**Schistosomiasis and Your Child**

**What is schistosomiasis?**

Schistosomiasis is a disease that mainly affects children – both girls and boys. Children who have schistosomiasis may feel tired all the time. They may have trouble paying attention in school. Some children have pain in the belly, and they may poo blood.



1 Blood Fluke

**How do children get schistosomiasis?**

Schistosomiasis is caused by a parasite called the blood fluke. The blood fluke lives part of its life in a special kind of small snail

that is found in local rivers, streams, ponds, rice fields, and lakes.

Snails carry the schistosomiasis parasites, just like mosquitoes carry malaria. The snails get the parasites when somebody who has schistosomiasis poos outdoors and near water bodies. When people with schistosomiasis poo in or near water, they spread the schistosomiasis disease.

**How can schistosomiasis be treated?**

* Parents can take children who have symptoms for testing. To be tested, children poo in a cup, and the health worker checks the poo for blood fluke eggs.
* Children who have blood fluke eggs can be treated with a strong medicine.

**How can you help prevent schistosomiasis?**

* Children and adults should poo in toilets and latrines – NOT outdoors in or near water (lakes, streams or ponds).
* Children and adults should stay out of water bodies that have schistosomiasis snails. You can suggest games your children can play on land.
* Sometimes, all the children in a community are treated at the same time. When they get treated at the same time, it helps get rid of schistosomiasis in the community.
* It is very important that children take their treatments. They should take all the tablets at one time.

**![A group of people in the water

Description automatically generated]() ![A person standing next to a body of water

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**For more information contact:**

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