Drug-resistant typhoid strains are a growing problem regionally and across the globe. Global data show that multidrug-resistant (MDR) typhoid prevalence has increased dramatically since 1992. While drug-resistant typhoid has not been isolated in Burkina Faso, it has been found in other West African countries, including Ghana. Additionally, Burkina Faso has documented MDR for other Salmonella infections that are treated with the same antibiotics as typhoid, raising the concern that drug-resistant typhoid could evolve.

Diseases such as typhoid do not respect borders, and as drug-resistant typhoid becomes more common, it will likely spread to Burkina Faso.

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 Burkina Faso

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. Support for introduction from Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance is available now. TCVs:

- Are highly effective and safe for children as young as 6 months of age;
- Require a single dose to prevent 79-85% of typhoid cases in children;
- Offer strong protection for at least 4 years, and
- Can be co-administered with measles-rubella, yellow fever, and meningococcal A vaccines.

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 Burkina Faso.

Let’s Take on Typhoid in Burkina Faso

- Typhoid is endemic in Burkina Faso, with more than 80,000 cases per year.
- Burkina Faso’s burden of typhoid is most heavily borne by children younger than 15 years of age.
- Data show a global increase in drug-resistant typhoid, which could spread to Burkina Faso.
- 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.
- The Government of Burkina Faso has made the decision to introduce TCV.