



working together

to eliminate schistosomiasis

GLOBAL SCHISTOSOMIASIS ALLIANCE

PROGRESS & ACTIVITY 2023-2024

From the GSA Executive Team

This year we celebrate the Global Schistosomiasis Alliance's 10-year anniversary. Thanks to our incredible partners, members, and the broader schistosomiasis network, we have made significant strides over the past decade, and take immense pride in the collaborative ethos and community spirit that drive us.

Inspired by the London Declaration on NTDs, the GSA was founded in 2014 to enhance collaboration and communication among stakeholders in schistosomiasis control and elimination. Starting with 10 founding partners, we have grown to 23 partner organizations, over 300 individual working group members, and a vast network of engaged stakeholders.

Working together we have shaped global and regional policies for schistosomiasis control, organized workshops, training sessions, webinars, and face to face meetings to deepen understanding and build evidence for multidisciplinary approaches. These include leveraging snail vectors, behaviour change, diagnostic tools, and integrated interventions. It is by sharing knowledge, best practices, and research findings that we can accelerate progress towards schistosomiasis elimination.

Looking ahead, the GSA remains committed to eliminating schistosomiasis, raising global awareness about its impact, and advocating for increased funding and resources.

The GSA's decade of progress is underscored by the power of collaboration and commitment to addressing one of the world's most enduring public health challenges. With continued efforts, the vision of a world free from schistosomiasis is within reach.

Dr David Rollinson
Director of GSA

This report outlines the GSA's activities in 2023 and our priorities and planned activities for 2024.





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Introduction

The Global Schistosomiasis Alliance brings the schistosomiasis community together to share experiences, lessons learnt, good practice and innovations, and encourages cross-cutting and cross-sector approaches to quicken the pace to reach elimination of schistosomiasis. We unite stakeholders at all levels to increase commitment, knowledge and encourage long term investment.

The GSA strategic plan (2022-2025) outlines our priorities, which closely align to the WHO 2030 Roadmap and the earlier GSA Schistosomiasis Action Plan.



Figure 1 GSA Priority Strategy Objectives

Our five focus areas and associated actions act as the guiding objectives for our activities as reported here. It is with the aim of enhancing and improving current methods of control that our Working groups and Work Streams, together with our website and many outreach activities bring together the many different strands of schistosomiasis control. Here we present the many and diverse activities of the GSA that took place in 2023 and our plans for 2024.

Vision, Mission & Approach

The GSA is an all-inclusive coalition to mobilise the growing momentum to control and eliminate schistosomiasis. It is constituted as a diverse partnership of public health programmes, academic and research institutions, international development agencies and foundations, non-governmental organizations, private sector companies and advocacy and resource-mobilisations partners. Our alliance is not limited to partner organizations but also includes individuals, research groups and different networks, collaborating together as a community to control and eliminate schistosomiasis.

Diversity, equity, and inclusion are at the core of who we are and what we do. They are central to our mission of eliminating schistosomiasis as a public health problem and to our impact as an alliance.

In this annual report we highlight some of the key outputs from our activities in 2023 and operational strategy for 2024. These outputs and plans are organised using the 5 Strategic Priority Objectives (Focus areas) of the [GSA 4-year strategy](#).

We would like to acknowledge the dedicated work and commitment the GSA members and partners have contributed to driving forward these outputs. Our members make up the GSA and it is their work that is presented in this annual report.

Vision - Elimination of schistosomiasis.

Mission - To be the leading advocate for schistosomiasis elimination.

Approach - To lead and coordinate a multi-stakeholder platform consisting of public and private sector partners across the globe, contributing to schistosomiasis elimination as a public health problem and the ultimate goal of sustained interruption of transmission.

Figure 2 GSA Vision, Mission and Approach

Focus areas	Actions
Resources, Capabilities & Knowledge Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote, support and strengthen schistosomiasis technical and operational capabilities.
Monitoring and Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate and strengthen ways to measure progress and evaluate interventions. • Enable learn & adapt approaches to current and future challenges. • Meet verification/validation requirements for schistosomiasis elimination as a public health problem and interruption of transmission.
Integrated solutions to schistosomiasis elimination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance practices and improve the quality of services, promoting targeted, context & evidence driven interventions, including preventive chemotherapy, snail control and environmental management, WASH, behaviour change communication and health education and cross-sector collaborative interventions.
Diagnostics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote development and adoption of diagnostics to support M&E for MDA, test & treat. surveillance and to facilitate the integration of SCH into all levels of the health system.
Innovation, Integration & Cross-cutting action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote basic, clinical & operational research, to engage with innovations and novel tools from different sector. • Encourage collaborative research to facilitate cross-cutting and cross-sector approaches for sustainable elimination of schistosomiasis.

Figure 3 GSA Priority Focus Areas and Associated Actions

Progress 2023

Resources, Capabilities & Knowledge Development

Collaboration & Advocacy

- Leveraged opportunities and collaborations across partners and stakeholders to share learnings, identify gaps and develop solutions – opportunities include GSA meetings, NNN meetings, COR NTD, and online meetings.
- Leveraged working groups, work streams and special interest groups to participate and feed into the following NTD/schistosomiasis activities:
 - WHO Call for public consultation - [Qualitative assessment of dimensions of the road map for neglected tropical diseases](#).
 - WHO meeting on [Microplanning manual to guide implementation of preventive chemotherapy to control and eliminate NTDs](#).
 - [NNN](#) Schistosomiasis and Soil-transmitted Helminthiasis Disease Specific Group (NNN SCH-STH DSG) [Spring meeting in March 2023](#) and [two sessions](#) at the [NNN annual](#) meeting in September 2023.
 - GSA consultation on how to best support Early Career Researchers working on schistosomiasis. Consultation carried out through online questionnaire and breakout group discussions in The Schistosomiasis ECR Online Café.
 - The *T. solium* mapping, diagnostics and treatment manuals and Open WHO training course, shared on behalf of ESPEN and WHO.
 - Consultation and online survey, on behalf of the Pediatric Praziquantel Consortium by the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute to feed into the Swiss TPH study to systematically explore and identify weight-based and alternative weight estimation methods and practices for drug dose determination in preschool-aged children in primary health care settings and disease control programs.

- [Six schistosomiasis related sessions](#) at COR NTD in Chicago, USA.
- The GSA special meeting on [Schistosomiasis: Celebrating Recent Achievements Supporting Elimination Goals](#) in Chicago, USA.
- FIND request for proposals from a manufacturing and commercialization partner for an antigen-based rapid diagnostic test for schistosomiasis infection with a focus in low- and middle-income countries.
- Annual Regional Meeting of National Neglected Tropical Disease (NTD) Programme Managers in the WHO Africa Region, under the theme "Stepping up Country Ownership to Accelerate Programmatic Action.
- Continued successful collaboration with International Society for NTDs (ISNTD) and the GSA to host two webinars in 2023:
 - [Lab to the field: molecular diagnostics in low resource settings](#)
 - [Where are the samples? Biobanks for NTD research and development.](#)

Website & Resources

- Improved the functionality of the members area of the GSA Online Network – a directory of schistosomiasis experts and stakeholders. This online network is now a fully searchable directory with searchable fields covering location of work, interest, WHO region and more. Currently the network has 335 members. The members area is only accessible through a password protected log in page.
- Strengthened the “[one-stop-shop](#)” key purpose of the GSA website by updating the curated content and promoting:
 - [Snail Resource Collection](#) – uploaded guides and protocols on snail identification and collection.

- WHO documents – WHO reports (STAG, Global Report on NTDs, WHO AFRO NTD report, Pediatric drug optimization report), Compendium of indicators for M&E of roadmap, WHO NTD dashboards, WHO JAP, CHIP and PC portal, ESPEN Portal resources, Open WHO courses (M&E, WASH-NTDs), WHO WASH-NTD toolkit second edition, WHO communique on climate change and NTDs, WHO WER984 SCH-STH progress report 2022.
- Partner reports and manuals – NALA Foundation health literacy manual and WASH on Wheels report, ISNTD climate change, GLIDE R&D report, OHDI schisto report, COR NTD Schisto oversampling study report, Brazil national Reference Service for schisto SOPs, Schistosomiasis Day Cameroon report, The END Fund Cost-benefit analysis NTD elimination Nigeria.
- Partner resource and training platforms: BRI Schisto Resource Center , Avert Boost web platform, TFGH training on empowering persons affected by NTDs.
- GSA reports – Chicago meeting report, GSA ECR Online Café report, Progress report 2022.
- Other articles and reports include:
 - Torres-Vitolas CA., et.al, (2023) [Behaviour change interventions for the control and elimination of schistosomiasis: A systematic review of evidence from low- and middle-income countries](#).
 - Trippler, L., et. al, [The long road to schistosomiasis elimination in Zanzibar: A systematic review covering 100 years of research, interventions and control milestones](#). (2023) *Advances in Parasitology*, 122, pp. 71-191.
 - Umbelino-Walker, I., et. al, [Integration of Female Genital Schistosomiasis into HIV/Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights and Neglected Tropical Diseases Programmes and Services: A Scoping Review](#). *Sexual and Reproductive Health Matters* 31, no. 1 (2023).
 - *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society: Biological Sciences* Special issue: [Challenges and opportunities in the fight against neglected tropical diseases: a decade from the London Declaration on NTDs](#)’ compiled and edited by Forbes, K., et. al, 09 October 2023, [Volume 378|Issue 1887](#)

- Shanaube, K., et. al, [The Zipime-Weka-Schista study protocol: a longitudinal cohort study and economic evaluation of an integrated home-based approach for genital multi-pathogen screening in women, including female genital schistosomiasis, HPV, Trichomonas and HIV in Zambia.](#)
- Lamberti, O., et. al, [Time to bring female genital schistosomiasis out of neglect](#), British Medical Bulletin, Volume 149, Issue 1, March 2024, Pages 45–59.
- Preston, A., et. al, (2023) [Improved prevention of female genital schistosomiasis: piloting integration of services into the national health system in Côte d'Ivoire.](#)

Communications

GSA ensured schistosomiasis stakeholders were informed of key schisto news, had timely access to opportunities, technical resources, and networking events, and leveraged opportunities to raise the profile of schistosomiasis.

Timely updates through the [GSA Newsletters and Bulletins](#):

- Three Schisto Bulletin newsletters published in 2023.
- Seven Schistosomiasis Research Update newsletters circulated in 2023.
- Three special announcements – Targeted announcement to Early Career Researchers, Release of GSA Progress and Activity Report 2022-2023 and GSA Special event in Chicago 18 October 2023.

Increased reach of our communications and network

- Mailing list increased from 679 (April 2023) to 763 (April 2024). Engagement figures show that 38% of our subscribers are highly engaged, 12% moderately engaged and 47% are less engaged. This is a good level of subscriber engagement for our industry. A targeted campaign to those that are less engaged may be useful moving forward. Top locations for subscriber engagement are Netherlands, Nigeria and United Kingdom.
- LinkedIn: Our current followers are 1433, we had 858 new followers in 2023, 42% of followers are from Research, Education & Healthcare backgrounds, top location of followers are UK, Kenya and Ethiopia.
- X: Followers have increased from 4104 in 2023 to 4609 in 2024.

Improved language accessibility:

- Embedded French in key GSA communications – newsletters, announcements, and GSA documents such as meeting minutes and meeting reports.
- Enabled captioning and transcription for Zoom meetings.
- Supported live interpretation where possible for webinars and meetings.

GSA focused on the following events and opportunities to raise the profile of schistosomiasis and of stakeholders working on schistosomiasis elimination.

- World NTD Day 2023 – 30 Jan.
 - [What is schistosomiasis?](#)
 - [Act Now. Act Together. Invest in NTDs.](#)
- International Women’s Day - 8 March.
 - Blog on [The FGS Society of Nigeria.](#)
- World Health Day and the 75th anniversary of WHO – social media comms highlighting 7 decades of schistosomiasis discovery and progress – [A brief schisto history.](#)
- World Immunization Week - 24-30 April – daily social media comms focused on schistosomiasis and vaccines e.g. [Schistosomiasis vaccines opportunities and challenges.](#)
- Work with FIG partners raising awareness on FGS and schistosomiasis at Women Deliver.

- Day of the African Child – 16 June – highlight educational games for health promotion - [Playing the way to No More Schisto.](#)
- NNN – winners of the NTD Innovation Prize. [Citizen science for mapping snail-borne diseases.](#)
- [Cervical Cancer Elimination Day.](#)
- Human Rights Day and Universal Health Coverage Day.
- [World AIDS Day](#) highlight link with FGS and why it matters.
- And other internationally important events and advocacy opportunities.

Creating communication and engagement opportunities across different sectors that influence schistosomiasis.

- Sexual and Reproductive Health Programming.
- Bladder Cancer Groups.
- UK Health Security Agency – surveillance on imported schistosomiasis.

Promote regional and national schistosomiasis events.

- Uganda Schistosomiasis Symposium, Uganda Schistosomiasis Multidisciplinary Research Center, Uganda. 27 February – 1 March 2023.
- “Schistosomiasis control in Egypt & China: Where we stand?” jointly organized and hosted by Theodor Bilharz Research Institute (TBRI) – the WHO Collaborating Center in Egypt on schistosomiasis control, and the National Institute of Parasitic Diseases, Center for Disease Control and Prevention, China. 28 February 2023.
- Cameroon Schistosomiasis Day, Institute of Medical Research and Medicinal Plant Studies, Ministry of Scientific Research and Innovation, Cameroon. 26 July 2023.
- Schistosomiasis Symposium, 13th CUHAS Scientific Graduation Conference - Mwanza, Tanzania. 8 – 9 November 2023.
- China Jiangsu Institute of Parasitic Diseases Seminar on Schistosomiasis Control for Developing Countries 16 – 29 May 2023.
- China-Africa Cooperation on Tropical Diseases (Schistosomiasis) Control and Risk Assessment Conference was organised by the National Institute of Parasitic Diseases, China; and Wuhan University. 18 - 20 September 2023.

Monitoring & Evaluation

GSA commits to facilitate and strengthen ways to measure progress and evaluate interventions. Enable learn & adapt approaches to current and future challenges. Meet verification/validation requirements for schistosomiasis elimination as a public health problem and interruption of transmission.

M&E Working Group

- The [Monitoring & Evaluation WG](#) (42 members) continued to share information, opportunities and tools through the shared emailed address, including information sharing on SCH specific meetings, conferences, publications etc.

Schistosomiasis Oversampling Study meeting

- GSA members participated in the [Schistosomiasis Oversampling Study \(SOS\) meeting](#) in Nairobi Kenya, 18-19 May 2023.

COR NTD workshops

GSA members contributed to [several COR NTD workshops](#):

- Schistosomiasis elimination in Zanzibar – success and endgame challenges.
- Diagnostic and Screening Algorithms for FGS in relation to purpose, context and setting.
- Managing, monitoring, and tracking sub-district implementation for schistosomiasis.

Integrated solutions to schistosomiasis elimination

GSA commits to enhance practices and improve the quality of services, promoting targeted, context & evidence driven interventions, including preventive chemotherapy, snail control and environmental management, WASH, behaviour change communication and health education and cross-sector collaborative interventions.

GSA Ambassadors

- [GSA Ambassadors](#) (13 members) met in September 2023 to discuss a GSA ambassador's deep dive on Inter-country perspectives on the path to schistosomiasis elimination in Africa.

Implementation Working Group

- The [Implementation Working Group](#) (13 members) fed into workshops at the NNN 2023 and COR NTD meetings.

Behaviour Change and Health Education Working Group

- The [Behaviour Change and Health Education working group](#) (27 members) brought BC experts together to increase visibility of ongoing initiatives in the BC space, identify gaps and share lessons learnt.
 - Publication: A systematic review of behaviour change interventions for the control and elimination of schistosomiasis, conceived by members of our Behaviour Change and Health Education working group, was published in May 2023. [Behaviour change interventions for the control and elimination of schistosomiasis: A systematic review of evidence from low- and middle-income countries.](#)

Other activities

- Members of GSA working groups, work streams, GSA Ambassadors and the Genital Schistosomiasis CoP are involved in the WHO Technical Advisory Group for STH and SCH (TAGSS) and associated subgroups on:
 - M&E Frameworks for SCH & STH.
 - Guidelines and manuals for strongyloidiasis.
 - Manual on control of zoonotic SCH.
 - Manuals on validation of SCH and STH elimination as a public health problem (EPHP).
 - WASH and SCH-STH.
 - Standardised approaches for impact surveys.
 - Drug efficacy.

Diagnostic Development, Adoption & Adaptation

Diagnostics Work Stream

GSA commits to promote development and adoption of diagnostics to support M&E for MDA, test & treat, surveillance and to facilitate the integration of SCH into all levels of the health system.

- The [Diagnostic work stream](#) met to discuss updates and priorities for researchers working on schistosomiasis diagnostic development and evaluation. Three potential outputs were discussed:
 - Collecting and making available protocols for the collection and storage of samples for testing and archiving, to be shared via the [GSA Diagnostic collection](#).
 - Updating the communication/information piece on commercially available diagnostics document.
 - Draft a list of frequently asked questions and a checklist on what is needed when considering the collection and storage of samples and diagnostic development.

Innovation, Integration & Cross-cutting action

GSA commits to promote basic, clinical & operational research, to engage with innovations and novel tools from different sectors. Encourage collaborative research to facilitate crosscutting and cross-sector approaches for sustainable elimination of schistosomiasis.

Research Working Group

- [Research working group](#) (30 members) met and developed ideas on how the GSA could be better leveraged to support Early Career Researchers (ECRs) working on schistosomiasis. The group decided to consult ECRs and see what would be of most interest and use to them. This consultation took the form of an online questionnaire which was used to structure an informal online meeting, the GSA ECR Online Café, with breakout groups to explore ECR challenges, needs and suggestions in different disciplines and different career stages. A report of the online questionnaire and the ECR Online Café is [available here](#). Following the findings from the ECR Online Café and discussions with the RWG and ECRs it was agreed that a GSA ECR Steering Committee would be established to guide and manage a GSA ECR Network, using a platform that is already being used by ECRs and is accessible in low resource settings. The GSA ECR Steering Committee will also suggest other activities that the GSA could host or facilitate.

Engineering Working Group

- The [Engineering working group](#) (29 members) met to update and recapitulate on Engineering Working Group related actions and activities including:
 - Collaboration with the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW).
 - Progress on the white paper on water management infrastructure, environmental impact assessments and schistosomiasis.
 - Updates on the WHO SCH-STH TAG WASH-subgroup actions and activities.

Snail Vector Working Group

- The Snails (40 members) and Malacology (54 members) work streams joined and formed the [Snail Vector working group](#) – now at 99 members
- Discussed response to online questionnaire on snail and schistosome export and import for research & surveillance.
- Collected snail guides and collection protocols available and uploaded to the GSA [Snail Resources Collection](#).
- Talk on *Biomphalaria glabrata* genetic research and on field malacology in East Africa.

Genital Schistosomiasis CoP & FGS Integration Group [FIG]

- [Genital Schistosomiasis Community of Practice](#) (170 members) welcomed new members including recent FGS scholars from The FAST Package and Geneva Learning Foundation FGS training for francophone country researchers and healthcare professionals.
- [FGS Integration group \[FIG\]](#): met in person in February to discuss next steps for FIG governance, advocacy and communications.
 - GSA contributed to the review and restructure of FIG through the FIG governance task group.
 - GSA worked with other FIG partners on key policy and advocacy activities in particular feeding into the written and oral evidence submitted to UK parliament International Development Committee on UK aid sexual and reproductive health programming building the evidence for FGS integration.
 - GSA contributed to the FIG Comms Task Team, providing information and advice as well as co-developing materials for:
 - “Women Deliver” – providing comms materials for the conference focused on a call for integration of, and investment in FGS prevention, diagnosis and treatment in health services that reach women and girls.
 - Developing social media comms relevant SRHR and HIV events.
 - Advising on FIG mailing list and newsletter – [the first FIG newsletter is here](#).
 - Published [FIG report 2022-2023 highlights](#).

Other activities

- Conferences and meetings:
 - Schistosomiasis was well represented in 2023 international scientific and public health meetings with no less than [6 SCH specific sessions at COR NTD](#) and a great representation at the EDCTP Forum, ECTMIH, ASTMH, CPHIA, NNN and at important disease specific conferences such as the International Conference on Cancer in Africa ([read blog here](#) and communication piece [here](#)) and the [International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa](#).
- Other key meetings included:
 - BMGF meeting Revising Schistosomiasis Burden Estimates, 20 and 22 May in Kenya, and the GSA meeting on 18 October in the USA, [Schistosomiasis: Celebrating Recent Achievements Supporting Elimination Goals](#) which offered an opportunity to hear about the progress made by schistosomiasis programmes, celebrate ongoing work and consider some of the exciting research and developments that will help us reach the elimination targets.

Operational Strategy for 2024

Resources, Capabilities & Knowledge Development

Knowledge and capabilities development workshops

- Leverage opportunities and collaborations across partners and stakeholders to share learnings, identify gaps and develop solutions – opportunities include: GSA meeting “Towards the 2030 Schistosomiasis Control and Elimination Goals – Successes and Challenges” at SRS, NNN meetings, 17º Simpósio Internacional sobre Esquistossomose-Brazil and online meetings.
- Continue successful collaboration with ISNTD and the GSA webinar series, highlighting research, innovation and implementation in schistosomiasis.
- Early Career Researchers (ECRs) Network.

Raising the profile of schistosomiasis, messaging & advocacy for 2024

- Key messages and calls to action will be focused on

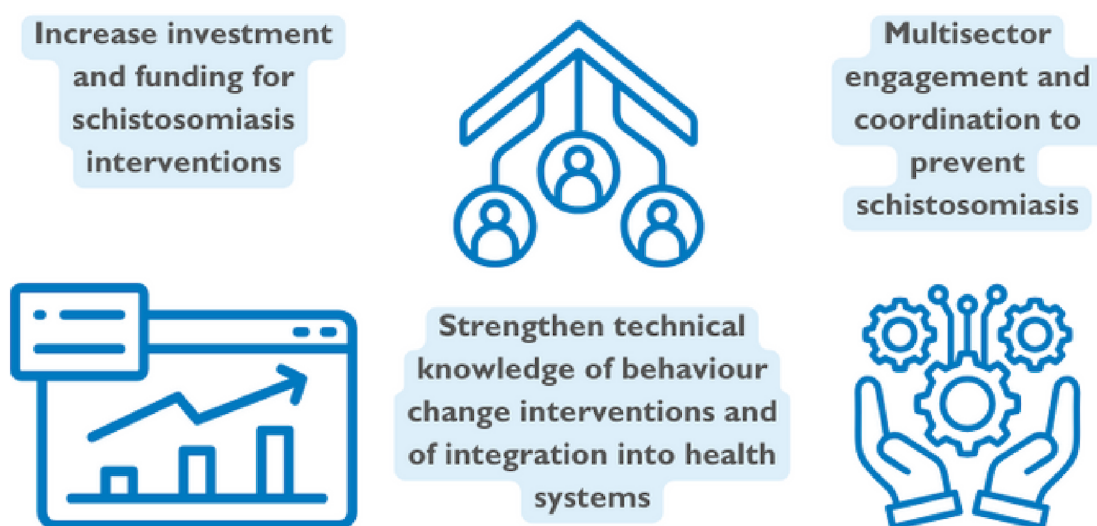


Figure 4 GSA message and advocacy themes 2024

- GSA will leverage the following events and opportunities.
 - World NTD Day 2024.
 - International Women’s Day.
 - 7th Symposium on Surveillance-Response Systems Leading to Tropical Diseases Elimination.
 - World Health Day.
 - World Water Week.
 - World Toilet Day.
 - Human Rights Day and Universal Health Coverage Day.
 - African Union theme – Education focus 2024.
 - GSA 10-year anniversary.
 - 17º Simpósio Internacional sobre Esquistossomose, Brazil.
 - And other internationally important events and advocacy opportunities.

Communications

- Newsletter:
 - Regular Schisto Bulletin newsletter, covering schistosomiasis news circulated every 3 months.
 - Frequent Schistosomiasis Research Update bulletin.
 - Ad hoc announcements to mailing list.
- Social Media channels to promote animations, calls to action, resource and tool dissemination and events. Use to increase website visibility and traffic.
- Website:
 - Updating the tone of voice of the website to reflect current global health good communication practice and WHO targets.
 - Migration to Google Analytics 4 to analyse website audience and use.
- Language accessibility: Translate all terms of references into French. Look at how to engage with Lusophone stakeholders.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- Monitoring and Evaluation working group. New chairs Dr Khadime Sylla and Dr Stella Kepha. The group will review and redefine purpose and scope. Forum of discussion on Schistosomiasis Practical and Precision Assessments and other tools for impact assessments and mapping.
- Explore opportunities for workshops on M&E good practice & tool development, e.g. NNN and COR NTDs.

Integrated solutions to schistosomiasis elimination

GSA Ambassadors

- Further extend the network, hold 2 meetings and develop paper “Intercountry perspectives on the path to schistosomiasis elimination in Africa”.

Behaviour Change and Health Education Working Group

- Co-chairs Ms Naomi Caplan and Ms Willemijn Zaadnoordijk. The group has been feeding into a draft “Quick Guide on Behaviour Change Interventions for NTD Programmes” being developed by the NNN Cross-Cutting Group on WASH. The group plans to meet this spring to discuss current behaviour change and health education activities for schistosomiasis control and elimination.

Implementation Working Group

- The chairs, Dr Anna Phillips and Dr Upendo Mwingira have re-established this group as a useful forum for discussion and sharing of experiences in schistosomiasis PC programme implementation. The group has planned to meet two/three times in 2024 to discuss a particular aspect of PC interventions for schistosomiasis such as subdistrict MDA implementation.

Other activities

- Continue to support WHO TAGSS and subgroups and the NNN SCH-STH DSG and cross-cutting groups.

Diagnostic Development, Adoption & Adaptation

Diagnostics Working Group

- Under the leadership of Dr Jean Coulibaly and Dr Pytsje Hoekstra this group is working on the following identified priorities:
 - New Terms of reference as this group changes from a work stream to a working group.
 - Develop a checklist for sample collection and storage for diagnostic development and evaluation.
 - Updating the communication/information piece on [commercially available diagnostics](#).
 - Collect protocols for sample collection and storage and diagnostic tests. These will be uploaded to the [GSA Diagnostic resource collection](#).

Innovation, Integration & Cross-cutting action

Research Working Group

- Chairs Dr Derick Osakunor and Dr Justin Komguez Nono. This group will establish the GSA ECR Steering Committee to guide the GSA offer to ECRs. The new chair of the ECR Steering Committee is Ms Omosefe Osinoiki. The GSA ECR Steering Committee will launch the GSA ECR Network.

Engineering Working Group

- Chairs Prof Giulio De Leo and Dr May Sule. The chairs and members of the group are working on a white paper for policy makers and stakeholders involved in water infrastructure development and schistosomiasis risk.

- The group is collaborating on a survey with the African Ministers Council on Water to understand how schistosomiasis prevention measures are and can be integrated into water infrastructure and management policies.
- Members of the group are feeding into the WHO Schisto-STH TAG subgroup on WASH to develop scoping reviews and position papers.

Snail Vector Working Group

- Co-chairs are Dr Fiona Allan, Dr Martina Laidemitt and Dr Tom Pennance.
- Agree on the new terms of reference of the working group.
- Continue to work on collecting protocols and guides to be uploaded to [the GSA website](#).

Genital Schistosomiasis Community of Practice & FGS Integration Group [FIG]

- Genital Schistosomiasis Community of Practice - Strengthen Community of Practice, increase knowledge sharing and lessons learnt.
- FGS Integration Group [FIG]: Change of governance – GSA is now a member of new Steering Group. Support development of a 2-3 year strategic plan.

Other activities

- NNN SCH-STH DSG Spring meeting and NNN annual meeting.
- GSA meeting “Towards the 2030 Schistosomiasis Control and Elimination Goals – Successes and Challenges” at the 7th Symposium on Surveillance-Response Systems Leading to Tropical Diseases Elimination.

Organization and Governance

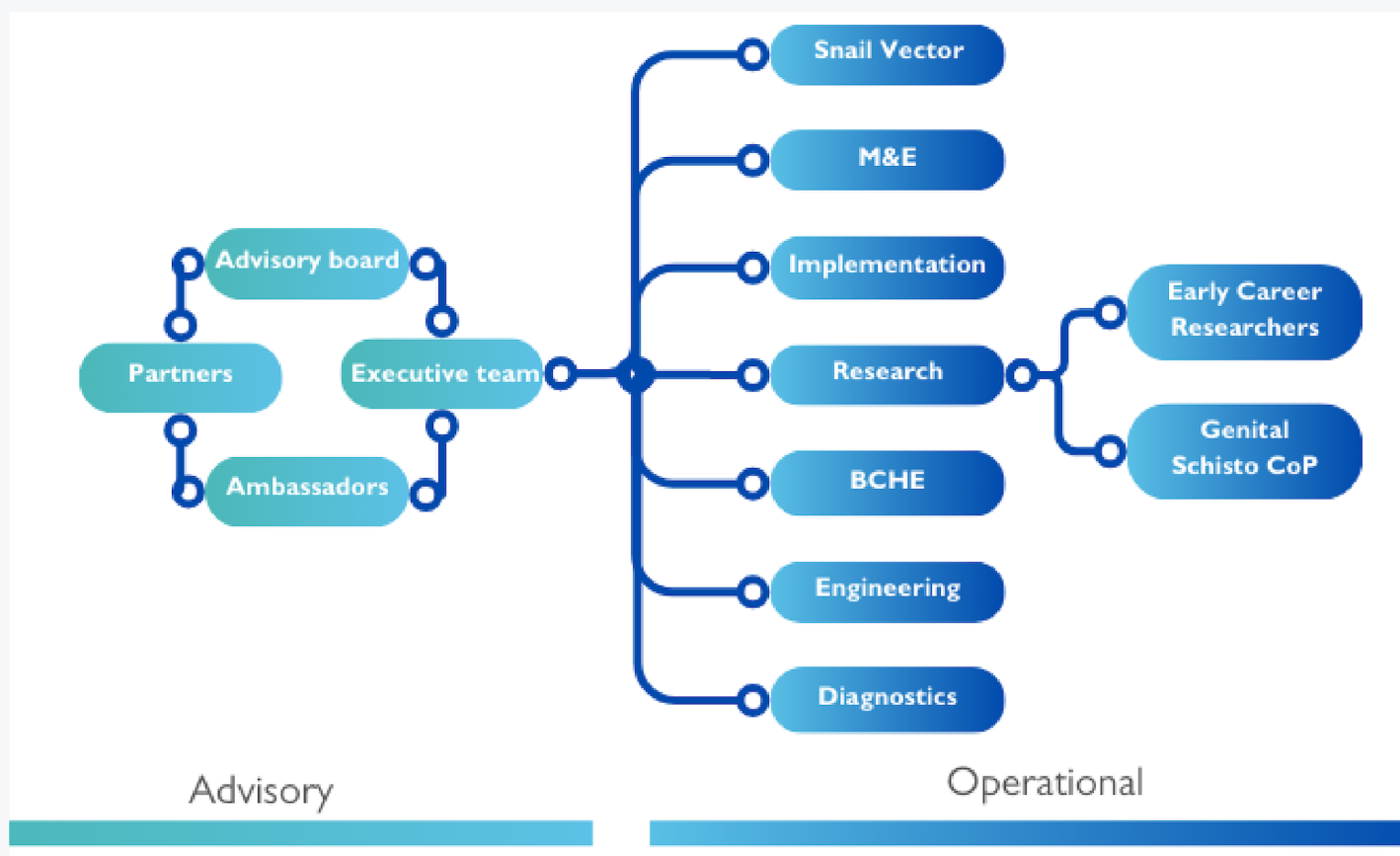


Figure 8 - GSA Network and community

The GSA is managed by an [Executive Group and Coordination Team](#) which oversees and supports the GSA Working Groups (WG) and other interest groups. Working Groups bring together relevant experts and stakeholders, drawn from the partner organizations and from other organizations, research groups and programmes, to produce tangible outputs addressing specific challenges or barriers to schistosomiasis control and elimination as identified in the GSA Schistosomiasis Action Plan.

The working group outputs are aimed at accelerating progress towards the WHO roadmap goals and beyond. The [GSA Executive Group and Coordination Team](#) works with the Working Group Chairs to develop an annual operational strategy and plan and consults with the WHO NTD Department on a regular basis.

The alliance also has a network of GSA Ambassadors who are GSA points of contact in endemic countries and advise on progress being made and challenges being faced in-country with regard to the control and elimination of schistosomiasis. They contribute to discussions to determine actions required by the schistosomiasis community and feedback on their experience and concerns to the community via the GSA and fellow Ambassadors. The annual operational strategy and progress report is reviewed by [the GSA Advisory Board](#).

Glossary

- AG – Adolescent Girls
- ASTMH – American Society for Tropical Medicine and Hygiene
- BCHE – Behaviour Change Health Education
- BC – Behaviour Change
- CIFF – Children’s Investment Fund Foundation
- CDC – USA Center of Disease Control
- CHOGM – Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting
- COR NTD – Coalition for Operational Research for NTDs
- CoP - Community of Practice
- ECTMIH – European Congress Tropical Medicines and International Health
- ESPEN – Expanded Special Project for Elimination of NTDs
- FGS – Female Genital Schistosomiasis
- FIG – FGS Integration Group
- GSA - Global Schistosomiasis Alliance
- ICOPA – International Congress of Parasitology
- ISNTD – International Society for Neglected Tropical Diseases
- MDA – Mass Drug Administration
- M&E - Monitoring and Evaluation
- NIPD – China National Institute for Parasitic Diseases
- NTDs – Neglected Tropical Diseases
- NNN – NTD NGO Network
- OHDI – One Health and Development Initiative
- OR – Operational Research
- PC – Preventative Chemotherapy
- SCH – Schistosomiasis
- STAG – Strategic and Technical Advisory Group
- STH - Soil-transmitted helminths
- Swiss TPH – Swiss Tropical Medicine and Public Health Institute
- TAGSS – Technical Advisory Group on Schistosomiasis and Soil-transmitted helminthiasis
- USAID – U.S. Agency for International Development
- WASH – Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
- WISER – Water Infrastructure for Schistosomiasis Endemic Regions
- WG – Working Group
- WHA – World Health Assembly
- WHO – World Health Organization
- WHO HQ – WHO Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland
- WHO AFRO – WHO Regional Office for Africa
- WHO EMRO – WHO Regional Office for Eastern Mediterranean
- WHO SEARO – WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia
- WHO WPRO – WHO Regional Office for Western Pacific
- WRA – Women of Reproductive Age

working together

to eliminate schistosomiasis



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