



Have you heard of schistosomiasis?

Knowledge, attitudes and practices in Nampula province, Mozambique



Schistosomiasis is a parasitic infection that is acquired when people come into contact with freshwater infested with the parasite



It is a neglected tropical disease (NTD), which mainly affects poor and marginalised people



To effectively break the transmission cycle, as many people as possible need to adopt good hygiene and sanitation and take part in mass treatment campaigns



The disease is highly endemic in Mozambique. In Nampula province, one of the worst affected, 77% suffer from the infection

Community perceptions matter

What people know about the disease and how it can be prevented is a crucial factor in any effort to beat schistosomiasis

To find out more about people's perceptions, Malaria Consortium conducted a representative household survey in four districts of Nampula province with a total of 791 households interviewed

Results

91% are aware of schistosomiasis



20% can correctly name a risk behaviour

58% don't know how the disease is spread

22% incorrectly think it is a sexually transmitted disease

Knowledge of treatment is low

61% don't know if there is a drug that treats schistosomiasis

Only **5%** name mass treatment campaigns as a control mechanism



5%

of adults interviewed have taken Praziquantel

87%

say they would take Praziquantel if offered

The results from Malaria Consortium's survey demonstrate the need to educate people about the cause of the disease and how it is transmitted. Too few people know how to protect their families from the disease. Most people appear to be willing to take medication if offered. It is therefore essential to work with at-risk communities to increase the uptake of preventive practices, such as mass treatment campaigns.

What is Malaria Consortium doing?

In collaboration with the Direcção Provincial de Saúde de Nampula, Malaria Consortium is currently testing whether the community dialogues approach can be used to enhance communities' understanding of schistosomiasis. Regular community dialogue meetings, led by facilitators from within the community and trained by Malaria Consortium, have been conducted in all communities in four districts of Nampula province since August 2014. The community dialogues approach provides visual tools and a simple, repeatable 10-step process to help communities explore how schistosomiasis affects them, identify potential solutions and take locally relevant actions.

The study is co-funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and, through COMDIS-HSD, by UKaid from the UK government. COMDIS-HSD is a Research Programme Consortium led by the Nuffield Centre for International Health and Development at the University of Leeds.

The views expressed in this document do not reflect the position and policies of the donors.

Malaria Consortium gratefully acknowledges the support received from the Republic of Mozambique's Ministério da Saúde and the Direcção Provincial de Saúde in Nampula province. We would also like to thank Schistosomiasis Control Initiative at Imperial College London for discussing their previous research on community knowledge, attitudes and practices with the study team.

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