

Moving Schistosomiasis Out of the Red: Action Plan and Next Steps

19th - 20th April 2018, Whitehall Meeting Room, Conrad London St James Hotel, London UK

Executive Summary

On Thursday the 19th of April the GSA convened a high-level GSA partners and stakeholders 2-day meeting to refine and adopt a Strategic Action Plan for schistosomiasis control and elimination and discuss the identification of key next steps in putting the plan into practice. The meeting was attended by 37 delegates representing organizations such as CDC, CouNTDown, DFID, End Fund, ESPEN (observer), Evidence Action, Gates Foundation, GSA, Helen Keller International, LSHTM, Merck, RTI, SCI, Sightsavers, SCORE, Swiss TPH, The Fred Hollows Foundation, USAID, WHO Water (observer), World Vision, and Water Aid, and country representatives from Cameroon, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique and Uganda (see attached list). The meeting was generously supported by the Gates Foundation.

The objectives of the meeting were to:

- Consider existing control and elimination targets and tools in light of available data and identify areas needing further definition post-2020.
- Agree required actions to fully utilize the PZQ donation and processes to ensure complete coverage of at-risk populations.
- Determine key criteria for transitioning from morbidity to elimination goals, according to setting.
- Prioritise actions and look at funding gaps and solutions required for moving the agreed upon Strategic Action Plan to a business plan for the control and elimination of schistosomiasis.

The meeting agenda comprised a set of sessions covering previously identified key categories of the proposed action plan:

- A. Developing Practical Targets and Frameworks
- B. Scaling Existing Tools
- C. Plans and Progress from Donors and Implementers
- D. Optimizing Existing Tools
- E. Introducing New Tools and Other Interventions
- F. Developing a Framework for Transitioning to Elimination
- G. Mobilization

Each session was tasked with goals linked to potential actions needed to speed up and progress the global schistosomiasis control and elimination agenda, with a specific focus on the heavily burdened sub-Saharan region.



Participants were invited to give short 3-slide presentations in sessions relevant to their expertise to capture the current challenges and suggest potential solutions or actions needed to address the challenges. The session then opened out to further discussions. The last 10 minutes were used to review the session goals, key issues discussed, and identified actions. In the final session, these actions were prioritised and aligned into the draft Action Plan. This revised Action Plan was supported by the meeting participants, and there was agreement that this represents the plan of the “schistosomiasis community.” It was agreed that the revised Action Plan be circulated to the participants for further input and development of roles, responsibilities and next steps together with a workplan of key activities.

The role of the GSA as the leading, enabling and coordinating body of the schistosomiasis community was discussed and agreed. Consideration was given as to how GSA could be strengthened to house and ensure the Action Plan is implemented by GSA partners and schistosomiasis control and elimination stakeholders.