



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL EFFECTS OF ALCOHOL AND ALCOHOL POLICIES

A CASE STUDY OF TESO (SOROTI & KUMI DISTRICTS) -UGANDA.

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PRESENTATION OUTLINE

1. Who we are – UGGA against Alcohol use?
2. Alcohol Use in Africa, Uganda & Teso sub region
3. Survey findings
4. UGGA interventions
5. Results
6. Lessons learnt & way forward



Who we are?

UGGA is a voluntary and non-political organization, without any discrimination to creed, race or any other circumstance. UGGA is a member of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) since 1984.

UGGA's target beneficiaries are girls and young women between the ages of 3 to 35 who deserve to live amazing experiences and transform their lives and their communities.

UGGA appreciates IOGT.NTO.MOVEMENT for supporting the Alcohol Harm Prevention.

Alcohol Use in Africa & Uganda in Particular

According to the World Health Organization (WHO) statistics 2023 report; Uganda worryingly tops for being the African country with the highest alcohol intake.

Per capita alcohol consumption is 12.21 liters of alcohol per year in Uganda.

The high alcohol consumption levels cause a high burden of disease and has significant social and economic consequences on the country's growth and development.

Commonly Consumed Alcohol



Commonly Consumed Alcohol continued....

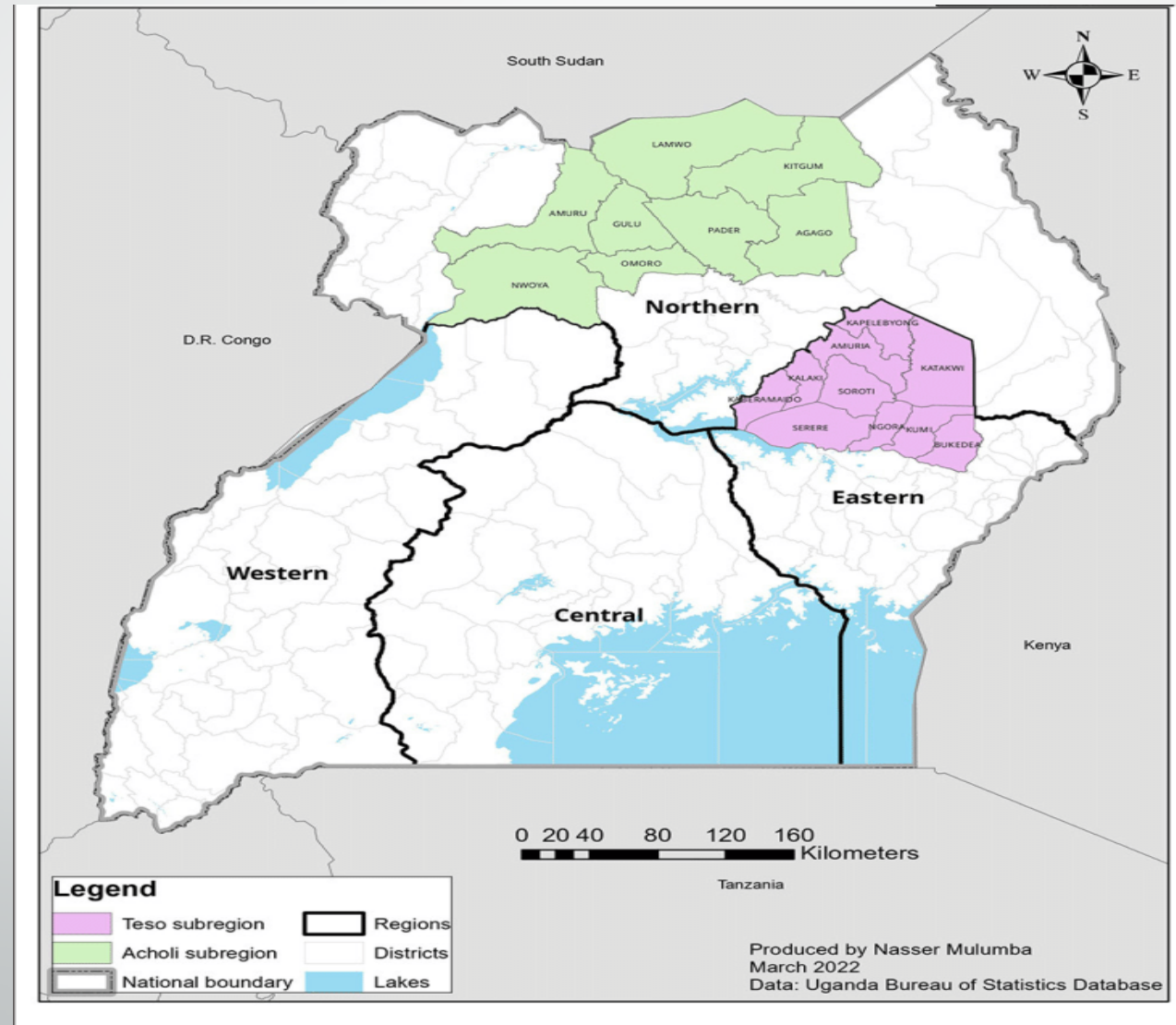
Illicit Alcohol "Waragi" packed in small bottles



Home made alcohol packed in Jerrycans



Map of Uganda showing Eastern Uganda - Teso sub region where UGGA works



Districts in Eastern Uganda (Teso sub region)

1. Soroti – Previous Project area
2. Kumi – Current Project Area
3. Bukedea
4. Serere
5. Ngora
6. Amuria
7. Katakwi
8. Kapelebyong
9. Kalaki
10. Kaberamaido



Alcohol Use in Teso Region

ASA 2017 baseline study shows that **47%** of the study **participants** in **Soroti** district started drinking before age **18 years**.

Some of the main factors contributing to alcohol consumption include the following:

- Cultural considerations whereby alcohol is seen as a social beverage.
- High levels of unemployment especially among the youth.
- Persistent drought which has made people idle as they cannot cultivate the land.
- Existence of so many alcohol production and selling points.
- Peer pressure that influences young people start drinking alcohol.
- Ready supply of raw materials for homemade (informal) alcohol.

Alcohol Use in Teso Region continued...

- UGGA Baseline survey report 2023, findings show that home made brew like waragi and ajon are the main source of alcohol and its accessible to young people in Teso region.
- Rampant health challenges, food scarcity, gender-based violence and insecurity in families all resulting from alcohol consumption.

Alcohol Use in Teso Region continued....

Report from one of the local leaders in Soroti district;

Alcohol was seriously causing problems. One of the most serious problems faced is getting illnesses that could not be treated. Those chronic illnesses like Liver damage was rampant in Arapai subcounty, caused by alcohol. There was also kwashiorkor, malnutrition, because when a person keeps on taking a lot of alcohol, he doesn't bother to eat. There was continuous domestic violence. Why? Because when you take a lot of alcohol, you will not be a responsible person at home. Because the little money one gets, is used for taking alcohol. The other thing is that when you go back home, the woman is expecting you to come with something. But husbands come back with nothing having spent all the money on alcohol. (One of the LG leaders in Arapai Subcounty).

Survey Findings - UGGA 2023 baseline Survey findings on Alcohol Selling points & Access

TABLE 1: Shows that young people below 25 years have access to Alcohol selling points and more males are involved as compared to females. The home-made alcohol is very accessible to young children because some parents brew from home and even engage the same young people in tasting and selling to consumers.

Age		Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree
	Below 14	59.1%	25.8%	4.5%	4.1%	6.5%
	15-17	57.4%	19.2%	4.5%	7.2%	11.7%
	18-24	66.3%	25.4%	4.1%	2.4%	1.7%
Gender	Male	54.7%	29.3%	1.7%	8.2%	6.1%
	Female	47.5%	31%	2.8%	9.7%	9%

GG Interventions:

Preventing harmful use of alcohol among young people (10 – 25 years); development of an enforceable local policy, minimizing safety and health consequences arising from alcohol use.

1. School based is done through Girl Guide clubs with key messages on Alcohol Harm.

2. Family based is through support and sensitization on Alcohol harms by Village Health Teams

3. Community based- collaboration and engagement of Prevention Leadership Action Teams (PLATs) on advocacy & lobbying for policies on Alcohol use regulation, community theatre, dramas & mass sensitizations by peer educators.

RESULTS:

1. Through the Girl Guide clubs & peer to peer approach, 4461 young people have been reached and over 20,000 community members reached through the community-based approach.



Results continued.....

2. Increased knowledge and awareness about alcohol and its effects among different stakeholders like the learners, peer educators & community at large.

Some participants reported that the programme built their capacity to reach out to other youths and authorities on issues of alcohol abuse. One of them reported:

The project has built my capacity. Before, I would not stand in front of these leaders and fellow youths to talk to them about anything. However, through the trainings we received, I am now able to talk to the leaders and government officials on alcohol issues and influence them to take action on these issues (One of the peer educators from Kamuda).

3. Findings show 56% reduction in the number of drinking places near schools and reduction in home-made alcohol production.


Results continued...

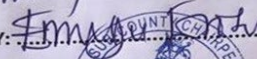

Copy of the Approved by-law

4. Bylaws against alcohol use were formed in 4 communities and their enforcement was supported by the Prevention leadership action teams.
5. Soroti district is formulating an ordinance against alcohol use.

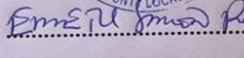
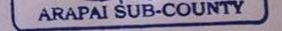

REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

KATINE, KAMUDA AND ARAPAI SUB-COUNTY LOCAL GOVERNMENT
KATINE, KAMUDA AND ARAPAI SUB-COUNTY INTEGRATED BY-LAW ON
ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION AND OTHER SUBSTANCES
Made under Section 38 of the Local Government Act, Cap 243.

SIGNED BY: 

L.C. III KATINE SUB COUNTY:  


L.C. III KAMUDA SUB COUNTY:  

L.C. III ARAPAI SUB COUNTY:  

FORWARDED TO SOROTI DISTRICT LOCAL GOVERNMENT FOR APPROVAL

SIGNED BY: THE DISTRICT CHAIRPERSON SOROTI LOCAL GOVERNMENT
NAME:  SIMON PETER EKUU

SIGNATURE: 

DATE: 

Lessons learnt

- Behavioral change communication approaches targeting all stakeholders are important in the fight against alcohol use and UGGA is committed to this fight.
- The peer to peer approach used in Soroti & Kumi districts has proved very effective amongst young people.
- There is need for continuous capacity building of local and informal leadership on policy formulation, implementation and enforcement.
- Continuous stakeholder engagement through collaborations & partnerships with all sectors, including health, justice, social welfare, education, media and entertainment, for a holistic approach will help strengthen evidence-based prevention & push our agenda forward in regard to advocacy work.

Future plans

- **To further Alcohol & substance use prevention work, UGGA with support from IOGT.NTO. Movent has moved to a new district called Kumi still in Teso region (Uganda).**

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

THANK YOU!