

Ministry of Health



**SETTING UP AN INCLUSIVE PROGRAM FOR PREVENTING THE HARMFUL USE OF ALCOHOL:
Lessons from the inauguration of the SAFER Initiative in Uganda**

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SETTING UP AN INCLUSIVE PROGRAM FOR PREVENTING THE HARMFUL USE OF ALCOHOL

Lessons From the Inauguration of the SAFER Initiative in Uganda

Groundbreaking activities to strengthen alcohol control in Uganda

- ❑ Alcohol Consumption/Harm/ Gaps in Intervening Measures in Uganda
- ❑ Overview of SAFER Uganda
- ❑ SU inaugural processes: UN Mission
- ❑ The outcome of the inaugural processes
- ❑ Lessons learned from the inaugural process



Alcohol Consumption/Harm/ Gaps in Intervening measures in Uganda

Introduction: Harmful use of alcohol is a complex public health challenge, requiring strong leadership and a well-coordinated multisectoral approach

Rationale for alcohol interventions in Uganda

- Widespread alcohol use and heavy episodic drinking especially among young people. The majority of alcohol production/ consumption is informal
- High prevalence of Alcohol attributable mortalities and morbidities
- Very Active Alcohol industry
- Government efforts include Banning sachets, Alcohol Policy, drafting alcohol laws, prevention and treatment campaigns ...



The Global SAFER Initiative

SAFER Uganda is a multiagency collaboration led by the Ministry of Health and the World Health Organization, aiming at strengthening the implementation of 5 high-impact and cost-effective interventions in preventing the harmful use of alcohol.



Strengthen restrictions on alcohol availability



Advance and enforce drink-driving counter measures



Facilitate access to screening, brief interventions and treatment



Enforce bans or comprehensive restrictions On advertising, sponsorship, and promotion



Raise prices on alcohol through excise taxes and pricing policies



Inauguration Of the SAFER Uganda Initiative

- MoH invitation of the SAFER Global Initiative
- A landscape study was conducted to establish the political economy of alcohol in Uganda
- UN Joint Planning Mission consulted approximately 150 stakeholders to determine the feasibility of SAFER Implementation In Uganda





Outcome of the Inaugural Process

- Policy environmental analysis
- Prioritization of SAFER Uganda interventions
- Road Map and Implementation Mechanism





Outcome of the Inaugural Process

Policy environmental analysis for SAFER Implementation In Uganda

- OPPORTUNITIES: Capable and committed alcohol control stakeholders
- GAPS: Alcohol industry interference, fragmented approaches Inadequate and scattered alcohol-related data and harm awareness



SAFER Uganda: Priorities

Intervention	Assessment*	
Strengthen restrictions on alcohol availability	Priority	Feasibility
Advance and enforce drink-driving countermeasures	Priority	Feasibility
Facilitate access to screening, brief interventions and treatment	Priority	Feasibility
Enforce bans or comprehensive restrictions on advertising, sponsorship and promotion	Priority	Feasibility
Raise prices on alcohol through excise taxes and pricing policies	Priority	Feasibility

* *Priority assessment based on global evidence of effectiveness and cost-effectiveness and relevance in Uganda*

* *Feasibility assessment based on context in Uganda*



SAFER Uganda Road Map

SAFER Uganda implementation roadmap

- A 12–24 month multi-agency and multisectoral plan to strengthen government interventions to reduce harmful alcohol use
- 8 Objectives and 40 action areas including supporting the strengthening of the alcohol harm legislative framework
- Implemented by 5 SAFER sub-committees





Implementation Structure: Working Group

SAFER Global Initiative

SAFER Uganda

Secretariat and Fundraising

Advocacy & Communication

Monitoring, Research, Data &
Investment Case

Screening Brief Intervention
and Treatment (SBIT)



Members of SAFER Uganda

- ❑ SAFER is a World Health Organisation-led initiative in partnership with,
- ❑ UN agencies (United Nations Interagency task force on NCDs and United Nations Development Program)
- ❑ Government of Uganda (Ministry of Health)
- ❑ International Civil society (Movendi International, Vital Strategies)
- ❑ Local Civil Society (Uganda Alcohol Policy Alliance and Non Communicable Disease Alliance) and
- ❑ Academia: Makerere University School of Public Health



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH



Makerere University
College of Health Sciences
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH



SAFER Uganda landmarks

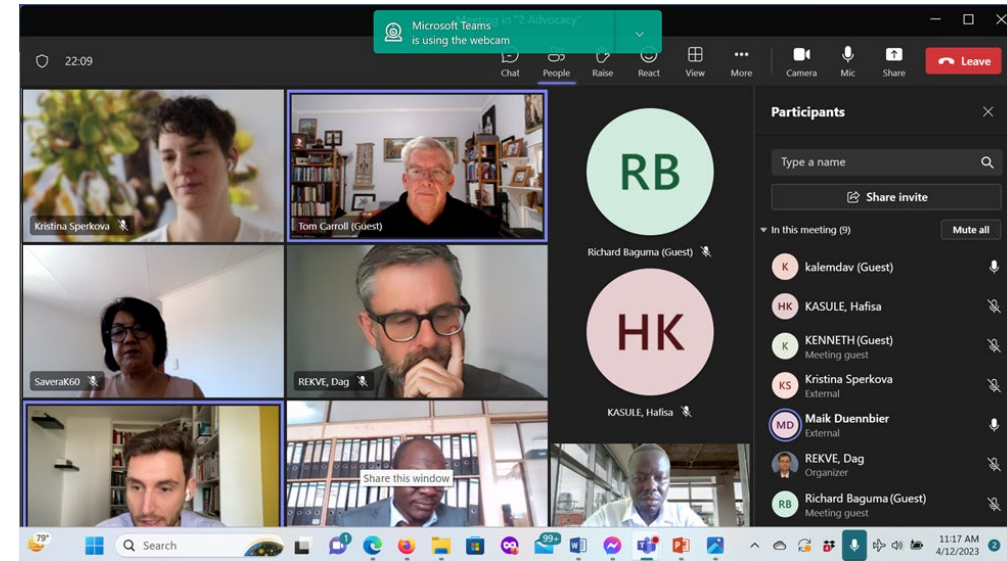
- Customized a set of 54 alcohol indicators and established a multisector mechanism to monitor alcohol Use, Harm, and interventions
- Drafted a National Alcohol Communication Strategy to aid the implementation of alcohol Policy
- Drafted an Alcohol Advocacy Strategy to effectively lobby for a public health-oriented law
- Drafted a Protocol to support Screening Brief Intervention and Referral for Treatment of Alcohol Use Disorder in Primary Health Centers





Conclusions/ Recommendations/ Lessons Learnt

- A stepwise approach is crucial in building support and capacity for implementing alcohol control measures.
- Stakeholder involvement is important at all stages of program development
- Strong leadership and stakeholder commitment is necessary for the attainment of SAFER goals





Thank you

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More info at:

<https://www.who.int/initiatives/safer>