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

Global data show that multidrug-resistant (MDR) typhoid prevalence has increased dramatically since 1992.\(^2\)

A study conducted in DRC found that nearly half of the isolates tested were MDR.\(^3\) These samples were from outbreaks occurring between 2002 and 2014.

Another surveillance study found that 38% of isolates tested were MDR, and 25% had decreased ciprofloxacin susceptibility,\(^1\) the preferred antibiotic treatment in the region. Together, these studies demonstrate increasing drug-resistant typhoid in DRC.

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 DRC

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;\(^4\)
- Offer strong protection for at least 4 years; and
- Can be co-administered with measles-rubella, yellow fever, and meningococcal A vaccines.\(^5,6\)

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 DRC.\(^7\)

Let's Take on Typhoid in DRC

- Typhoid is a growing threat in DRC with increasing rates of drug-resistant typhoid, making cases more difficult to treat.
- DRC’s burden of typhoid is most heavily borne by children younger than 15 years of age.
- Climate change, urbanization, and increasing refugee populations are poised to add additional strains on water, sanitation, and hygiene infrastructure, thereby increasing the populations susceptible to typhoid.
- 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.