



Passage of Excise Tax on Alcohol in Ghana-The Role of Civil Society Actors

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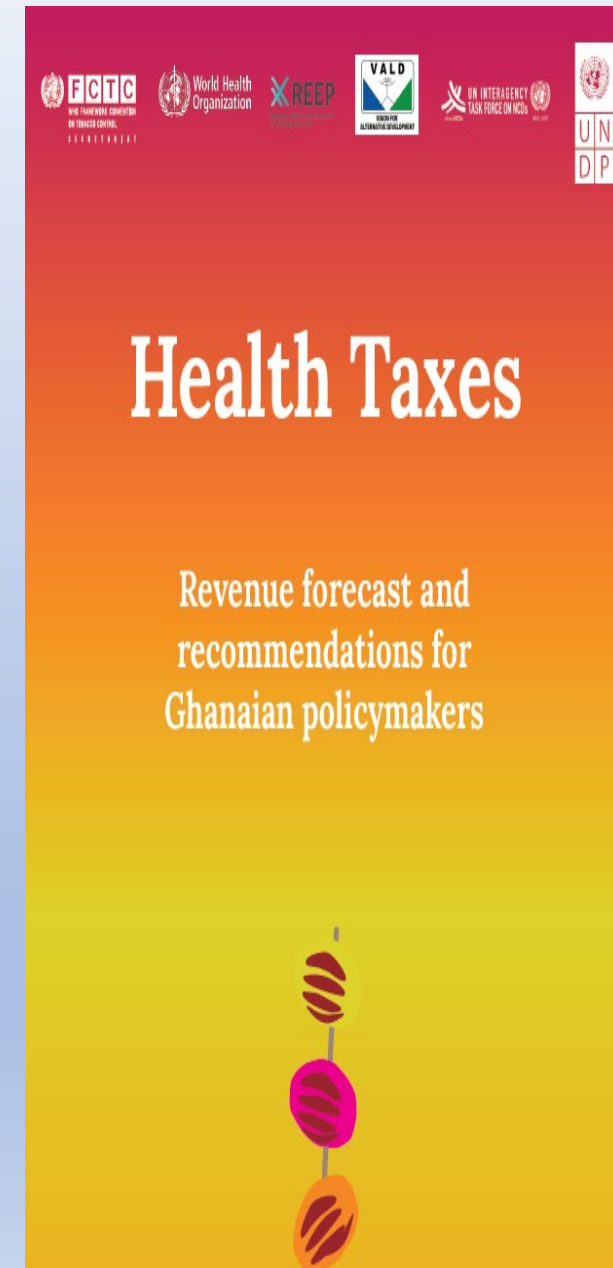
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Introduction

- The number of imports and local manufacturing of alcohol has increased in recent years
- Close to a decade, no reforms to amend the excise tax -2015-2023
- This has led to an increase in alcohol affordability and accessibility in Ghana
- Its implications have resulted in increase in alcohol related morbidity and mortality, huge impact on healthcare costs and disability
- Ghana has a National Alcohol Policy, 2016 and guidelines regulating aspects of industry activity
 - Ban well known personalities from alcohol adverts
 - Restrict adverts on TV and radio 6am - 8pm

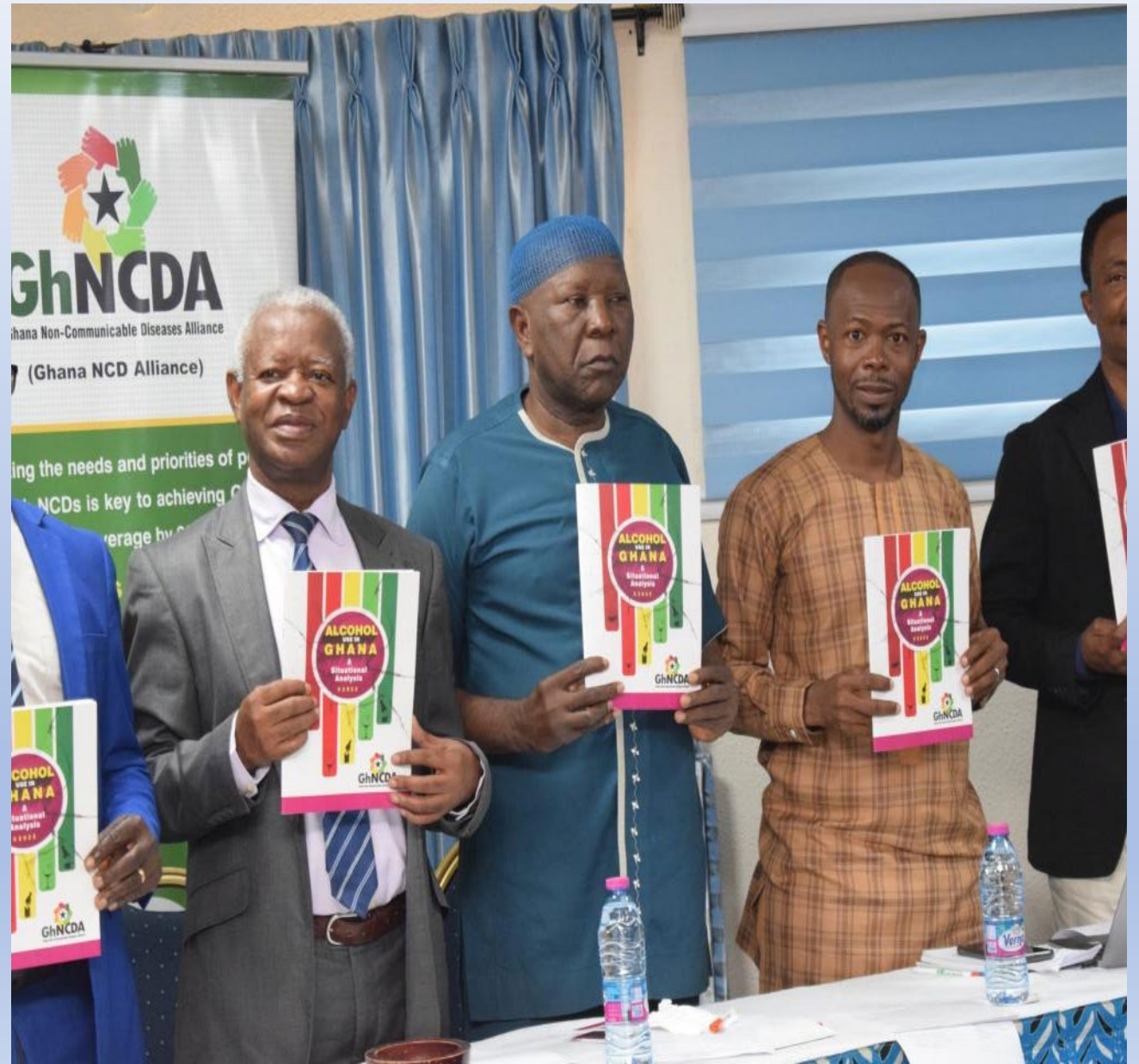
Advocacy Campaign led by VALD Ghana

- To mitigate these issues CSOs embarked on an advocacy action:
 - Mapping/Identify key stakeholder – govt / CSOs Actors
 - Coalition – Tax Advocacy Network for Health Promotion
 - Strategic engagement meetings with GRA/MoF/FDA
 - A team of experts – WHO, UNDP, UN Taskforce on NCDs, FCTC secretariat, REEP, VALD Ghana constituted
 - Produced a report “Ghana Health Taxes- Revenue Forecast and Recommendations
 - Focus on Tobacco, alcohol, and SSBs
- Mobilization of community members to engage MPs
- Media and social media campaigns to inform the public about the benefits of excise tax on alcohol



Method

- Conducted a situational analysis of alcohol use in Ghana and health tax studies – Ghana NCD
 - Overview of alcohol use and related diseases
 - Affordability and accessibility analysis
 - The role of tax policy in addressing challenges especially alcohol use among the youth
- Findings and policy recommendations dissemination
 - Press briefings
 - Policy briefs



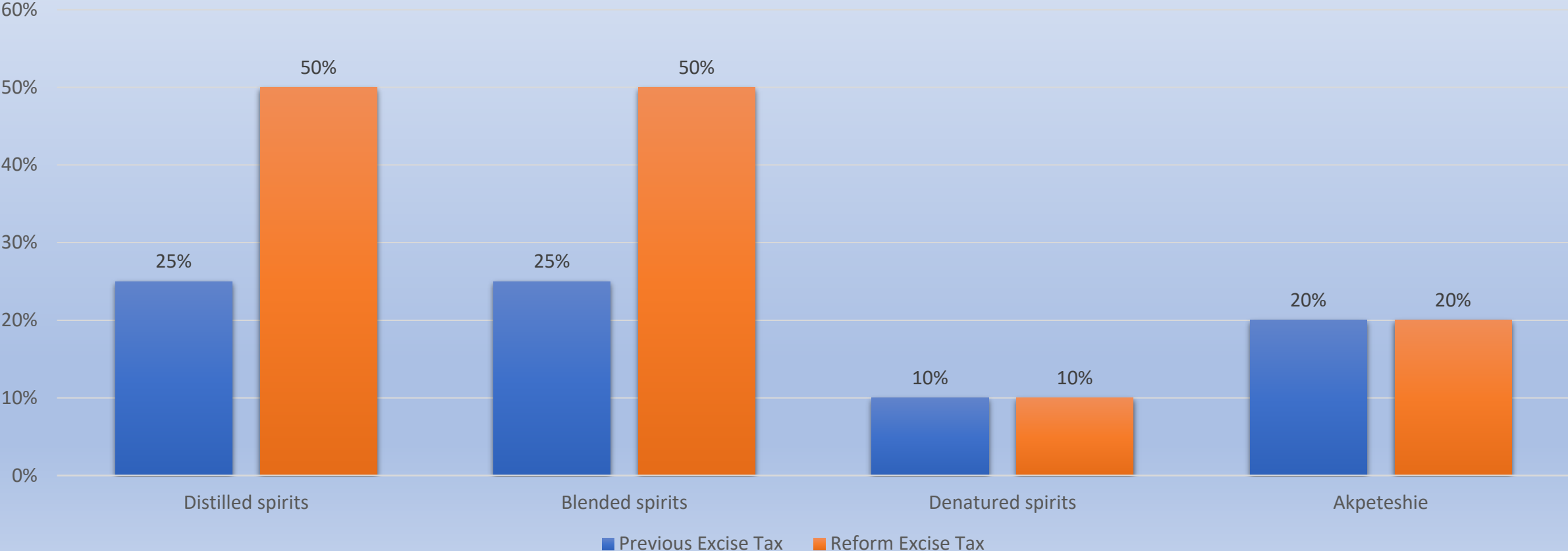
Results

- Excise Duty Amendment Bill, 2023 passed
- Alcohol taxes revised in Amendment Act (Act 1093)
- Increase in excise taxes for alcohol products
- Excise tax rate changes for wine and spirits
- Introduction of new taxes on cider beer
 - **20% of the ex-factory rate.**
- Broader tax burdens on various categories of alcohol products

Results cont...

Distilled and blended spirits: 25% to 50% (100% increase)

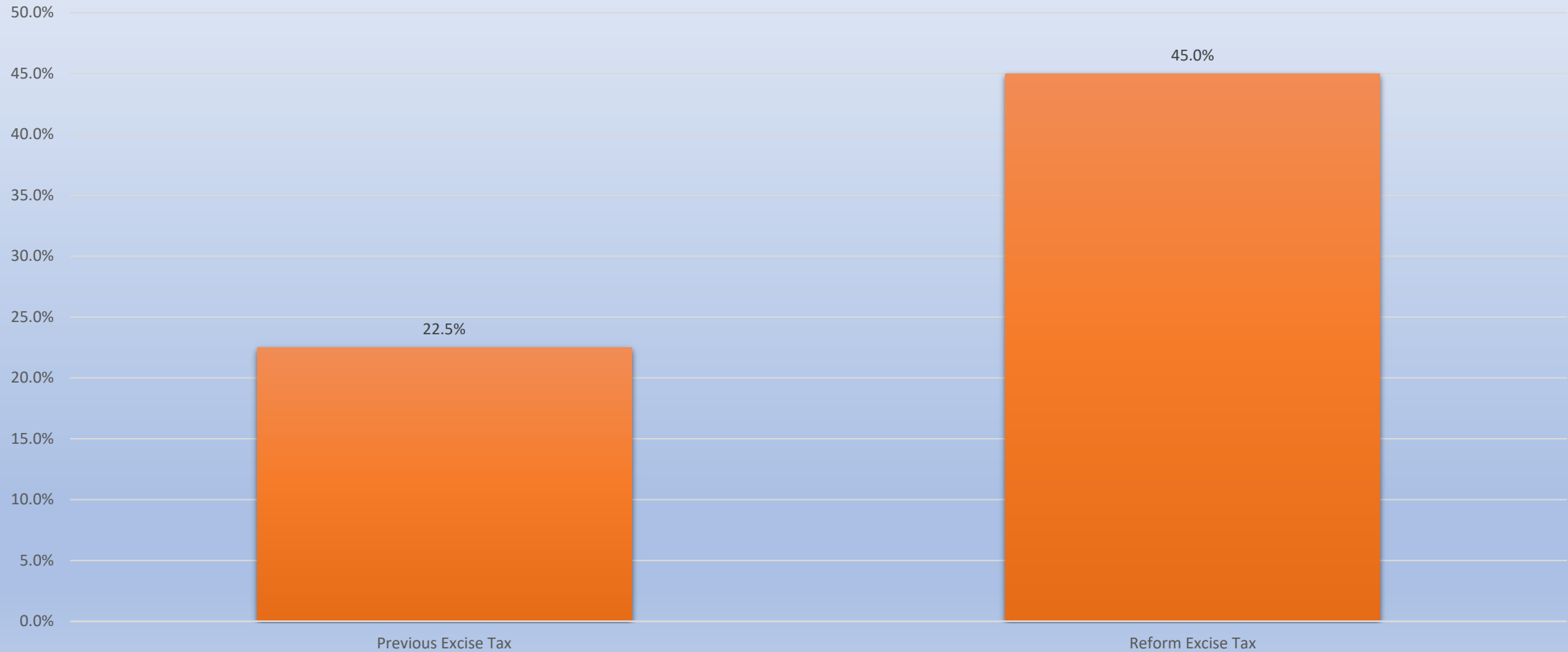
TAX REFORM ON ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES IN GHANA(SPIRITS)



Results cont'd

Wine: 22.5% to 45% (100% increase)

TAX REFORM ON ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES IN GHANA (WINE)



Challenges

- Low level of public support for excise tax
- Public benefits –of excise tax among various stakeholders (govt, CSOs, media)- low
- Media – not in full support due to advertisement
- Primarily left with the MoF/GRA with little support from the health sector
- Industry involvement

Outcome

- Excise Tax Bill passed and signed by the President
- Implementation started on 1st May, 2023
- Expected impact:
 - Reduction in alcohol use
 - Improvement in public health
 - Increase in government revenue

Conclusion

- Civil Society Actors played a key role in advocating for alcohol excise tax reform in Ghana
- Positive impact on public health and government revenue
- Ongoing efforts and future prospect
 - Advocacy on earmarking of excise taxes for healthcare financing of alcohol-related diseases

Thank you for your attention

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