

ALCOHOL POLICY ALLIANCE – GHANA



2024 Annual Narrative Report

ADVANCING ALCOHOL POLICIES & LEGISLATIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN GHANA

Submitted to the

WEST AFRICA ALCOHOL POLICY ALLIANCE (WAAPA)

by

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Line up of Leaders of GhanAPAs member institutions with WAAPA Coordinator

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JANUARY, 2025

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ABBREVIATIONS

AFID:	Africa Foundation for Integrated Development
ANCF:	Aid for Needy children Foundation
CFF – Ghana):	Community Focus Foundation Ghana
CSO:	Civil Society Organisation
FDA):	Food and Drugs Authority
FYC:	Federation of Youth Clubs
FZL:	Federation of Zongo Ladies
GAPA:	Global Alcohol Policy Alliance
GBC:	Ghana Blue Cross
GhanAPA:	Alcohol Policy Alliance – Ghana
GHS:	Ghana Health Service
GOFAS:	Ghana Organisation on Fatal Alcohol Syndrome
INSLA	Institute of Leadership and Development
MCD;	Mothers’ Clubs in Development
MHA:	Mental Health Authority
MoH:	Ministry of Health
NAPA:	National Alcohol Policy Alliance
NCD:	Non-Communicable Diseases
NHIA:	National Health Insurance Authority
NRSA:	National Road Safety Authority
PoW:	Programme of Work
SLAPA:	Siera Leone Alcohol Policy Alliance
UNDP:	United Nations Development Programme
UNODC:	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
VALD:	Vision for Alternative Development
WAAPA:	West African Alcohol Policy Alliance
WHO:	World Health Organisation

INTRODUCTION

FORMATION AND STATUS

The Alcohol Policy Alliance - Ghana (GhanAPA) is an amalgamation of independent Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) working towards advancing a healthy nation through policy development and advocacy with the vision of contributing to the elimination of alcohol related harms in Ghana. GhanAPA was started in 2018 by four Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and has expanded over the years and currently has a membership of twelve active independent CSOs.

GhanAPA became a legal body with a Constitution in December 2018 and is registered with the Registrar Generals' Department with Certificate number CG0739922019 in May 2019.

The member CSOs are; Institute of Leadership and Development (INSLA), Action for Integrated Development (AID), Aid for Needy Children Foundation (ANCF), Federation of Youth Clubs (FYC), and Vision for Alternative Development (VALD). The rest are Community Focus Foundation Ghana (CFF – Ghana), Federation of Zongo Ladies (FZL), Mothers' Clubs in Development (MCD), Ghana Blue Cross (GBC), and El-Yahweh Club.

GOAL

GhanAPA's Goal is to eliminate alcohol related harms in Ghana

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

- a) To help prevent people from taking to the use of alcohol.
- b) To get a person's dependence on alcohol to quit the habit and rehabilitated.
- c) To create a forum for networking among members.
- d) To bring together Organizations working in the area of health and advocacy for a coordinated programming
- e) To create a community free from Alcohol related harm and an empowered population.
- f) To provide leadership and further skills training to the various organizations.
- g) To promote and compliment government efforts in the general welfare of the public.

LIST OF MEMBER INSTITUTIONS AND HEIR REPRESENTATIVES

Contact address (Name and position of Contact person(s), Postal address, E-mail, Telephone No, Facebook, Twitter, Location, etc.)

No	Name of NGO	Contact person	Position(s)	Telephone	E-mail
1	Institute of Leadership and Development (INSLA)	Benjamin Anabila	Chairman	024 688 9931	benjaminanabila@gmail.com
2	Africa Foundation for Integrated Development (AFID)	Sulley Sumani	National Coordinator	024 263 7020	sulleysumani60@yahoo.com
3	Aid for Needy Children Foundation (ANCF),	Michael Nartey	Treasurer	024 443 9652	michaelnartey2020@yahoo.com
4	Federation of Youth Clubs (FYC)	Abdul-Fatah Adam	Member	024 480 4501	iamfatahgh@gmail.com
5	Vision for Alternative Development (VALD)	Labram Masawudu Musah	Member	024 321 1854	labrammusah@gmail.com
6	Community Focus Foundation Ghana (CFF – Ghana)	Richard Kasu	Member	024864 0364	cffghana2018@yahoo.com
7	Federation of Zongo Ladies (FZL)	Nafisa Ibrahim	Member	024 781 6175	inafisa347@gmail.com
8	Mothers' Clubs in Development (MCD)	Hajia Mariam Salfu	Member	024 982 2692	mothersclubghana@yahoo.com
9	Ghana Blue Cross (GBC)	Jonas Nartey	Member	024 972 1387	nartey28@gmail.com
10	El-Yahweh Club	Lilian ALang	Member	024 917 7834	lilyalang@gmail.com

ACTIVITY TITLE 1: GHANAPA BOARD MEETINGS

The GhanAPA Board was not able to hold a formal interactive meeting in 2024 due to zero funding from WAAPA/Foruit throughout the year. However, one virtual meetings was held in the course of the year to discuss emerging issues.

The virtual board meeting was held on Monday 5th February, 2024 to discuss the participation of GhanAPA in the proposed meeting of the Alcohol Control Technical Working Group (TWG) to review the draft Alcohol Control LI to be held at the MoH Conference room. The WAAPA Secretariat was also invited by GhanAPA to participate in the meeting because they are part of the TWG and to also make inputs into further engagement with the MoH.

ARTICLE 2: TWG FINAL REVIEW OF DRAFT ALCOHOL CONTROL LEGISLATIVE INSTRUMENT

Ghana is working through its Ministry of Health (MoH) and the Attorney General Department (AG-D) to get its draft Alcohol Control Legislative Instrument (LI) into the GhanAPA Parliament for passage into an operational Law.

In pursuance of this objective, the Legal Department of the Ministry of Health (MoH) hosted a one-day working meeting of some members of the Technical Working Group (TWG) on Friday 8th March 2024 for the review of some sections of the draft Alcohol Control Legislative Instrument (LI). Participants were from the MoH, FDA, VALD and GhanAPA. The GhanAPA 3-members participants included its Chairman, National Coordinator, and its immediate past National Coordinator.

The MoH was to engage the AGD to lay the draft LI in Ghana's parliament for passage into an LI in 2023. However, this was achieved due to a request for a review of some sections of the draft LI.

ACTIVITY TITLE 3: GHANAPA PARTICIPATION IN WAAPA BOARD MEETINGS

WAAPA held a series of online meetings for organized for the staff of the WAAPA Secretariat and all board members of WAAPA who comprised all National Alcohol Policy Alliances (NAPAs). Each NAPA has two representatives of the Board including the National Chair and National Coordinator.

The GhanAPA Chair and Coordinator participated in most of the online meetings of the Board.

ACTIVITY TITLE 4: GHANAPA PARTICIPATION IN WAAPA GENERAL MEETINGS

WAAPA also organized virtual meetings for all members to discuss progress of work on advancing Alcohol Policies in member countries. One such meeting was held 27th June 2024 and agenda was Update and Progress of Work in Sierra Leone by

ACTIVITY TITLE 5: LAUNCH OF 0.0% ALCOHOL BEVERAGE VOLUME (ABV)

A one Mr. Karkari and wife both Ghanaians resident in the Netherlands was in contact with the WAAPA Secretariat and GhanAPA wanting to engage in promoting the launch of a 0.0% Alcohol Beverage Volume (ABV) Initiative. The Ghanaian group based in the Netherlands contacted WAAPA about the launch of this beverage. And WAAPA accordingly referred the group to GhanAPA due to the fact that WAAPA is not a NAPA organisation. GhanAPA sent an enquiry letter to the Food and Drugs Authority (FDA) to find out about this product and the policy of FDA about this product which is not known to GhanAPA. Even though a formal response was not received from FDA, informal discussions led GhanAPA to finally write to the Group on 20th August 2024 and informed them about GhanAPA's inability to continue the engagement about the ABV.

ACTIVITY TITLE 6: WAAPA ASSESSMENT OF 2019 - 23 GHANAPA

The WAAPA Secretariat conducted an assessment of GhanAPA five (5)-year activities from 2019 to 2023. According to WAAPA the purpose of their assessment was to evaluate the operational processes in all NAPAs Alliances in member countries.

The The GhanAPA assessment processes began in September 2024 and was completed in November 2024. At the end of the process, a 14-page Report with 34 attachments were issued and passed on to GhanAPA for its reaction. A list of recommendations for implementation by GhanAPA was also issued. After a study of the Report by past and current officers, GhanAPA indicated that it has no objections to the technical findings but indicated that the recommendations which affected Constitutional issues will have to be reviewed after Constitutional amendments in 2025.

ACTIVITY TITLE 7: PRESS RELEASE

CSOs commend Supreme Court for upholding FDA's constitutional mandate to protect public health

The Alcohol Policy Alliance-Ghana (GhanaAPA) and the West Africa Alcohol Policy Alliance (WAAPA) jointly issued a press release to the *Ghana News Agency* and other media houses on Monday 24th June 2024. The release was a commendation of the Supreme Court of Ghana for upholding the Food and Drugs Authority's (FDA) ban on celebrities/iconic persons' advertisements of alcohol products in country. The joint statement

expressed their unflinching support for the FDA’s steadfastness in standing up to the bullying tactics of the big alcohol industry and allies for enacting the guidelines and putting maximum effort into defending the guidelines before the apex court.

They urged the FDA to build on this momentum and continue to prioritise the protection of consumers and vulnerable groups. The two CSOs also called on celebrities in the entertainment industry and other fields to use their influence to champion public health and non-communicable diseases (NCDs), rather than promoting harmful products and interests driven by personal gain. The statement ended by urging the FDA to build on this momentum and continue to prioritise the protection of consumers and vulnerable groups.

The press statement was signed jointly by the National Coordinator of GhanAPA, Alhaji Sulley Sumani, and the Programme Officer of WAAPA, Debora Sewoenam Agboado.

ACTIVITY TITLE 8: 74TH WHO AFRICA REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Mr. Benjamin Anabila; Director of the Institute of Leadership and Development (INSLA) and Board Chairman of GhanAPA at the 74th Session of the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Committee for Africa meeting from 26-30 August 2024, in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo. He will engage and support the adoptions of the African Regional Framework on the Global Strategy for Food Safety 2022-2030, Framework on African Regional Data Hub 2024-2030

Key Insights and Reflection

- i. Please provide a brief account of National Alliance’s progress in advancing alcohol control policies and legislations, including key outcomes achieved.

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- ii. Were there any significant deviations from the yearly action plan set by National Alliance in advancing alcohol control policies and legislation? This could include changes in timelines, resource allocation

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- iii. What key lessons has National Alliance learned from its work in advancing alcohol control policies and legislation?

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- iv. How have these lessons informed the approach and strategies used in your activities?
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- v. What were the key challenges and risks faced by National Alliance in advancing alcohol control policies and legislation in Country? (This may could include challenges related to government support, opposition from the alcohol industry, financial constraints, stakeholder's engagement, operational issues, public resistance, socio-economic factors such as COVID-19, legal challenges etc).
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- vi. How did these risks impact the implementation of National Alliance's activities and what strategies was employed to mitigate them?
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- vii. What advocacy actions did National Alliance undertake towards relevant authorities to address alcohol related harm? Please provide details on the key advocacy actions, including any meetings, campaigns, policy or legislation recommendations made.
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- viii. What is the current state or position of the National Alliance's Draft National Alcohol Control Policies and Legislation?
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- ix. Has the mental health unit or departments in Country been invited to attend and participate on mental health issues during National Alliance programs in 2024?
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- x. How many times was the National Alliance contacted or consulted by government officials on alcohol policy in 2024?
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- xi. Kindly provide information on the submissions made to government by National Alliance.
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- xii. How many times did National Alliance receive technical assistance, advice or recommendations from WAAPA Secretariat in 2024?
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- xiii. Kindly explain if National Alliance has identified any funding institutions in 2024.
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- xiv. Kindly explain if National Alliance has submitted any project proposals to donors and partners for funding support in 2024.
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- xv. List the activities conducted by National Alliance without WAAPA funding.
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Attachments

- i. List of Participants: Indicate the Activity Title on top of the Participants List. Each activity must have its own participants list. The list should include Names, Organization's, Phone numbers, email addresses and signatures.
- ii. Photographs: 3 (three) photographs/pictures/images from different directions must be attached for each activity.
- iii. Media reportage and online links: Attach the media reportage and or the online links. Indicate the activity title for each media story.
- iv. ADD and GGCS Scale Indicator Sheets: Complete the 2024 Scales (A zoom link would be shared for completion)

- v. Adopted Policy, Draft Policy or Draft Legislation or Adopted Multi-Sectorial Action Plan and other Materials: Attach copies of any of the listed draft documents and materials developed in the year under review.
- vi. 2024 Financial Statement/Report, Audited Financial Report and Management Letter: Each National Alliance must submit an independent Audited Financial Report and Management Letter for 2024.

DEADLINES

- 1. Narrative Report and any related materials should be submitted by: 24th January 2025.**
- 2. Audited Financial Report and Management Letter should be submitted by: 31st January 2024.**