The GSA Advisory Board convened to review the GSA’s 2018 operational strategy and consider recent activities.

The meeting started with an overview and introduction to the GSA’s vision, mission and approach, institutional partners and 2017 activities. The GSA management team then presented on its planned strategy and activities for 2018 following the 5 overarching and cross-cutting themes: Strategy & Policy, Implementation, Research, Advocacy and Communication.

The Global Schistosomiasis Alliance

- **Vision:** Elimination of schistosomiasis as a public health problem.
- **Mission:** To be the leading advocate for schistosomiasis control and elimination.
- **Approach:** To strengthen and coordinate a multi-stakeholder platform consisting of public and private sector partners across the globe.
The GSA is focusing on five interconnected themes
The Control and elimination of schistosomiasis is the overarching objective that connects these themes

GSA Institutional Partners and Observers

www.eliminateschisto.org/ | T: @elimin8schisto | F: @eliminateschisto
Summary of 2017 key activities

**Operations**
- New GSA management team
- GSA management now operates out of the Natural History Museum, London.
- Just as the other NTD coalitions the GSA is resourced via its pharmaceutical industry partner, i.e. Merck

**Partners, Observers and stakeholders**
GSA has continued to strengthen its relationships with a wide range of stakeholders:
- Three new key schisto organisations joined as institutional partners (Helen Keller International, Sightsavers, Swiss TPH)
- Worked closer with WHO Geneva, WHO AFRO and ESPEN

**Working Groups**
- Implementation: Developed Donor Coordination Tool with input from partners
- Research: Published special schisto edition in Infectious Diseases of Poverty, Hosted ‘Schistosomiasis elimination and Control - Next Steps’ in Baltimore
- Behaviour Change: Set up a new working group set up and drafted ToR

**Advocacy and Resource Mobilisation**
- Geneva NTD Summit: highlighted the importance of schistosomiasis and drove the schistosomiasis agenda at summit
- Uniting to Combat NTDs: provided schisto-specific input for 2017 scorecard and fed into the scorecard development process for 2018

**Communication**
- Presentations and Outreach: NNIN, COR NTD, Swiss TPH, ISNTD, Interviews including BBC world service, Reuters, ISNTD and specialist societies and various endemic country media
- Reports: Making Schistory, GSA Newsletters, Reports and slides from meetings on GSA website under resources. Opinion piece in PLOS NTDs, developed with partners
- Online Comm: Increased Blog posts and social media engagement, drafted website re-design

1 **Strategy and Policy**

*In 2018 GSA will work with our partners to catalyze control & elimination strategies*

**International strategy**
- Encourage & advocate pending revision of guidelines and an accepted vision of the elimination of schistosomiasis and how it will be measured.
- Work closely with the WHO in support of elimination strategizing to ensure optimal allocation of resources for elimination.

**Global Research**
- Coordinate and communicate global research to ensure a focus towards a shared morbidity control and elimination vision building on the successful research conducted in 2017

**Training & Educational Resource**
- Develop a central web-based resource for training and educational programmes in schistosomiasis

**Moving to a Vision beyond 2020**
- Provide the platform for GSA members and other stakeholders to contribute to strategy and policy formulation and setting (Vision beyond 2020)
- Strengthen the links with the STH community to pursue common strategy and policy issues
## Implementation

*In 2018 GSA will continue to focus on developing the theme of delivery in support of its mission to control & eliminate schistosomiasis.*

### Working group & Tools
- Strengthen relationship between implementers through the Implementation working group (WG)
- Complete the **Donor Coordination Tool** with the Implementation WG
- Support development of an **Inventory Training Manual** with the Implementation WG, ESPEN and the Gates Foundation

### Meetings
- Convene high-level stakeholders meeting to finalise Schistosomiasis Action Plan
- Subject to NTD programme managers’ meetings, organize meeting to discuss PZQ use and implementation tools
- Present/participate in NNN, NTD supply chain forum, WHO meetings (by invitation), CCC

### Endemic Countries
- Continue ongoing one-on-one discussion with countries regarding their implementation plans (Cameroon, Ethiopia, Uganda, Togo, Egypt)

### Partnerships
- Develop non-traditional delivery partnerships, such as private sector organisations and support of start-ups via accelerators
- Develop and share best practice in implementation at intersection of WASH, PC, and vector control
- Contribute to the development of impact milestones for the UTC Scorecard

## Research

*In 2018 GSA will bring together the world’s leading experts in schistosomiasis and will focus on the following activities:*

### Working Groups
- Organise meeting for stakeholders of the main research WG
- Strengthen the new Behaviour WG & organise first official meeting
- Set up a Snail Control Intervention WG to bring together snail control experts and support the WHO vector management strategy and the NNN integrated vector control group

### Research meetings
- Present/support schistosomiasis research meetings including ICOPA, International Symposium on Schistosomiasis, COR NTDs and ASTMH

### Current key research topics
- Female Genital Schistosomiasis morbidity, diagnosis and treatment
- Schistosomiasis in pre-school-aged children, morbidity and treatment
- Intensified disease management of severe and/or irreversible schistosomiasis morbidity
- Snail control technologies
- Precision mapping and evidence-based programmatic decisions to determine treatment expansion to adults

### Early-Career Researchers
- Develop & build a platform for early-career researchers in schistosomiasis
- Collect and share news, meeting reports and research resources via website and social media
- Continue promoting & supporting early-career researchers through meetings and social media
The Advisory Board congratulated the GSA on a progress made for 2017 and discussed the 2018 strategy and activities. The board highlighted the importance of working with the schistosomiasis community to:

- Clarify schistosomiasis Control and elimination definitions and targets post 2020
- Support coordination of PZQ supply and implementation
• Facilitate the sharing of technical expertise and tools for NTD programmes in endemic countries
• Identify gaps in implementation and operational research
• Strengthen advocacy for schistosomiasis elimination and control
• Build online and virtual platform to become the go-to-site for schistosomiasis-specific resources.

The GSA thanked the Advisory Board for their feedback and continued support.