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

Global data show that the multidrug-resistant (MDR) H58 typhoid strain prevalence has increased dramatically since 1992. A study found that typhoid in Cambodian children is dominated by the H58 strain. Additionally, 85% of the isolates analyzed were MDR, leading the authors to conclude that drug-resistant typhoid is common in Cambodian children and therapeutic options are limited. Another study found that the majority of isolates tested were MDR, and 80% had reduced susceptibility to ciprofloxacin, the standard treatment for typhoid in many parts of the world.

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 (TCVs) in Cambodia

The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends the introduction of prequalified TCVs be prioritized in countries with a high burden of typhoid disease or a high burden of drug-resistant typhoid. Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance support for introduction is available now.

Prequalified TCVs are highly effective and safe for children as young as 6 months of age. Recent data from two large Phase 3 efficacy studies in Bangladesh and Nepal show TCV is safe and 79-85% effective in preventing typhoid in children.\(^5\)\(^6\) TCVs:

- Require one dose;
- Are more effective and may be longer-lasting than other typhoid vaccines; and
- Can be co-administered with measles-rubella vaccine.\(^7\)

Findings from an economic analysis predict that, even in the absence of a Gavi subsidy, a catch-up campaign with TCV could be cost-effective in Cambodia.\(^8\)

Let’s Take on Typhoid in Cambodia

- Typhoid is endemic in Cambodia, with more than 24,000 cases per year.
- Cambodia has a high burden of typhoid in children younger than 15 years old.
- Data show an increase in drug-resistant typhoid in Cambodia and globally.
- TCVs are 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.