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## ASSESSMENT OF KNOWLEDGE OF TRANSMISSION OF SCHISTOSOMIASIS AND ASSOCIATED FACTORS AMONG THE PEOPLE OF MWALUPHAMBA LOCATION , KWALE COUNTY-KENYA

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The study aimed at assessing the level of knowledge of transmission of schistosomiasis and the other associated factors amongst community members in Mwaluphamba Location of Kwale County. A cross-sectional study design was adopted. Data was collected using a structured questionnaire. Results showed that a majority of the community members (98%) knew about schistosomiasis but did not know the mode of infection as only 29% knew how the parasite was transmitted to the human body. A majority (96%) of the respondents also knew of the signs and symptoms of schistosomiasis. A small proportion (10%) of the respondents had access to safe water for domestic use. Most (63%) schistosomiasis infections occurred during the wet season and a majority (69%) of the community members reported contact with domestic water activities more than four times a week. In conclusion, the level of knowledge on transmission of schistosomiasis was quite low and there was a significant association between the environmental factors and transmission of urinary schistosomiasis. There is need to mobilize and educate the community on the modes of transmission of schistosomiasis infection and concerned stakeholders should come up with strategies for ensuring that the community uses safe water for domestic use.

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## STATE OF THE FIELD: PAY FOR SUCCESS TO IMPROVE ASTHMA OUTCOMES IN THE UNITED STATES

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Impact investment is an increasingly popular global trend in which socially-minded investors look to fund businesses and project that not only have the potential for financial return, but also producing societal benefits as well. In the United States, environmental health is a field that has seen limited investment from the private sector, but recent project developments look to change this status quo. Jurisdictions across the country are studying the potential application of Pay for Success (also known as Social Impact Bonds) as a financing mechanism to fund environmental health interventions which result in improved health outcomes for persons with severe asthma. Asthma is the most common chronic health condition for children in the United States, often prevalent in low-income communities with poor housing quality. It is linked to staggering healthcare costs and other related societal burden-- the estimated total incremental cost of asthma in the United States was USD 56 billion in 2007 . The United States healthcare system currently does not provide funding to address the environmental triggers of asthma, and this gap provides an opportunity for Pay for Success to bridge private investment dollars to preventative environmental health services. This paper provides insight into the progress that local communities are making in the development of Pay for Success projects across the country. While each project is unique based on local contexts, there are some shared themes that may inform the further development of these types of projects in the United States and abroad.

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