

# GSA Advisory Board Summary

---

## Summary

The GSA Advisory Board met on the 14<sup>th</sup> of February and the 4<sup>th</sup> of March to review and discuss the GSA report for 2019 and operational strategy for 2020. The advisory board congratulated the GSA on a successful year, highlighting the collaborative cross-organisation work and good reach out to other organisations and sectors in key areas. The advisory board observed that 2019 reflects a maturity well beyond last year, with progress made in lots of areas and appropriate focal themes for 2020.

The Advisory Board made the following suggestions for the GSA community to consider:

- Strengthen SCH-STH collaboration and integration – work together to identify points of convergence and divergence across the two diseases. This will help with developing M&E and treatment access practices for countries according to developmental stage.
- Consider progressing discussions on urban schistosomiasis by defining “urban”, “peri-urban” settings and defining different intervention needs in these settings (i.e. urban transmission vs. imported cases through migration).
- Strengthen and coordinate engagement of, and use of GSA platform by, national programme managers and teams in endemic countries. This can strengthen capacity-building and country-ownership, contribute to sustainability and would help build a consistent view and broader appreciation of current country programmes at different levels.
- Consider developing/supporting online training and live communication platforms to strengthen community of practice and build capacity. This could be through a live online forum/use of media to share case studies and broader view of country status e.g. through a series of webinars.
- Consider bringing together the community on schistosomiasis elimination and breaking transmission. The GSA platform could be used by countries and stakeholders interested in coordinating and progressing elimination and breaking transmission strategies and activities.