

# Annual Report 2020 and Operational Strategy for 2021

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February 2021



1. GSA vision, mission and partners

2. Summary of key outputs

Achieved in 2020

Outputs for 2021

3. Details of key outputs

Achieved in 2020

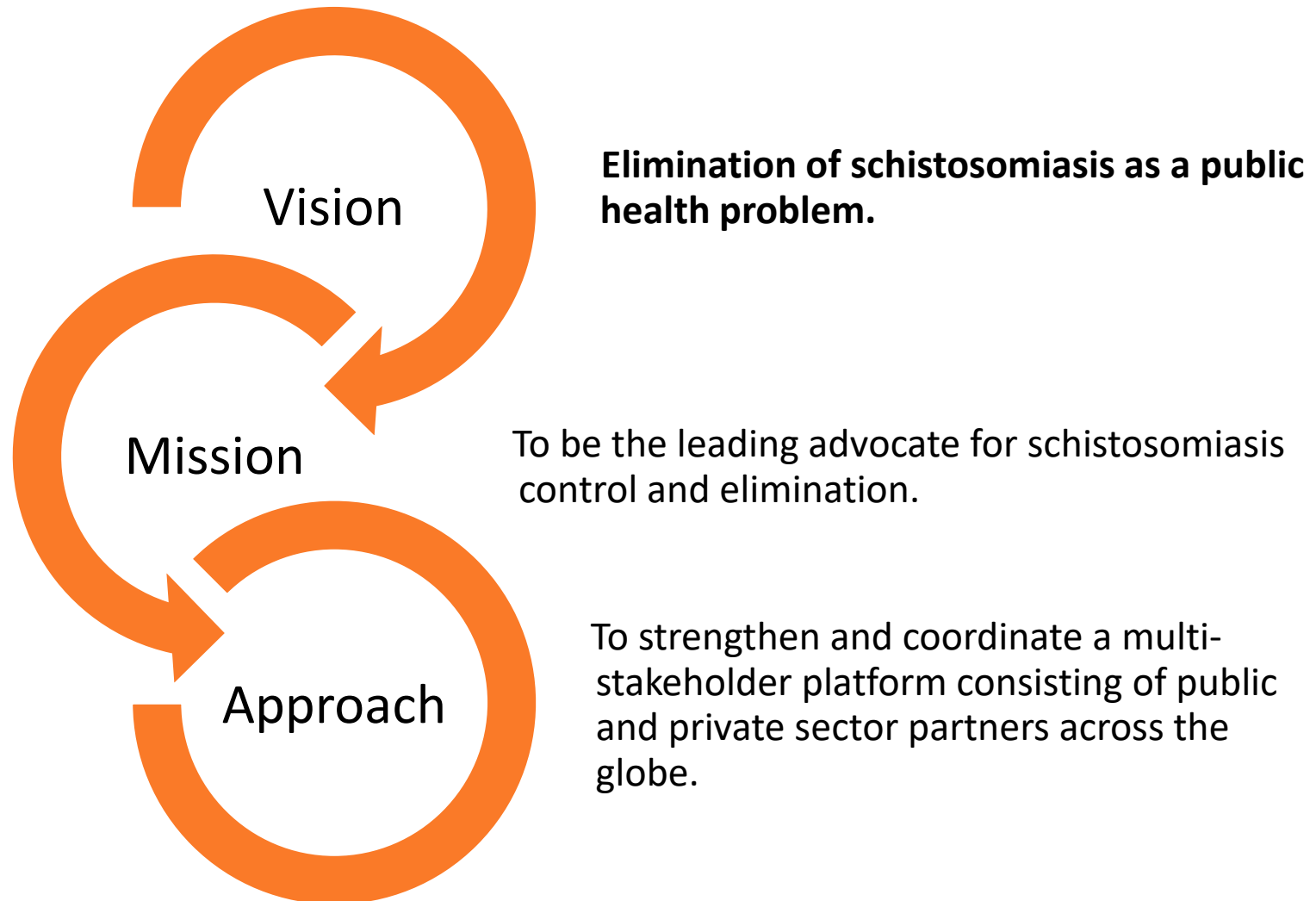
Outputs for 2021

4. GSA organization and governance

5. 2021 timeline

Glossary

# The Global Schistosomiasis Alliance



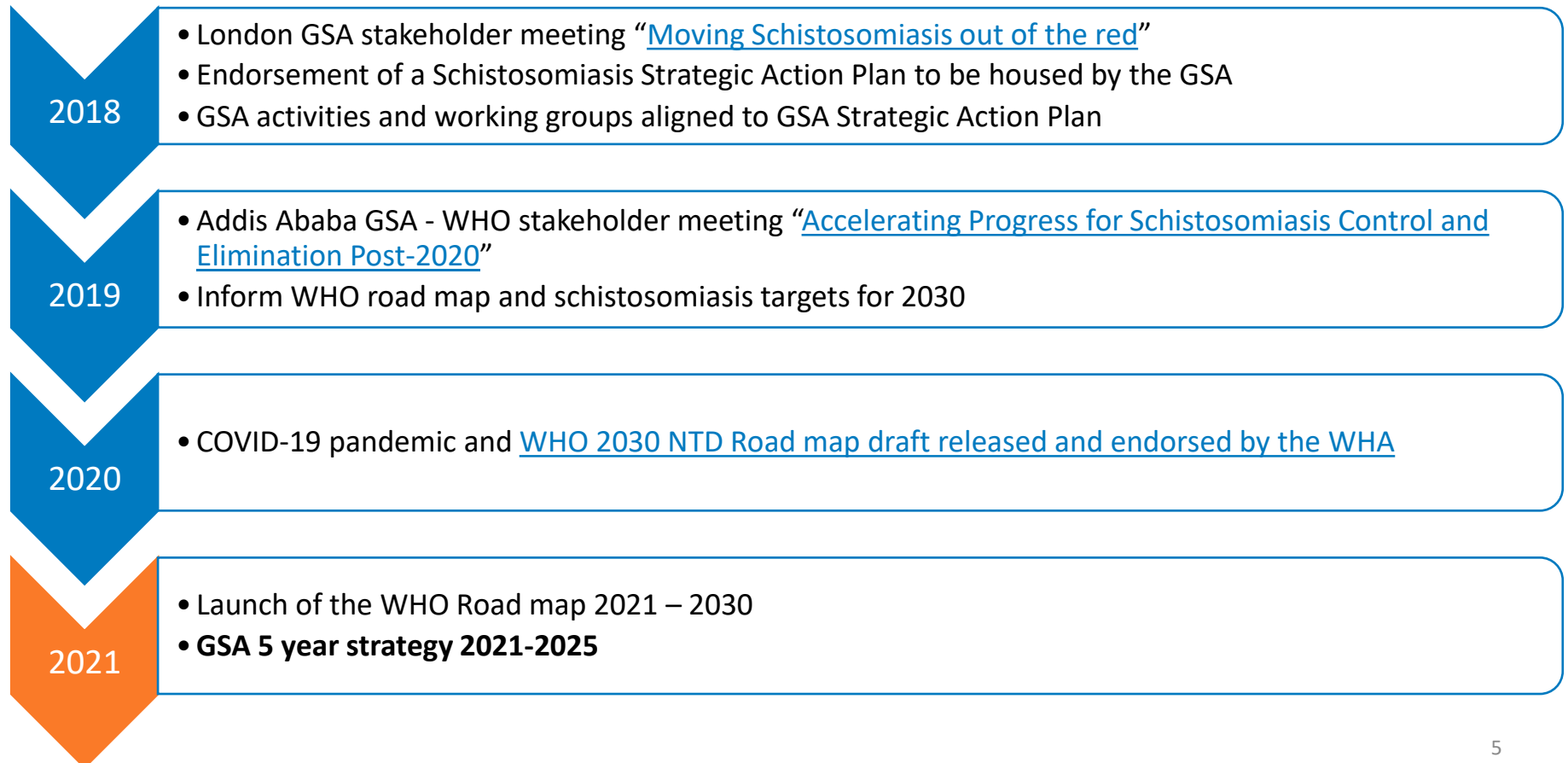
# The Global Schistosomiasis Alliance

GSA is the leading, enabling and coordinating body of the schistosomiasis community, consisting of key partner organizations as well as individuals, research groups and networks, in our Working Groups (WG) & through the [GSA Members Network](#).



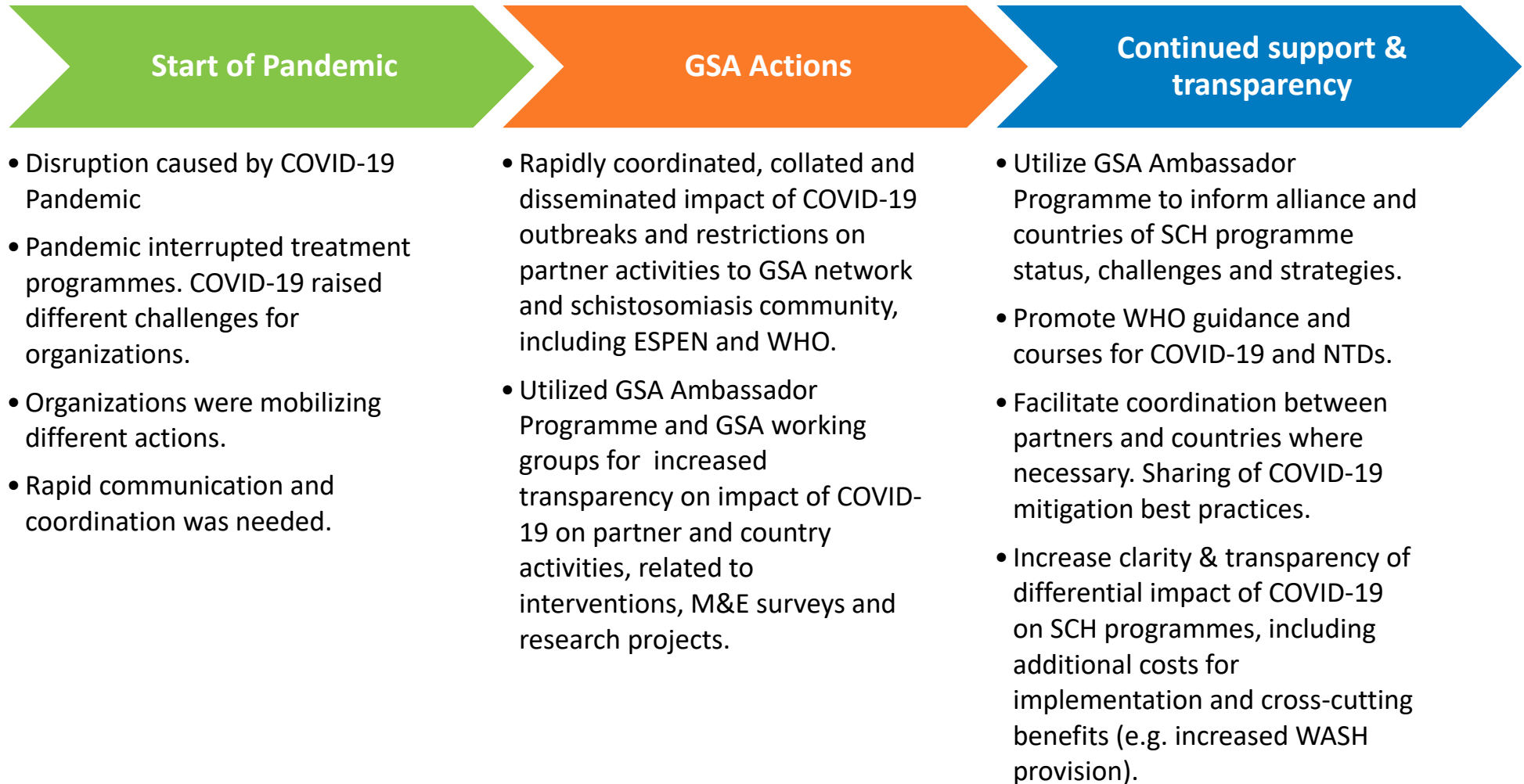
# GSA strategy and WHO roadmap

The GSA Schistosomiasis Strategic Action Plan developed by the schistosomiasis community informed the schistosomiasis targets and actions of the new WHO Road map. Following the launch of the WHO 2021-2030 road map the Alliance will develop a 5 year strategy to support the WHO 2030 schistosomiasis targets.





# GSA COVID-19 Pandemic Response



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# GSA key interconnected themes

The GSA's activities fall into 5 interconnected themes. The following slides summarize key achievements in 2020 (green) and next steps for 2021 (orange).





# Advisory Board Key Points and GSA Advice

## Advisory Board 2020

- Strengthen SCH-STH collaboration and integration.
- Defining “urban”, “peri-urban” settings and defining different intervention needs in these settings.
- Strengthen and coordinate engagement national programme managers and teams in endemic countries.
- Consider online training and live communication platforms to strengthen community of practice and build capacity.
- Consider bringing together the community on schistosomiasis elimination and breaking transmission (IoT).

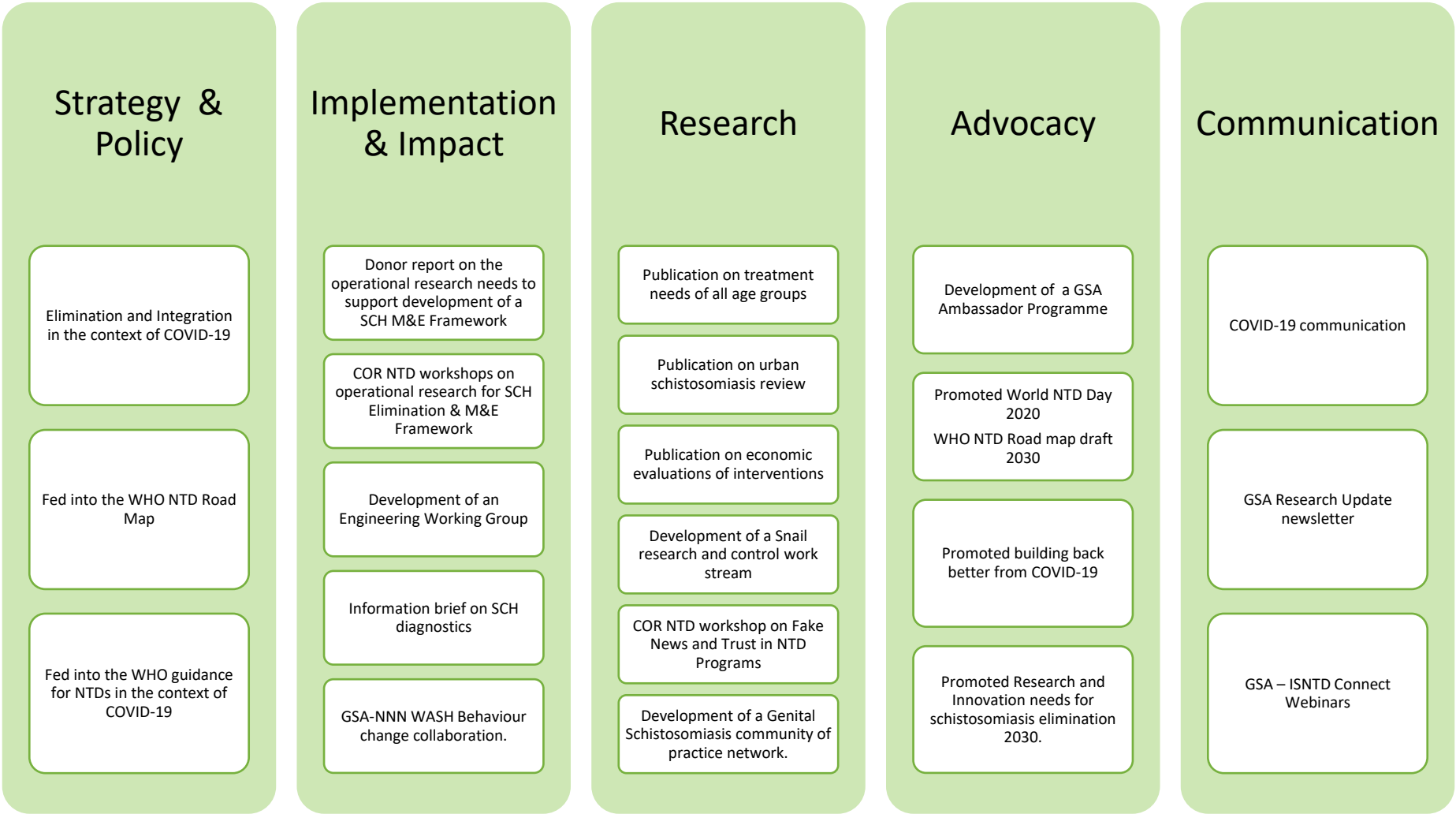
## Taken forward

- Working with STH Coalition & CWW on COR NTD workshop and communication piece.
- Published Urban Schistosomiasis review. Supported development of research project led by Benjamin Koudou.
- Set up GSA Ambassador Programme to engage with country teams. WG & WS expanding in country team representatives.
- Set up schistosomiasis webinars with ISNTD. Added Toolbox Forum to M&E WG. Set up GS CoP.
- Set up schistosomiasis elimination & IoT focused workshops with COR NTD, bringing country updates. Set up Elimination work stream.

## How we will build on this

- Work with SCH-STH stakeholders on integration opportunities.
- Closed Urban work stream, considering incorporating urban in GSA WGs.
- Develop GSA Ambassador Programme, positive feedback on info sharing. Continue to expand WG & Ws with country reps.
- Continuing webinars. Add Toolbox Forum to other groups. Build online webinars and support online training where appropriate.
- Building Elimination work stream and ensure elimination & IoT crosses WGs (E.g. M&E Framework includes elimination & IoT).

# Summary of key deliverables 2020 – by theme



## COVID-19

### COVID-19 communication

- Rapidly coordinated, collated and disseminated impact of COVID-19 outbreaks and restrictions on partner activities to GSA network. Used by WHO AFRO and ESPEN and promoted greater communication and coordination between NTD partners and countries.

## Diagnostics

### Information Piece on SCH Diagnostics

- GSA Diagnostic workstream created information piece on all current commercially available diagnostics. Disseminated to the GSA network and is on the website.

## M&E Framework

### Development of SCH M&E Framework

- COR NTD - GSA coordinated four meetings on operational research (OR) for SCH control and elimination and supported defining the priority OR needs for the development of an M&E framework. The consolidated report was submitted to the COR NTD donors.

## Webinars

### GSA – ISNTD Connect Webinars.

- GSA partnered with ISNTD to deliver a series of schistosomiasis focused webinars using the ISNTD Connect platform
- Eight webinars were delivered. For details see page 43.

## New Groups

### GSA 4 new groups with specific remits

- GSA Ambassador Programme. Engineering Working Group. Snail Research and Control workstream. Community of Practice network on Genital Schistosomiasis.

## Trust in NTDs

### COR NTD workshop on Fake News and Trust in NTD Programs

- Research WG COR NTD premeeting workshop and meeting breakout group set up to discuss reported challenges from stakeholders of community trust in health programs (public health and biomedical research), lessons learned and potential tools to mitigate misinformation and mistrust.

# GSA Multi-Stakeholder Platform

Examples of work undertaken upon request from the community to use the GSA platform.

## WHO

- SCH Operational Research Inventory.
- Panellist in WHO Partnership Webinar.
- Consultation on the WHO COVID-19 - NTD guidance.

## COR NTD

- Content coordinator for schistosomiasis sessions at COR NTD.

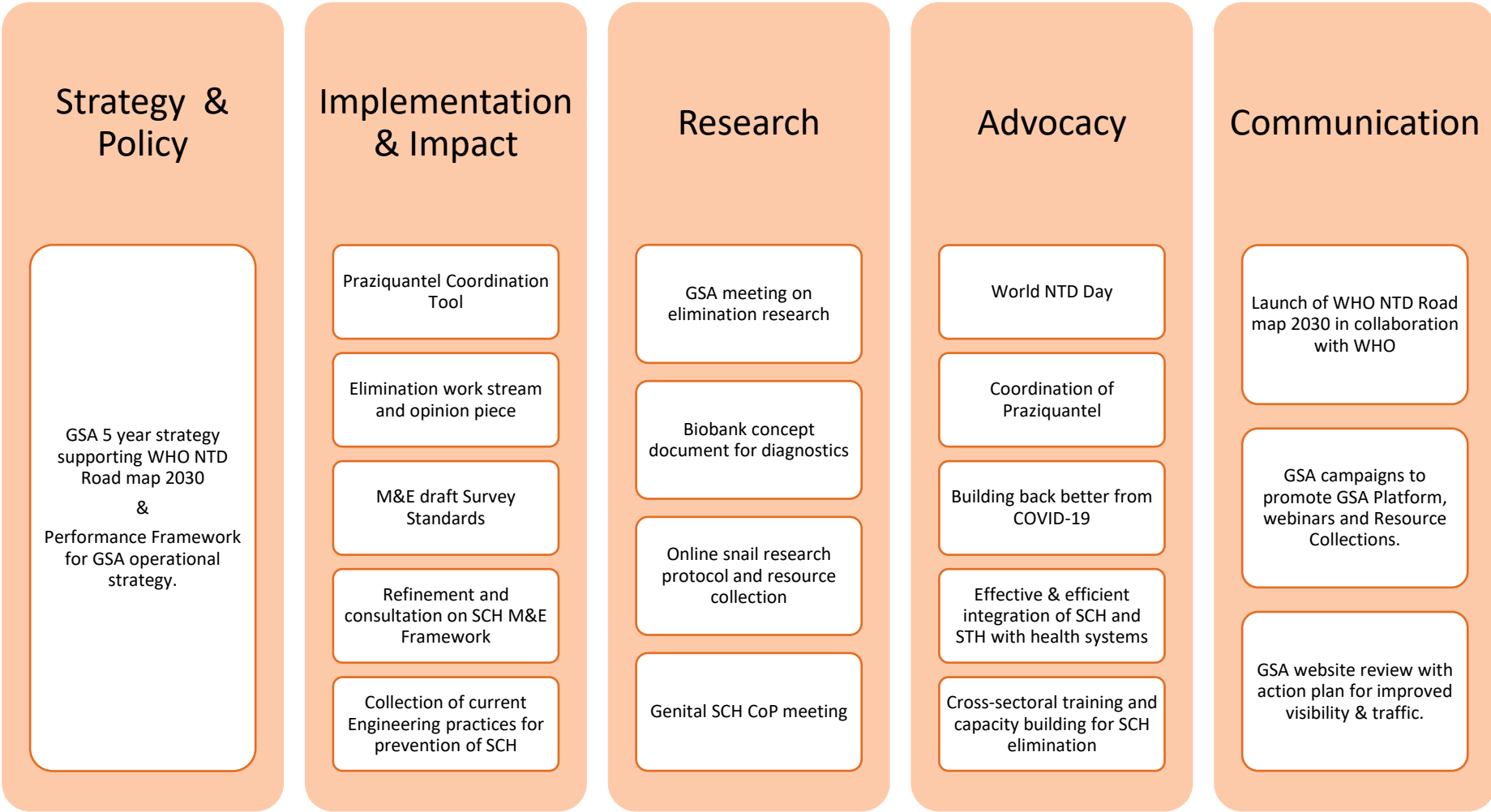
## ESPEN

- Support Training and Programme Managers Meeting.

## Stakeholders

- Community of Practice to share updates, challenges, learnings for Genital Schistosomiasis.

# Summary of key deliverables 2021 – by theme



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## Theme: Strategy and Policy

With the end of the previous WHO NTD road map, launch of the new WHO 2021-2030 NTD road map and supporting strategy documents on sustainability, M&E and SCH guidelines, this is the opportune time to review progress made against the GSA Strategic Action Plan, and develop a 5 year strategy for the Alliance.

- Strategy and policy plans for 2020 were put on hold as the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic unfolded and communication & coordination in the context of COVID-19 took priority.
- Following the launch of the WHO 2021-2030 NTD road map on the 28<sup>th</sup> of January this is the opportune time to review progress and develop new strategies and policies for schistosomiasis elimination.
- Strategy & Policy next steps and deliverables planned for 2021 are:
  - Review progress made against the GSA Strategic Action Plan
  - GSA stakeholder consultation meeting to develop strategic plan for 2021-2025 and beyond.
  - GSA 5 year strategy 2021-2025

# GSA influence and outputs format

The GSA Action Plan, developed by members, identified what were the needs for schistosomiasis elimination. Using the GSA multi-stakeholder platform these actions are being taken forward by GSA WG, members and collaborations with WHO WG/activities. The outputs are covered by 3 slides: Two on the 2020 outputs and 1 on next steps and deliverables for 2021. The format will be repeated for each output.

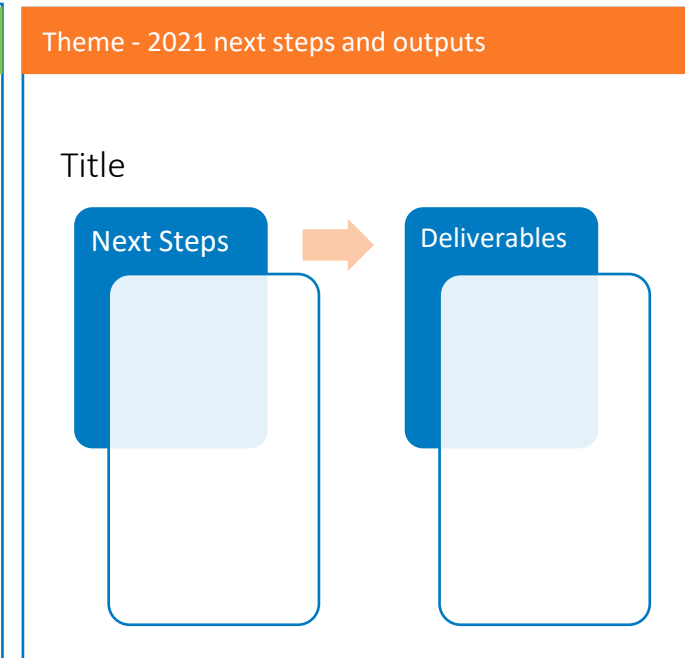
First slide summarizes the key 2020 output



Second slide highlights details of the 2020 output



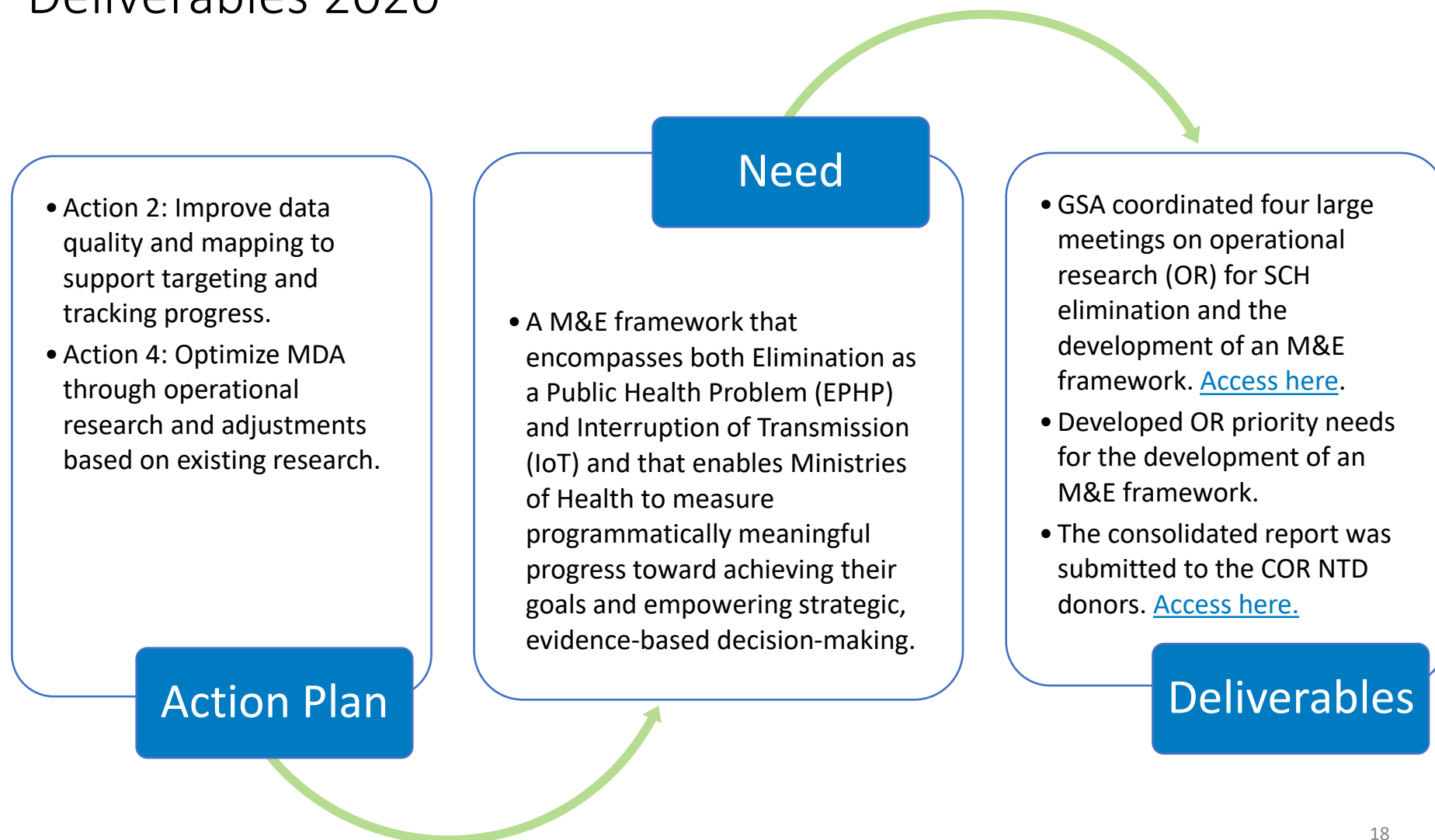
Third slide outlines next steps and deliverables for 2021



## Developing an M&E Framework



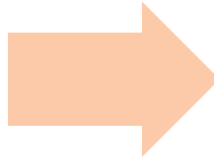
## Developing an M&E Framework: Action Plan and Deliverables 2020



## Developing an M&E Framework: Next Steps and Deliverables 2021

### Next Steps

- GSA partners, M&E WG & wider community discussion and feedback on the need for a M&E framework and identified operational research needs.
- GSA M&E WG, working with WHO, ESPEN and the wider SCH community to develop a set of M&E survey standards to coordinate M&E between partners and countries.



### Deliverables

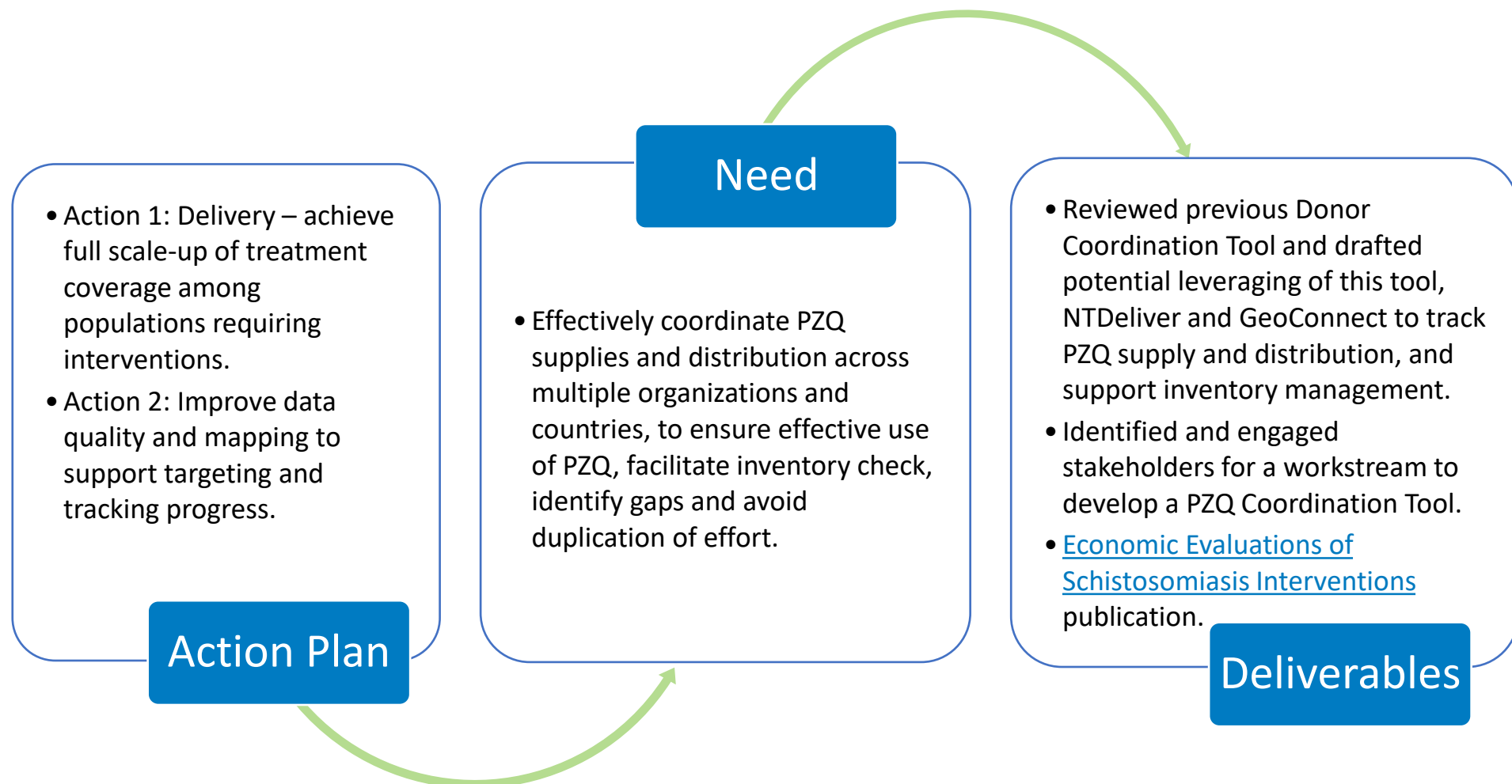
- Potential M&E WG deliverables: A community consultation on a draft M&E framework.
- Draft set of survey standards for countries and partners.

# Improve treatment distribution based on good quality data





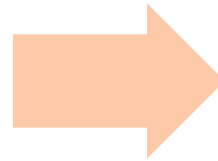
## Improve treatment distribution based on good quality data: Action Plan and Deliverables 2020



# Improve treatment distribution based on good quality data: Next Steps and Deliverables 2021

## Next Steps

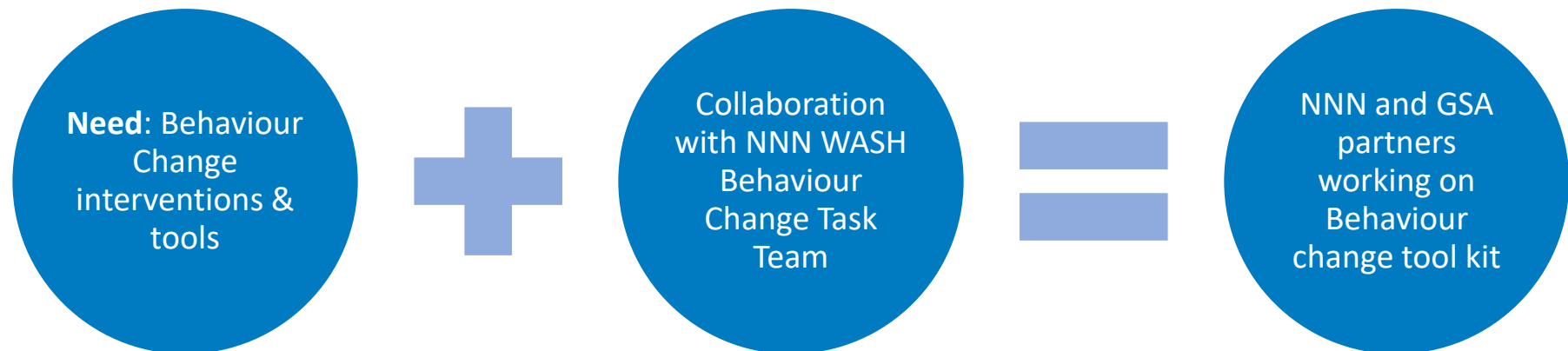
- Bring together identified key stakeholders and ESPEN to review PZQ Coordination Tool.
- Collate feedback and explore development of current PZQ Coordination tool.
- Bring together identified key stakeholders for Interruption of Transmission (IoT).
- Develop an Elimination workstream for countries and their supporting partners who are transitioning to Interruption of Transmission targets.



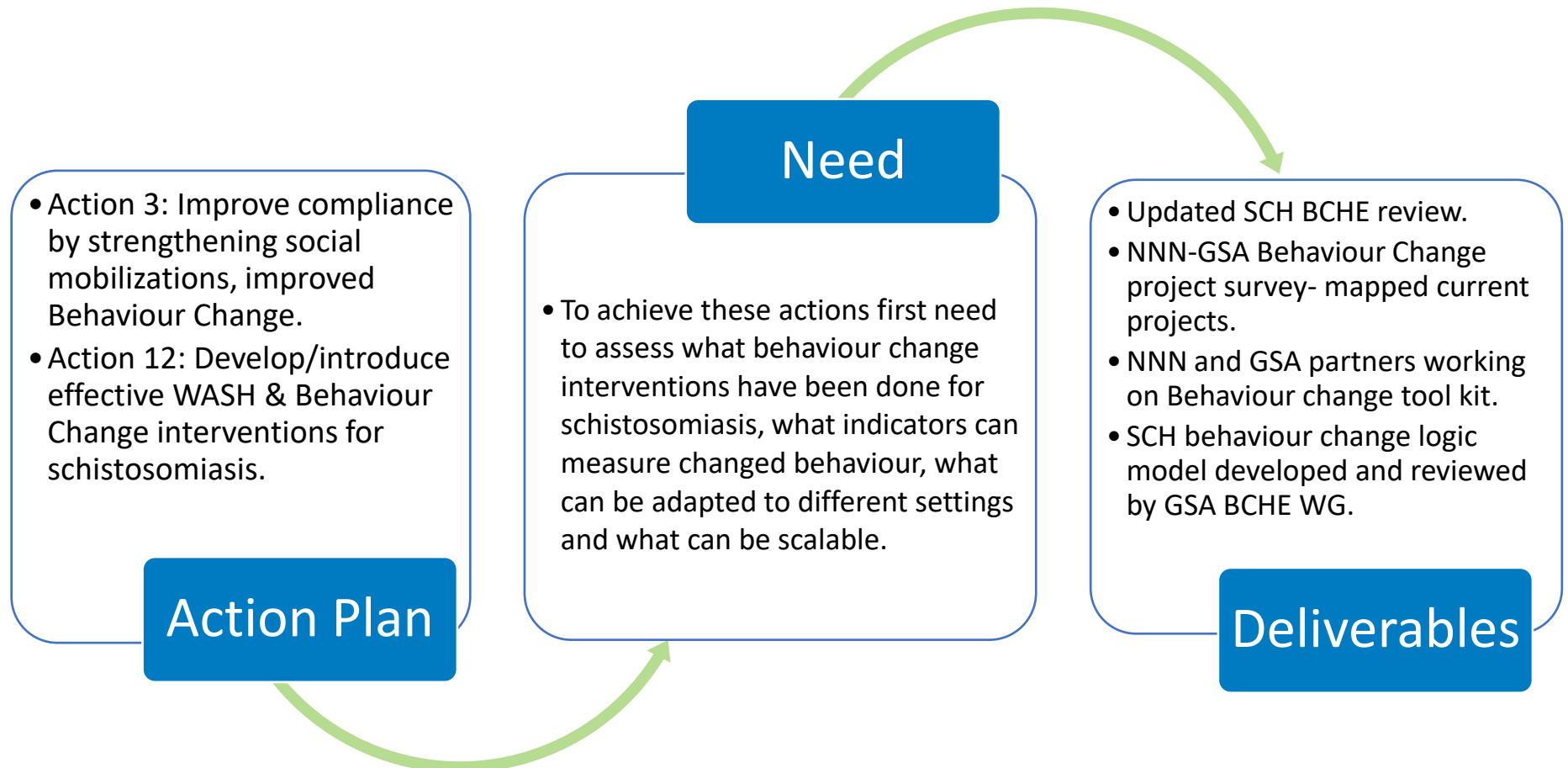
## Deliverables

- Development and roll-out of PZQ Coordination Tool version 1
- Establish an Elimination workstream with a workplan for countries to share strategies and protocols to reach Interruption of Transmission (IoT).

## Behaviour Change interventions and tools



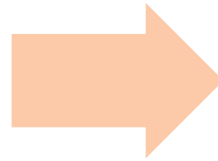
# Behaviour Change interventions and tools: Action Plan and Deliverables 2020



## Behaviour Change interventions and tools: Next Steps and Deliverables 2021

### Next Steps

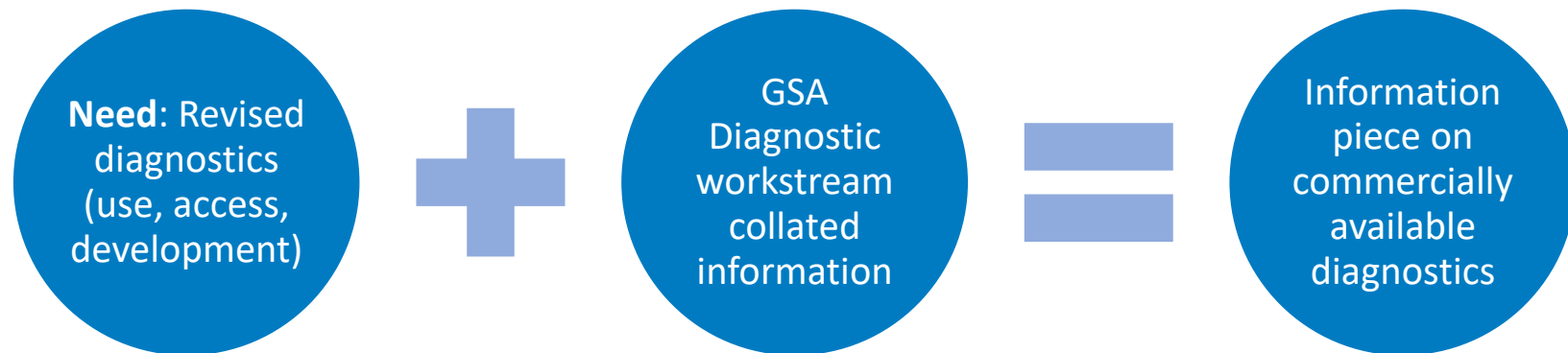
- Submit SCH Behaviour Change review.
- Working with the NNN - develop first version of NNN Behaviour Change Toolkit and circulate for feedback.
- GSA BCHE WG to review first version of Behaviour change Toolkit.



### Deliverables

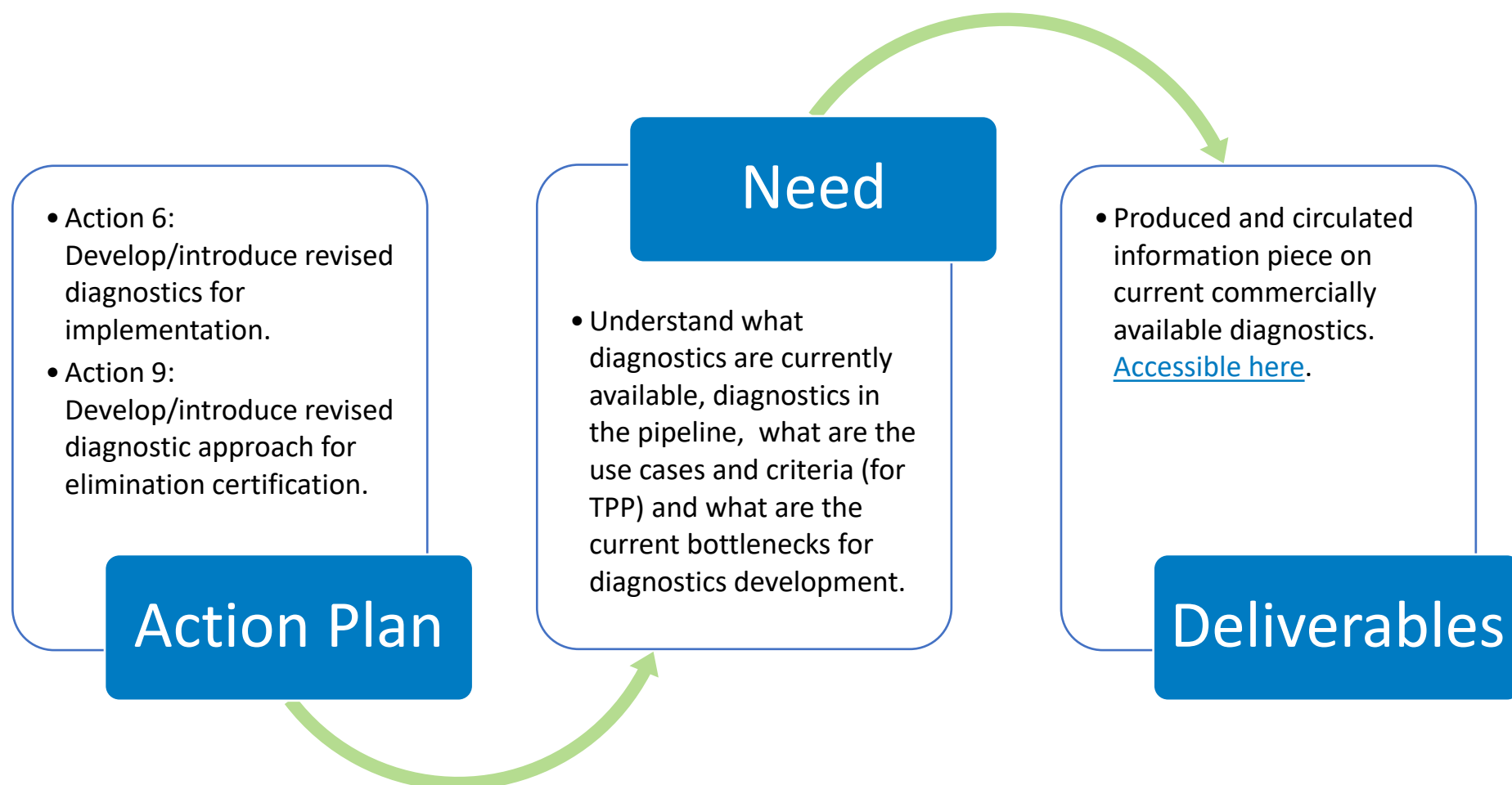
- Publish review of SCH BC.
- Working with the NNN - First version of NNN Behaviour Change Toolkit at NNN meeting

# Diagnostics for schistosomiasis interventions and surveillance





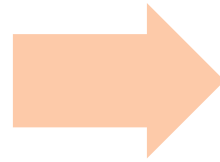
## Diagnostics for schistosomiasis interventions and surveillance: Action Plan and Deliverables 2020



# Diagnostics for schistosomiasis interventions and surveillance: Next Steps and Deliverables 2021

## Next Steps

- Consult with schistosomiasis and other biobank experts on regulatory and legal requirements for repository.
- Draft concept proposal on sample repository for schistosomiasis diagnostic evaluation.
- Consult and review on the element of access to diagnostics.



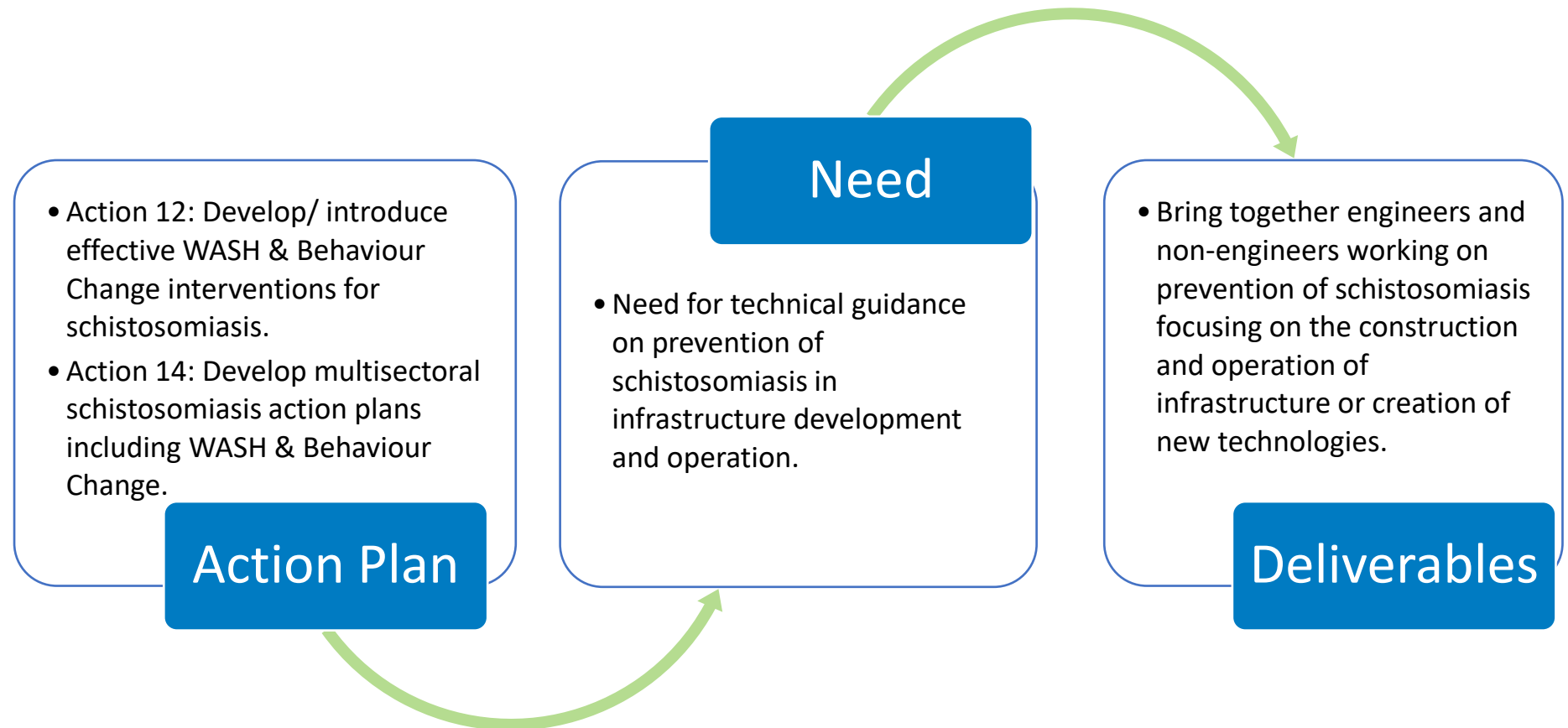
## Deliverables

- Draft concept proposal for standardised sample repository for diagnostic evaluation.
- Increased awareness of diagnostics under development and the requirements of the new Target Product Profile (TPP)

## Engineering Working Group



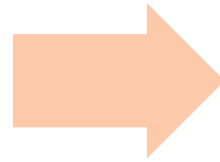
## Engineering Working Group: Action Plan and Deliverables 2020



## Engineering Working Group: Next Steps and Deliverables 2021

### Next Steps

- Engineering Group with members from endemic countries and WASH sector.
- Collate relevant existing information
- Draft/share best practices
- Identify gaps in knowledge, and promote research



### Deliverables

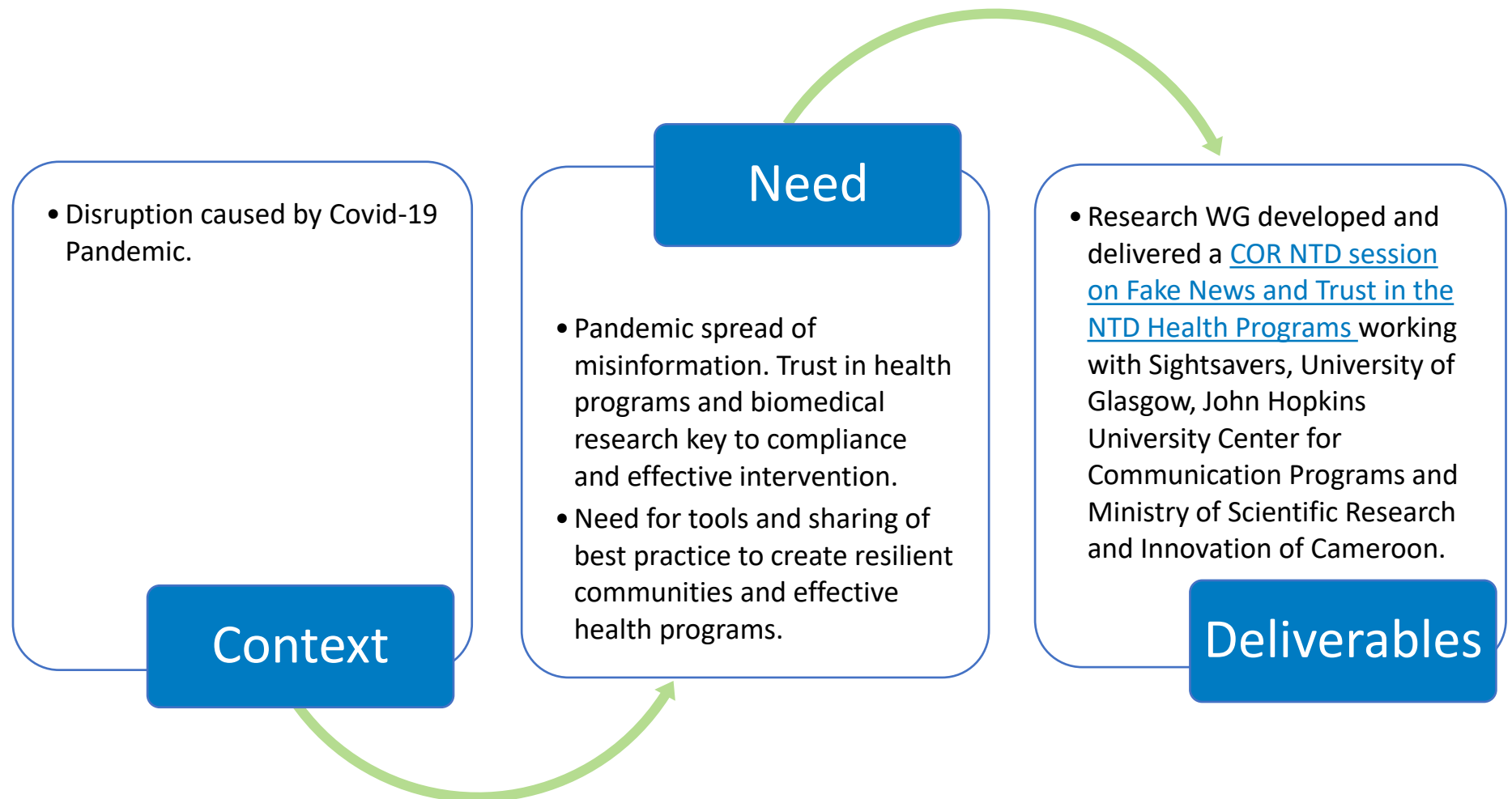
- Survey and analysis on what is current practice for preventing schistosomiasis in the design and implementation of infrastructure.
- To disseminate the best practices to relevant national (e.g. Ministries of Water, Health) and international organisations (e.g. WHO, NGO WASH teams).

# Research Working Group: COVID-19 Pandemic and Misinformation Workshop





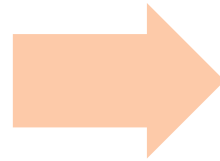
## Research Working Group: COVID-19 Pandemic and Misinformation: Deliverables 2020



## Research Working Group: Next Steps and Deliverables 2021

### Next Steps

- Fake News & Trust in NTD Programs opinion/communication piece
- Develop schistosomiasis elimination research focused meeting
- Explore how to support early career researchers



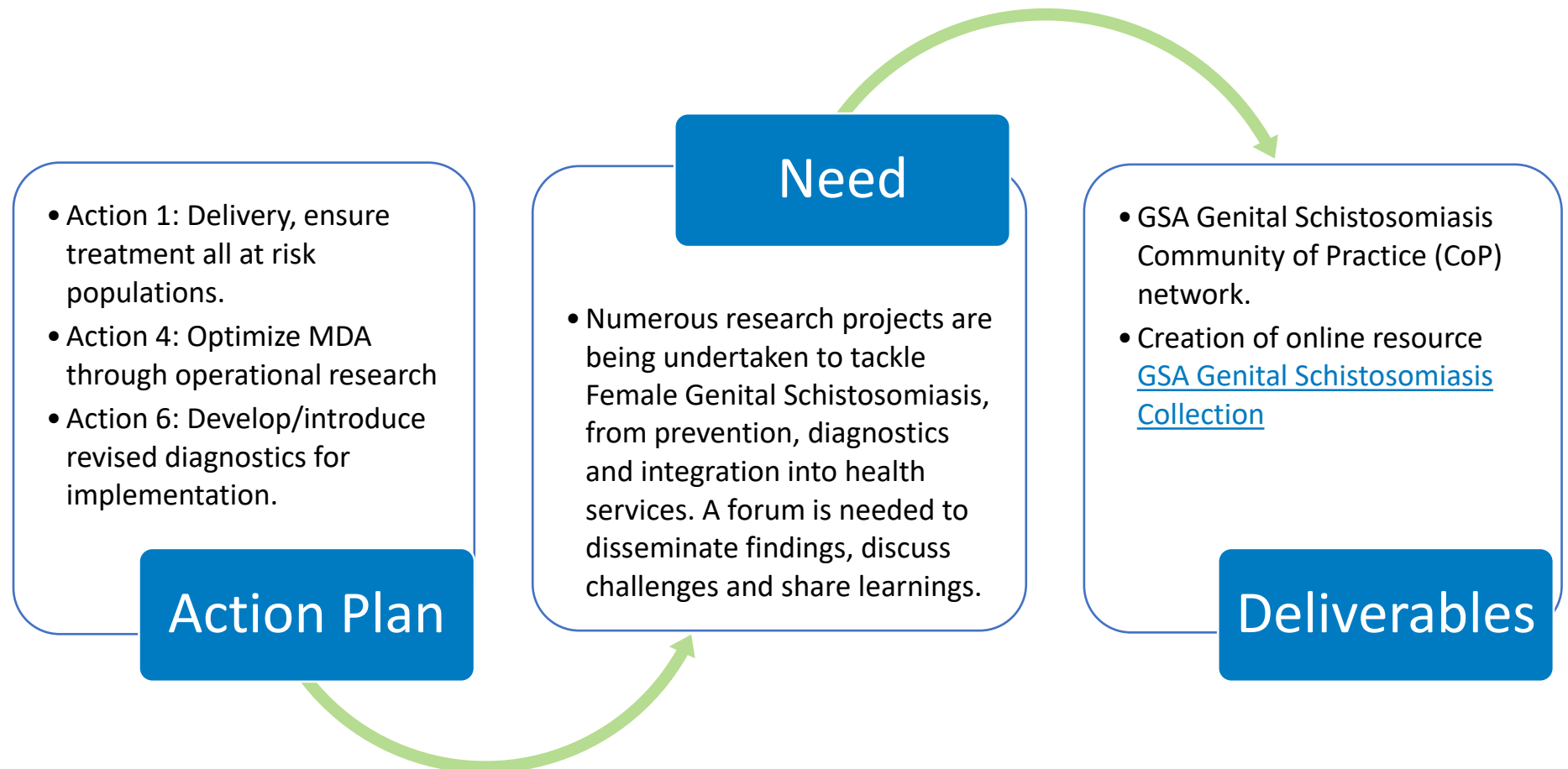
### Deliverables

- Schistosomiasis elimination research meeting
- Delivery of Genital Schistosomiasis Community of Practice and Snail Research & Control work stream (outlined in the following slides)

## Genital Schistosomiasis Focus



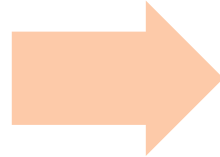
# Genital Schistosomiasis Focus: Action Plan and Deliverables 2020



# Genital Schistosomiasis Focus: Next Steps and Deliverables 2021

## Next Steps

- Set up first CoP call and establish regular opportunities to share information, findings and progress on diagnosis, treatment, and prevention.
- Online collection will be reviewed and new resources, reports and items added.
- Discussion to set up a wider network to disseminate updates, news and materials on GS to all stakeholders in the NTD, HIV, Cervical Cancer and reproductive health spheres



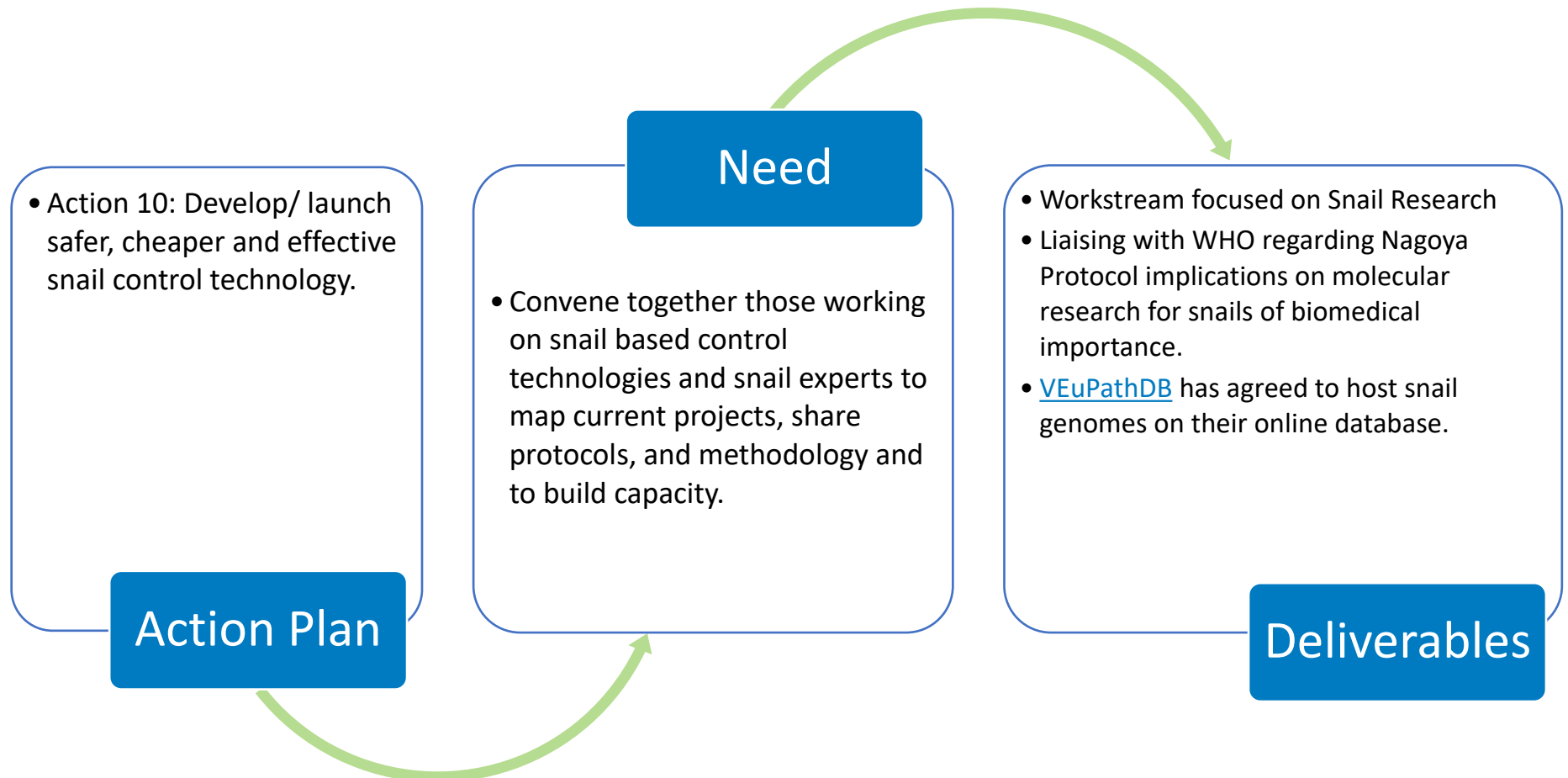
## Deliverables

- Updated online resource collection for Genital Schistosomiasis
- Potential Sign-up form for those interested in receiving information on GS

## Snail Research and Control work stream



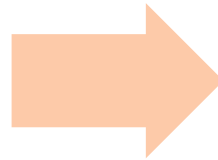
## Snail Research and Control workstream: Action Plan and Deliverables 2020



## Snail Research and Control workstream: Next Steps and Deliverables 2021

### Next Steps

- Collecting protocols and databases for snail research.
- Setting up malacology expert group.
- Develop online resource collection with protocols and standard operating procedures for snail research and control.



### Deliverables

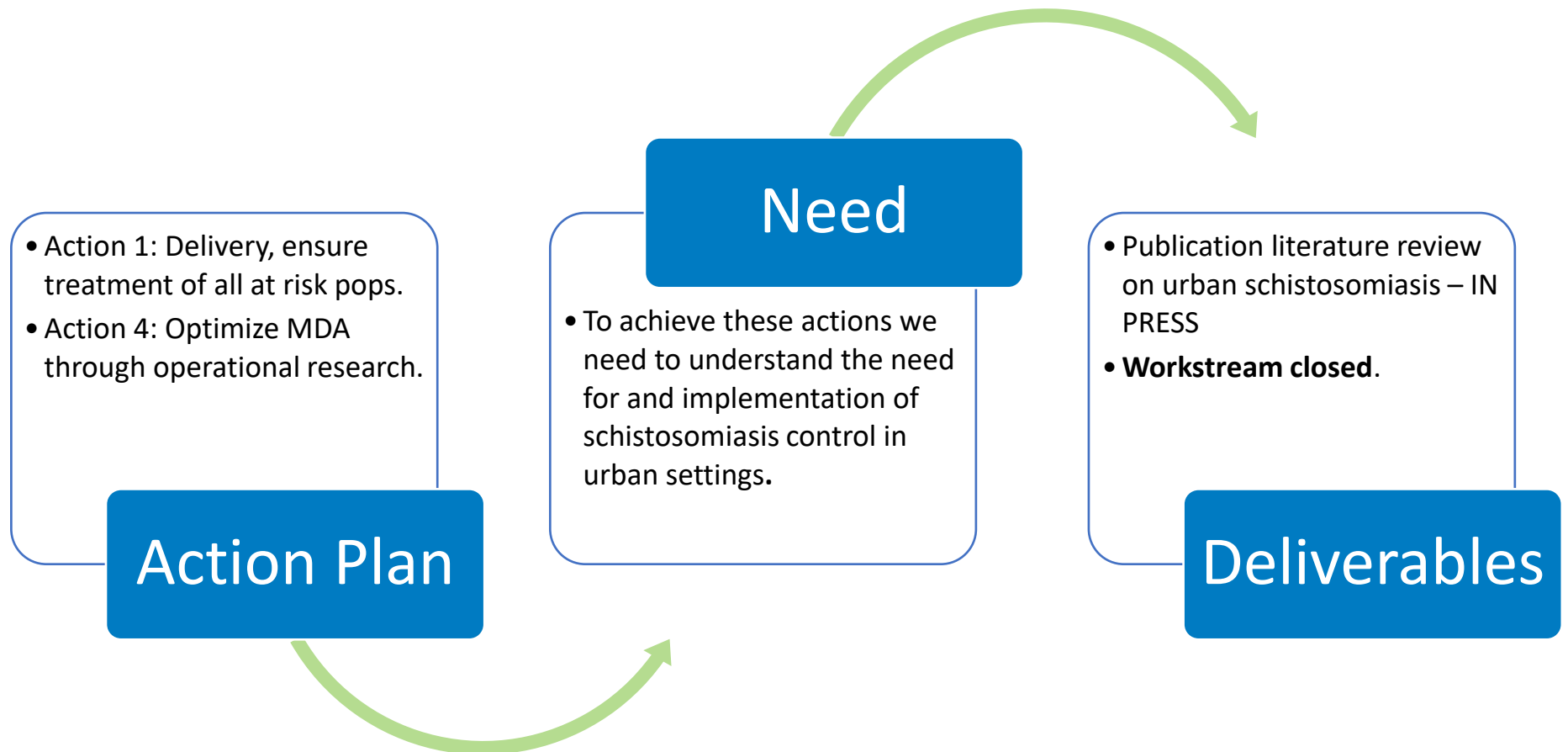
- Snail Resource Collection on GSA website.
- Established malacology experts network across countries.



## Urban schistosomiasis Work stream



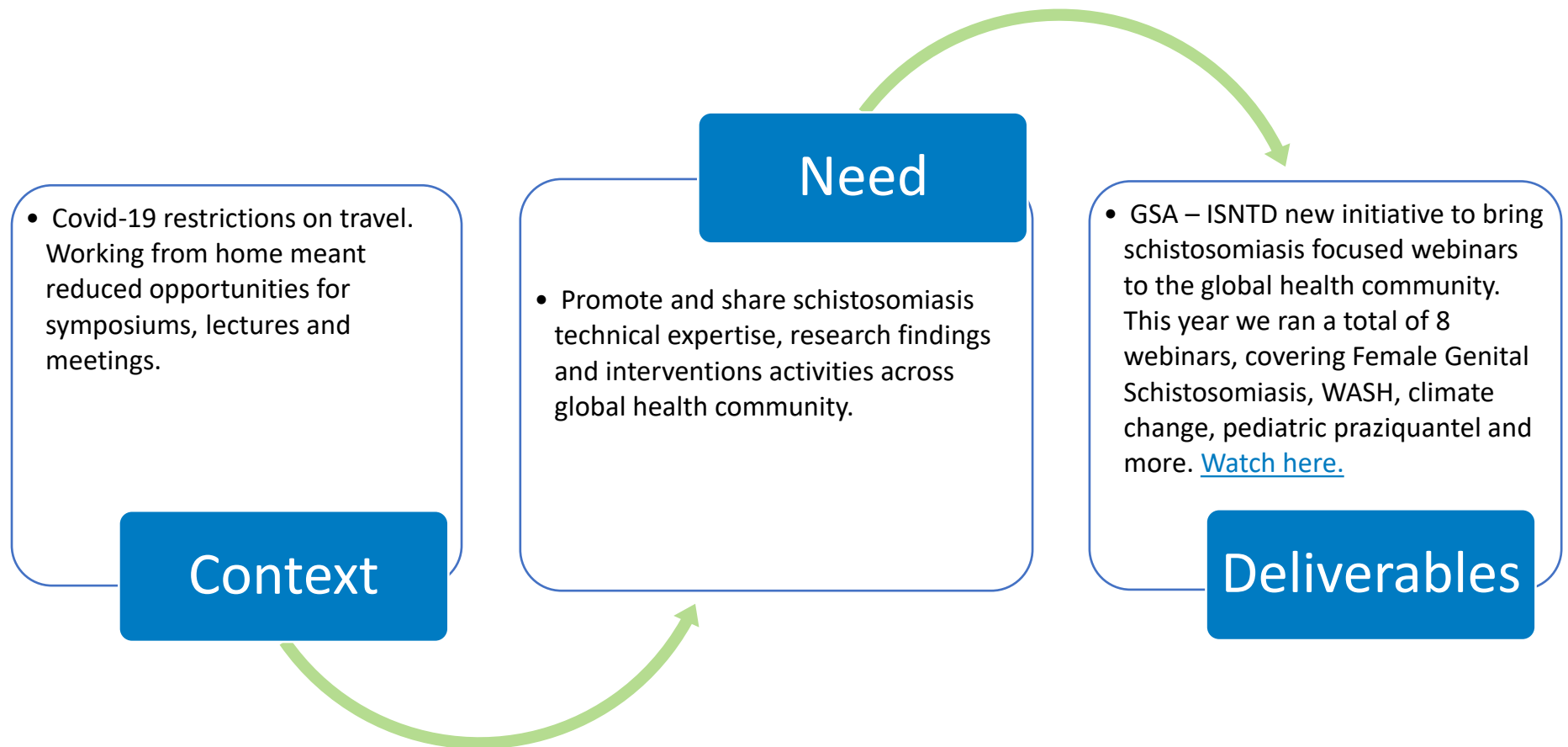
## Urban schistosomiasis: Action Plan and Deliverables 2020



## GSA and International Society for NTDs partnership on webinars



## GSA and International Society for NTDs partnership on webinars: Action Plan and Deliverables 2020



# ISNTD Connect GSA Series webinars



April 2020

164 live attendees / 575  
YouTube views



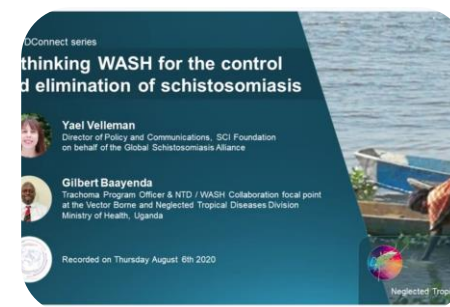
June 2020

177 live attendees / 183  
YouTube views



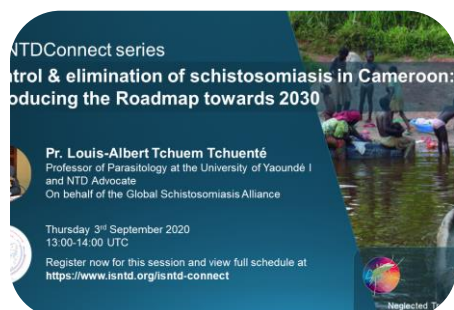
July 2020

142 live attendees / 140  
YouTube views



August 2020

154 live attendees / 198  
YouTube views



September 2020

149 live attendees / 132  
YouTube views



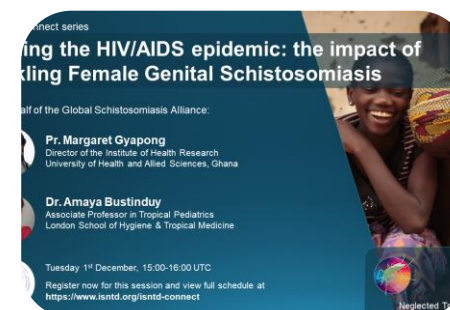
October 2020

149 live attendees



November 2020

214 live attendees / 164  
YouTube views



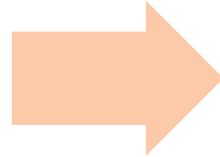
December 2020

155 live attendees / 249  
YouTube views

# Next Steps and Deliverables 2021

## Next Steps

- Plan next ISNTD webinars invite talks from the SCH community.
- Focus talks on early career researchers, SCH public health practitioners on the ground and new resources/tools to reach the WHO 2030 Roadmap goals.
- Explore French webinars and other languages (e.g. Lusophone)
- Discuss possibility of training webinars.



## Deliverables

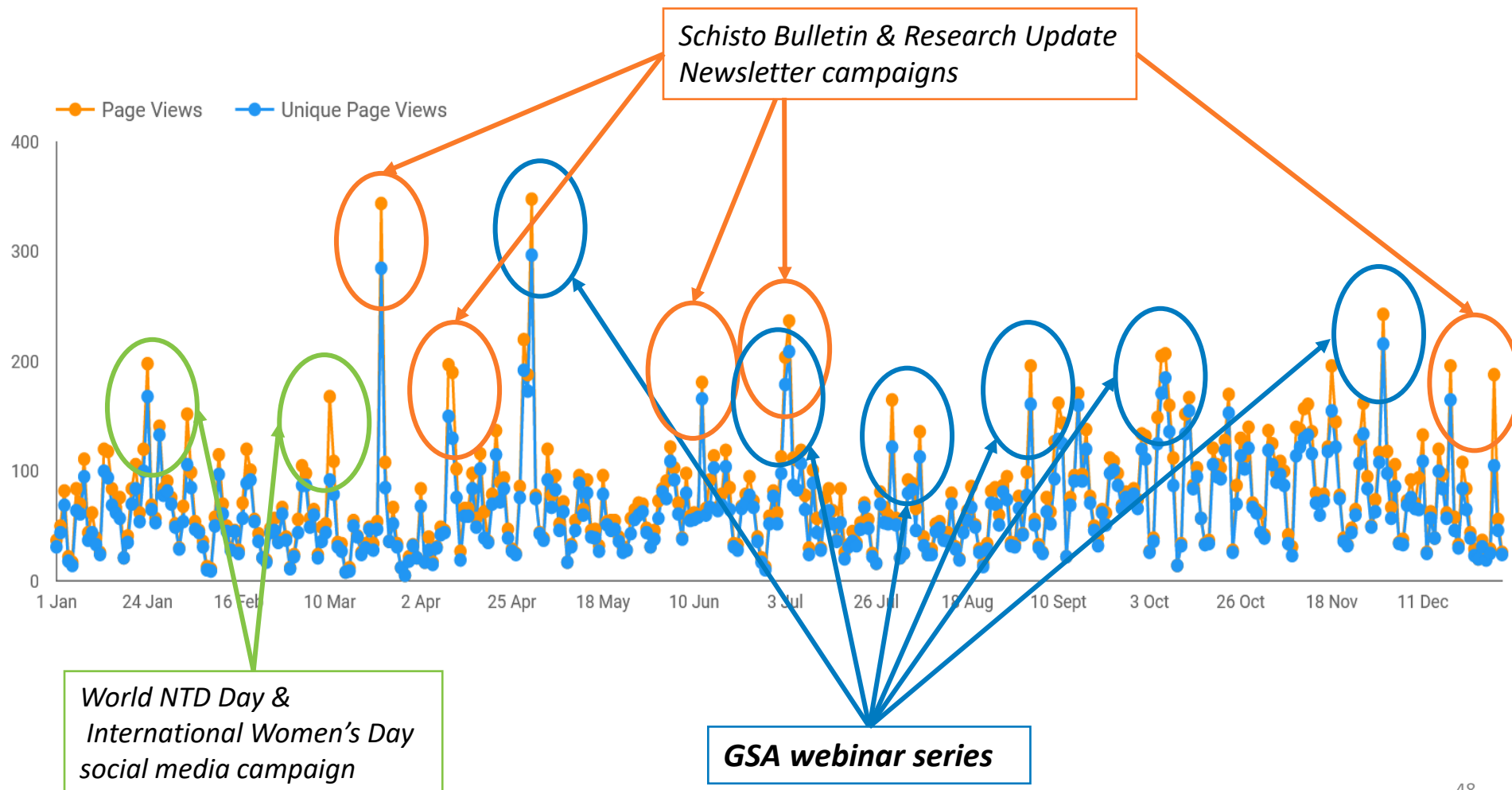
- Deliver diverse range of webinars for SCH community.
- Increase visibility & traffic to GSA website.

## GSA website as a schistosomiasis news & resource hub





## Daily Website Use linked to digital campaigns



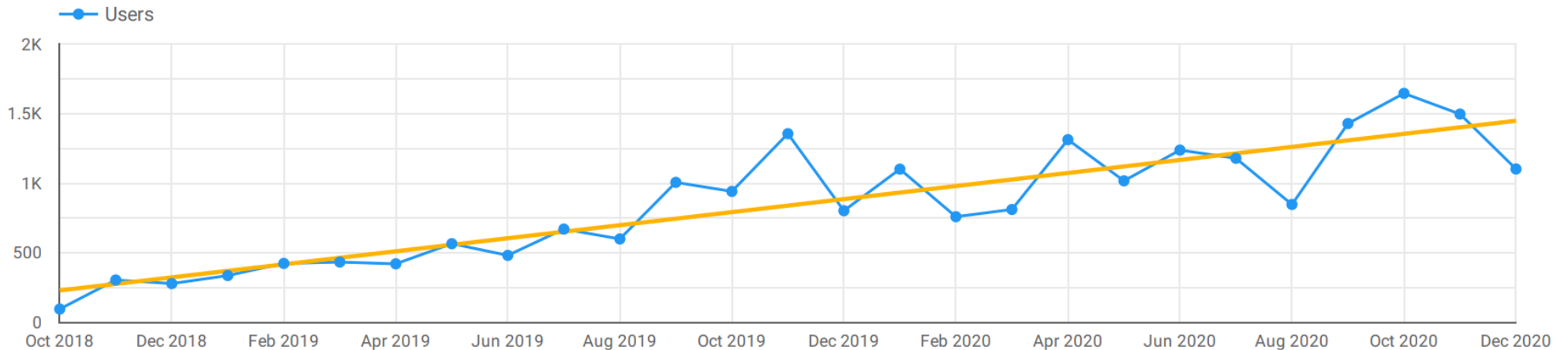




Users  
**20.9K**

Sessions  
**28.1K**

1 Oct 2018 - 31 Dec 2020



Website use increase since 2018 launch

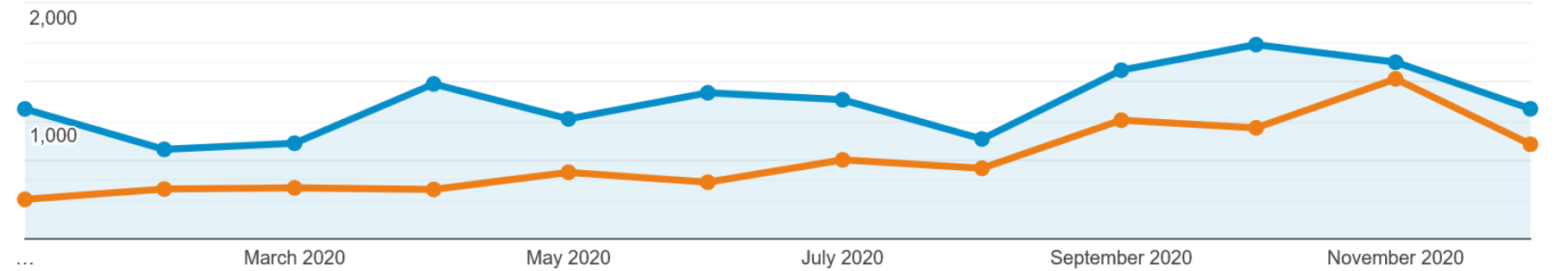


## Monthly website use- Comparison 2020 to 2019

Hourly Day Week **Month**

01-Jan-2020 - 31-Dec-2020: ● Users

01-Jan-2019 - 31-Dec-2019: ● Users



Users

**73.61%**

13,031 vs 7,506



Sessions

**76.06%**

17,330 vs 9,843



Page Views

**49.08%**

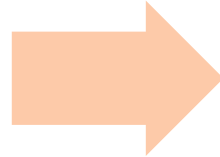
27,819 vs 18,661



# Next Steps and Deliverables 2021

## Next Steps

- Review meta data to increase visibility of GSA website on search engines and develop a plan to increase website use.
- Use social media and digital comms to promote new WHO 2030 Roadmap.
- Use social media and GSA newsletters to promote GSA website as a source of SCH resources.
- Support and promote online/remote training and courses for knowledge management.



## Deliverables

- Increased visibility of website & website traffic.
- Increased social media and digital communications impact & reach.
- Support remote training and capacity building.

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# GSA leadership and organization

## Leadership & Operations

- Prof. David Rollinson (Director)
- Dr. Johannes Waltz (Strategy and Finance Director)
- Dr. Anouk N. Gouvras (Communications and Programme Manager)
- Ms. Katharina Klohe (Programme Manager – on sabbatical)
- Ms. Kat Gulyas (Part-time digital communications support)

## Assurance

- The GSA enters its sixth full year of operations. It relies on an “Advisory Board” to oversee GSA operations and strengthen governance. Members of the board bring in long-standing authoritative and independent experience in policy setting for disease control and public health.

## Delivery of themes

- The GSA works closely with schistosomiasis stakeholders, WHO observers, and the NTD community to lead and coordinate the delivery of the key themes and outputs for 2021 and to ensure priorities are determined and objectives achieved.

# Working group & work stream chairs



Diagnostic work stream: Dr Bonnie Webster & Dr Lisette van Leishout

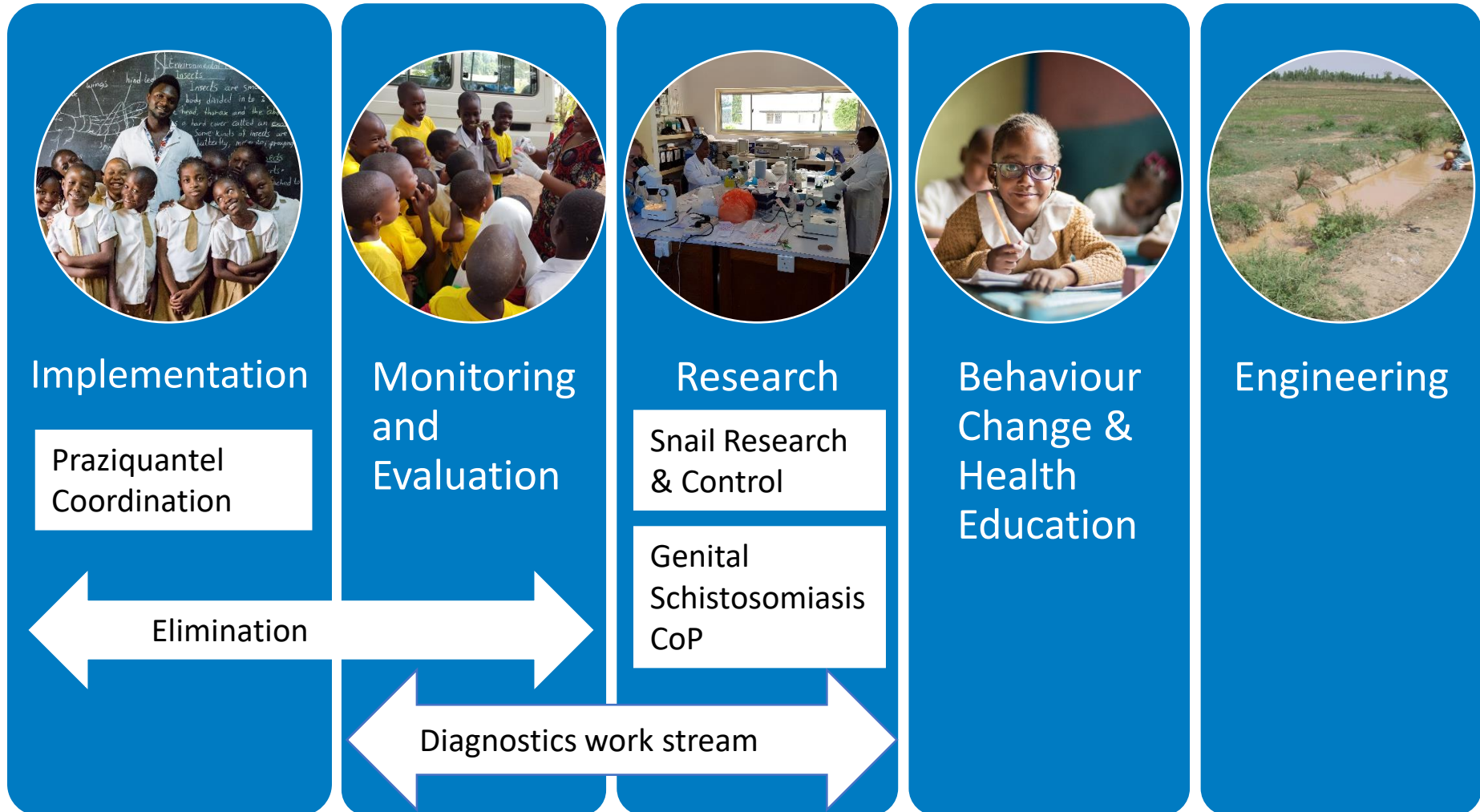


Snails: Dr Nic Wheeler



Genital Schistosomiasis Network: Dr Amaya Bustinduy

# GSA Working groups and Work streams



# GSA Ambassador Programme

In the global effort to control and eliminate schistosomiasis there is an increasing need for countries to unite and share expertise in order to meet the goals and targets set by the new WHO NTD Roadmap 2021-2030 for schistosomiasis.

A multidisciplinary and multisectoral approach requires coordination and good communication to maximise benefits.



GSA Ambassador Programme launched



Current ambassadors are either the SCH focal point of programmes or experts that work with the programmes

GSA Ambassadors enable a close interaction between GSA and MoH.



17 Ambassadors in 14 countries:

Benin, Cameroon, Eritrea, Guinea, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Uganda, Zimbabwe

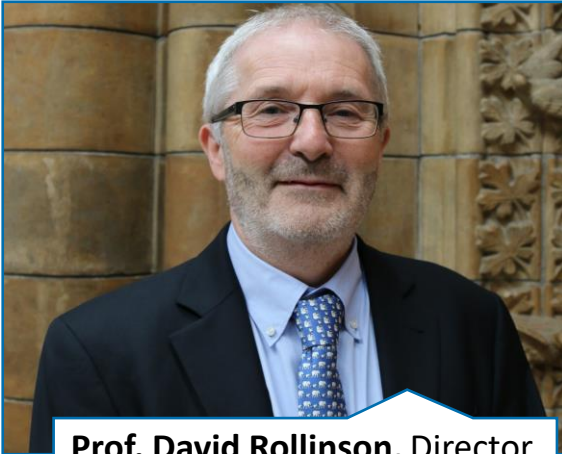


Profiles can be viewed here:

<https://www.eliminate-schisto.org/working-together/how-we-work-an-alliance-working-together/gsa-ambassador-programme>



# GSA executive and management team



**Prof. David Rollinson**, Director, Schistosomiasis expert with extensive experience relating to the biology of schistosomes and snails and the control and elimination of disease in Africa.



**Dr. Johannes Waltz**, the GSA's strategic and finance director alongside his work at Merck



**Dr. Anouk Gouvras**, Communications and Programme Manager, Schistosomiasis expert, experienced communications and programme manager

**Katharina Klohe, Programme Manager.** Experienced global health consultant and science programme manager. **On Sabbatical**

**Operational support:** Kat Gulyas will take on the role of part-time digital communications support for 2021.

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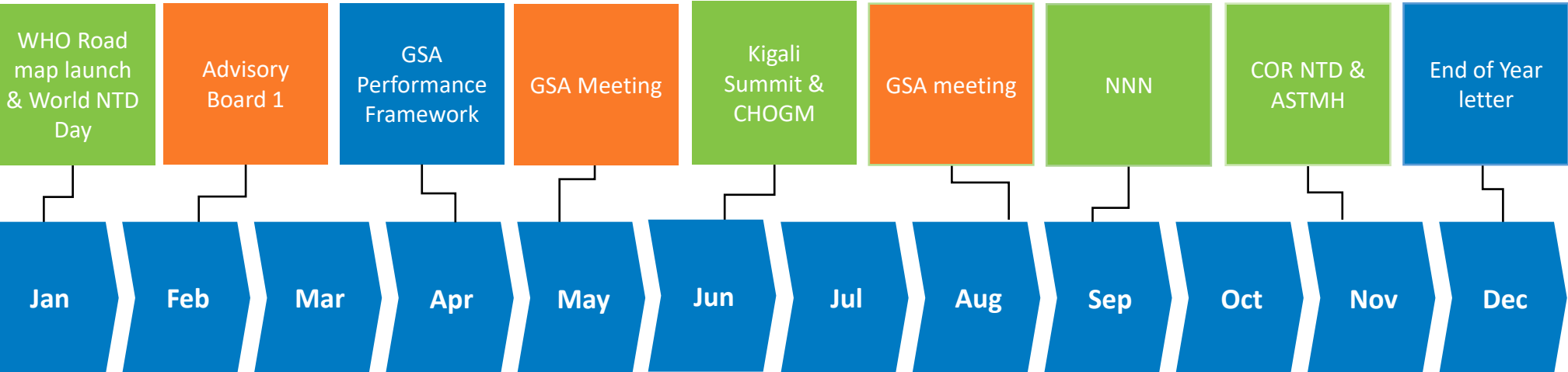
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# Key milestones for 2021

Additional activities fall within working groups and workstreams.

GSA Webinars, Newsletters, Website & Social Media Campaigns



Working Group and Workstreams

M&E WG   BCHE WG   Research WG   Engineering WG   Elimination WS   PZQ Coordination WS   Diagnostic WS   Snail WS   Genital SCH CoP

■ Meetings attended by the GSA   
 ■ Meetings hosted by the GSA   
 ■ Operational deadlines

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- 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
- DFID – UK Department For International Development
- ECTMIH – European Congress Tropical Medicines and International Health
- ESPEN – Expanded Special Project for Elimination of NTDs
- EPHP – Elimination as a Public Health Problem
- FGS – Female Genital Schistosomiasis
- GSA - Global Schistosomiasis Alliance
- ISNTD – International Society for NTDs
- IoT – Interruption of Transmission
- Kenya BTS – Kenya Breaking Transmission Strategy
- MDA – Mass Drug Administration
- M&E - Monitoring and Evaluation
- NIPD – China National Institute for Parasitic Diseases
- NTDs – Neglected Tropical Diseases
- NNN – NTD NGO Network
- OR – Operational Research
- PC – Preventative Chemotherapy
- SCI – Schistosomiasis Control Initiative Foundation
- SCH – Schistosomiasis
- Shanghai SRS – Shanghai Surveillance and Response Systems
- STAG – Strategic and Technical Advisory Group
- Swiss TPH – Swiss Tropical Medicine and Public Health Institute
- USAID – U.S. Agency for International Development
- WASH – Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
- WISER – Water Infrastructure for Schistosomiasis Endemic Regions
- WG – Working Group
- WS – Work stream
- 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