Schistosomiasis was first noted in The Gambia in 1945 when endemic urinary schistosomiasis was discovered, with a high incidence in the eastern part of the country [4]. The presence of urinary schistosomiasis, S. haematobium, was again confirmed in 1947, and it has since been endemic along the Gambia River Basin [6]. S. mansoni, first discovered in 1957, is also endemic to this region [5,6]. The snail intermediate host for S. haematobium is primarily Bulinus globosus (synonym: jousseaumei), but also includes other hosts such as Bulinus truncates, Bulinus senegalensis, and Biomphalaria pfeifferi [6]. Bulinus forskali has also been found, mostly living in alluvial pools in swampy environments [4].
The earliest prevalence data comes from 1985, when countrywide prevalence was estimated at 37.7% and the number of infected people was estimated at 193,929 [7]. The prevalence rate remained very similar in 1995 when it was estimated at 37.5% [8]. Mid-2003 countrywide prevalence was estimated at 30% and in 2010 it was estimated at 28.5%. However, the number of estimated infected individuals increased to 525,220, due to an increase in total population, from 553,000 in 1981 to 1,754,000 in 2010 [9,10]. No national schistosomiasis control programs have been recorded in The Gambia. Several sources give estimates of the amount of drugs necessary to treat people, but no larger scale efforts have been implemented.

Status of Schistosomiasis in The Gambia

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References