



GSA statement to STAG

The Schistosomiasis Control Initiative, representing the Global Schistosomiasis Alliance is grateful for the opportunity to contribute to the development of the next global NTD Roadmap.

The 2012-2020 NTD Roadmap mobilized political will and resources, and helped drive significant progress. The new Roadmap must place NTDs at the heart of the global development agenda. Such a Roadmap will mobilise cross-sector action, effectively link NTDs directly with the Sustainable Development Goals, and will support the strengthening of health systems and the delivery of universal health coverage.

For schistosomiasis, there has been dramatic progress towards the goal of 75% coverage of school-aged children through Mass Drug Administration programmes. The critical support of donors, Governments and Health Ministries in making this possible is well recognised. Experience shows that further operational research on key factors influencing the decision-making of programme managers is needed. More effective sharing of 'preferred practices', learning from success in all regions affected by schistosomiasis is needed urgently.

Following a consultation with its members and the WHO, the GSA strongly supports the proposal of the ambitious goal of interruption of transmission in selected countries and an interim and complementary goal of reducing the global burden of schistosomiasis disease. GSA has proposed a set of supporting sub-targets and indicators to drive further action. These cover a comprehensive set of interventions implemented in a context-tailored manner, including treatment of all at-risk populations, improving diagnosis and the treatment of morbidities including female genital schistosomiasis, snail control measures and improvements to water supply, sanitation services and improved behaviours for infection prevention. With these interventions, together with continuing availability and better use of praziquantel and the accountability framework to secure action, we believe we can successfully move forward to control and eliminate schistosomiasis.