

The potential of typhoid conjugate vaccines in Bangladesh

Typhoid, a serious enteric fever spread through contaminated food and water, is a substantial public health issue that disproportionately impacts children and marginalized populations in Asia and sub-Saharan Africa. The Global Burden of Disease (GBD) study estimates that, in 2023, there were more than 6 million typhoid cases and more than 71,000 typhoid deaths worldwide.¹ Additionally, strains of drug-resistant typhoid are spreading, causing global concern.²

TYPHOID CONJUGATE VACCINES

Typhoid vaccination can reduce the need for antibiotics, slow expansion of drug-resistant strains, and save lives. Typhoid conjugate vaccines (TCVs) are licensed, prequalified by the World Health Organization (WHO), and have advantages over earlier typhoid vaccines. TCVs provide strong protection for at least 4 years, require only one dose, and are safe and effective for children older than 6 months of age.

Three large Phase 3 efficacy studies conducted in Nepal, Bangladesh,³ and Malawi showed that TCV prevented 79-85 percent of typhoid cases in children 9 months to 16 years of age. These results demonstrate that TCV is protective across diverse settings in Africa and Asia.

WHO RECOMMENDATION AND GAVI SUPPORT

In March 2018, WHO recommended TCVs as the preferred typhoid vaccine because of its improved performance and suitability for younger children. WHO recommends the introduction of TCV be prioritized in countries with the highest burden of typhoid disease or a high burden of drug-resistant typhoid. WHO encourages routine administration to be accompanied by catch-up vaccination campaigns for children up to 15 years of age, where feasible and supported by data. Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance has provided financial support for eligible countries to



A child receives typhoid conjugate vaccine (TCV) during Bangladesh's TCV introduction campaign in October 2025. Credit: TyVAC.

introduce TCVs since 2018. Several countries have already introduced TCV into their routine immunization programs including Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Nepal, Niger, Pakistan, Samoa, and Zimbabwe. Nearly 150 million children have been vaccinated with TCV.

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR BANGLADESH

The TCVs that are now a part of Bangladesh's routine immunization program are projected to have a substantial benefit in the country, where the rate of typhoid is thought to be among the highest in the world. The GBD study estimates that, in 2023, Bangladesh had:

- **600,780 typhoid cases** or **346 cases per 100,000 population**, 72 percent of which were among children younger than 15 years of age; and



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Typhbar TCV® is a typhoid conjugate vaccine that was prequalified by the World Health Organization in December 2017.

- **8,347 typhoid deaths**, 73 percent of which were among children younger than 15 years of age.¹

The burden of typhoid may be even higher than GBD estimates. A surveillance study conducted in Dhaka found 1,135 cases of typhoid per 100,000 people.⁴

Typhoid also imposes an economic burden in Bangladesh. A cost-of-illness study showed that typhoid typically costs a patient or caregiver 152% of Bangladesh's average annual health expenditure per capita, with inpatient care even more expensive.⁵ A recent modeling analysis projects that a catch-up campaign up to 15 years of age followed by routine immunization will substantially decrease typhoid cases and be cost-saving in Bangladesh.⁶



Icddr, b

A child receives a vaccine during the launch of the TyVAC effectiveness study in Bangladesh, March 2018.

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