

NTDs

NTDs Toolbox Part 3: Schistosomiasis

Schistosomiasis, also known as bilharzia, is a widespread parasitic disease affecting over 200 million people globally, mainly in Africa, South America, the Middle East, and Southeast Asia. The disease is transmitted through contact with contaminated water, where freshwater snails act as intermediate hosts. Key prevention measures include access to clean water, improved sanitation, and health education. Mass drug administration (MDA) programs using praziquantel are also vital in controlling the spread. Despite efforts to combat the disease, schistosomiasis continues to pose a significant public health challenge, impacting the quality of life in affected regions.

More guidelines, online courses, posters and videos can be found in our NTD TOOLBOX: <https://medbox.org/630F05C4EE2C0/toolbox/schistosomiasis>

Schistosomiasis

Statistics & Facts

Schistosomiasis Key Facts

World Health Organization WHO (2023)

Schistosomiasis is an acute and chronic parasitic disease caused by blood flukes (trematode worms) of the genus *Schistosoma*. Estimates show that at least 251.4 million people required preventive treatment in 2021. Preventive treatment, which should be repeated over a number of years, will reduce and prevent morbidity. Schistosomiasis transmission has been reported from 78 countries. However, preventive chemotherapy for schistosomiasis, where people and communities are targeted for large-scale treatment, is only required in 51 endemic countries with moderate-to-high transmission.

<https://www.medbox.org/document/schistosomiasis-key-facts>
<https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/schistosomiasis>

PAHO Schistosomiasis

Pan American Health Organization PAHO (2025)

Schistosomiasis is a chronic parasitic infection caused by worms. It is most common in rural and impoverished populations. In the Americas, the parasite species is *Schistosoma mansoni*, which is associated with intestinal schistosomiasis. The main risk factor for infection is exposure through household, work, or recreational activities in fresh water contaminated with faeces from infected humans. In the Region, for transmission to occur, *Biomphalaria* snails, the intermediate hosts of the parasite, must also be present in contaminated water.



<https://www.medbox.org/document/paho-schistosomiasis>
<https://www.paho.org/en/topics/schistosomiasis>

Schistosomiasis (Bilharzia) Frequently Asked Questions *The National Institute for Communicable Diseases (2018)*

Schistosomiasis, also known as bilharzia, is a disease caused by parasitic worms that require two hosts: humans and certain species of snails. There are two forms of the disease, namely, intestinal schistosomiasis, caused by *Schistosoma mansoni* and *S. japonicum*, and urogenital schistosomiasis, caused by *S. haematobium*. There are less common schistosome species in some parts of the world, e.g. *S. mekongi* and *S. intercalatum*. Schistosomiasis ranks second only to malaria as the most common parasitic disease worldwide.

<https://www.medbox.org/document/schistosomiasis-bilharzia-frequently-asked-questions>
https://www.nicd.ac.za/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Schistosomiasis-Bilharzia_20181104_Final.pdf



Clinical Aspects & Diagnostics

WHO guideline on control and elimination of human schistosomiasis *World Health Organization WHO (2022)*

Schistosomiasis is a public health problem in tropical and subtropical regions of Africa, Asia, the Caribbean and South America. It is one of the neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) - a group of diseases and conditions that affect particularly low-income populations, worldwide. Last year, WHO launched a new road map for 2021-2030 that aims to end the suffering from NTDs by 2030, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals. The road map specifically targets the elimination of schistosomiasis as a public health problem, globally. This guideline provides evidence-based recommendations in the following areas: prevalence thresholds, target age groups and frequency of PC, establishment of WASH and snail control activities to support control and elimination of schistosomiasis, diagnostic tests for the assessment of schistosomiasis infection in animal reservoirs, in snail hosts, and in humans.

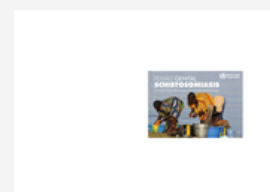
<https://www.medbox.org/document/who-guideline-on-control-and-elimination-of-human-schistosomiasis>
<https://iris.who.int/bitstream/handle/10665/351856/9789240041608-eng.pdf?sequence=1>



Female genital schistosomiasis: *L. Savioli (2015); World Health Organization (WHO)*

A pocket atlas for clinical health-care professionals

<https://www.medbox.org/document/female-genital-schistosomiasis>
https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/180863/1/9789241509299_eng.pdf?ua=1



Schistosomiasis Clinical guidelines - Diagnosis and treatment manual
Dubois, G.; Vasseur-Binachon, B.; Yoshimoto, C. et al. (2022); Médecins Sans Frontières

Schistosomiasis are acute or chronic visceral parasitic diseases due to 5 species of trematodes (schistosomes). The three main species infecting humans are *Schistosoma haematobium*, *Schistosoma mansoni* and *Schistosoma japonicum*. *Schistosoma mekongi* and *Schistosoma intercalatum* have a more limited distribution.

<https://www.medbox.org/document/schistosomiasis-clinical-guidelines-diagnosis-and-treatment-manual>
<https://medicalguidelines.msf.org/en/viewport/CG/english/schistosomiasis-16689787.html#section-target-1>



Schisto POC-CCA. Rapid test for qualitative detection of: Bilharzia (Schistosomiasis)
Rapid Diagnostics (2018)

25 Diagnostic Tests

<https://www.medbox.org/document/schisto-poc-cca-rapid-test-for-qualitative-detection-of-bilharzia-schistosomiasis>
https://www.rapid-diagnostics.com/updates_15_09_2019/RMD_Pamphlet_13_12_2018_Colourweb.pdf



Communication piece: Commercially available diagnostic tests
The Global Schistosomiasis Alliance GSA (2021)

The Global Schistosomiasis Alliance Diagnostic Workstream has developed a communications piece listing all commercially available diagnostics for schistosomiasis

<https://www.medbox.org/document/communication-piece-commercially-available-diagnostic-tests>
https://www.eliminate-schisto.org/sites/gsa/files/content/attachments/2021-05-07/Communication_piece_available_diagnostics_09.04.2021_English.pdf



Prevention & Control

Guidelines for laboratory and field testing of molluscicides for control of schistosomiasis
World Health Organization WHO (2019)

This document provides up-to-date guidance on laboratory studies as well as smallscale (semi-field) and large-scale field trials to assess the efficacy and determine field application rates of new molluscicide products for control of schistosomiasis.

<https://www.medbox.org/document/guidelines-for-laboratory-and-field-testing-of-molluscicides-for-control-of-schistosomiasis>
<https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/311588/9789241515405-eng.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

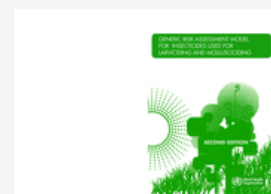


Generic risk assessment model for insecticides used for larviciding and mollusciciding

World Health Organization WHO (2018)

2nd edition. The purpose of this document is to provide a generic model that can be used for risk assessment of larviciding and mollusciciding; it aims to harmonize the risk assessment of such pesticides for public health use. The assessment considers both adults and children (all age groups) as well as people in the following specific categories: those handling products and preparing/loading the spray liquid in application equipment; those applying the spray or other formulations; and residents who may come into contact with treated waters during washing, bathing, fishing or any other activity, or use the treated waters.

<https://www.medbox.org/document/generic-risk-assessment-model-for-insecticides-used-for-larviciding-and-mollusciciding>
<https://iris.who.int/bitstream/handle/10665/276706/9789241515047-eng.pdf?sequence=1>



Brazil Standard Operation Procedures

Fiocruz (2023)

Brazil Standard Operation Procedures* for the identification of Biomphalaria snails, infectivity and infection status of Biomphalaria snails.

<https://www.medbox.org/document/brazil-standard-operation-procedures>
<https://www.eliminatesthis.org/resources/brazil-standard-operation-procedures>



School Deworming Manuals

Guidelines for School-based Deworming Programs

School Health Integrated Programming (SHIP) (2016)

Information for policy-makers and planners on conducting deworming as part of an integrated school health program

<https://www.medbox.org/document/guidelines-for-school-based-deworming-programs>
https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/pdf/school_health_integrated_programming_ship_school-based_deworming_guidelines.pdf/



School based deworming

Deoworm the World (2010)

A planner's guide to proposal development for national school-based deworming programs

<https://www.medbox.org/document/school-based-deworming>
<https://schoolsandhealth.net/Shared%20Documents/Downloads/School%20based%20deworming%20-%20A%20planners%20guide%20to%20proposal%20development%20for%20national%20school-based%20deworming%20programs.pdf>



Conducting a school deworming day - A manual for teachers *World Health Organization WHO (2013)*

A step-by-step guide for teachers on how to conduct a school deworming day!

<https://www.medbox.org/document/conducting-a-school-deworming-day-a-manual-for-teachers>

https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/84742/9789241505192_eng.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y



Capacity Building & Resources

The Global Schistosomiasis Alliance Website *The Global Schistosomiasis Alliance (2025)*

The Global Schistosomiasis Alliance (GSA) is an all-inclusive coalition to mobilise the growing momentum to control and eliminate schistosomiasis. It is constituted as a diverse but representative partnership of public health programmes, academic and research institutions, international development agencies and foundations, non-governmental organizations, private sector companies and advocacy and resource-mobilisations partners. Our alliance is not limited to partner organizations but also includes individuals, research groups and different networks, collaborating together as a community to control and eliminate schistosomiasis.

<https://www.medbox.org/document/the-global-schistosomiasis-alliance-website>
<https://www.eliminate-schisto.org/working-together/schistosomiasis>



The Pediatric Praziquantel Consortium Resource Platform *The Pediatric Praziquantel Consortium (2024)*

The consortium is an international public-private partnership that aims to reduce the global disease burden of schistosomiasis by addressing the medical needs of infected children between the ages of 3 months and 6 years. By doing so, we hope to contribute to the ongoing efforts to eliminate schistosomiasis and improve child health.

<https://www.medbox.org/document/the-pediatric-praziquantel-consortium-resource-platform>

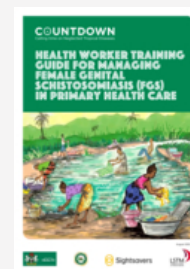
<https://www.pediatricpraziquantelconsortium.org/>



Health Workers Training Guide for Managing Female Genital Schistosomiasis (FGS) in Primary Health Care

Countdown Calling Time on Neglected Tropical Diseases (2021); Sightsavers

This trainer toolkit is a guide for Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTD) program implementers in Nigeria to train primary health care health workers to diagnose and provide care for women and girls with symptoms of female genital schistosomiasis (FGS). It has been developed based on a pilot study in Ogun State where 22 health facilities were trained on using the FGS tools. The trainer guide should be used alongside the 'Health Worker Training Guide for managing FGS within primary health care'. Trainers should familiarise themselves with this manual before the training to ensure that all aspects of the training are conducted effectively.

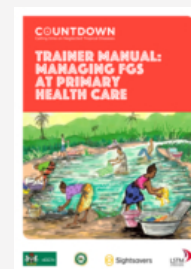


<https://www.medbox.org/document/health-workers-training-guide-for-managing-female-genital-schistosomiasis-fgs-in-primary-health-care>
<https://research.sightsavers.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Guide-for-health-workers-on-managing-cases-of-female-genital-schistosomiasis.pdf>

Trainer Manual: Managing FGS in Primary Health Care

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This trainer toolkit is a guide for Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTD) program implementers in Nigeria to train primary health care health workers to diagnose and provide care for women and girls with symptoms of female genital schistosomiasis (FGS). It has been developed based on a pilot study in Ogun State where 22 health facilities were trained on using the FGS tools. The trainer guide should be used alongside the 'Health Worker Training Guide for managing FGS within primary health care'. Trainers should familiarise themselves with this manual before the training to ensure that all aspects of the training are conducted effectively.



<https://www.medbox.org/document/trainer-manual-managing-fgs-in-primary-health-care>
<https://research.sightsavers.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Toolkit-for-training-health-workers-on-managing-cases-of-female-genital-schistosomiasis.pdf>

Information, Education & Communication (IEC) Material

Teacher Toolkit for Intestinal Schistosomiasis

Person, B., and the Zanzibar Behaviour Change Team (2019)

The schistosomiasis teaching toolkit has two main parts: The Schistosomiasis Classroom Toolkit provides lesson plans, activity suggestions, and other tools for teachers to use in their classrooms and with the broader community. Eight lesson plans designed to teach students about prevention, control, and treatment of schistosomiasis using active learning approaches. Teacher's Guide for Activities and Safe Play. The Schistosomiasis Flipchart. The Schistosomiasis Parent Handout. The seven Teacher Training Slide Sets can be used to train teachers in principles of active learning; schistosomiasis prevention and control, and treatment; and how to use the Classroom Toolkit with their students.



<https://www.medbox.org/document/teacher-toolkit-for-intestinal-schistosomiasis>
<https://www.eliminatestschisto.org/resources/teacher-toolkit-for-intestinal-schistosomiasis>

The Life Cycle of Schistosomiasis

The Carter Center (2024)

Infographic

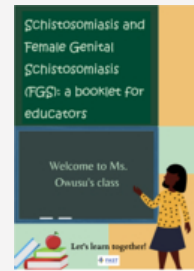
<https://www.medbox.org/document/the-life-cycle-of-schistosomiasis>
<https://www.cartercenter.org/resources/pdfs/health/schistosomiasis/schisto-disease-cycle.pdf>



Schistosomiasis and Female Genital Schistosomiasis (FGS): a booklet for educators
Fast Package (2022)

Teacher's guide

<https://www.medbox.org/document/schistosomiasis-and-female-genital-schistosomiasis-fgs-a-booklet-for-educators>
https://www.eliminate-schisto.org/sites/gsa/files/content/attachments/2022-12-16/Teachers_Guide_FAST_Package.pdf



Schistosomiasis: a child health development challenge
Schistosomiasis Pediatric Praziquantel Consortium (2023)

Infographic

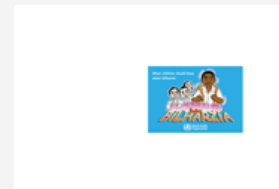
<https://www.medbox.org/document/schistosomiasis-a-child-health-development-challenge>
https://www.pediatricpraziquantelconsortium.org/sites/ppc/files/2023-06/PZQ%20Child%20Health%20Infographic_FINAL.pdf



Bambo has bilharzia: what children should know about bilharzia
World Health Organization WHO (2013)

Educational Comic book

<https://www.medbox.org/document/bambo-has-bilharzia-what-children-should-know-about-bilharzia>
https://iris.who.int/bitstream/handle/10665/44636/9789241501903_eng.pdf?sequence=1



Studies & Reports

Review of 2022 World Health Organization guidelines on the control and elimination of schistosomiasis
Nathan, C.L.; F.S.M. Bezerra, D.G. Colley, et al. (2022)

Lancet Infectious Diseases Volume 22, Issue 11e327-e335. In February, 2022, WHO published new guidelines with six recommendations to update the global public health strategy against schistosomiasis, including expansion of preventive chemotherapy eligibility from the predominant group of school-aged children to all age groups (2 years and older), lowering the prevalence threshold for annual preventive chemotherapy, and increasing the frequency of treatment.

<https://www.medbox.org/document/review-of-2022-world-health-organization-guidelines-on-the-control-and-elimination-of-schistosomiasis>
[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/laninf/article/PIIS1473-3099\(22\)00221-3/abstract](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/laninf/article/PIIS1473-3099(22)00221-3/abstract)

