

# Burden of Typhoid in **Laos**

Laos is a typhoid-endemic country. The Global Burden of Disease study estimated that, in 2017, there were at least:

- 14,381** typhoid cases (206 cases per 100,000)
- 185** typhoid deaths
- 13,501** disability-adjusted **life-years lost** to typhoid<sup>1</sup>

While typhoid is rarely fatal, the recovery is long and difficult. The disease takes time, money, and productivity from those infected and their families and is associated with numerous long-term complications.

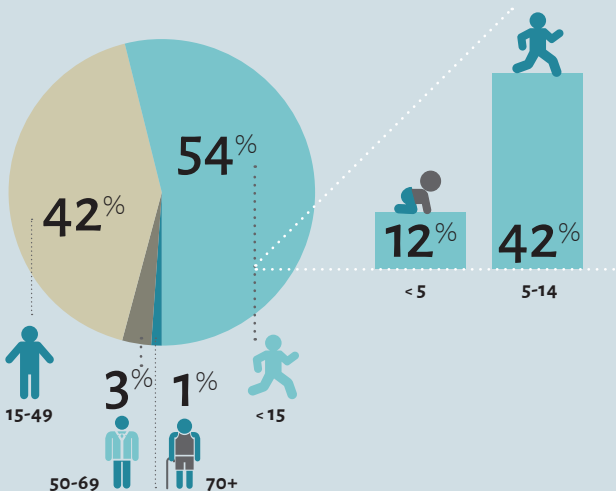


Most typhoid cases in Laos occur in children younger than 15 years old.



Photo: FAO / Aaron Joel Santos

**TYPHOID CASES IN LAOS BY AGE (2017)**



**Drug-resistant typhoid strains** are a growing problem in Laos, regionally, and across the globe.



Global data show that the multidrug-resistant (MDR) H58 typhoid strain prevalence has **increased dramatically since 1992**.<sup>2</sup>



Testing of typhoid isolates taken from patients in Vientiane, Laos, between 2000 and 2004 **found resistance and multi-drug resistance to ampicillin, co-trimoxazole, and chloramphenicol**.<sup>3</sup>



Additionally, a retrospective study of patient urine samples from 3 hospitals in Laos found a **high frequency of antibiotic use that is likely to engender worsening drug resistance** for several pathogens, including typhoid.<sup>4</sup>



As drug-resistant typhoid becomes more common, it will become more difficult to treat and **force the use of more expensive and less readily-available** treatment options.

# Typhoid conjugate vaccines in Laos

**Typbar-TCV<sup>®</sup>** is a newly licensed and World Health Organization (WHO)-prequalified and recommended tool for typhoid prevention in endemic areas. **Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance support for introduction is available now.**

Typbar-TCV is highly effective and safe for children as young as 6 months of age,<sup>5</sup> and:



Only requires **one dose**;



May be **more effective and longer-lasting** than other previous typhoid vaccines; and



Can be **co-administered with measles-rubella** vaccine.

Preliminary findings from an economic analysis predict that, even in the absence of a Gavi subsidy, a catch-up campaign with TCV could be potentially cost-effective in Laos.<sup>6</sup>



## Let's Take on Typhoid in Laos

- ✓ Typhoid is endemic in Laos, with more than **14,000** cases per year.
- ✓ Laos's burden of typhoid is most heavily borne by children **younger than 15** years of age.
- ✓ Data show an increase in **drug-resistant typhoid** in Laos and globally.
- ✓ **A new TCV** is safe, effective, and WHO-recommended for routine immunization as part of a cost-effective, integrated approach to typhoid prevention and control alongside safe water, sanitation, and hygiene interventions.
- ✓ **Gavi support** for TCV introduction is available **now**.

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3. Phetsouvanh R, Phongmany S, Soukaloun D, et al. Causes of community-acquired bacteremia and patterns of antimicrobial resistance in Vientiane, Laos. *American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene*. 2006;75(5):978-985.
4. Khennavong M, Davone V, Vongsouvath M, et al. Urine antibiotic activity in patients presenting to hospitals in Laos: Implications for worsening antibiotic resistance. *American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene*. 2011;85(2):295-302.
5. Jin C, Gibani MM, Moore M, et al. Efficacy and immunogenicity of a Vi-tetanus toxoid conjugate vaccine in the prevention of typhoid fever using a controlled human infection model of *Salmonella* Typhi: a randomized control, phase 2b trial. *The Lancet*. 2017;390(10111):2472-2480.
6. Bilcke J, et al. Setting global performance standards for a cost-effective typhoid conjugate vaccine strategy; modelling study. In prep.