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 1992.2

While drug-resistant typhoid has not been isolated in The Gambia, it has been found in other West African countries, including Ghana.2

Diseases such as typhoid can easily cross borders, and as drug-resistant typhoid becomes more common, it has the potential to spread to The Gambia.

Drug-resistant typhoid is more difficult to treat and forces the use of more expensive and less readily-available treatment options.

In The Gambia, 20% of the population does not have access to basic drinking water services, and 53% lack access to basic sanitation services.3 This can cause an increase in typhoid risks in Gambia.
Typhoid conjugate vaccines (TCVs) in The Gambia

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; and
- Offer strong protection for at least 4 years; and
- Can be co-administered with measles-rubella, yellow fever, and meningococcal A conjugate 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 The Gambia.7

Let’s Take on Typhoid in The Gambia

- Typhoid is endemic in The Gambia, with more than 2,500 cases per year.
- The Gambia’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 The Gambia.
- 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.