

**INTERNATIONAL NETWORK ON BRIEF INTERVENTIONS FOR ALCOHOL AND  
DRUGS (INEBRIA) CONFERENCE**

**OPPORTUNITIES FOR SCREENING, BRIEF  
INTERVENTIONS, AND TREATMENT OF ALCOHOL USE  
DISORDERS IN LOW-INCOME COUNTRIES: Lessons  
from the SAFER program in Uganda**

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**Friday, 23/9/22, 16:00**

# Content

- Background: About Uganda
- Materials and methods
- Findings
- Alcohol mis(use) situation
- SAFER intervention
- SAFER findings on SBIT and road map
- Challenges of SBIT implementation

# Background: About Uganda

- **GDP per Capita:** USD 858
- **Area:** 241,038 km<sup>2</sup>
- **Population:** 47,264,873
  - Second youngest with 55% below 18 years old
  - Growth Rate: 3.3% hence the 6<sup>th</sup> fastest growing population
  - Projected to reach 100,000,000 in 25 years
- **Challenges:** Rapid urbanization, high poverty, unemployment, accidents, Gender-Based Violence, environmental degradation, and inadequate infrastructure, Alcohol misuse ...

# Materials and methods

- Documentary review of WHO SAFER related publications
- Scope: Opportunities and Barriers for implementation of the SBIT in Uganda



# Alcohol Mis(ue) in Uganda

- **Current alcohol drinkers , 15 +years: 36.3%**
- **Pure Alcohol Per capita Consumption among Drinkers only, 15+ years: 25.8 L**
- **Heavy Episodic Drinking among drinkers, 15+ years: 56.9%**
- **Alcohol consumption across gender: Males -49%, Females - 24%**
- **Nature of alcohol consumed: 52% is informally produced**
- **Average years of life lost: 5 years**
- **Mortalities: 7% of total death. Alcohol is leading cause of death for Liver Cirrhosis, Road Traffic Injuries and Cancers**
- **Underage use: Before 18 years (52%),**
- **Alcohol Use Disorder (AUD):**
  - Among alcohol drinkers - 26%
  - Among Substance users reporting for treatment - 73%
  - Drinkers who desire to reduce alcohol consumption - 70.4%
  - Higher prevalence of AUD among men than women.

# About SAFER

- An Effective & cost-effective alcohol control interventions package launched by Nations (UN), General Assembly, in 2018 :
  - **Strengthening** restrictions on availability,
  - **Advance** drink-driving countermeasures,
  - **Facilitate** Screening, Brief Interventions and Treatment (SBIT),
  - **Enforce** restrictions on advertising ...
  - **Raising** prices on alcohol through taxes ...
- Uganda is the first country to implement the SAFER Initiative. Implementation expected to reduce the consumption of alcohol, in 15 years, save 61,000 lives yield USD 371,892,500 in economic benefit (WHO, 2022)

# UN mission to Uganda: Stake holders engagement



- Mission: 14 delegates from the WHO and SAFER partners
- Consulted Stake holders: 118 representatives from approximately 20 stakeholder organizations, including line ministries, government agencies, parliament, local governments, civil society organizations, academic institutions, illicit alcohol brewers and professional associations



# SAFER interventions: need and feasibility in Uganda

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

# SAFER FINDINGS on SBIT

## Opportunities;

- Established government and private facilities and peer support groups offer services for AUD treatment,
- Few and uncoordinated Services with a general lack of specialized professionals.
- Limited coverage of AUDs in the Uganda Clinical Guidelines.

# CHALLENGES OF IMPLEMENTING SBIT IN UGANDA

- Implementing a whole government, whole society, whole UN initiative is complicated by bureaucracy and slowed down by the systems of the respective institutions.
- Low political will and high cost of treatment
- The invisible hand of the alcohol industry that hinders the alcohol policy implementation
- Scanty research and records on AUD treatment

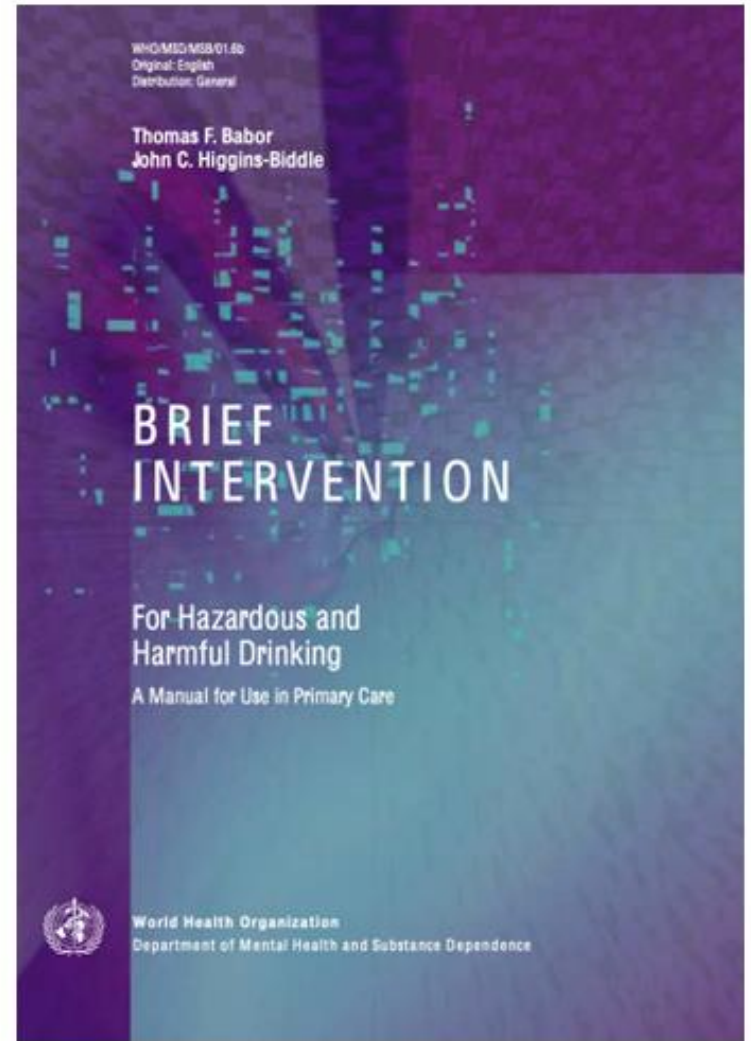


The technical package

**SAFER**

A WORLD FREE FROM ALCOHOL RELATED HARMS

Five areas of intervention at  
national and subnational levels



WHO/MSC/MSS/01.6b  
Original: English  
Distribution: General

Thomas F. Babor  
John C. Higgins-Biddle

# BRIEF INTERVENTION

For Hazardous and  
Harmful Drinking

A Manual for Use in Primary Care



World Health Organization  
Department of Mental Health and Substance Dependence



# **SBIT Road Map in Uganda**

A working group of WHO, MoH and CSO has been put in place to Strengthen AUD healthcare services through establishment of :

- Integrated SBIT in Public Health Services through
  - District and government Hospital AUD focal points
  - Introduction of SBIT in primary care and other frontline clinical settings
- Inventory & accreditation system for private providers
- Treatment protocols and standards
- Peer support groups E.g. Alcoholics Anonymous
- Integrate AUD indicators/statistics in the National Health Information Management System

# 3<sup>rd</sup> NATIONAL ALCOHOL POLICY CONFERENCE (UAPC 22)

Building Momentum For The  
Prevention Of Alcohol-Related Harm  
In Uganda:  
Walking the Talk

- 23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> November 2022



**WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION and  
MINISTRY OF HEALTH**



The Ministry  
of Health

invite you to the

**3<sup>RD</sup> UGANDA ALCOHOL POLICY CONFERENCE 2022 (UAPC22)**

**Building Momentum for Control  
of Alcohol Harm in Uganda:  
“Walking the Talk.”**

**23<sup>rd</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup>  
NOV. 2022  
Imperial Royale Hotel**

**Submit abstracts by  
15<sup>th</sup> SEPT. 2022  
[www.uapcug.com](http://www.uapcug.com)**

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Uganda Alcohol  
Policy Alliance

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