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

While limited data on drug-resistant typhoid infections in Myanmar are available, studies in Yangon have found a high prevalence of resistance to first-line antibiotics in other bacterial infections.3

Additionally, an abundance of studies have found an alarming rate of drug resistant-typhoid both globally and in neighboring countries in Southeast Asia.4 In a typhoid outbreak near the Thai/Myanmar border, 100% of cases were found to be multidrug-resistant.5

Drug-resistant typhoid is more difficult to treat and forces the use of more expensive and less readily-available treatment options.
Typhoid conjugate vaccines (TCVs) in Myanmar

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.5,7 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.8

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 Myanmar.9

Let’s Take on Typhoid in Myanmar

- Typhoid is endemic in Myanmar, with more than 84,000 cases per year.
- Nearly half of Myanmar’s typhoid burden is borne by children younger than 15 years of age.
- Data show an increase in drug-resistant typhoid globally, which could spread to Myanmar.
- 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.