

A new vaccine against typhoid is being described as a "game-changer" which could prevent thousands of deaths.

In Pakistan, nine million children are being immunised after a major outbreak of typhoid, which is resistant to nearly every antibiotic.

Our medical correspondent, Fergus Walsh, reports.

Safe and effective, this new typhoid vaccine is urgently needed in Pakistan.

Schoolchildren in Karachi are among millions of youngsters there being immunised.

They need protecting because, once infected with typhoid here, there's only one antibiotic left that works, and if that fails, death rates would soar.

Typhoid is a highly contagious bacterial disease which infects up to 20 million people worldwide each year.

It's largely a disease of poverty, spread through poor sanitation and dirty drinking water.

Symptoms include prolonged fever, abdominal pain and diarrhoea.

It causes up to 160,000 deaths every year.

A major trial of the new vaccine in Nepal cut cases by more than 80%.

The same success is hoped for in Pakistan.

Crucially, it's the first typhoid vaccine which can be given to babies from nine months of age.

The new typhoid vaccine was developed by scientists in Oxford over the course of more than a decade.

We filmed the first trials there six years ago.

After being immunised, these healthy volunteers had to drink a solution of typhoid bacteria, a vital test of the vaccine's effectiveness.

That selflessness is now saving lives.

Typhoid only infects humans, so the ambition in the very long-term would be to try to eradicate the disease,

which has been causing death and misery for thousands of years.

Fergus Walsh, BBC News.