Bangladesh

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

Nearly half of the typhoid cases in Laos occur in children younger than 15 years old.

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 in Laos, regionally, and across the globe.

Global data show that the multidrug-resistant (MDR) H58 typhoid strain prevalence has increased dramatically since 1992. 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.

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.

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

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. 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;5,6
- Offer strong protection for at least 4 years; 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 Laos.8

Let’s Take on Typhoid in Laos

- Typhoid is endemic in Laos, with more than 11,000 cases per year.
- Laos has a high burden of typhoid in children younger than 15 years old.
- Data show an increase in drug-resistant typhoid in Laos 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.

Typhoid Vaccine Acceleration Consortium

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