

## UGANDA ALCOHOL POLICY ALLIANCE (UAPA)

**Address:** Rm.C10 Basiima House, Bombo Road, Kavule, Kampala  
P. O. Box 35995 Kampala [Tel:+256772 308383/750](tel:+256772308383750) 447878  
**Email:** [info@uapa.or.ug](mailto:info@uapa.or.ug) **Website:** [www.uapa.or.ug](http://www.uapa.or.ug)



### THEME AND SUB-THEMES FOR THE 5TH UGANDA ALCOHOL POLICY CONFERENCE (UAPC26)

Under the theme “**Beyond Alcohol Harm: Whole-of-Society Action for Health and Socio-Economic Wellbeing**”, the following sub-themes are proposed for the 5th Uganda Alcohol Policy Conference (#UAPC26).

#### **Sub-theme 1: Clinical Management and Addiction Treatment**

This sub-theme focuses on individual-level health interventions, moving from early identification to rehabilitation. *Typical topic areas will include, but not limited to:*

- **Screening, Brief Interventions, and Treatment (SBIT):** Scaling up early-detection protocols in primary healthcare and community settings.
- **Harm Reduction Strategies:** Managing Alcohol Use Disorders (AUD) through compassionate, evidence-based harm reduction methodologies.
- **Mental Health Integration:** Addressing co-occurring psychiatric disorders (e.g., depression, anxiety) alongside substance dependence

#### **Sub-theme 2: Community Systems and Social Determinants of Health**

This sub-theme will include studies that investigated the environmental, social, and cultural factors that drive harmful alcohol consumption and other psychoactive substance use at the grassroots level. *Typical topic areas will include, but not limited to:*

- **Gender-Based Violence and Harms:** Understanding the correlation between harmful alcohol consumption, compromised household security, and instances of domestic or sexual violence.
- **Youth Protection and Education:** Devising preventative education, life-skills interventions, and establishing safe environments for adolescents.
- **Local Leadership and Grassroots Mobilization:** Empowering civil society, religious institutions, and local governance (e.g., city/district bylaws) to monitor and regulate alcohol in local communities

### **Sub-theme 3: Alcohol Related Communicable and Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) Interventions**

*This sub-theme will explore the pathophysiological impacts of alcohol on the body and its intersection with disease transmission/ development. Typical topic areas will include, but not limited to:*

- **NCD Prevention and Management:** Tackling alcohol-attributable cancers, cardiovascular diseases, liver cirrhosis, and hypertension.
- **Infectious Disease Comorbidities:** Addressing the critical intersection of heavy alcohol use with HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis (TB) acquisition and treatment adherence.
- **Maternal, Neonatal, and Child Health:** Interventions for Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) and maternal health risks

### **Sub-theme 4: Multi-Sectoral Systems & Partnership Building**

*This sub-theme focuses on strengthening inter-agency coordination (government, civil society, faith-based organizations, and academia) for Alcohol and other psychoactive substance harm reduction. Typical topic areas will include, but not limited to:*

- **Coordinating the Whole-of-Society Framework:** Models for bridging the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives, Ministry of Gender, Labour & Social Development (MoGLSD), Ministry of Internal Affairs, other government ministries and agencies, local government authorities, and the private sector.
- **The NDA's Pivotal Role:** Expanding the regulatory scope of the National Drug Authority (NDA) beyond pharmaceuticals to include active monitoring, licensing, and management of all psychoactive substances.
- **Integrated Institutional Frameworks:** Operationalizing Uganda's National Alcohol Control Policy and aligning it with international frameworks like the WHO SAFER Initiative.

### **Sub-theme 5: Evidence-Based Policy, Regulation, and Enforcement**

*This sub-theme discusses the macro-level, "best-buy" policy interventions to curb population-wide alcohol harm, policy development, enforcement mechanisms, and legislative action on alcohol and other psychoactive substance harm reduction. Typical topic areas will include, but not limited to:*

- **Strengthening Substance Regulation:** Policy reviews and legislative innovations aimed at curbing the illegal production, adulteration, and unregulated marketing of all psychoactive substances.
- **Compliance and Monitoring:** Mechanisms for the National Drug Authority (NDA) and law enforcement to strictly monitor misuse, enforce blood alcohol limits, regulating distribution, sobriety checkpoints, and other enforcement strategies

- **Fiscal Policies and Taxation:** Examining the socio-economic impacts of pricing, taxation, and marketing bans as deterrents.

## **Sub-theme 6: Research, Innovation, and Information Sharing**

*This sub-theme will provide a platform for scientific evidence, harm reduction innovations, and community-level monitoring for alcohol and other psychoactive substance harm reduction interventions. Typical topic areas will include, but not limited to:*

- **Data and Surveillance:** Sharing findings on the prevalence, determinants, and health burdens of combined alcohol and psychoactive substance abuse in Uganda.
- **Harm Reduction Interventions:** Evaluating the success of local treatments, counseling, and medical interventions for substance use disorders.
- **Traditional and Herbal Psychoactives:** Researching the regulation, compounding, and safety profiles of non-conventional and traditional psychoactive substances.

## **Sub-theme 7: Public Awareness and Vulnerable Population Protection**

*This sub-theme will contribute efforts that seek to raise national consciousness and prioritizes the protection of the vulnerable populations like the youth. Typical topic areas will include, but not limited to:*

- **Protecting Youth and Vulnerable Groups:** Strategies to prevent early initiation into substance use and shield youth from aggressive, targeted marketing.
- **Public Awareness Campaigns:** The role of the National Drug Authority (NDA), media, and civil society in disseminating accurate, evidence-based information.
- **Community Education & Faith Institutions:** Engaging grassroots structures to reduce stigma and change societal norms around alcohol and substance consumption.

## **Sub-theme 8: Socio-Economic Wellbeing and Productivity**

*The sub-theme will highlight the socio-economic benefits of reducing harm, such as workforce productivity, mental health, and family stability. Typical topic areas will include, but not limited to:*

- **Workforce Productivity:** Evaluating the economic impact of absenteeism, injuries, and lost labor hours attributed to substance misuse.
- **Mental Health and Family Stability:** Investigating the correlation between substance abuse, domestic trauma, gender-based violence, and mental health challenges.

- **Poverty Alleviation:** Exploring how controlling the accessibility and affordability of alcohol can reduce household economic strain and divert spending toward essential needs