

# The FAST Package

*FGS Accelerated Scale Together (FAST)*

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Project team:

Bruyère Research Institute (Canada)

Bridges to Development (US)

University of Health and Allied Sciences (Ghana)

Association Kolo'vanona (Madagascar)

**Project launch meeting  
September 23, 2020**

# Welcome everyone to our virtual launch!



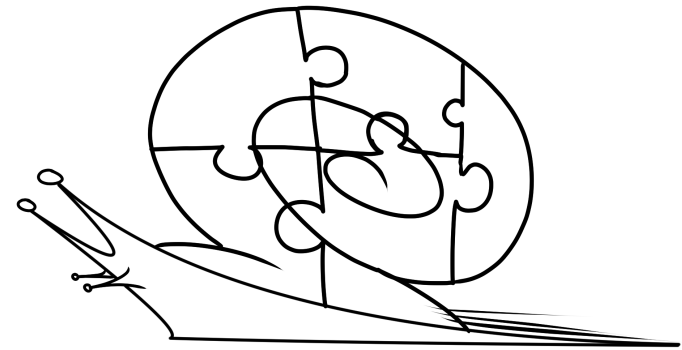
# Welcome everyone to our virtual launch!

- Housekeeping items
  - Need any technical support during the meeting? Please send an email to [adavis@bruyere.org](mailto:adavis@bruyere.org)
  - We will be recording the session.
  - Please keep your microphone muted during the presentations.
  - At the end of the session, we have a short 3 question survey – please fill that out.

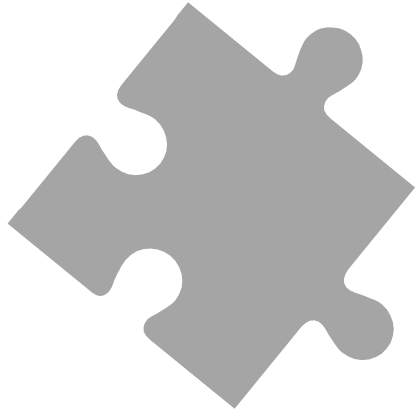
Meeting agenda	
Welcome	Alison Krentel, Bruyere Research Institute, University of Ottawa School of Epidemiology and Public Health
Remarks from the Department of Control of Neglected Tropical Diseases	Amadou Garba Djirmay, World Health Organization Geneva
Remarks from the WHO Expanded Special Project for Elimination of Neglected Tropical Diseases, World Health Organization, African Region	Maria Rebollo Polo, WHO ESPEN
Remarks from Grand Challenges Canada	Maximillian Seunik, Grand Challenges Canada
National commitment to addressing Female Genital Schistosomiasis in Ghana and Madagascar and partnership with the FAST Package	Benjamin Marfo, NTD Program Manager, Ghana Health Service  Clara Fabienne RASOAMANAMIHAJA, Schistosomiasis / STH Focal Point, Madagascar NTD programme, Ministry of Health
Introduction of the FAST Package	
Overview of the FAST Package as an innovation	Alison Krentel
Online training component	Julie Jacobson, Bridges to Development
Community and national engagement	Margaret Gyapong, University of Health and Allied Sciences
Importance of partnership – introducing our match funding partners and their role in the project	Julie Jacobson
Any questions and next steps	Alison Krentel

So what does the FAST Package stand for?

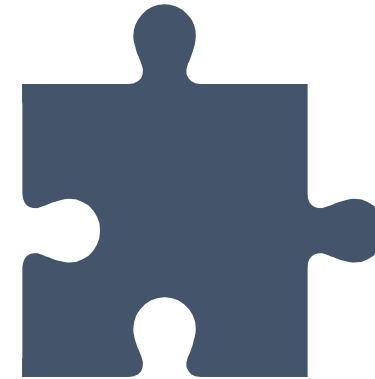
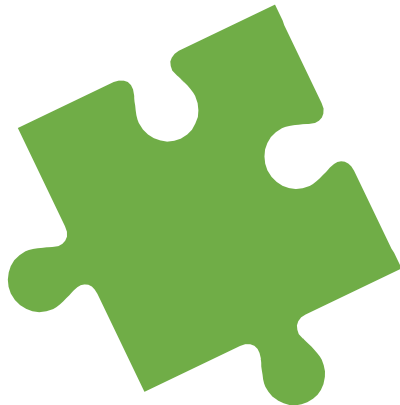
- **FGS Accelerated Scale Together (FAST) package**
- *En francais:*
  - *Le Paquet FAST?*



**Diagnosis and  
treatment of FGS**



**Training of medical  
personnel on FGS**



**Awareness  
about FGS**

**Prevention of new  
cases through  
regular MDA**



**Diagnosis and treatment**

**Awareness**



**Training of medical personnel**

**Prevention of new cases**

**Diagnosis and treatment**  
Diagnosis and treatment through  
integrated services  
(STI/HIV/FP/MNCH/cervical cancer)

**Awareness**  
Ensuring community  
members are aware of  
FGS risks and impact

**Training of medical personnel**  
Training to recognise, treat  
and record FGS in adolescent  
girls and WRA

**Prevention of new cases**  
Annual mass drug  
administration with praziquantel



# Study sites

## **Ghana**

- Weija, in the Greater Accra Region
- North Tongu in the Volta Region.

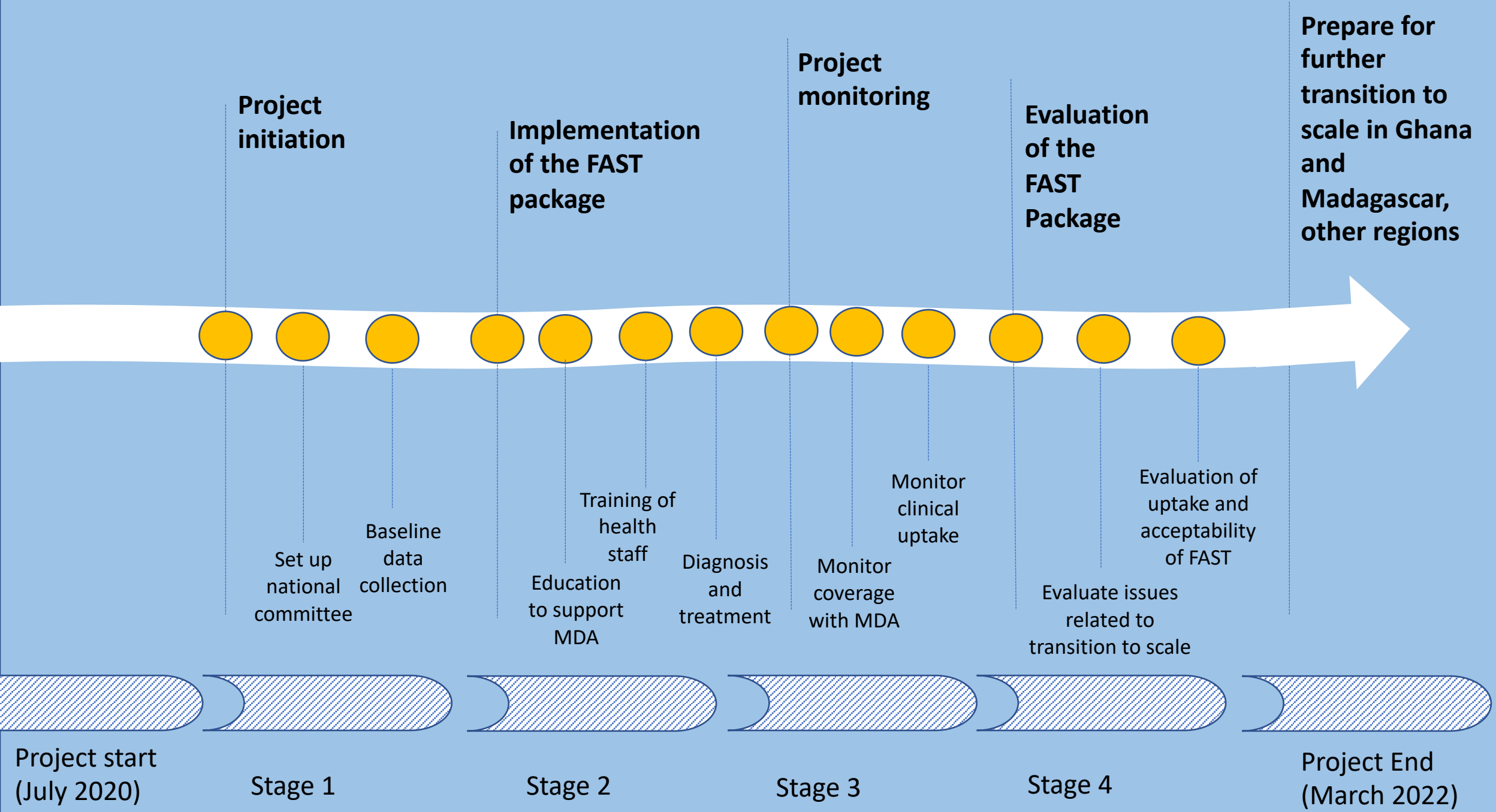
## **Madagascar**

- Morondava district
- Sakaraha district

# Brief introduction to the FAST Package

- Project period: July 1, 2020 – March 30, 2022
- Funded through Grand Challenges Canada by the Government of Canada (Global Affairs Canada)
- Match funding partners include:
  - Merck Global Health Institute
  - Schistosomiasis Control Initiative Foundation
  - NTD Support Center
  - WHO Expanded Special Project for the Elimination of NTDs (ESPEN)

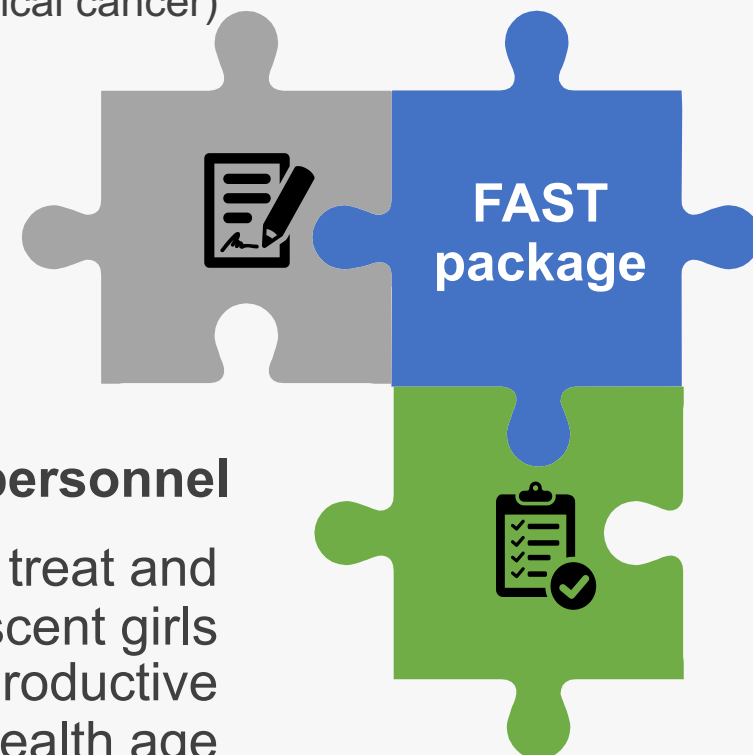
Timeline of FAST Package activities



# Training of medical personnel / improving diagnosis and treatment

## **Diagnosis and treatment**

Diagnosis and treatment through integrated services (STI/HIV/FP/MNCH/cervical cancer)



## **Training of medical personnel**

Training to recognise, treat and record FGS in adolescent girls and women of reproductive health age

# Training medical personnel

- As part of the **FAST Package** we will build capacity for diagnosis and treatment of FGS amongst health providers along the health service delivery spectrum.
- Plan to develop an innovative adult-learning online training platform expanding on the WHO printable FGS atlas
- Integrating FGS diagnosis into existing services

# Core competencies workshop

- July 2020
- Well-attended over 65 participants from 24 countries working in 15 different endemic countries
- Supported by WHO Geneva
- In collaboration with the Geneva Learning Foundation
- Outcomes to be used to guide the development of the online training



# Community awareness / prevention of new cases



## **Awareness**

Ensuring community members are aware of FGS risks and impact

## **Prevention of new cases**

Annual mass drug administration with praziquantel

# Awareness in the community

- Endemic communities have poor awareness about FGS and its reproductive health sequelae
- Community members may not fully understand the persistent risks of infection for those who use freshwater bodies for bathing, washing and swimming.
- Increasing awareness in the community will contribute to risk reduction as well as demand generation for preventive chemotherapy.

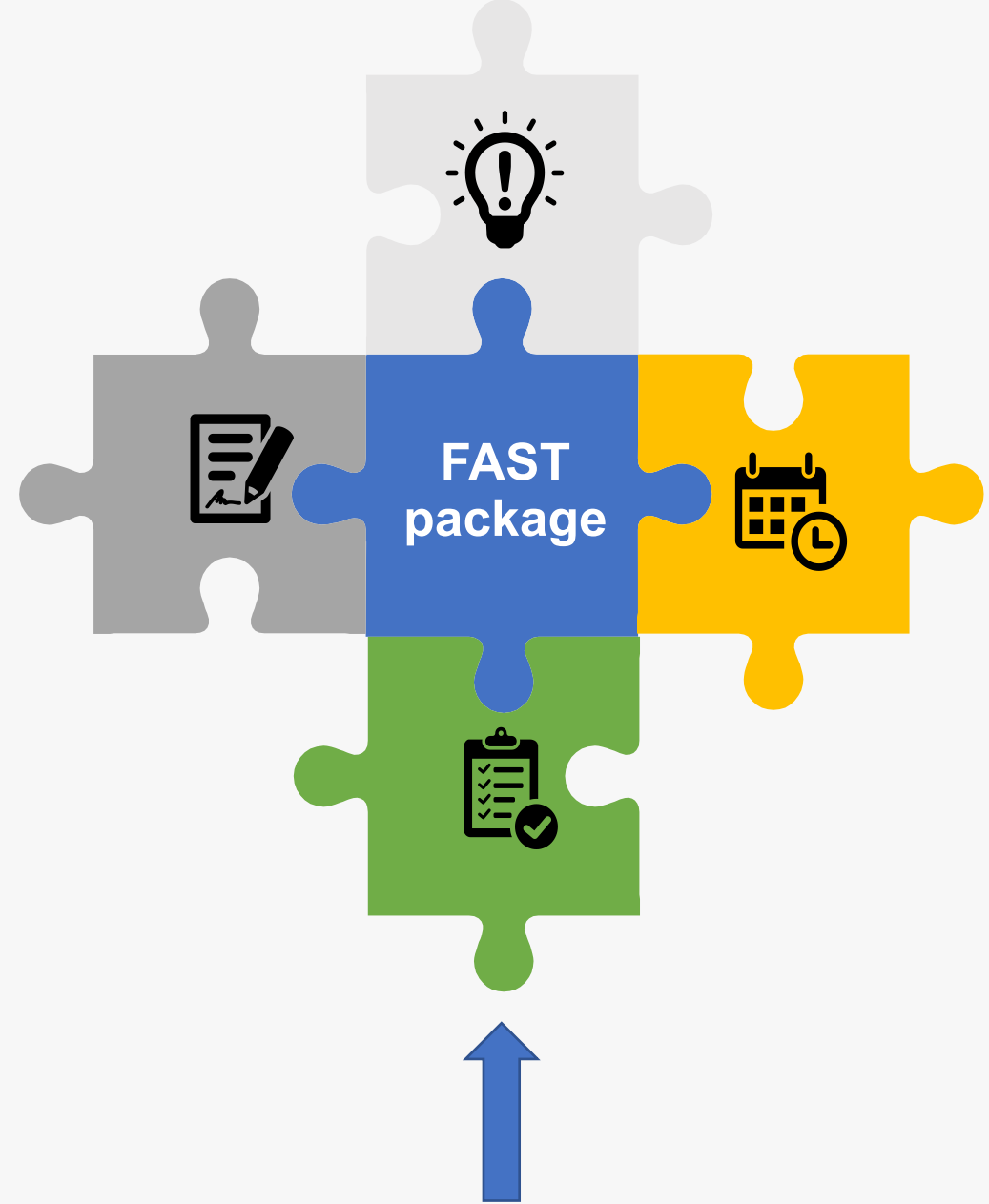
# Supportive activities

- Guided by the community context and school context
- May include age appropriate booklets, contests, teacher information
- Community meetings, outreach to teachers and CHWs
- In Madagascar, work closely with the MoH / SCIF MDA planning / budget for social mobilisation
- In Ghana, work within the Ghana Health Service NTD programme planning

# Annual Mass Drug Administration

- Prevent new infections in children and young girls with schistosomiasis by annual mass drug administration with donated praziquantel
- Provided through matched funding and donated treatments

# Supporting integration, scale and sustainability of FAST Package



**FGS National Committees**

# FGS National Committees

- Supported through funding by WHO ESPEN
- Combines members from Neglected Tropical Disease Control Program, the Family Health Division, Public Health and clinical care divisions of the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education
- Aim of these advisory committees is to increase communication and collaboration about FGS, with the longer term goal of integrating FGS into existing clinical training and care
- The NTD programme manager will act as chair of this committee and the secretariat will be within the NTD programme.
- This national committee will serve as a foundation for future coordination and integration of other NTD-related activities within the national health system.

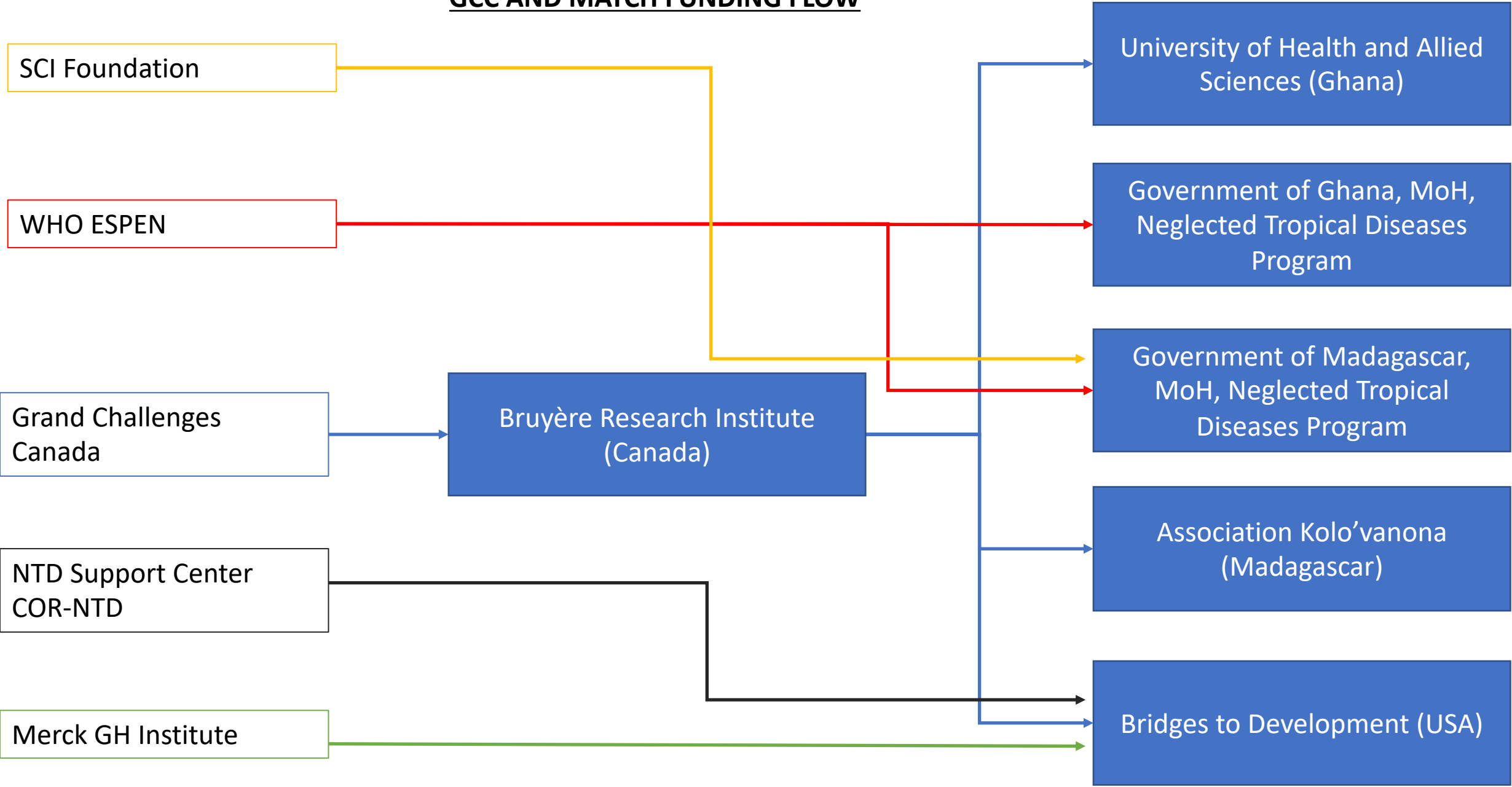
## **Proposed activities for FGS National Committees**

Item	Year 1	Year 2
Secretariat at national NTD programme (oversight of the administration, invitations, travel coordination, stationary, logistics, translation services, as needed)	X	X
Meeting costs (6 meetings total expected 20-30 participants) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Launching meeting</li><li>- 2 routine meetings in year 1</li><li>- 2 routine meeting in year 2</li><li>- Evaluation and knowledge translation meeting</li></ul>	X	X
Travel exchange for program manager to visit FGS project and national committee in year 1 in the other project site	X	
Field visits for national committee members to field sites		X

# Power of partnership in the FAST Package



**GCC AND MATCH FUNDING FLOW**



# Support for technical elements of the project

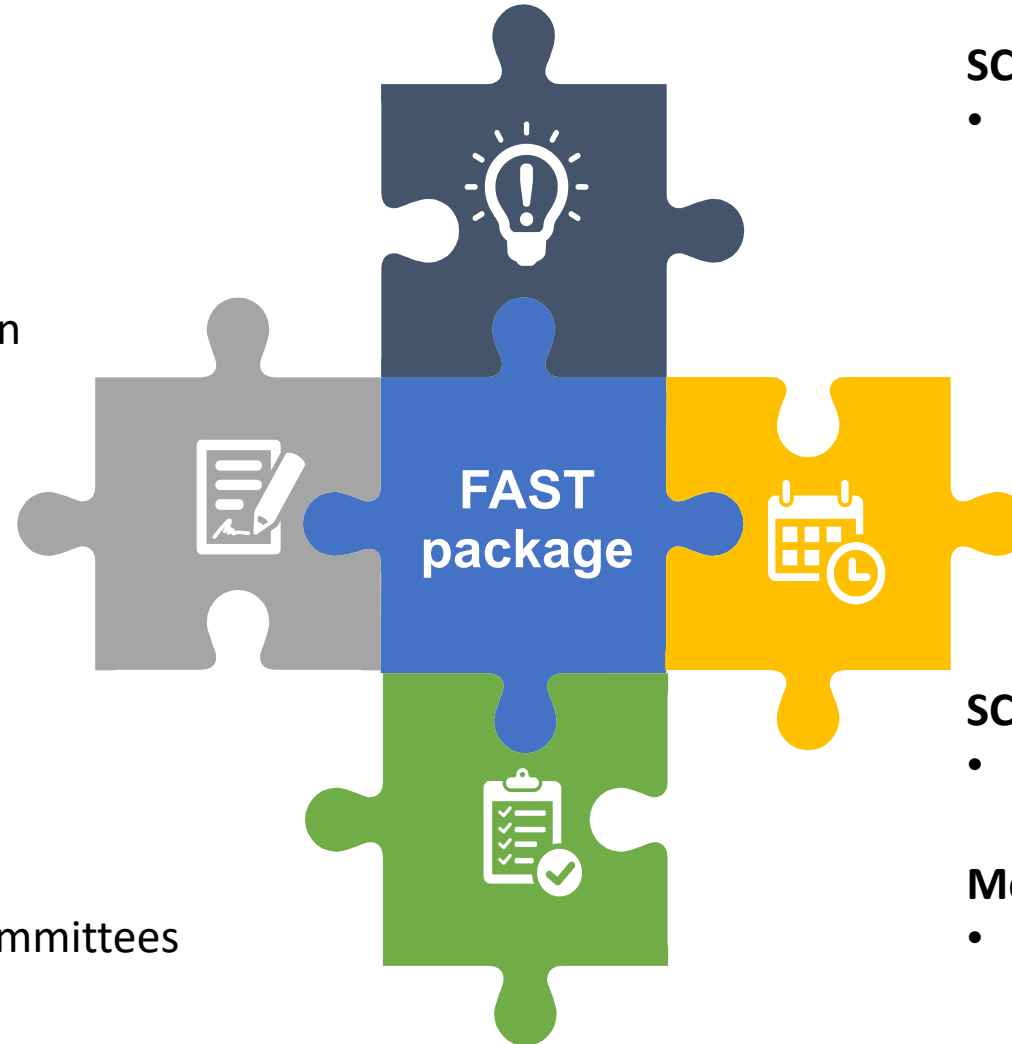
## **NTD Support Center**

### **Merck Global Health Institute**

- Development of core competencies for training
- Online training platform with the Geneva Learning Foundation
- Technical support provided by WHO Geneva

## **WHO ESPEN**

- Supporting the FGS national committees



## **SCIF**

- Social mobilization to communities and schools

## **SCIF**

- MDA in Madagascar

## **Merck**

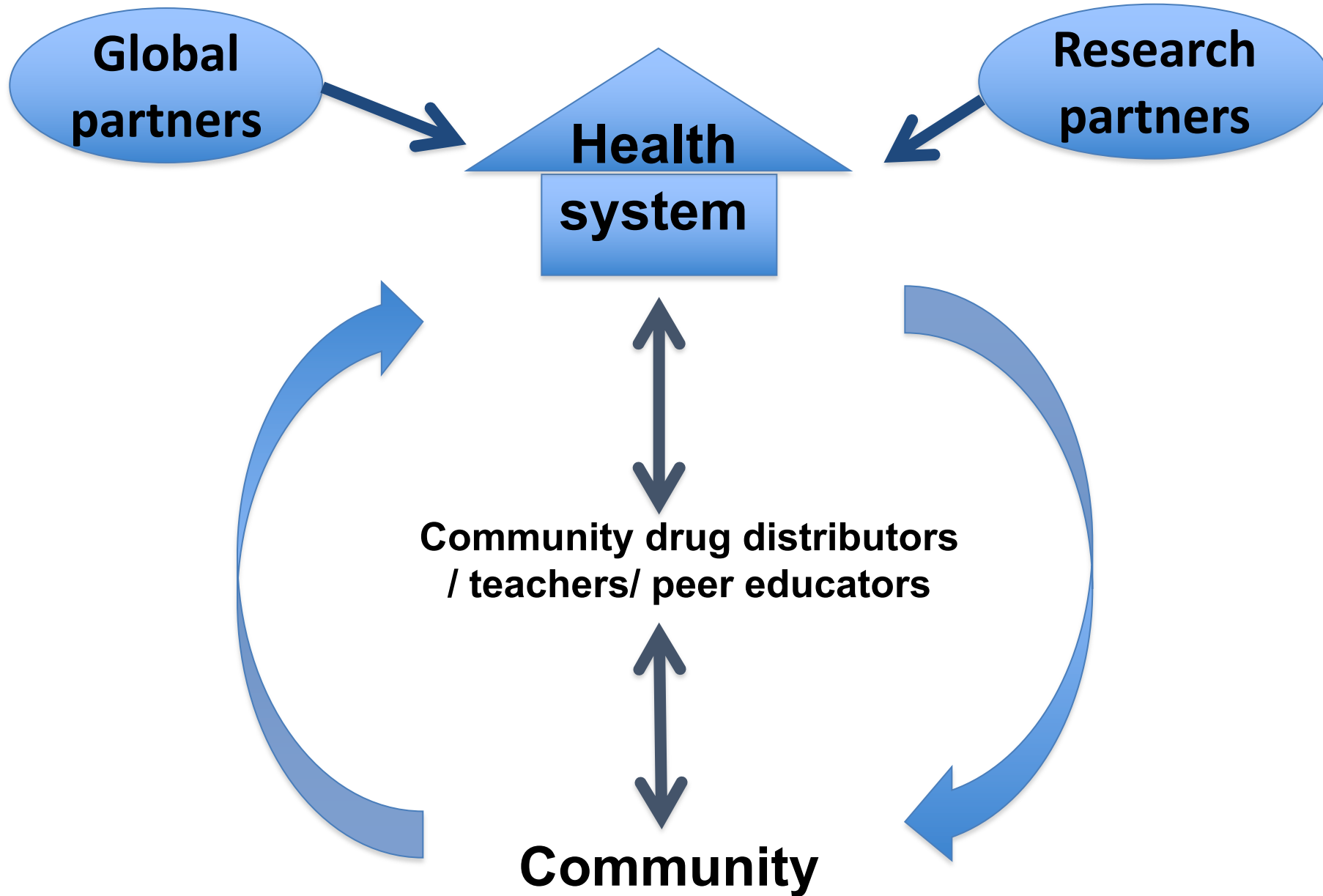
- Donation of Praziquantel to Ghana and Madagascar

## **Ghana Health Service**

- MDA in Ghana

*\*All project activities supported by a Global Technical Advisory Group*

## Most important partnership of the project



***Thank you  
Merci Beaucoup***

Please fill out this short survey:  
<https://forms.gle/fzD3ELszebKqVqcZ6>

