

# Typhoid +

## UHC and the SDGs



### Key Messages

- **Taking on typhoid focuses on core principles of UHC:** preventing illness and disease transmission with typhoid conjugate vaccine (TCV) and ensure affordable antibiotics are available when people do fall ill.
- **The financial barriers to vaccines are relatively low, and the economic return is high.** In contrast, the financial barriers to diagnosis and treatment are high, and economic return is diminishing. Vaccines are a core tenant of UHC.
- **We have to ensure that countries making the decision to introduce TCV** reach the most remote and most vulnerable populations who will benefit from TCV.

*For nearly a decade, global momentum has been growing for universal health coverage (UHC).*

In 2012, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution urging governments to provide all people with access to affordable, quality health care. In 2015, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) included UHC as a core objective of SDG 3 to “ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.” Universal access to vaccines and appropriate treatment are a crucial part of the pathway to UHC—and to achieving the SDGs.

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*Typhoid is a serious and potentially life-threatening enteric fever spread through contaminated food and water.*

While largely eliminated in industrialized countries, it remains a substantial public health issue that disproportionately affects children and adolescents in low- and middle-income countries. The Global Burden of Disease study estimates that in 2023 there were **more than 6 million cases and more than 71,000 deaths due to typhoid worldwide**. However, the burden is likely underestimated due to difficulties with surveillance and diagnostics.

Research shows that the burden of typhoid goes beyond physical illness and mortality. Even with prompt treatment with antibiotics, **typhoid infections can force children to miss school for weeks**, impacting attendance and performance. **A child's illness has catastrophic economic impacts on the family** due to medical and transport expenses, and time lost from work to care for a sick child.

**Improved water quality, sanitation, and hygiene are the major ways to break the typhoid transmission cycle in the long term.** However, until these investments can be made in all countries, vaccination with TCV is an important and effective way to prevent typhoid.

**Expanded use of TCVs through routine immunization will allow children to remain healthy, stay in school, and for families to continue to work and prosper, preventing the socioeconomic burden from typhoid. It also has the potential to reduce the need for antibiotics and slow further emergence of drug-resistant typhoid.**



*UHC is the aspiration that all people and communities have access to high quality preventative, curative, and rehabilitative health services without incurring financial hardship when receiving care.*

#### Achieving

UHC is a specific objective along the pathway to reach **SDG 3, ensuring health for all.**



Under the tenants of UHC, access is equitable and based on need, not where a person lives or his/her ability to pay. **In order to achieve UHC, the entire health system has to evolve: facilities, health care workers, and supplies all have to exist and function in a way that provides quality care, which includes financing, training, supervision, and system and supply chain improvements.**

Most national governments are working toward the SDGs, which serve as a framework for the milestones we want to achieve as a global community to ensure the peace and prosperity. **Government leaders increasingly recognize that the SDGs will be unobtainable by 2030 if we do not take action to achieve UHC, including disease prevention, health promotion, and access to care at the community level.**

Typhoid

UHC & SDGs

*The progress against typhoid and efforts to curb disease transmission, particularly of drug-resistant strains, contribute directly to UHC and achieving SDGs.*

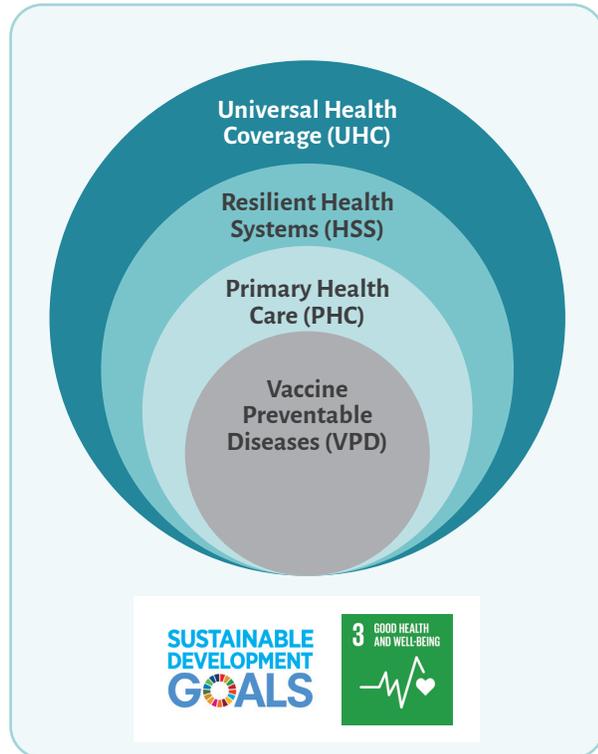
**The prevention and control of typhoid will help achieve SDGs 3 and 6—Good Health and Well-Being and Clean Water and Sanitation, respectively.**

Access to—and use of—clean water and improved sanitation reduces typhoid transmission. With reduced transmission, individuals and families are healthier and more able to lead productive lives.

One of the core components of UHC is the notion that families do not incur financial burden when seeking care. **Too often in the sequence of seeking care, a caregiver misses days or weeks of work and income and then has to pay for antibiotics, which can plunge families into economic hardship.** UHC seeks to improve such an instance with preventative and curative care at a cost that families can afford.

**UHC and the resulting good health and well-being can be more rapidly achieved with universal coverage of prevention tools such as vaccines, and treatment interventions such as appropriate antibiotics.**

Vaccines, one of the most cost-effective investments in health, offer protection from illness, keeping families safe from disease and the economic toll that comes with treating an ill family member. TCVs are no exception. The currently available TCV is World Health Organization prequalified and available with support from Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, as a tool to prevent children from falling ill.

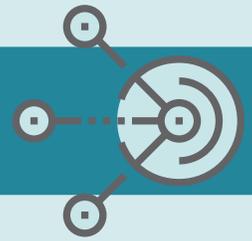


**In some instances, treating typhoid can cost a family 15% of annual household income, a catastrophic expense that can take years to recover.**



*Typhoid + UHC & SDGs*

# Take Action Now!



- **Prioritize UHC** as a commitment at the national and sub-national level.
- **Call out typhoid as a specific target focus** in country strategies for achieving UHC and SDGs.
- **As part of the efforts to achieve UHC and reach the SDG milestones**, prioritize introduction of TCv with a focused strategy to reach the most susceptible and vulnerable communities.
- **Eliminate user fees** for patients who seek diagnoses and treatment for typhoid.



## Additional Resources

- **Take on Typhoid website**
- **World Health Organization: Questions and answers on universal health coverage**
- **Universal health coverage: What immunization advocates should consider**

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Visit [www.takeontyphoid.org](http://www.takeontyphoid.org) for the complete series, which includes information about:

- Climate Change
- Drug Resistance
- Forced Migration
- Universal health coverage (UHC) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- Urbanization
- Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

**TyVAC** Typhoid Vaccine Acceleration Consortium  
CENTER FOR VACCINE DEVELOPMENT • OXFORD VACCINE GROUP • PATH

**COALITION AGAINST TYPHOID**  
a program of the Sabin Vaccine Institute



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