

Potential of typhoid conjugate vaccines in Tanzania

Typhoid, a serious enteric fever spread through contaminated food and water, is a substantial public health issue that disproportionately impacts children and marginalized populations in Asia and sub-Saharan Africa. The Global Burden of Disease (GBD) study estimates that, in 2016, there were nearly 12 million typhoid cases and more than 128,000 typhoid deaths worldwide.¹ Additionally, strains of drug-resistant typhoid are spreading, causing global concern.²

TYPHOID CONJUGATE VACCINES

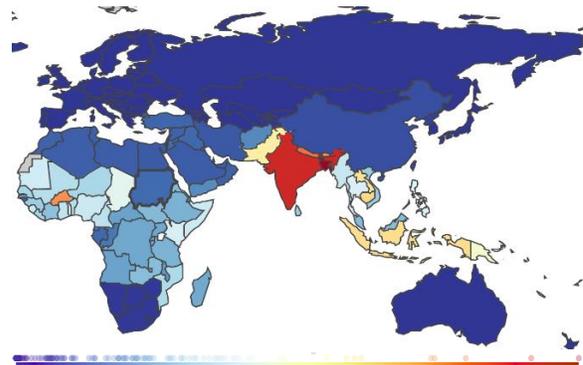
Typhoid vaccination can reduce the need for antibiotics, slow expansion of drug-resistant strains, and save lives. Newly licensed typhoid conjugate vaccines (TCVs) have several advantages over earlier typhoid vaccines. They:

- provide longer-lasting protection up to 5 years;
- require only one dose; and
- are suitable for young children over 6 months.

These qualities will allow better protection for younger children and expanded coverage through inclusion in routine childhood immunization programs.

WHO SAGE REVIEW

In October 2017, the World Health Organization's Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) on Immunization recommended that typhoid-endemic countries introduce TCVs in a single dose for infants and children over 6 months of age, accompanied by catch-up vaccination campaigns for children up to 15 years of age, where feasible.³ Additionally, SAGE recommended prioritizing TCV introduction in countries with a high burden of disease and/or evidence of antimicrobial resistance (AMR). TCVs were also recommended in response to typhoid outbreaks and in groups at high risk or with high transmission potential.



Typhoid incidence rates in high-burden regions, [GBD 2016](#)

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR TANZANIA

TCVs could have a substantial benefit in Tanzania, where typhoid inflicts a significant public health burden. GBD estimates that, in 2016, Tanzania had:

- 64,049 typhoid cases, of which 64 percent were under 15 years of age; and
- 1,112 typhoid deaths, of which 71 percent were under 15 years of age.

In a study in Zanzibar, typhoid was the most commonly found invasive bacteria.⁴ Typhoid likely also imposes an economic burden in Tanzania. Each typhoid case in Zanzibar costs families an average of US\$154.47, nearly two months of average family income.⁵ Analyses from settings in sub-Saharan Africa have found that TCVs can be a cost-effective intervention.

References

- ¹ [Global Burden of Disease. The Lancet. 2017.](#)
- ² Wong et al. [Phylogeographical analysis of the dominant multidrug-resistant H58 clade of Salmonella Typhi identifies inter- and intracontinental transmission events. Nature Genetics. 2015;47:632-639.](#)
- ³ [October 2017 SAGE meeting summary.](#)
- ⁴ Thriemer et al. [The burden of invasive bacterial infections in Pemba, Zanzibar. PLoS One. 2012;7\(2\):e30350.](#)
- ⁵ Riewpaiboon et al. [Cost of illness due to typhoid fever in Pemba, Zanzibar. East Africa. J Health Popul Nutr. 2014;32\(3\):377-385.](#)