

1 **Distinct climate influences on the risk of typhoid compared to**  
2 **invasive non-typhoid *Salmonella* disease in Blantyre, Malawi.**  
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17

18 **ABSTRACT**

19 Invasive *Salmonella* diseases, both typhoid and invasive non-typhoidal *Salmonella* (iNTS), are  
20 seasonal bloodstream infections causing important morbidity and mortality globally in Africa. The  
21 reservoirs and transmission of both are not fully understood. We hypothesised that differences in the  
22 time-lagged relationships of rainfall or temperature with typhoid and iNTS incidence might infer  
23 differences in epidemiology. We assessed the dynamics of invasive *Salmonella* incidence over a 16-  
24 year period of surveillance, quantifying incidence peaks, seasonal variations, and nonlinear effects  
25 of rainfall and temperature exposures on the relative risks of typhoid and iNTS, using monthly lags.  
26 An increased relative risk of iNTS incidence was short-lasting but immediate after the onset of the  
27 rains, whereas that of typhoid was long-lasting but with a two months delayed start, implying a  
28 possible difference in transmission. The relative-risk function of temperature for typhoid was  
29 bimodal, with higher risk at both lower (with a 1 month lag) and higher (with a  $\geq 4$  months lag)  
30 temperatures, possibly reflecting the known patterns of short and long cycle typhoid transmission. In  
31 contrast, the relative-risk of iNTS was only increased at lower temperatures, suggesting distinct  
32 transmission mechanisms. Environmental and sanitation control strategies may be different for iNTS  
33 compared to typhoid disease.

34

## 35 **Introduction**

36 Invasive *Salmonella* diseases, both typhoid and invasive non-typhoidal *Salmonella* (iNTS) disease,  
37 are serious bloodstream infections co-existing in Africa, and are leading causes of morbidity and  
38 mortality worldwide. Typhoid, caused by serotype *S. Typhi*<sup>1-3</sup>, affects mainly healthy children and  
39 young adults, has a 1-2% case fatality, and is estimated to cause 9.9-24.2 million cases and 75,000-  
40 208,000 deaths globally per year<sup>4-6</sup>. On the other hand, iNTS disease in Africa is predominantly  
41 caused by non-typhoidal serovars *S. Typhimurium* and *S. Enteritidis*<sup>7</sup>. These serovars typically cause  
42 diarrhoeal disease among immunocompetent individuals in high income settings, which is often self-  
43 limiting<sup>7</sup>. In Africa, however, they cause severe NTS disease in adults with HIV and very young  
44 susceptible children with HIV, malaria or malnutrition<sup>8</sup>. iNTS disease carries a case-fatality of 10-  
45 20% in both adults and children, 10-fold higher than typhoid<sup>9,10</sup>, and leads to an estimated 2.1-6.5  
46 million cases and 415,164-1,301,520 deaths globally per year<sup>11,12</sup>.

47

48 Typhoid occupies a human-restricted reservoir and is transmitted primarily through the faeco-oral  
49 route, either by individuals shedding bacteria in stool during acute or sub-acute illness, or by long-  
50 term asymptomatic human carriers<sup>2,13</sup>. The relative importance of these two human sources of  
51 transmission is likely to vary in different settings. Typhoid has a complex pattern of transmission  
52 cycles, involving a direct within-household “short cycle” and an environmental “long cycle”,  
53 involving contaminated water sources<sup>13</sup>. The reservoir and transmission routes of iNTS disease, in  
54 contrast, remain uncertain. NTS typically have a broad vertebrate host-range. In industrialised  
55 countries, where invasive disease is uncommon, NTS diarrhoeal disease is considered as a food-borne  
56 zoonosis, linked to industrialised food animal production. But in Africa, in a setting where there is a  
57 large population of immunologically susceptible individuals, there is growing evidence that humans  
58 may provide the reservoir and/or transmission routes for the NTS strains that cause invasive disease,  
59 since household case-control studies show no genomic overlap with animal-related NTS strains<sup>14,15</sup>.

60

61 Malawi experienced successive outbreaks of multi-drug resistant strains of *S. Enteritidis*, *S.*  
62 *Typhimurium* and *S. Typhi* which peaked in 2002-03, 2004-5 and 2013-14, respectively<sup>13,16-19</sup>. The  
63 emergence of resistance to chloramphenicol, ampicillin and co-trimoxazole meant that antibiotic use  
64 shifted to 3<sup>rd</sup> generation injectable cephalosporins and/or oral fluoroquinolones, particularly  
65 ciprofloxacin for treatment. A cost-effective typhoid conjugate vaccine is in clinical trials in Africa  
66 and it is expected to reduce the disease burden especially among infants and school-age children<sup>20-23</sup>,  
67 and may also reduce broad spectrum antimicrobial usage. By contrast, new vaccines for NTS remain  
68 in early pre-clinical development, but understanding epidemiological and serological data will be  
69 essential for the design and assessment of iNTS vaccine trials' impact through surveillance<sup>11,24,25</sup>.

70

71 Rainfall and temperature have been reported to increase *Salmonellae* abundance, water and food  
72 poisoning, inhibit host immunity, disrupt health systems by flooding, and increase malnutrition linked  
73 to droughts or floods<sup>2,3,8,26-28</sup>. Globally, some studies have reported differences in the effects of  
74 climate on the risk of *Salmonella*, suggesting setting-specific infection dynamics<sup>13,29-34</sup>. However,  
75 much is unknown about delayed structures of climate dynamics and invasive *Salmonella* disease, and  
76 how they relate to reservoirs and transmission routes, in poor resource settings. Moreover, climates  
77 may mediate their effects on disease not only through contamination of the household or environment,  
78 but also a seasonal influence on predisposing conditions, such as malaria (by mosquito breeding  
79 cycles) or malnutrition (through crops and food security)<sup>8</sup>. A comparison of time-lagged effects of  
80 climate dynamics on typhoid versus iNTS incidences has not been conducted. Malawi has, uniquely, a  
81 known high incidence of both typhoid and iNTS disease, and uninterrupted and consistent  
82 longitudinal blood culture surveillance of typhoid and iNTS for 20 years, allowing the current  
83 comprehensive analysis.

84

85 With this background, we studied climate in relation to *Salmonella* incidence prior to vaccine  
86 introduction in Malawi. Understanding how climate influences *Salmonellae* transmission may guide  
87 financial investments in preventive and curative interventions<sup>35</sup>, reformulate food/water security

88 policies<sup>32,36</sup>, promote a comprehensive approach to climate risk preparedness<sup>32,35,36</sup>, and influence  
89 vaccination and surveillance programmes.

90

## 91 **Methods**

### 92 **Study area**

93 We conducted the study in Blantyre district, the commercial capital of Malawi, located at 35° east of  
94 Greenwich Meridian and 15° 42" south of the Equator, and at an elevation of 1,041 meters above sea  
95 level<sup>37</sup>. Blantyre spans 2,012 km<sup>2</sup> and is administratively split into 25 traditional authority boundaries  
96 with a total population of approximately 1,171,978 in 2015<sup>38</sup>, with a higher population density in its  
97 urban (3,006/km<sup>2</sup>) than peri-urban (190/km<sup>2</sup>) areas. Blantyre is, thus, representative of many urban  
98 centres in the country<sup>38</sup>. All febrile illnesses from invasive *Salmonella* infections in this analysis were  
99 diagnosed and treated at the Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital (QECH), the provider of referral and  
100 primary free healthcare to Blantyre (peri-) urban population as well as southern Malawi (Fig. 1).

101

### 102 **Laboratory surveillance data**

103 QECH, through the Malawi-Liverpool-Wellcome Trust Clinical Research Programme (MLW),  
104 maintains a surveillance database of invasive *Salmonella* and other blood stream bacterial infections  
105 dating back to the late 1990s<sup>13,39</sup>. In the current study, we obtained the blood samples from febrile  
106 children and adults attending QECH, in whom *Salmonella* infections were suspected. The criteria for  
107 blood culture, and the laboratory blood-culture procedure used to isolate *Salmonella* from samples  
108 have essentially been consistent throughout this period, and have been described elsewhere<sup>8,40,41</sup>. In  
109 our analysis, we classified *S. Enteritidis*, *S. Typhimurium* and other non-*S. Typhi* *Salmonella* isolates  
110 as iNTS, and all *S. Typhi* isolates as typhoid. Using 1998 and 2008 Malawi census data, we estimated  
111 yearly populations during the study period from 2000 to 2015 by linear interpolation and  
112 extrapolation<sup>38</sup>. To visually show seasonality in observed *Salmonella* cases, we decomposed and  
113 seasonal-adjusted cases time series, and estimated minimum monthly incidence of iNTS, and typhoid  
114 per 100,000 population using equation (1) (Supplementary Fig. S1 and Supplementary Fig. S2).

115

$$Incidence = \frac{\text{monthly cases}}{\text{middle year population}} * 100,000 \quad (1)$$

116

### 117 **Meteorological data**

118 Malawi's climate has unique rainy (November through April) and dry (May through October)  
119 seasons. However, the dry season is subdivided into cool (May through August) and hot (September  
120 through October) periods<sup>42</sup>. The early (November through February) and late (March through April)  
121 rainy seasons are dominated by tropical and extra tropical influences, respectively, and the interannual  
122 variability in these two periods is uncorrelated<sup>43</sup>. Typically, Malawi's annual total rainfall varies  
123 between 725 and 2,500 mm, with Blantyre receiving 1,127 mm resulting in high intensity with heavy  
124 surface runoff at the beginning of the season<sup>44,45</sup>. The minimum and maximum daily temperatures of  
125 14 and 43 °C are common in July and October, respectively<sup>45</sup>. In our analysis, we defined the average  
126 monthly rainfall (or temperature) as daily average rainfall (or temperature) between Chichiri and  
127 Chileka stations, and aggregated by month of the calendar year using lubridate R package<sup>46</sup>. We,  
128 similarly, showed the seasonality in of rainfall and temperature values through their decomposed and  
129 seasonal-adjusted time series (Supplementary Fig. S1 and Supplementary Fig. S2).

130

### 131 **Modelling framework**

132 We fitted generalized linear models<sup>47</sup> to the incidence of iNTS per month over 11 years, from January  
133 2000 to December 2010, and of typhoid per month over 5 years, from January 2011 to December  
134 2015. The seasonal-unadjusted incident cases of iNTS or typhoid on month  $t$  ( $Y_t$ ) was assumed to  
135 follow an overdispersed Poisson distribution with mean ( $\lambda_t$ ) and variance ( $\phi\lambda_t$ ), where  $\phi$  is an  
136 estimated overdispersion parameter. The general mathematical form of the model fitted to the time  
137 series data is given by equation (2), following the standard guidelines<sup>48</sup>.

138

$$Y_t \sim \text{Poisson}(\lambda_t, \phi)$$

$$\text{Log}(\lambda_t) = \alpha + \beta_{t'} + \mu_T + f.w(x_{1t}, l) + f.w(x_{2t}, l) + \varepsilon_t \quad (2)$$

139 Where  $\lambda_t \equiv E(Y_t)$  is the mean number of incident cases of iNTS or typhoid for month  $t$  where  
140  $t = 1, \dots, 132$  (11 years for iNTS) and  $t = 1, \dots, 60$  (5 years for typhoid),  $\alpha$  is the model intercept,  $\beta_{t'}$   
141 are ‘months’ random effects to account for seasonality where  $t'=1, \dots, 12$  indexes the calendar month,  
142  $\mu_T$  are ‘years’ random effects to account for unmeasured interannual variability where  $T=1, \dots, 5$  (for  
143 typhoid) and  $T=1, \dots, 11$  (for iNTS) indexes the year, the cross-basis functions  $f.w(x_{1t}, l)$  and  
144  $f.w(x_{2t}, l)$  are the nonlinear rainfall-lag and temperature-lag natural cubic spline functions,  
145 respectively, with lags  $l$  from 0 to 8 months,  $\varepsilon_t$  are the residuals added at specific lags to correct for  
146 partial autocorrelation.

147

148 Our study aimed to determine the seasonal and deseasonalized fluctuations of invasive *Salmonella*  
149 diseases that could inform the timing of possible control measures. Hence, we focused on data from  
150 the time periods that enabled us to do so. The iNTS data after 2010, and typhoid data before 2011 are  
151 outside of the major outbreak years, and were thus excluded from the analysis. (Fig. 2 and  
152 Supplementary Fig. S3). We apply the distributed lag non-linear modelling framework (DLNM) using  
153 the “dlnm” R package<sup>49</sup>, to simultaneously investigate the potential nonlinear and delayed effects of  
154 rainfall and temperature on monthly iNTS or typhoid incidence. We captured rainfall, temperature and  
155 lags using natural cubic spline functions to flexibly model nonlinear climate-lag structures and their  
156 relationships on the risk of invasive *Salmonella* diseases (typhoid and iNTS). These combinations  
157 yielded cross-basis matrices of rainfall-lag and temperature-lag. Variables for seasonality, interannual  
158 variability, rainfall-lags, temperature-lags and residuals were all included as terms in the  
159 overdispersed Poisson regression model to estimate the relative risk of iNTS. On the other hand, we  
160 fitted two separate models to estimate the relative risk of typhoid. Both models included variables for  
161 seasonality and interannual variability in addition to rainfall-lag and residuals for the first model, and  
162 rainfall-lag and temperature-lag for the second model.

163

164 **Model selection, evaluation and estimation**

165 We generated a total of 162 potential models from a combination of degrees of freedom (*df*)  
166 representing each climate-lag spline function. A natural cubic spline is linear beyond the boundary  
167 knots thereby imposing at least 2 knots. Additional knots within the boundary interval in the  
168 lag/exposure spaces implies ( $m + 1$ ) degrees of freedom per year where  $m$  is the number of knots  
169 (assuming no intercept). We imposed 2 internal knots (3 *df* per year), 3 (4 *df* per year) or 4 (5 *df* per  
170 year) without an intercept to model the effects of rainfall, temperature and lag simultaneously. Cross-  
171 basis matrices resulting from the combinations of the *df* of the lag and climate variables were included  
172 in overdispersed Poisson model as shown in equation (2). We selected the models that minimized the  
173 Quasi-Akaike Information Criterion (Q-AIC), which is asymptotically equivalent to a cross-validation  
174 statistic<sup>50</sup>. The Q-AIC values were calculated using equation (3), and the results are shown in  
175 Supplementary Table S1. In addition to selecting the best fitting models using Q-AIC, we examined  
176 the residual deviances overtime, autocorrelation and partial autocorrelation of the selected models. If  
177 the model (termed ‘original model’) showed significant partial autocorrelation at specific lags,  
178 residuals at those lags were added to the model (now termed the ‘adjusted model’) in order to reduce  
179 partial autocorrelation to below the significant threshold shown by blue dotted lines (Supplementary  
180 Fig. S4). The final model estimates were calculated from the ‘original’ or ‘adjusted’ models using  
181 quasi-maximum likelihood estimator which is assumed to be consistent and asymptotically normally  
182 distributed regardless of the cases generation process.

183

$$QAIC = -2L(\theta) + 2\phi k \quad (3)$$

184 where  $L$  is the log-likelihood of the Poisson distribution fitted model with parameter  $\theta$ ,  $\phi$  is the  
185 estimated overdispersion parameter and  $k$  is the number of model parameters<sup>51</sup>.

186

187 In a model selection sensitivity analysis, we assessed the impact of varying the *dfs* in the cross-basis  
188 functions of our final models on estimated relative risks of invasive *Salmonella* diseases  
189 (Supplementary Fig. S5 and Supplementary Fig. S6). In summary, our final relative risk estimates are  
190 based on the final models with the following choices; (1) monthly random effects to control for  
191 seasonality, (2) yearly random effects to control for long-term trends and interannual variability, (3a)

192 cross-basis matrices for {rainfall, lag} with {3, 3} *df* per year and {temperature, lag} with {3, 3} *df*  
193 per year to estimate the effects of rainfall and temperature on relative risk of iNTS, (3b) cross-basis  
194 matrix for {rainfall, lag} with {4, 3} *df* per year to estimate the effects of rainfall on relative risk of  
195 typhoid, and (3c) cross-basis matrices for {rainfall, lag} and {temperature, lag} each with {3, 3} *df*  
196 per year to estimate the effects of temperature on relative risk of typhoid ( Supplementary Table 1).  
197 Natural spline functions were chosen to allow for more parsimonious models<sup>52</sup>. Selection of monthly-  
198 scale lag and maximum lag of up to 8 months was based on observation of much lower invasive  
199 *Salmonella* diseases incidence on weekly scale with insignificant disease dynamics (Supplementary  
200 Fig. S7 and Supplementary Fig. S8), and knowledge from previous mathematical model that showed  
201 that typhoid incidence was highly correlated with rainfall at lags 6-21 weeks<sup>13</sup>, hence, a need to  
202 capture important association at longer lags without loss of precision in estimates. Moreover, the  
203 heatmaps from using weekly-scale data of up to 5 weeks maximum lag clearly showed significant  
204 uncontrolled residual autocorrelation resulting in unclear patterns of increased or decreased risk of  
205 invasive *Salmonella* diseases (Supplementary Fig. S9). All analyses were conducted in R v3.2.4<sup>53</sup>.  
206 Statistical significance was  $p < 0.05$ .

207

## 208 **Ethical approval**

209 *Salmonella* isolates described in this study were obtained from febrile Malawian adults and children  
210 as part of the routine case management when they attended QECH. The use of routine clinical case  
211 management samples was granted by the College of Medicine Research Ethics Committee  
212 (COMREC) under approval P.08/14/1614, in compliance with Malawi Government regulations,  
213 through the National Commission for Science and Technology (NCST). Individual patient informed  
214 consent was not required for the use of publicly available anonymised routine samples as per  
215 COMREC guideline 5.6. Climate data was obtained with permission from the Department of Climate  
216 Change and Meteorological Services in Blantyre, Malawi.

217

## 218 **Results**

219 **Descriptive analysis**

220 Of the 12,166 patients with confirmed invasive *Salmonella* diseases at QECH from 2000-2015, 9,518  
221 (78.2%) were iNTS disease cases of *S. Enteritidis* (15%, n=1,423), *S. Typhimurium* (80%, n=7,611)  
222 and other non-*S. Typhi* isolates (5%, n=484), and 4,259 (48.4%, n=8,797) were males. iNTS cases  
223 had a median age of 7 years (interquartile range [IQR]: 1-31; n=8,025), and typhoid cases of 12 years  
224 (IQR: 6.4–22; n=2,529) (Fig. 3). During the 11-years of iNTS and 5-years of typhoid surveillance  
225 included in this analysis, the mean minimum incidence rates of iNTS and typhoid were 7.1, 95%CI  
226 (6.3-7.8) and 3.6, 95%CI (2.9-4.4) per 100,000 population, respectively, at the main hospital. iNTS  
227 disease incidence increased from year 2000 with a peak in 2002-2003 (16 cases per 100,000  
228 population), but subsequently dropped year-on-year for the next decade. On the other hand, typhoid  
229 had not emerged until 2011 with an incidence peak during the 2013-2014 outbreak (11 cases per  
230 100,000 population) (Fig. 2).

231

232 **Comparing the delayed effects of rainfall on iNTS and typhoid**

233 Figure 4 summarises the modelled rainfall-lag relationships for both iNTS and typhoid diseases  
234 through contour and curve plots of the estimated relative risks (RR) along rainfall and lags compared  
235 to a reference mean monthly rainfall of 0 mm. A 9 mm rainfall-lag relationship for iNTS seems to  
236 vary with lag, with immediate and significant increased effect from lags 0 to 5 months, reaching the  
237 maximum effect at lag 2 (RR 1.32, 95%CI [1.20-1.46]), and with delayed and significant reduced  
238 effect at lag 8 (RR 0.79, 95%CI [0.66-0.96]). Comparatively, under the same reference value, the  
239 rainfall-lag relationship for typhoid depicts a delayed and significant increased effect of 9 mm of  
240 rainfall on the risk of typhoid from lags 2 to 7 months, with the maximum effect at lag 4 (RR 1.94,  
241 95%CI [1.60-2.35]). Moreover, the effects of excessive rainfall ( $\geq 13$  mm) are associated with  
242 significant reductions in both iNTS and typhoid at many lags (Fig. 4 and Table 1).

243

244 **Comparing the delayed effects of temperature on iNTS and typhoid**

245 Further, the iNTS temperature-lag relationship shows that, compared to 23 °C reference mean  
246 monthly temperature, 19 °C has a significant increased effect on the relative risk of iNTS from lags 3-

247 5 months, peaking at lag 4 (RR 1.12, 95%CI [1.02-1.23]). For typhoid, by contrast, the temperature-  
248 lag relationship shows a bimodal pattern with increased risk at both lower (19 °C) and higher (25 °C)  
249 temperatures compared to the reference (23 °C), possibly pointing to short or long transmission cycles  
250 becoming more and less important at different temperatures. At lower temperatures, there seems to be  
251 nearly immediate increase in the risk from lags 1 to 3 months, peaking at lag 2 (RR 1.47, 95%CI  
252 [1.08-2.01]), while at higher temperatures there is a delayed and significant increased effect from lags  
253 4-7 months, peaking at lag 5 (RR 1.36, 95%CI [1.08-1.73]). Extremely hot temperatures (>28 °C) are  
254 associated with lower incidences for both forms of invasive Salmonella disease (Fig. 5, and Table 1).

255

### 256 **Sensitivity analysis**

257 Given the complexities of the models used and the number of parameters that could affect the results,  
258 we conducted a sensitivity analysis to assess the impact of changes in  $df$  for the spline functions used  
259 on the inference we draw from the models. Fixing our comparison units for mean monthly rainfall (9  
260 mm vs. 0 mm) and temperature (19 °C vs. 23 °C) on the relative risk of iNTS, increasing the  $df$  in the  
261 lag space produces less smooth rainfall and temperature curves possibly indicating overfitting  
262 whereas increasing the  $df$  in the rainfall space produces more smooth rainfall and temperature curves  
263 suggesting controlled bias-variance tradeoff. While increasing the  $df$  in the temperature space does not  
264 change the rainfall curves, it produces more smooth temperature curves. (Supplementary Fig. S5). On  
265 the other hand, fixing similar comparison exposure units on the relative risk of typhoid shows that  
266 increasing the  $df$  in the lag or rainfall spaces profoundly reduces smoothing for rainfall and  
267 temperature curves. Counter-intuitively, increasing the  $df$  in the temperature space increases the  
268 precision of temperature curves especially at longer lags (Supplementary Fig. S6). Irrespective of our  
269 models' sensitivity to changes in the  $df$ , the overall inferences from the models are largely unaffected,  
270 and our final models are selected based on better out-of-sample performance to achieve wider  
271 generalizability of results.

272

## 273 **Discussion**

274 We empirically report on 15-year seasonal dynamics of climate and invasive *Salmonella* diseases, and  
275 described distinct and different relationships with rainfall and temperature for both forms of invasive  
276 *Salmonella* disease, by monthly lags. While an increased relative risk of iNTS was associated with  
277 lower temperatures there was a strikingly reduced risk of iNTS at extreme temperature. Typhoid, in  
278 contrast, had a bimodal pattern of increased relative-risks at both lower and higher temperatures, but  
279 with similar reduced risk occurring at extreme temperature. After the onset of moderate rainfall, the  
280 increased relative risk of iNTS was short-lasting and immediate, whereas that of typhoid was long-  
281 lasting but with a 2-4 months delay. And finally, the highest rainfalls were associated with reduced  
282 relative risk for both forms of invasive *Salmonella* disease.

283

284 In agreement with other studies<sup>54,55</sup>, we show that the effects of rainfall and temperature dynamics on  
285 the risk of invasive *Salmonella* diseases could be estimated in DLNM framework. Poor infrastructure  
286 and high poverty rate in Blantyre constrain access to clean water and adequate sanitation for a large  
287 number of dwellers, and particularly poorer residents, rendering the city vulnerable to climate events  
288 and their consequences for sanitation<sup>29</sup>. Moreover, with the growing urbanisation<sup>56</sup>, high-density  
289 slums are likely to expand and will present fertile ground for both short-cycle (within-household) and  
290 long-cycle (environmental) transmission routes of *Salmonella*.

291

292 Our exploratory analysis was focused around the peak of cases of iNTS between 2002 and 2003,  
293 which have been closely linked, temporally and mechanistically, to widespread *S. Typhimurium* and  
294 *S. Enteritidis* drug resistant serovars<sup>17-19,41,57</sup>. Comparably, the elevated cases of typhoid between 2013  
295 and 2014 have also been attributed to the emergence of drug resistance H58 haplotype strain<sup>13,16</sup>.  
296 Since immune fluctuations, due to outbreaks by resistance strains or seasonal malaria/malnutrition<sup>8</sup>,  
297 may induce changes in susceptible population<sup>58</sup>, with a potential to bias the effect of climate on  
298 invasive *salmonella* diseases, control of seasonality and long-term trends reduces this bias.

299

300 This is an observational study which can only provide hypotheses of mechanism of *Salmonella*  
301 transmission dynamics. Rainfall and temperature show divergent temporal patterns across the three

302 main seasons seen in Malawi (as described in methods), but are clearly likely to be related to each  
303 other through regional climatic weather systems. Furthermore, there are a large number of biological,  
304 environmental and social behavioural influences that might work independently or in combination to  
305 explain the relationships of both forms of invasive *Salmonella* disease that we have observed with  
306 rainfall and temperature.

307

308 One important future utility of our model could be to help predict and respond to changes in disease  
309 incidence that could follow changing regional weather patterns. For example, Southern Malawi was  
310 affected by Cyclone Idai experiencing extreme rainfall in March 2019<sup>59</sup>, and our model might predict  
311 that, in contrast to waterborne diseases such as cholera, excessive rainfall might not be associated with  
312 increased risk of invasive *Salmonella* diseases, which could help to inform medical responses to such  
313 climatic emergencies. Combining findings from our approach with other risk-based local or global  
314 approaches could prove particularly valuable<sup>4,60</sup>.

315

316 The predictions from this model may, however, also allow the generation of mechanistic hypotheses  
317 that could be prospectively tested, and used to develop specific preventive strategies. For example,  
318 our model's estimates of an immediate and augmented effect of rainfall on the relative risk of iNTS  
319 with shorter lag times might mirror a shorter clinical incubation period for NTS strains, together with  
320 a lesser ability of NTS to survive in environmental conditions compared to *S. Typhi* bacteria<sup>61</sup>. This  
321 could be coupled with predominantly short-cycle transmission for iNTS within the household, perhaps  
322 when most individuals are likely to spend time indoors at the onset of rains. In contrast, the more  
323 delayed effects of rainfall on typhoid, may reflect slower clinical course and incubation period of  
324 typhoid<sup>62</sup> combined with and the greater ability of the bacteria to survive and replicate in water  
325 reservoirs in the broader environment<sup>13,63</sup>, and a greater role of long-cycle transmission outside the  
326 household through human behaviour such as seasonal crops and harvesting activities, day care and  
327 school attendance<sup>64</sup>.

328

329 Interestingly, the relative-risk function of temperature for typhoid showed higher risk at both lower  
330 (an immediate effect) and higher (with a lag of 4 months or more) temperatures. This seasonal  
331 bimodal temperature-related pattern could similarly reflect the known role of the two different short  
332 and long transmission cycles for typhoid. The observed associations between extreme rainfall and  
333 highest temperature and reduced incidence of any form of invasive *Salmonella* diseases may suggest  
334 two mechanisms; surface runoff during the heaviest rains may have a consequence of reducing the  
335 environmental reservoir of *Salmonella*; and the hottest temperatures (>28 °C) may counteract the  
336 ability of bacteria to survive and multiply within households or in the environment<sup>29</sup>. Interestingly,  
337 our results on the effects of extreme rainfall and temperature also contradict a study in Bangladesh  
338 which reported increased risks of typhoid<sup>63</sup>, emphasising the likely importance of site-specific factors.

339

340 It is particularly important to note that while typhoid occurs among healthy individuals, and HIV  
341 exerts a modest protective effect against typhoid fever, there are well-established underlying risk  
342 factors for iNTS disease in adults (advanced HIV disease) and children (HIV, malaria and  
343 malnutrition)<sup>7</sup>. Malaria would be expected to be linked to rainfall, while malnutrition would be  
344 expected to be related to both rainfall and temperature, through an impact on crop yield and food  
345 availability. HIV, being a chronic disease, does not have a seasonal pattern, and would not be  
346 expected to have a strong influence in this model. We have previously explored and demonstrated the  
347 year-on-year relationships between iNTS disease, malaria and malnutrition using Structural Equation  
348 Modelling<sup>8</sup>, which suggested that at least some of the contribution of rainfall to iNTS disease might  
349 be mediated through its effects on malaria and malnutrition. These differing susceptibility factors  
350 could introduce substantial and differential time-lags into the relationships of typhoid and iNTS to  
351 climatic conditions.

352

353 This is the first study that simultaneously compares the delayed effects of rainfall and temperature on  
354 the relative risk of both iNTS and typhoid in the same setting. Our model's typhoid risk estimates on  
355 the rainfall-lag space are consistent with findings from a previous study in the same setting<sup>13</sup>.

356 However, while we observe significant lag-specific effects of climate on invasive *Salmonella*

357 diseases, such effects have occurred at different lags and magnitude in other studies<sup>29,30,63</sup>, suggesting  
358 that other setting-specific factors such as elevation and hygiene may still play a crucial role in  
359 transmission pathways<sup>2</sup>.

360

361 Thus, in addition to possible predictive uses, and specific mechanistic hypotheses generated, our  
362 model's suggestions may need to be verified in prospectively in Malawi using other methods, which  
363 could lead to future specific, testable, preventive interventions. Overall, the divergence of the different  
364 patterns we have observed between typhoid and iNTS disease suggest that distinctly different  
365 preventive measures against each form of *Salmonella* may be required. Other future work might also  
366 test this modelling approach in other African or global sites, where the relationship between rainfall  
367 and temperature may vary, and where the social, economic, behavioural and environmental setting is  
368 different.

369

370 The strengths of our study included the fact that both forms of invasive *Salmonella* diseases were  
371 observed at the same geographical site over a long period of time, making direct comparisons  
372 uniquely possible. Other methodological strengths include using the DLNM framework to flexibly  
373 describe nonlinear relationship between climate and invasive *Salmonella* diseases, a rigorous process  
374 of model selection by comparing Q-AIC values of fitted models, and seasonal and long-term trend  
375 adjustments to control for known and unknown confounders. Some limitations of the study also need  
376 to be highlighted. We have only reported a minimum monthly incidence of disease, and several  
377 factors likely contributed to overall under-ascertainment of invasive *Salmonella* disease. These  
378 include the fact that blood culture provides a definitive diagnosis but has a relatively low sensitivity<sup>65</sup>.  
379 In addition, blood cultures were only taken at the secondary hospital referral centre, and some cases  
380 may have self-medicated from community pharmacies or attended local health centres. These are,  
381 however, all likely to pertain equally throughout the year, meaning that they would have little effect  
382 on the temporal patterns used for our modelling approach. Our 15-years of surveillance did not  
383 capture spatial locations of cases making it impossible to account for spatial variability. And lastly,  
384 our models did not account for possible interactions between rainfall and temperature, or interactions

385 with related underlying medical conditions such as human immunodeficiency virus, malaria or  
386 malnutrition.

387

388 In conclusion, we have identified, at the same geographical site, the delayed and nonlinear  
389 relationships of climate with the two forms of invasive *Salmonella* diseases commonly found in  
390 Africa, namely typhoid and iNTS disease. Our model may be useful either for surveillance, prediction  
391 and planning, or for generating and evaluating specific intervention measures. We demonstrated  
392 distinct patterns, both of lag-times and in the pattern of relationships to temperature and rainfall,  
393 suggesting that the epidemiology of iNTS disease and typhoid may also be very distinct, and this may  
394 be attributable to diverse biological, environmental, social and behavioural factors. Optimal control  
395 measures may, thus, not be the same for these two common forms of invasive *Salmonella* disease in  
396 Africa, and distinct interventions are likely to be required for disease control or prevention.

397

398 Availability of materials and data

399 A reproducible R script used to analyse the datasets is available in the *GitHub* repository;

400 <https://github.com/deusthindwa/dlnm.typhoid.nts.climate.blantyre.malawi.git>

401

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- 555

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561 Services in Blantyre for granting us permission to use climate data.

562

563 **Author contributions**

564 D.T provided data curation, analysis methodology, coding, validation and writing of original draft.

565 M.G.C provided data curation, analysis methodology, validation and review of the manuscript.

566 M.Y.R.H provided analysis methodology, validation, and review of the manuscript. M.A.G provided  
567 conceptualization and hypothesis generation, data curation, sample methodology, validation and  
568 review of the manuscript.

569

570 **Competing interests**

571 All authors declare no competing interests.

572

573 **Figure and tables**

574 Figure 1. The map of Blantyre, Malawi. Shows locations by longitude and latitude of the weather  
575 stations (Chichiri and Chileka) which captured daily rainfall and temperature, Queen Elizabeth  
576 Central Hospital where invasive nontyphoid and typhoid cases were diagnosed, and the total  
577 population enumerated during 1998 and 2008 national censuses in Blantyre.

578

579 Figure 2. Seasonal dynamics of invasive *Salmonella* diseases. Contour plots of yearly and monthly  
580 changes in the incidence of nontyphoid *Salmonella* disease (iNTS), rainfall and temperature  
581 respectively (A, B, C) from 2000-2010; yearly and monthly changes in the incidence of typhoid,  
582 rainfall and temperature respectively (D, E, F) from 2011 to 2015 in Blantyre, Malawi.

583

584 Figure 3. Age and sex distribution of invasive *Salmonella* cases. Nontyphoid (iNTS) (A) and typhoid  
585 (B) cases confirmed by blood culture at the Malawi Liverpool Wellcome Trust Clinical Programme in  
586 Blantyre, Malawi over the yearly period from 2000 to 2015.

587

588 Figure 4. Relative risk (RR) of invasive *Salmonella* diseases given rainfall exposures and monthly  
589 lags. Contour plot of rainfall-lag-nontyphoid (iNTS) (A) relative to baseline mean monthly rainfall  
590 conditions of 0 mm at lags between 0 and 8 months, and lag-iNTS curve plots at 9 mm (B) and 13  
591 mm (C) of rainfall with 95% Confidence Intervals; Contour plot of rainfall-lag-typhoid (D) relative to  
592 baseline mean monthly rainfall conditions of 0 mm at lags between 0 and 8 months, and lag-typhoid  
593 curve plots at 9 mm (E) and 13 mm (F) of rainfall with 95% Confidence Intervals.

594

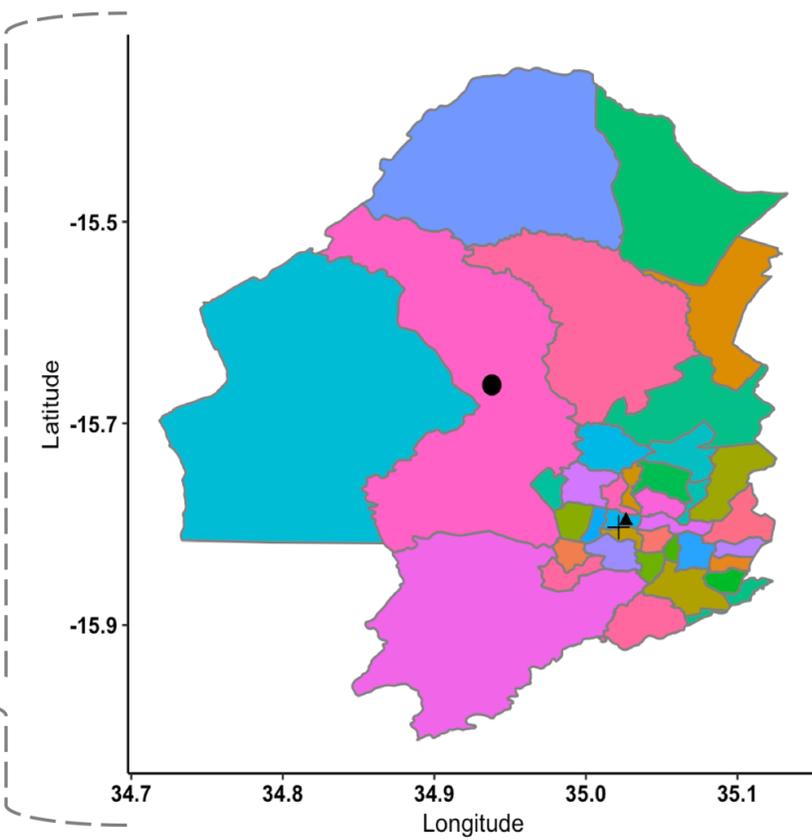
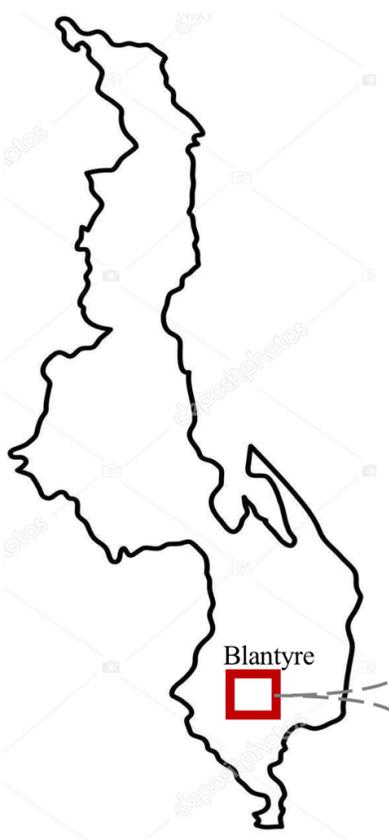
595 Figure 5. Relative risk (RR) of invasive *Salmonella* diseases, given temperature exposures and  
596 monthly lags. Contour plot of temperature-lag-nontyphoid (iNTS) (A) relative to baseline mean  
597 monthly temperature conditions of 23 °C at lags between 0 and 8 months, and lag-iNTS curve plots at  
598 19 °C (B) and 29 °C (C) of temperature with 95% Confidence Intervals; Contour plot of temperature-  
599 lag-typhoid (D) relative to baseline mean monthly temperature conditions of 23 °C at lags between 0  
600 and 8 months, and lag-typhoid curve plots at 19 °C (E) and 25 °C (F) of temperature with 95%  
601 Confidence Intervals.

602

	RR of iNTS, (95%CI)	RR of typhoid, (95%CI)	RR of iNTS, (95%CI)	RR of typhoid, (95%CI)
Month	Rainfall (9 mm)	Rainfall (9 mm)	Rainfall (13 mm)	Rainfall (13 mm)
Lag 0	1.20 (1.01-1.44)*	0.74 (0.46-1.19)	1.18 (0.92-1.52)	0.16 (0.06-0.52)*
Lag 1	1.28 (1.14-1.43)*	1.13 (0.80-1.59)	1.06 (0.89-1.27)	0.20 (0.10-0.43)*
Lag 2	1.32 (1.20-1.46)*	1.56 (1.21-2.02)*	0.97 (0.81-1.16)	0.26 (0.13-0.52)*
Lag 3	1.31 (1.17-1.45)*	1.86 (1.51-2.30)*	0.90 (0.73-1.10)	0.34 (0.16-0.69)*
Lag 4	1.24 (1.11-1.37)*	1.94 (1.60-2.35)*	0.85 (0.69-1.04)	0.43 (0.21-0.87)*
Lag 5	1.14 (1.03-1.26)*	1.82 (1.51-2.20)*	0.81 (0.67-0.97)*	0.55 (0.29-1.04)
Lag 6	1.02 (0.92-1.15)	1.58 (1.29-1.94)*	0.78 (0.65-0.93)*	0.69 (0.38-1.25)
Lag 7	0.91 (0.79-1.04)	1.30 (1.02-1.66)*	0.75 (0.61-0.94)*	0.87 (0.47-1.63)
Lag 8	0.79 (0.66-0.96)*	1.04 (0.76-1.42)	0.73 (0.55-0.98)*	1.1 (0.51-2.38)
Month	Temperature (19 °C)	Temperature (19 °C)	Temperature (29 °C)	Temperature (25 °C)
Lag 0	0.87 (0.76-1.01)	1.31 (0.95-1.81)	0.93 (0.73-1.20)	0.74 (0.53-1.03)
Lag 1	0.98 (0.88-1.09)	1.41 (1.09-1.84)*	0.88 (0.76-1.03)	0.93 (0.73-1.19)
Lag 2	1.07 (0.97-1.18)	1.47 (1.08-2.01)*	0.83 (0.73-0.96)*	1.12 (0.87-1.43)
Lag 3	1.11 (1.00-1.23)*	1.44 (1.02-2.05)*	0.80 (0.69-0.93)*	1.26 (0.96-1.65)
Lag 4	1.12 (1.02-1.23)*	1.35 (0.96-1.91)	0.77 (0.66-0.89)*	1.34 (1.03-1.75)*
Lag 5	1.09 (1.00-1.19)*	1.22 (0.89-1.67)	0.74 (0.65-0.84)*	1.36 (1.08-1.73)*
Lag 6	1.04 (0.95-1.13)	1.06 (0.77-1.46)	0.71 (0.62-0.82)*	1.34 (1.10-1.64)*
Lag 7	0.98 (0.88-1.08)	0.91 (0.61-1.35)	0.69 (0.56-0.84)*	1.29 (1.07-1.57)*
Lag 8	0.91 (0.80-1.04)	0.77 (0.45-1.31)	0.66 (0.50-0.88)*	1.23 (0.97-1.57)

604

605 Table 1. Relative risk (RR) of invasive nontyphoid *Salmonella* (iNTS) and typhoid disease, and 95%  
606 Confidence Intervals (CIs) at rainfall in millimetres (mm), temperature in degrees Celsius (°C) and  
607 monthly lag-specific values relative to baseline rainfall (0 mm) and temperature (23 °C), with  
608 statistical significance (\*) at  $p < 0.05$ .

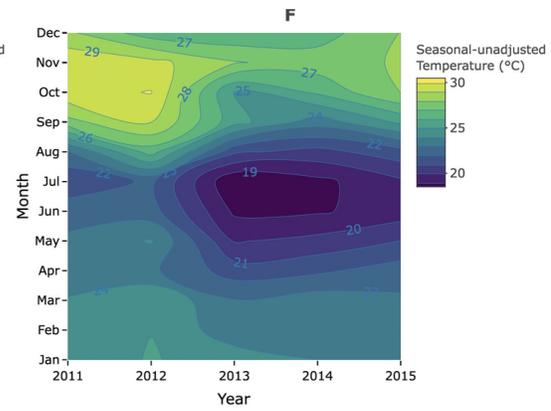
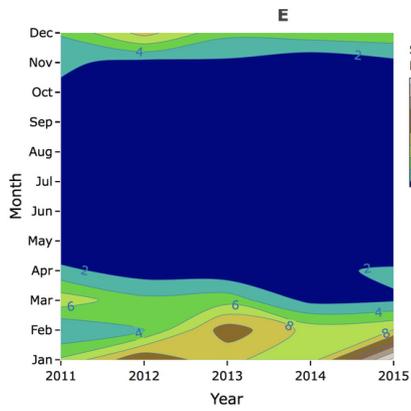
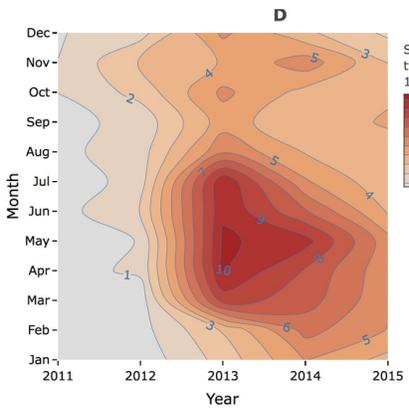
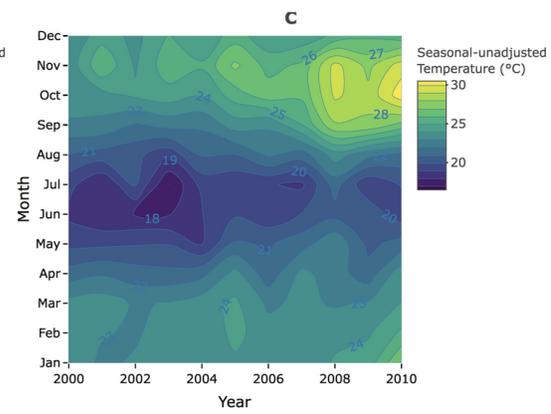
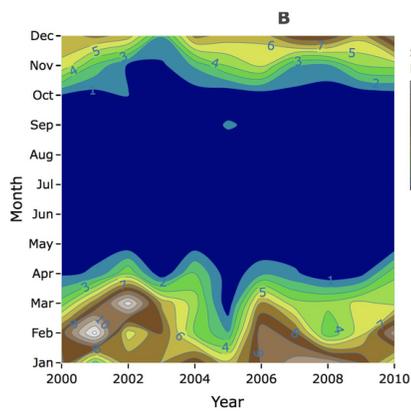
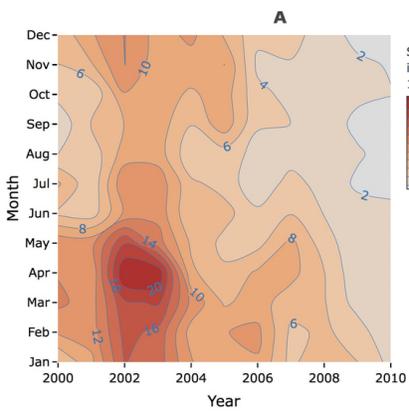


(1998 - 2008) Population censuses

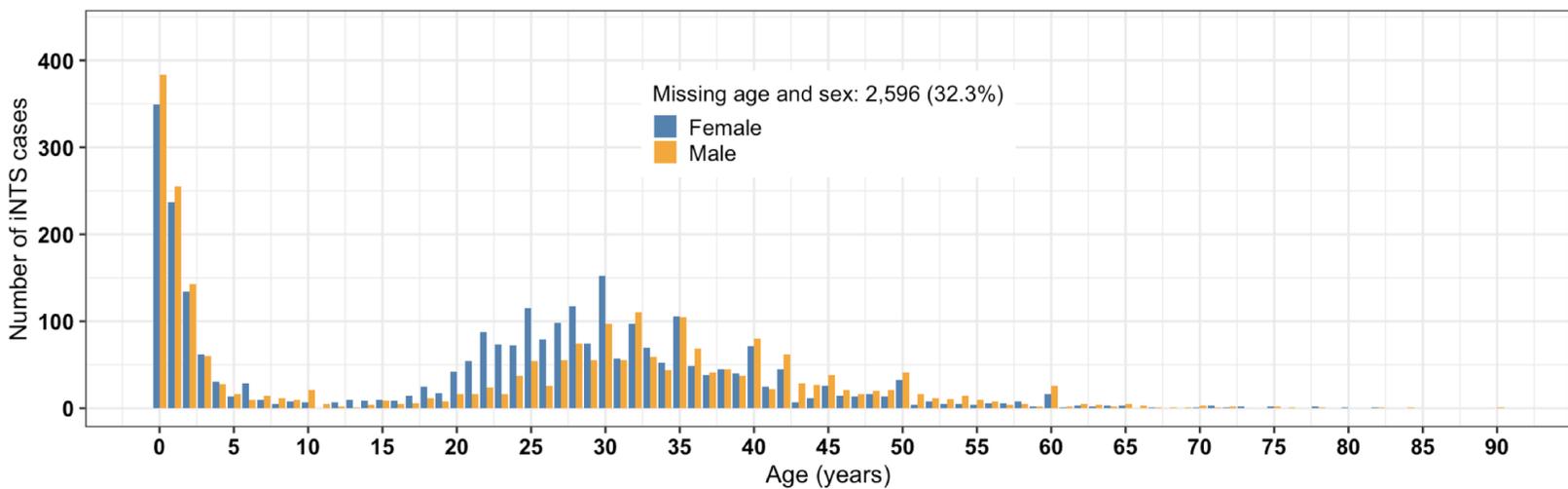
(10,865 - 13,877)	(24,366 - 37,864)
(10,876 - 25,109)	(26,703 - 33,770)
(13,367 - 18,761)	(28,303 - 46,639)
(13,656 - 15,991)	(3,578 - 5,786)
(13,795 - 15,529)	(3,668 - 4,808)
(14,793 - 14,887)	(32,780 - 38,512)
(17,002 - 23,352)	(33,243 - 39,836)
(17,265 - 23,854)	(33,453 - 50,617)
(18,458 - 22,901)	(35,723 - 34,773)
(18,893 - 31,212)	(48,966 - 51,853)
(2,558 - 2,960)	(5,708 - 5,452)
(2,614 - 4,330)	(55,048 - 59,488)
(20,009 - 29,033)	(61,638 - 64,602)
(20,184 - 46,372)	(64,025 - 71,434)
(21,430 - 22,297)	(7,272 - 8,304)
(23,223 - 37,690)	(73,055 - 72,236)
(23,703 - 35,218)	(9,177 - 13,333)

Geolocation

- ▲ Chichiri Weather Station
- Chileka Weather Station
- ⊕ Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital



A



B

