**Burden of Typhoid in Malawi**

Malawi is a typhoid-endemic country, with a high burden of typhoid.

A large typhoid surveillance study called Strategic Typhoid Alliance across Africa and Asia (STRATAA) was conducted in Blantyre and estimated a rate of **444 typhoid cases per 100,000 people** per year.

The bacteria that causes typhoid, S. Typhi, was the primary cause of bloodstream infection in people with fever in the surveillance study.

Additionally, children **5-9 years old had the highest typhoid incidence rate** of all age groups included in the study.\(^1\)

While typhoid is rarely fatal, the recovery is long and difficult. The disease steals time, money, and productivity from those infected and their families and is associated with numerous long-term complications.

**Drug resistance** has likely caused typhoid cases in Malawi to increase rapidly over the past years.\(^2,3\)

Data from Blantyre show that **multidrug-resistant (MDR) typhoid strains** became prominent in 2011.

Following the introduction of MDR strains in 2011, **typhoid became the predominant bloodstream infection among adults and children in Malawi**, with a 21% incidence of complications among children.\(^2,4\)

The recent STRATAA study found **high rates of MDR typhoid in Malawi**. 92% of isolates were MDR.\(^1\)

All isolates from typhoid cases identified in a large Phase 3 typhoid conjugate vaccine efficacy study conducted in Malawi were MDR.\(^4\)

**Most typhoid cases in Malawi occur in children younger than 15 years old.**\(^1\)

The Government of Malawi prioritized child health and introduced typhoid conjugate vaccine (TCV) into the routine immunization program in 2023. More than 7 million children were vaccinated during the catch-up campaign and TCV is now available to all children at 9 months old.
Typhoid conjugate vaccines (TCVs) in Malawi

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. Malawi introduced TCV into its routine childhood immunization program in 2023 with support from Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance. 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;³
- Offer strong protection for at least 4 years, and
- Can be co-administered with measles-rubella vaccine.⁵

The Government of Malawi has introduced TCV into their routine immunization program.

Findings from an economic analysis predict that, even in the absense of a Gavi subsidy, a catch-up campaign with TCV could be cost-effective in Malawi.⁶

Typhoid is endemic in Malawi, with a high rate of typhoid cases per year.

Malawi's burden of typhoid is most heavily borne by children younger than 15 years of age.

Data show increasing rates of drug-resistant typhoid, making cases more difficult to treat.

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.

Malawi introduced TCV in 2023. TCV is available for all children 9 months of age.

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