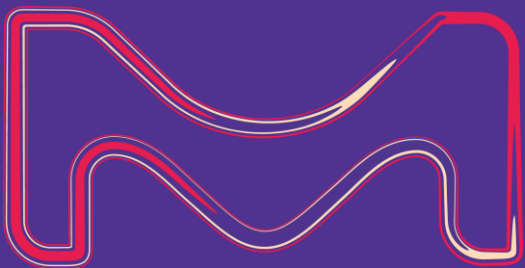




**MERCK'S ENGAGEMENT
in the fight against
SCHISTOSOMIASIS**



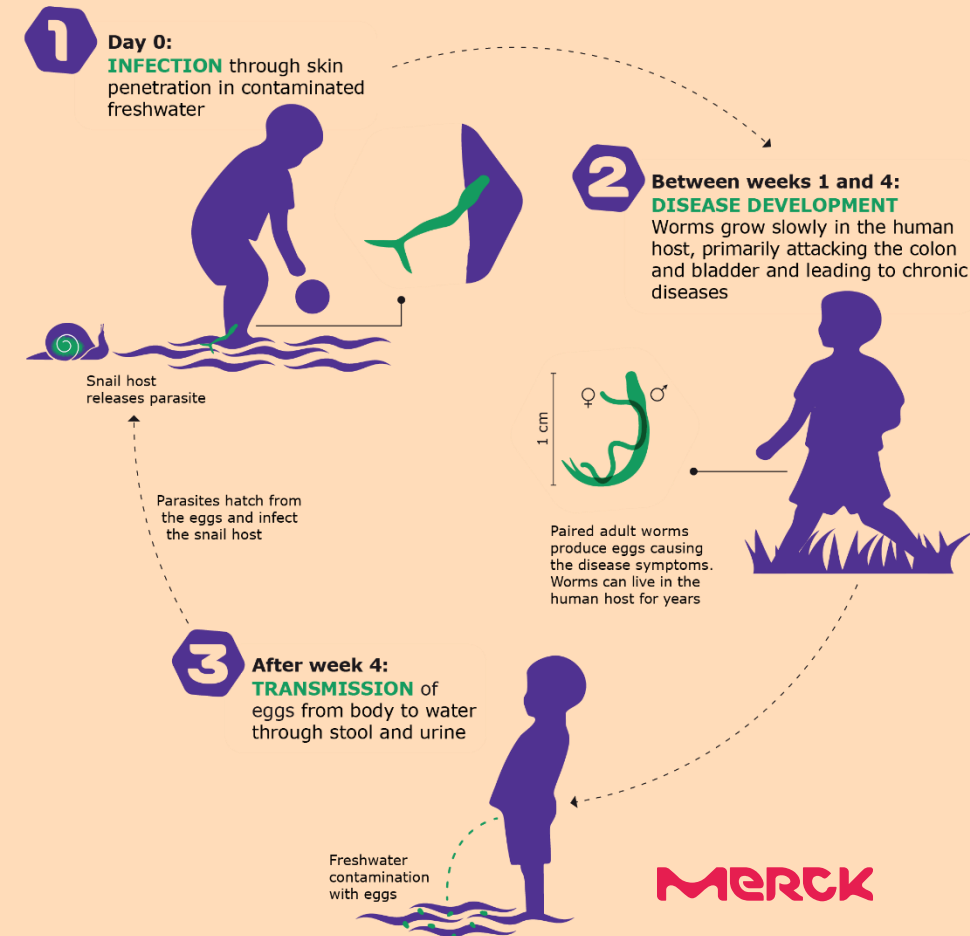
MERCK

Key Facts of Schistosomiasis

- **Schistosomiasis**, the second most devastating tropical disease in terms of public health burden and economic impact.
- More than **240 million people** worldwide suffer from schistosomiasis
- **90%** of those affected live in sub-Saharan **Africa**
- Predominant forms are **S. haematobium** and **S. mansoni**, mainly as mixed infections
- The **infection rate** is especially high among **children**
- Chronic symptoms that result are **learning disabilities, anemia, malnutrition**
- It leads to chronic diseases, e.g. genital schistosomiasis, bladder cancer, cirrhosis

The cycle of transmission

Schistosomiasis is caused by flatworms and is spread through stagnant water



key facts of schistosomiasis

sources of infection



visible symptoms



Treatment through PZQ Mass Drug Administration



MERCK schistosomiasis investments: strategic RoadMap

vision

A world free of Schistosomiasis

Mission

To eliminate schistosomiasis as a public health problem, achieve interruption of transmission, where feasible, and sustain control in endemic areas through an integrated approach. We combine equitable access for all age groups with health system strengthening and innovation, while empowering partnerships with endemic countries and global stakeholders.

Long-term objectives

Maintain control of schistosomiasis in high and moderate-prevalence areas **through sustained treatment coverage**, targeted advocacy, and government partnerships, ensuring **reduced prevalence** levels in these regions **by 2030**.

Eliminate schistosomiasis as a public health problem in selected endemic regions by 2030 through **sustainable treatment and access**, innovative solutions, and **strong country partnerships**.

Achieve interruption of transmission of schistosomiasis in selected regions by 2030 by driving **treatment innovations**, supporting **national programs**, and ensuring **targeted interventions**.

HOW WE TACKLE SCHISTOSOMIASIS

OUR GOAL: elimination of schistosomiasis as a public health problem through an integrated approach

2007

Begin of the donation program in partnership with WHO

47

African countries supplied

250 Million

Committed annual donation

>2 Billion

PZQ tablets provided since the beginning of the program

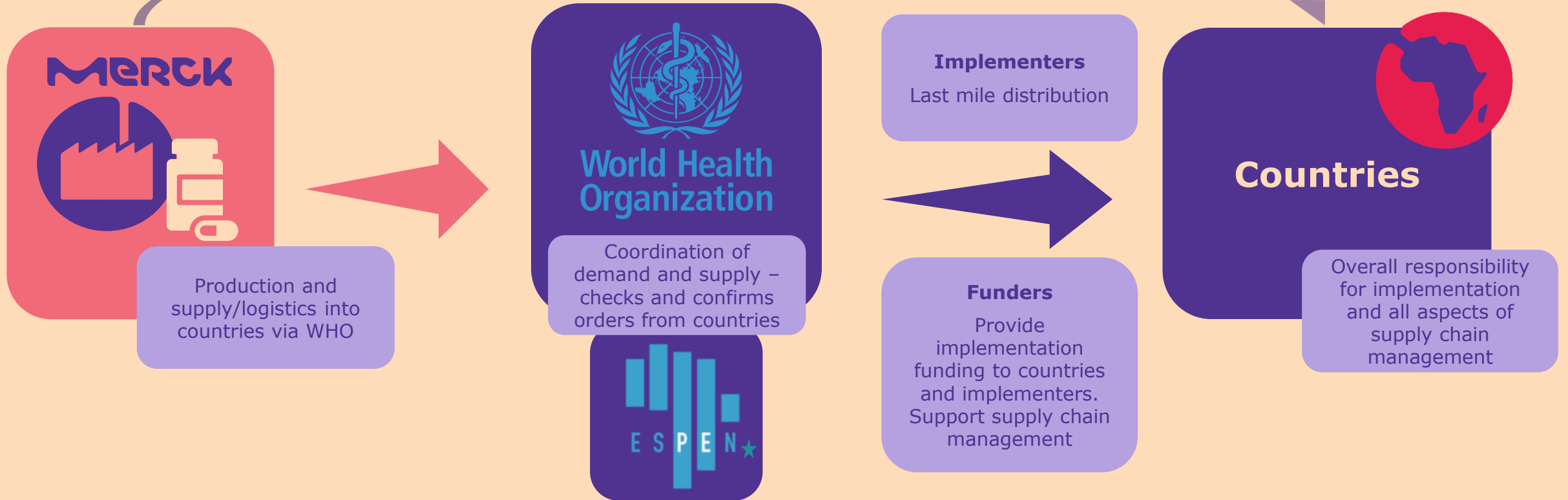
>800 Million

Treatments of school-aged children enabled



stakeholder landscape for PZO supply chain

Monitoring & Evaluation Framework



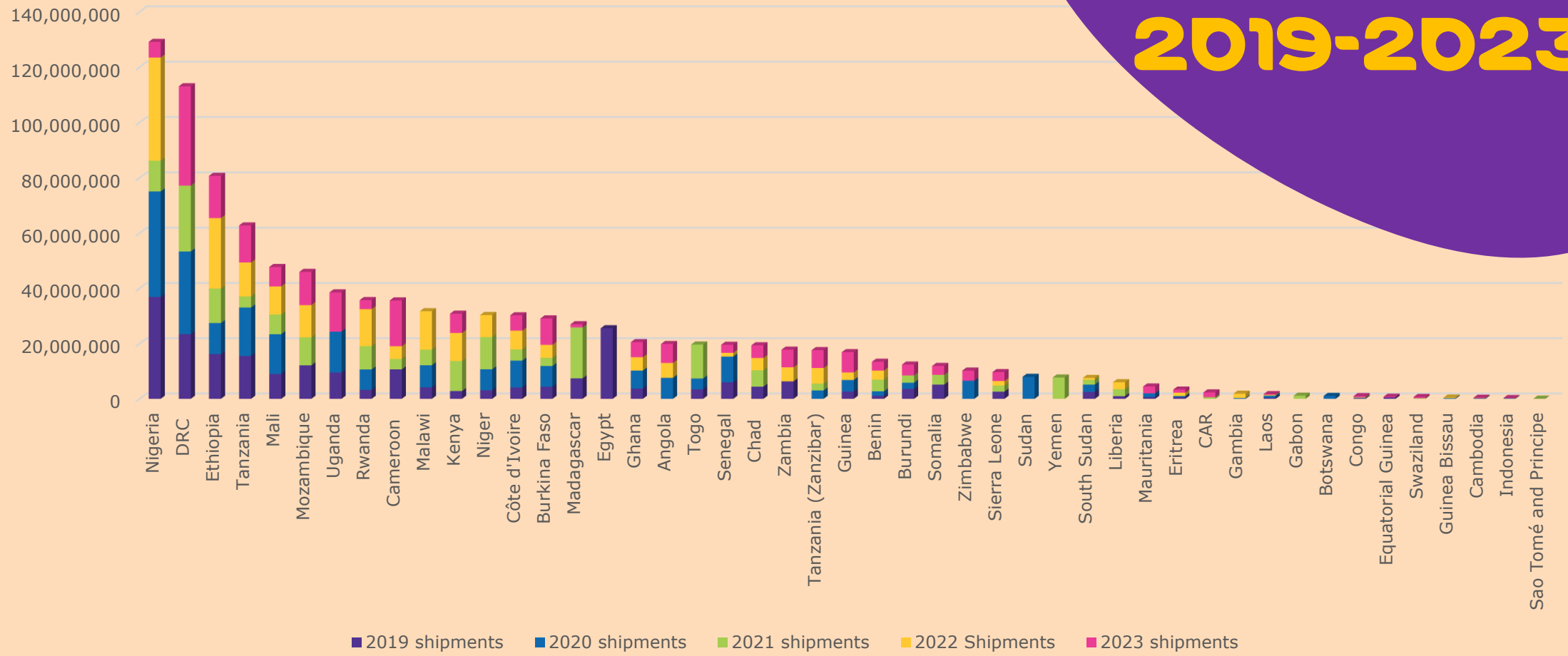
First mile

Last mile

PZQ Investments 2019-2023

Supplied PZQ to 47 countries, primarily in Sub-Saharan Africa

shipments
2019-2023





Praziquantel & Arpraziquantel

Treating schistosomiasis across all age groups



Moving from donation to sustainable investment

Social impact

We treat up to **100M school children** p/a. We are moving to an integrated investment strategy and actively mobilize local ecosystems to **eliminate schistosomiasis in endemic African countries by 2030**

Innovative solutions

- Evolving from donation of 250M PZQ tablets p.a. to sustainable investment into a systems-level solution package
- Treating the full age-range of schisto patients in order to move to elimination:
 - Extension to adult treatment
 - Optimized formulation (in 2027)
 - Pediatric formulation (in 2026)
- Introducing a comprehensive PZQ M&E Framework for countries
- Developing digital tools to improve the first and last mile of our PZQ supply chain

Cross-sector engagement

- Partnering with all relevant international stakeholders on schisto to accelerate elimination.
- Achieving higher and measurable efficiency and impacting effectiveness with partners.
- Moving to local systems engagement with co-owned elimination partnership plans, working with African countries on elimination that are conducive to collective action.

"Sustainable Access to NTD Medicines"

- Introduction of innovative access and social business models

Increasing the program's **effectiveness for elimination**, and its **sustainability** →

Tangible business value/sustainable investment

- Aiming at higher leverage of co-funders, cost-coverage contribution from selected stakeholders including endemic countries
- Thought leadership for new co-funded partnership models

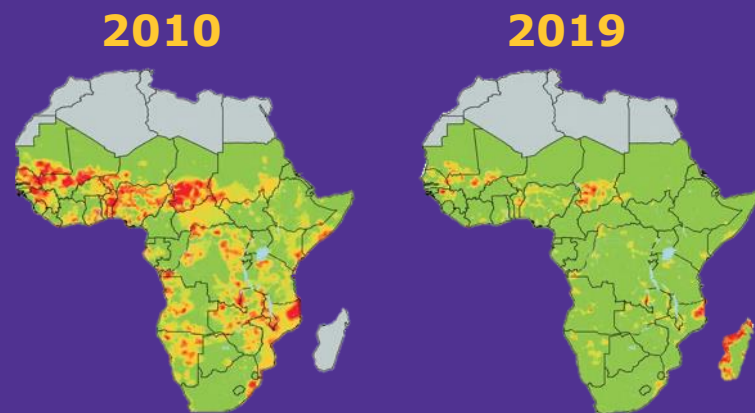
(In)tangible value from social investment

Role & activities

Value to pharma co's

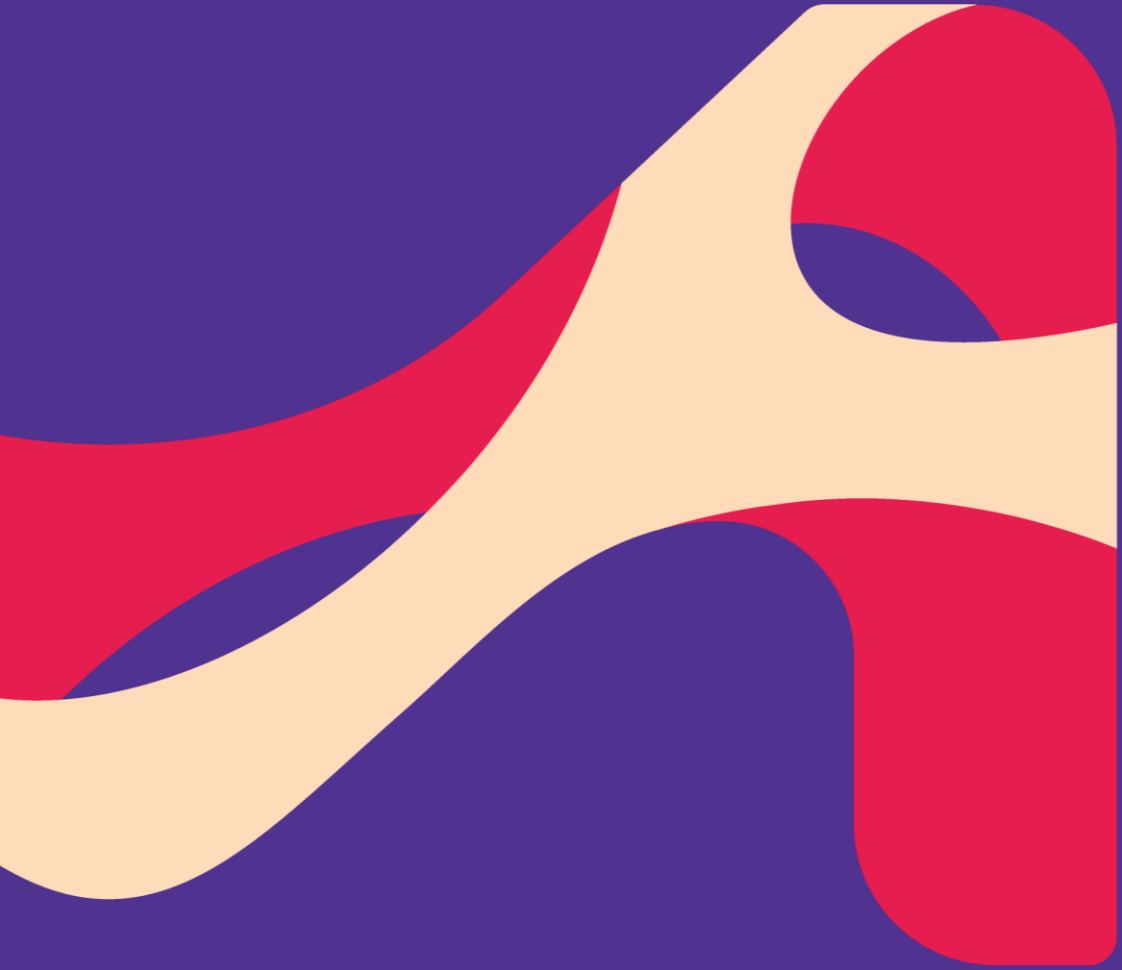
- Main area of visibility & recognition, hence a commitment to upkeep program and show progress given Merck's giving history
- Improve effectiveness and impact.

The prevalence of schistosomiasis in sub-Saharan Africa has gone **DOWN** by **53-67%** over the last 10 years*



* Source: The Lancet Infectious Diseases Volume; Issue 1; January 2022; Pages 136-149





Thank you!

MERCK