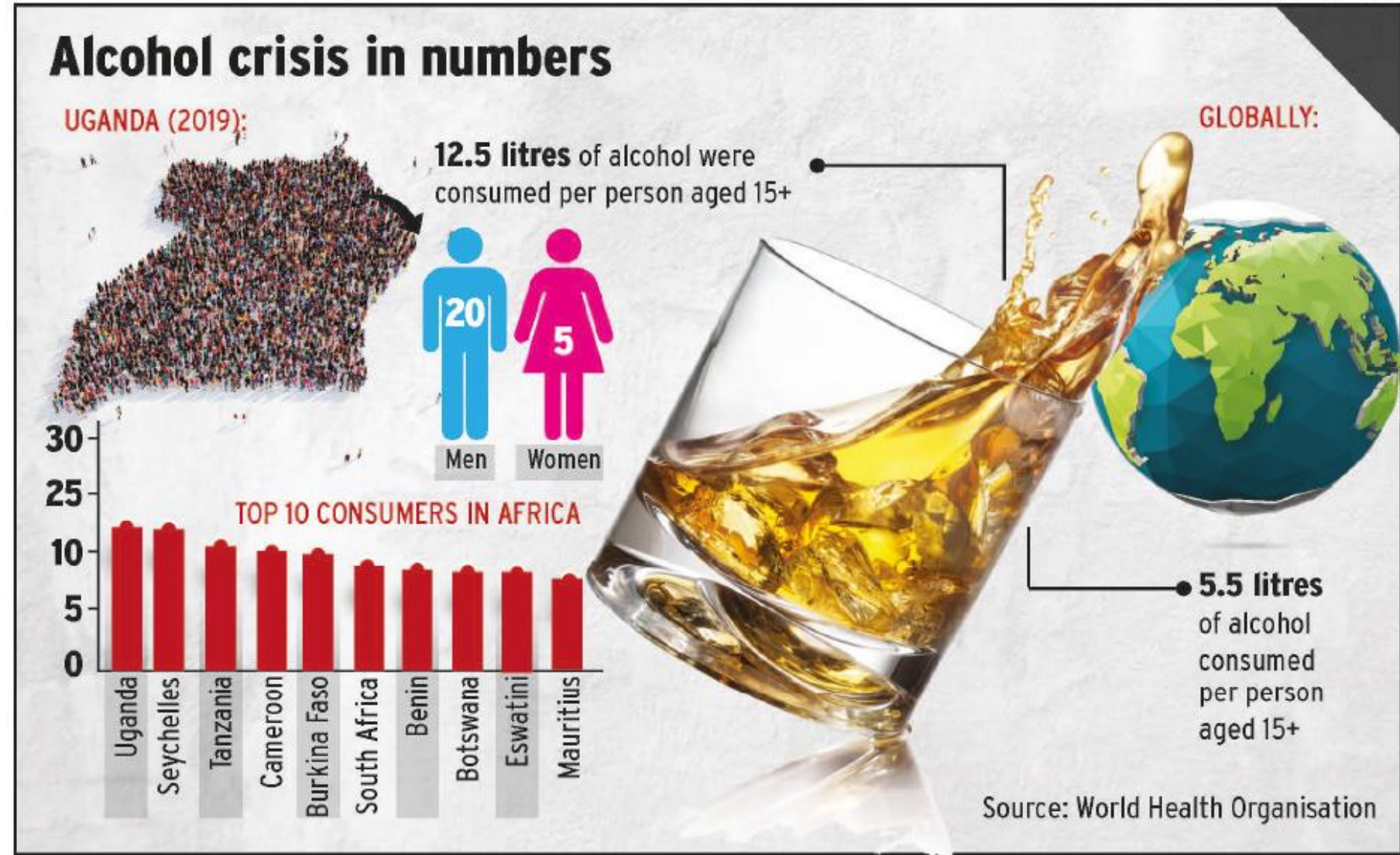
# Outline

- 1. Introduction/background**
- 2. Alcohol Burden in Uganda**
- 3. Objectives of Uganda Alcohol Bill**
- 4. Why it must be Re-Introduced**
- 5. Proposed Actions and Next Steps**
- 6. Conclusions**



# Alcohol Use in Uganda

- Uganda faces one of the highest per capita alcohol consumption rates globally
- Average daily intake for Ugandans is about 20.6grams above Africa's 13.0 and the global average of 13.5
- 64% increase in illicit alcohol consumption from 2017 - 2029



# Enjoyment Gone Wrong; Locally Manufactured Waragi Kills 12, Leaves 20 Hospitalised...



Published 2 years ago on August 22, 2022

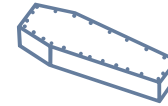
By Grapevine News



## Key Public Health Issues related with Alcohol Consumption



Prevalence of AUDs is estimated at about **9.8%** among adults



**7.3%** of annual mortality is alcohol related



**40%** of domestic violence attributed to alcohol consumption



High rate of injuries-road traffic - **29 per 100,000** Population



Increased burden on healthcare systems due to alcohol-related illnesses.



## Vision

A country free of harmful use of alcohol and its consequences

## Mission

Prevent and address alcohol related harm to individuals, families, communities and society.

## Objectives

1. To establish a coordinated multi-sectoral framework for action to reduce harmful use of alcohol and its consequences
2. To strengthen regulation on production, availability, marketing and pricing of alcohol so as to protect vulnerable people from its harmful use of alcohol.
3. To build capacity of government and other stakeholders for prevention, treatment and management of alcohol use related problems.
4. To reduce the negative effects and impact of illicit and informally produced alcohol.
5. To establish and improve research, monitoring, evaluation, surveillance and dissemination of information on alcohol use in Uganda.



# OBJECTIVES OF THE PROPOSED ALCOHOL BILL

## 1. Coordinated Action:

- Establish a multi-sectoral framework to address alcohol harm comprehensively.

## 2. Strengthened Regulation:

- Regulate production, marketing, pricing, and availability of alcohol to protect vulnerable populations.

## 3. Capacity Building:

- Equip government and stakeholders to prevent, manage, and treat alcohol-related problems effectively.

## 4. Tackling Illicit Alcohol:

- Minimize the production and consumption of unsafe, informally produced alcohol.

## 5. Data and Research:

- Develop robust systems for monitoring, evaluation, and dissemination of alcohol-related information.



## WHY LEGISLATORS REJECTED THE BILL

- Pressure from alcohol producers and vested economic interests-
- Economic concerns-Alcohol as a major revenue source for the economy-high tax payers- But analysis shows we are losing more money due to negative effects
- Influence/interference of “Big Alcohol” corporations with significant economic power.
- Fear of backlash from the voters in their constituencies - This is not true- research shows different results
- Claims of being overly restrictive- Uganda is largely young 50.5% <18 years and raising the age of drinking to 21 may appear hard. NO this is the very reason we need the restrictions
- Public and cultural resistance- findings show strong support-
- Lack of sufficient consultation. we have consulted different stakeholders- Religious, civil and others
- Unclear implementation- we have several examples to learn from
- Effect on local alcohol producers- Even the producers which to have regulation and inspections- some of their members are adding viagra, methanol and other illegal inputs .





## WHY IT MUST BE REINTRODUCED

- Rising Alcohol Abuse Trends and Alcohol Use Disorders
- Higher rates of alcohol-related domestic violence and road accidents.
- Lack of regulation will allow the continued spread of unsafe, illicit brews

### Economic Argument:

- A regulated alcohol industry can contribute significantly through taxation and job creation.
- Reducing harmful alcohol use will reduce government healthcare expenditures.

### Global Lessons:

- Countries with similar alcohol control laws (e.g., Kenya's Alcohol Control Act) have demonstrated improved health outcomes.
- Countries like Belgium, home to AB InBev, have implemented stringent alcohol controls to protect public health.



## WHY IT MUST BE REINTRODUCED

### Gaps in Current Laws:

- Obsolete provisions in the Enguli Act (1964) and Liquor Act (1969).
- No standards for informal alcohol production.
- Weak penalties fail to deter underage drinking and unsafe practices.

### Economic Misconceptions:

- Uganda ranks among the poorest globally despite high alcohol consumption.
- Alcohol use exacerbates poverty and productivity loss.



## **BENEFITS OF REINTRODUCING THE BILL**

### Social Benefits:

- Reduced domestic violence and alcohol-related crime rates.
- Safer communities and improved productivity.

### Health Benefits:

- Fewer cases of alcohol-related disease and mental health disorders.
- Reduced healthcare costs for treating alcohol-related illnesses.

### Economic Benefits:

- Formalizing the alcohol industry can increase government revenue.
- Supporting small producers to adhere to regulations fosters fair competition.



## CALL TO ACTION

- The Uganda Alcohol Bill is critical for addressing public health crises and societal challenges related to alcohol abuse.
- We must work together to advocate for its reintroduction.



THANK YOU

