

# STUDY BRIEF

## INTEGRATION OF FEMALE GENITAL SCHISTOSOMIASIS (FGS) INTO SEXUAL REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES IN KENYA: A DEMONSTRATION STUDY

Photography by LVCT Health

### BACKGROUND RATIONALE

Female Genital Schistosomiasis (FGS) is a sexual reproductive health problem caused by chronic infection with a parasitic worm that causes schistosomiasis (also known as bilharzia). This condition is prevalent in regions with high endemicity of schistosomiasis.

FGS is often misdiagnosed, incorrectly treated and erroneously attributed to human papillomavirus (HPV) and sexually transmitted infections (STIs).

Despite the biological interplay between HIV, FGS, and cervical cancer, interventions and funding to tackle these health conditions are fragmented and uncoordinated.

Limited information exists on the programmatic integration of FGS in HIV and cervical cancer within a comprehensive framework of sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services.

### AT A GLANCE

#### DURATION

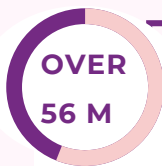
MARCH 2023-FEB 2025

#### RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS

- Health Managers
- Health workers
- Community Health Promoters (CHPs)
- Clients – Women of Reproductive Age (15-49 years)
- Community gate keepers

#### SELECTED COUNTIES

Homa bay, Kwale, Kilifi



Women and girls are estimated to be at risk of FGS in sub-saharan Africa

90%

Globally, over 240million people are at risk of schistosomiasis infection

90% of which occur in Sub-saharan Africa

46%

the prevalence of FGS was 46.7%

In 2017, in 4 hospital catchment areas in Kwale county

Source: World Health Organization (WHO)

### SELECTION CRITERIA

The study is being conducted in Homa Bay, Kilifi, and Kwale. These counties have a high prevalence of urogenital schistosomiasis among women, estimated at 15% to 30%, according to MoH data surveillance.



"Many are unaware of FGS, but by sharing knowledge, and advocating for research, we can bring FGS into the spotlight."

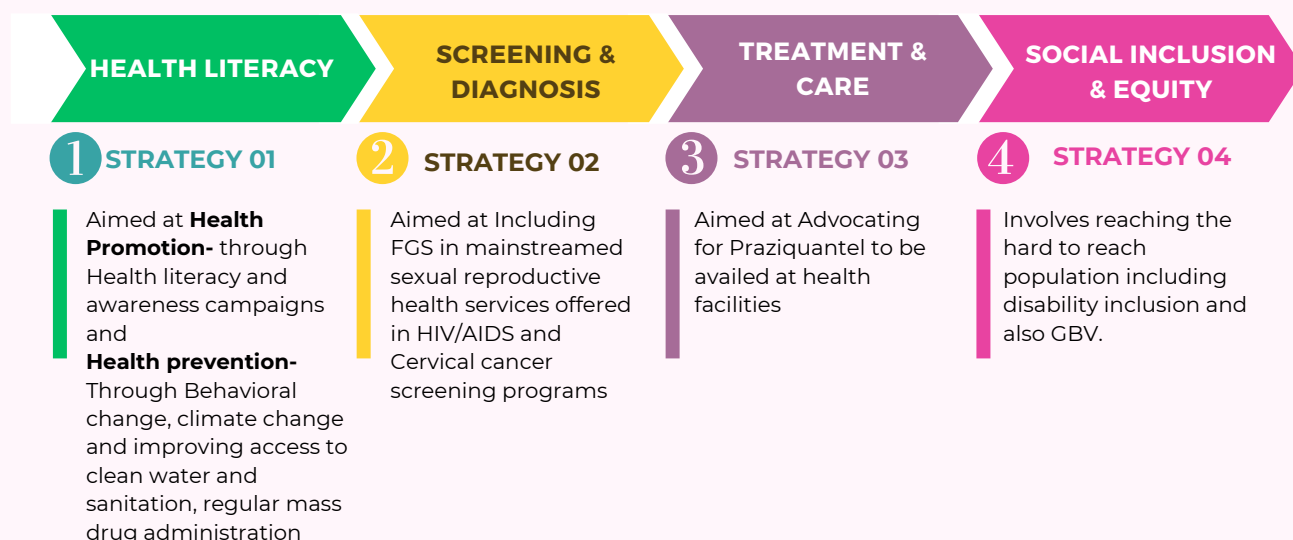
**Robinson Karuga, PI,  
LVCT Health**

# UNDERSTANDING THE ROLE OF INTERGRATING FGS AND SRH

## INTEGRATING FEMALE GENITAL SCHISTOSOMIASIS (FGS) AND SEXUAL REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH (SRH) SERVICES

Integrating FGS and SRH care provides an opportunity to enhance the efficiency, effectiveness and equity in the diagnosis and management of FGS. Hence, alleviating the suffering amongst vulnerable and marginalized women who are most affected FGS.

The figure below illustrates the **Minimum Service Package for integrating FGS and SRH**



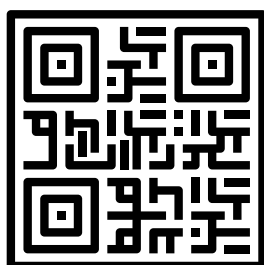
## OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY



This demonstration study aims to integrate Female Genital Schistosomiasis (FGS) services into existing Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) services by;

- 1 Implementing a contextual Minimum Service Package and;
- 2 Assessing the feasibility, acceptability, and cost of integrating these services

## RESOURCES



### National Stakeholder Workshop on Integration of FGS SRH

We're thrilled to announce that our "Integration of Female Genital Schistosomiasis into Sexual Reproductive Health (FGS-SRH) Co-creation Workshop" with National Stakeholders is just the beginning of an ongoing initiative.

### NTD Advocacy meeting with Lake Region Counties

Knowledge transition and advocacy strategy steps being taken towards fostering continuous collaboration, innovation, and progress in the field of FGS-SRH integration.

### FGS-SRH Investigators Update

Together with national stakeholders from various sectors, including experts, policymakers, healthcare providers, and community representatives, we're committed to driving sustainable change.

### Publication of Minimum Service Package for the integration of FGS into SRHR

<https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/tropical-diseases/articles/10.3389/fitd.2024.1321069/full>

### **Read more;**

[www.lvcthealth.org](http://www.lvcthealth.org)

Learn more about a global community of researchers and advocates that are committed to integrating FGS in SRH services by clicking [here](#)

<https://www.eliminate-schisto.org/fig-female-genital-schistosomiasis-integration-group>

## PARTNERS



## FUNDER



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