

1 **Informing shigellosis prevention and control through pathogen genomics**

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25 **Abstract**

26

27 *Shigella* spp. are the leading bacterial cause of severe childhood diarrhoea in low- and middle- income
28 countries (LMIC), are increasingly antimicrobial resistant and have no licensed vaccine. We performed
29 genomic analyses of 1246 systematically collected shigellae from seven LMIC to inform control and
30 identify factors that could limit the effectiveness of current approaches. We found that *S. sonnei* contributes
31 ≥ 20 -fold more disease than other *Shigella* species relative to its genomic diversity and highlight existing
32 diversity and adaptative capacity among *S. flexneri* that may generate vaccine escape variants in < 6 months.
33 Furthermore, we show convergent evolution of resistance against the current recommended antimicrobial
34 among shigellae. This demonstrates the urgent need to integrate existing genomic diversity into vaccine
35 and treatment plans for *Shigella*, and other pathogens.

36 **Introduction**

37

38 Shigellosis is a diarrhoeal disease responsible for approximately 212,000 annual deaths and
39 accounting for 13.2% of all diarrhoeal deaths globally (1). The Global Enteric Multicenter Study (GEMS)
40 was a large case-control study conducted between 2007 and 2011, investigating the aetiology and burden
41 of moderate-to-severe diarrhoea (MSD) in children less than five years old in low- and middle-income
42 countries (LMICs) (2). GEMS revealed shigellosis as the leading bacterial cause of diarrhoeal illness in
43 children, who represent a major target group for vaccination (3). The aetiological agents are *Shigella*, a
44 Gram-negative genus comprised of *S. flexneri*, *S. sonnei*, *S. boydii* and *S. dysenteriae*, with the former two
45 serotypes causing the majority (90%) of attributable shigellosis in children in LMICs (3). Currently, the
46 disease is primarily managed through supportive care and antimicrobial therapy. However, there has been
47 an increase in antimicrobial resistance (AMR) among *Shigella* (4). Particularly concerning is the rise of
48 resistance against the fluoroquinolone antimicrobial ciprofloxacin, the current World Health Organisation
49 (WHO) recommended treatment, such that fluoroquinolone-resistant (FQR) *Shigella* is one of a dozen
50 pathogens for which WHO notes new antimicrobial therapies are urgently needed (5). The high disease
51 burden and increasing AMR of *Shigella* call for improvements in treatment and management options for
52 shigellosis, and significant momentum has built to rise to this challenge.

53 However, there is still no licenced vaccine available for *Shigella* and one of the main challenges in
54 its development is the considerable genomic and phenotypic diversity of the organisms (6). The distinct
55 lipopolysaccharide O-antigen structures of *Shigella* determine its serotype and is responsible for conferring

56 the short to medium term serotype-specific immunity following infection (7-10). Hence, considerable
57 efforts are focused on generating O-antigen specific vaccines. However, with the exception of the single
58 serotype *S. sonnei*, each species encompasses multiple diverse serotypes: 14 serotypes/subserotypes for *S.*
59 *flexneri*, 19 for *S. boydii* and 15 for *S. dysenteriae* (11). Thus, for serotype-targeted vaccine approaches,
60 multivalent vaccines are proposed to provide broad protection against disease (6, 12). Furthermore, while
61 O-antigen conjugates are a leading strategy, challenge studies have recently demonstrated poor efficacy
62 (13, 14). An attractive alternative and/or complement to serotype-targeted vaccine formulations are specific
63 subunit vaccines which target highly conserved proteins and may offer broad protection. There are several
64 candidates in development that have demonstrated protection in animal models (15, 16), but the degree of
65 antigenic variation for these targets among the global *Shigella* population remains unknown.

66 Whole-genome sequencing analysis (WGS) provides sufficient discriminatory power to resolve
67 phylogenetic relationships and characterise diversity of bacterial pathogens, essential to informing vaccine
68 development and other aspects of disease control (17, 18). However, these critical analysis tools are yet to
69 be applied to a pathogen collection appropriate for broadly informing shigellosis control in the critical
70 demographic of children in LMICs. Here, we apply WGS to *Shigella* isolates sampled during GEMS,
71 representing 1,246 systematically collected isolates from across seven nations in sub-Saharan Africa and
72 South Asia with some of the highest childhood mortality rates (2, 19). We found evidence of the potential
73 benefit of genomic subtype-based targeting, characterised pathogen features that will complicate current
74 vaccine approaches, and highlighted regional differences among *Shigella* diversity, as well as determinants
75 of AMR, including convergent evolution toward resistance against currently recommended treatments. Our
76 analysis of this unparalleled pathogen collection informs the control and prevention of shigellosis in those
77 populations most vulnerable to disease.

78

79 **Results and Discussion**

80

81 *Regional diversity of Shigella spp. across LMIC*

82

83 To date, this is the largest representative dataset of *Shigella* genomes from LMICs ($n=1246$),
84 collected across seven sites from Asia, West Africa and East Africa, comprised of 806 *S. flexneri*, 305 *S.*
85 *sonnei*, 75 *S. boydii* and 60 *S. dysenteriae* (Fig. 1A). To compare the genomic diversity of *Shigella* species,
86 we determined the distributions of pairwise single-nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) distances and scaled

87 the total detected SNPs against the length of the chromosome (in kbp) for each species (Fig. 1B). This
88 revealed that *S. boydii* contained the greatest diversity (24.2 SNPs/kbp), followed by *S. flexneri* (19.5
89 SNPs/kbp) and *S. dysenteriae* (11.8 SNPs/kbp), with *S. sonnei* being >9.8-fold less diverse (1.2 SNPs/kbp)
90 or >13.1-fold less diverse (0.9 SNPs/kbp) excluding two outliers (see below, Fig. 1B). This revealed that *S.*
91 *sonnei* caused between 20 and 25-fold more disease relative to genomic diversity than *S. flexneri* and either
92 *S. dysenteriae* or *S. boydii* (Fig. 1B), indicating the value of vaccination against *S. sonnei* as a comparatively
93 conserved target relative to disease burden. Examination of the gene repertoire revealed that this relative
94 chromosomal diversity was consistent with the accessory genome variation among species (fig. S1).

95 Early global population structure studies revealed that each *Shigella* species is delineated into
96 multiple WGS subtypes (20-23). Specifically, *S. flexneri* is comprised of seven phylogroups (PGs) (20)
97 and *S. sonnei* of five lineages (24). To describe the genomic epidemiology of the GEMS *Shigella* within
98 existing frameworks we constructed species phylogenetic trees and integrated these with epidemiological
99 metadata and publicly available genomes. The *S. flexneri* phylogeny revealed two distinct lineages
100 separated by ~34,000 SNPs; one comprising five previously described PGs (20) and a distant clade
101 comprised largely of *S. flexneri* serotype 6 isolates (herein termed Sf6), contributing distinctly to the disease
102 burden of each country (Fig. 2 and fig. S2). Phylogenetic analysis of *S. sonnei* revealed that all but two
103 isolates belonged to the globally dominant multidrug resistant (MDR) Lineage III (21) (fig. S3). For *S.*
104 *boydii* and *S. dysenteriae*, a total of four and two previously described phylogenetic clades (23, 25) were
105 identified, respectively (fig. S4). Marked phylogenetic association of isolates with country of origin
106 prompted an examination of species genomic diversity by region (East Africa, West Africa and Asia) and
107 revealed that while *S. flexneri* diversity was comparable across regions, diversity varied by region for the
108 remaining species (fig. S5). Specifically, *S. sonnei* was more genomically diverse in East Africa owing to
109 the presence of two Lineage II isolates from Mozambique. For *S. boydii*, Asia contained greater diversity
110 than African regions, owing to isolates belonging to additional clades. *S. dysenteriae* diversity was lower
111 in West Africa relative to other regions by virtue of having only one circulating clade. These geographical
112 differences highlight the importance of considering regional variations during vaccine development and
113 that vaccine candidates should be evaluated across multiple regions.

114

115 ***Genomic subgroups as an alternative targeting method***

116

117 To explore the utility of vaccination targeting genomic subtype (relative to targeting serotype) for
118 *S. flexneri*, we determined the relative effect size of the dominant subtype on the epidemiological outcome

119 of shigellosis (i.e., isolates derived from case patients rather than from controls, as defined in GEMS). The
120 dominant genomic subtype was PG3, which comprised the majority (47%, 378/806) of total isolates, as
121 well as case (50%, 341/687) isolates, with some regional variation (Fig. 2). This resulted in an increased
122 odds of cases (OR = 2.3, 95% CI = 1.5-3.6, $p = 0.0001$) for PG3 compared with other genomic subtypes
123 (PGs and Sf6) (methods, table S3). The association of cases with the dominant serotype, *S. flexneri* serotype
124 2a (accounting for 29% (234/806) of total isolates and 31% (210/687) of case isolates) also resulted in an
125 increased odds of cases (OR = 1.9, 95% CI = 1.7-3.2, $p = 0.0099$) (table S3). But the higher prevalence and
126 larger effect size of PG3 relative to serotype 2a on case status offers compelling evidence that targeting
127 vaccination by phylogroup might offer broader coverage per licenced vaccine relative to, or in combination
128 with, a serotype-specific approach.

129

130 *Diversity of S. flexneri relevant to serotype-targeted vaccines*

131

132 The development of serotype-targeted vaccines is complicated by the diversity and distribution of
133 serotypes, which are heterogenous over time and place (8, 19, 26, 27). Furthermore, genetic determinants
134 of O-antigen modification are often encoded on mobile genetic elements (28, 29) that can move horizontally
135 among bacterial populations, causing the recognised, but poorly quantified phenomenon of serotype
136 switching (20, 27, 28), which may result in the rapid escape of infection induced immunity against
137 homologous serotypes. For our analyses of serotype switching, we focused on *S. flexneri* owing to high
138 disease burden and serotypic diversity. Phenotypic serotyping data were overlaid onto the phylogeny and
139 revealed that while generally there was a strong association of genotype (i.e. PG/Sf6) with serotype
140 (Fisher's exact test; $p < 2.20E-16$), multiple serotypes were observed for each genotype (Fig. 3). The greatest
141 serotype diversity was observed in PG3, comprised of seven distinct serotypes and two subserotypes.
142 Correlation of serotypic diversity (number of serotypes) and genomic diversity (maximum pairwise SNP
143 distance within genotype) revealed no evidence for an association, but a significant positive correlation of
144 serotypic diversity with the number of isolates in each genotype was found (fig. S6), indicating that serotype
145 diversity scales with prevalence.

146 To qualitatively and quantitatively determine serotype switching across *S. flexneri*, we examined
147 the number of switches occurring within each genotype. A switching event was inferred when a serotype
148 emerged (either as a singleton or monophyletic clade) that was distinct from the majority (>65%) serotype
149 within a genotype (Fig. 3 and fig. S7). PG6 was excluded from the analysis, as only three isolates from
150 GEMS belonged to this genotype and a dominant serotype could not be inferred. Quantitatively, this

151 revealed serotype switching was infrequent, with only 26 independent switches (3.3% of isolates) identified
152 across the five *S. flexneri* genotypes. Although the frequency of switching varied across the genotypes,
153 statistical support for an association of serotype switching with genotype fell short of significance (Fisher's
154 exact test; $p = 0.09$). Qualitatively, the majority (22/26) of switching resulted in a change of serotype, with
155 few (4/26) resulting in a change of subserotype. Examination of O-antigen modification genes revealed that
156 serotype switching was facilitated by changes in the composition of phage-encoded *gtr* and *oac* genes in
157 the genomes, as well as point mutations in these genes (table S4). Our data also revealed that few (4/26)
158 switching events resulted in more than two descendant isolates (fig. S7). This indicates that while natural
159 immunity drives the fixation of relatively few serotype-switched variants in the short term, the potential
160 pool of variants that could be driven to fixation by vaccine-induced selective pressure following a serotype-
161 targeted vaccination program is much larger.

162 In order to estimate the likely timeframe over which serotype switching events might be expected
163 to occur, we estimated the divergence time of the phylogenetic branch giving rise to each switching event.
164 To streamline the analysis, we focused on two subclades of PG3, the most prevalent phylogroup, in which
165 seven independent serotype switching events were detected (fig. S8). Based on the timeframes observed
166 within our sample (spanning 4 years from 2007 to 2010), serotype switching was estimated to occur within
167 an average of 348 days, ranging from 159 days (95% highest posterior density [HPD]: 16 - 344) to 10206
168 days (28 years) (95% HPD: 5494 - 15408) (table S5). Taken together, our data shows that although
169 serotype-switching frequency is low, it can occur over relatively short timeframes and lead to serotype
170 replacement such that non-vaccine serotypes could replace vaccine serotypes following a vaccination
171 program, as has been observed for *Streptococcus pneumoniae* (30, 31). These elucidated serotype switching
172 dynamics (i.e. switching occurring over short timeframes and quantitatively proportional to disease burden)
173 highlights the value of a multivalent vaccine and geographically coordinated implementation of *Shigella*
174 vaccination.

175

176 ***Heterogeneity among Shigella vaccine protein antigens***

177

178 Conserved antigen-targeted vaccines can overcome some hurdles of serotype-targeted vaccines.
179 Hence, we performed detailed examination of six protein antigens that are currently in development and
180 have demonstrated protection in animal models (Table 1). First, we assessed the distribution of the
181 candidates among GEMS *Shigella* isolates which revealed that the proportional presence of antigens varied
182 across species and with genetic context. Specifically, genes encoded on the virulence plasmid (*ipaB*, *ipaC*,

183 *ipaD*, *icsP*) were present in >85% of genomes for each species with the exception of *S. sonnei* (fig. S9).
184 The low proportion ($\leq 5\%$) of virulence plasmid encoded genes detected among *S. sonnei* was caused by a
185 similarly low detection of the virulence plasmid among *S. sonnei* (6%), which likely arose due to loss during
186 sub-culture (32). In contrast, the chromosomally encoded *ompA* was present in >98% of all isolates, while
187 the *sigA* gene (carried on the chromosomally integrated SHI-1 pathogenicity island (17)) was present in
188 99% of *S. sonnei* genomes, but only 63% of *S. flexneri* genomes. Notably, among *S. flexneri* genomes, the
189 *sigA* gene was exclusively found in PG3 and Sf6, and present in >96% of isolates in each genotype) (fig.
190 S2), indicating an appropriate distribution for targeting the two genotypes. Second, we assessed the antigens
191 for amino acid variation and modelled the likely impact of detected variants, as antigen variation may also
192 lead to vaccine escape, as demonstrated for the P1 variant of SARS-CoV2 (33, 34). We determined the
193 distribution of pairwise amino acid (aa) sequence identities per antigen against *S. flexneri* vaccine strains
194 for each species (methods). Overall, sequence identities were >90% but varied with antigen (fig. S9). For
195 example, OmpA was present in the highest proportion of genomes, but showed ~5% sequence divergence,
196 while SigA was present in fewer genomes, but exhibited little divergence (<0.5%) among species. The least
197 conserved sequence was IpaD, ranging from 3 to 7% divergence within species.

198 Not all antigenic variation will affect antibody binding, so we performed *in silico* analyses of the
199 detected variants to assess whether they may compromise the antigens as vaccine targets. Again, we focused
200 our analyses on *S. flexneri* owing to its high disease burden and the likely complication of serotype-based
201 vaccination strategies for this species. We detected 121 variants across the six antigens, the majority (79%)
202 of which correlated with genotype (i.e. belonging to either PGs 1-5 or Sf6, fig. S11). We then determined
203 if amino acid variants were located in immunogenic regions (i.e. epitope/peptide fragment) (fig. S10) and
204 assessed their potential destabilization of protein structure through *in silico* protein modelling. For IpaB,
205 IpaC and IpaD, the epitopes have been empirically determined (35, 36). The sequence and location of
206 peptide fragments of SigA, IcsP and OmpA used in vaccine development are available (37, 38). Variants
207 located within the immunogenic regions were identified for all antigens relative to PG3 reference sequences
208 (methods, Fig. 4). Only 4 of 121 variants were predicted to be highly destabilising to protein structure, and
209 these occurred in: OmpA (residue 89) at a periplasmic turn, SigA (residues 1233 and 1271) in adjacent
210 extracellular turns in the translocator domain (fig. S12), and in IpaD (residue 247) within a beta-turn-beta
211 motif flanking the intramolecular coiled-coil (Fig. 4). While it remains possible that these mutations could
212 affect antigenicity through the disruption of folding or global stability, it is less likely than if they occurred
213 in immunogenic regions. These results thus indicate that it is less likely that existing natural variation will
214 compromise antigen-based vaccine candidates for *Shigella* compared with serotype-based vaccines.
215 However, our approach is limited and the knowledge base incomplete. For example, there was no suitable

216 template available for IpaC, and some epitopes were predicted to be in membrane regions which should be
217 inaccessible to antibodies, indicating the need for more accurate publicly available protein structures to be
218 developed for many of the vaccine antigen candidates.

219

220 *Region-specific details of antimicrobials as a stop gap*

221

222 **Until a licensed vaccine is available, we must continue to treat shigellosis with supportive care**
223 **and antimicrobials, for which the current WHO recommendation is the fluoroquinolone,**
224 **ciprofloxacin (39).** However, FQR *Shigella* is currently on the rise and spreading globally (40). To examine
225 AMR prevalence among GEMS isolates for evaluating treatment recommendations, we screened for known
226 genetic determinants (horizontally acquired genes and point mutations) conferring resistance or reduced
227 susceptibility to antimicrobials. Although we used only minimal phenotypic data, phenotypic resistance
228 and genotypic prediction correlate well in *S. flexneri* and *S. sonnei* (41, 42). Our analysis revealed that 95%
229 (1189/1246) of isolates were multidrug resistant (MDR), carrying AMR determinants against three or more
230 antimicrobial classes (Fig 5A). *S. flexneri* exhibited the greatest diversity of AMR determinants, with a total
231 of 45 identified determinants across the population, comprising of 38 AMR genes and 7 point mutations
232 (fig. S13 and table S1), and an extensive AMR genotype diversity of 72 unique resistance profiles (Fig. 5A
233 and fig. S14). In contrast, *S. sonnei* exhibited the least diversity, with only 23 AMR determinants and 21
234 unique resistance profiles. An intermediate and comparable degree of AMR diversity was observed for both
235 *S. dysenteriae* and *S. boydii*.

236 Overall, a high frequency of AMR genes conferring resistance against aminoglycoside,
237 tetracycline, trimethoprim, and sulphonamide antimicrobials was observed, while resistance against other
238 antimicrobial classes varied with region and species (Fig. 5B). The extended spectrum beta-lactamase gene
239 *blaCTX-M-15* was detected in a small (9/1246) percentage of isolates, and genes conferring resistance to
240 macrolides and lincosamides were also infrequent (fig. S13), indicating that the recommended second-line
241 treatments likely remain effective antimicrobials (43).

242 However, higher rates of resistance were found against the first-line treatment. FQR in *Shigella* can
243 be conferred through the acquisition of FQR-genes or, more typically, by point mutations in the
244 chromosomal Quinolone Resistance Determining Region (QRDR) within the DNA gyrase (*gryA*) and the
245 topoisomerase IV (*parC*) genes. Single and double QRDR mutations are known to confer reduced
246 susceptibility to ciprofloxacin and are evolutionary intermediates on the path to resistance, conferred by

247 triple mutations in this region (41, 44). Overall, FQR-genes were uncommon in *S. flexneri* (4%, 33/806), *S.*
248 *sonnei* (1%, 3/305) and *S. dysenteriae* (7%, 4/60), but were present in 32% (24/75) of *S. boydii*. QRDR
249 mutations were identified in all species (fig. S13), but were more common among *S. sonnei* (65%, 199/305)
250 and *S. flexneri* (54%, 435/806) than compared with *S. boydii* (15%, 11/75) and *S. dysenteriae* (30%, 18/60).
251 Among these, triple QRDR mutations were identified in 13% (106/806) of *S. flexneri* and 14% (44/305) of
252 *S. sonnei*. Analysis of the QRDR mutants across the phylogenies indicate marked convergent evolution
253 toward resistance across the genus. Specifically, all triple QRDR mutant *S. sonnei* belonged to one
254 monophyletic subtype (previously described as globally emerging from Southeast Asia (45)), while three
255 distinct triple QRDR mutational profiles were found across three polyphyletic *S. flexneri* genotypes (Fig.
256 5C). Thus, the polyphyletic distribution of single, double, and triple QRDR mutants indicates continued
257 convergent evolution of lineages with reduced susceptibility or resistant to FQR.

258 We then stratified the dataset by geographic region which revealed that FQR were largely
259 associated with isolates from Asia where fluoroquinolones are more frequently used compared to African
260 sites (Fig. 5B) (46), which is consistent with trends observed in atypical enteropathogenic *Escherichia coli*
261 isolated from GEMS (46). Our analyses thus suggest that for the period of GEMS trial (2007 – 2011), 17%
262 (150/881) of *Shigella* isolates from Asia were resistant and 58% (508/881) had reduced susceptibility to the
263 WHO recommended antimicrobial. The high level of reduced susceptibility together with marked
264 convergent evolution toward resistance suggests that management of shigellosis with fluoroquinolones at
265 these sites may soon be ineffective and regional antimicrobial treatment guidelines may require updating.
266 These results indicate the value of AMR and microbiological surveillance in LMICs and the control and
267 management of shigellosis will be improved by initiatives such as the Africa Pathogen Genomics Initiative
268 (47) and the WHO Global Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance System (48).

269 **Conclusions**

270

271 Pathogen genomics is a powerful tool that has a wide range of applications to help combat
272 infectious diseases. Here, we have applied this tool to an unparalleled systematically collected *Shigella*
273 dataset to characterise the relevant population diversity of this pathogen across LMICs in a pre-vaccine era.
274 Our results revealed that current antimicrobial treatment guidelines for shigellosis should be updated, and
275 that improved surveillance will be essential to guide **antimicrobial stewardship**. This study has also
276 highlighted the urgent need to continue the development of *Shigella* vaccines for children in endemic areas.
277 The genomic diversity in *Shigella* presents a major hurdle in controlling the disease and we have
278 demonstrated the anticipated pitfalls of current vaccination approaches, emphasising the importance of

279 considering the local and global diversity of the pathogens in vaccine design and implementation. Although
280 our results are focused on shigellosis, our approach is translatable to other bacterial pathogens which is
281 particularly relevant as we enter the era of vaccines for AMR.

282

283 **Materials and Methods**

284

285 ***Dataset, bacterial isolates and sequencing***

286

287 A total of 1,264 *Shigella* isolates from GEMS were under investigation in this study (2, 3). All isolates were
288 derived from stool samples/rectal swabs: their identification, confirmation and isolation have been
289 described previously (19). A total of 1,344 isolates were sequenced at the Earlham institute, with genomic
290 DNA extraction, sequencing library construction and whole genome sequencing carried out according to
291 the Low Input Transposase Enabled (LITE) pipeline described by Perez-Sepulveda *et al* (49). Among these,
292 225 isolates failed QC with a mean sample depth of coverage <10x and an assembly size of <4MB and
293 were re-sequenced. For these isolates, genomic DNA was re-extracted at the University of Maryland School
294 of Medicine (Baltimore, Maryland) from cultures grown in Lysogeny Broth overnight. DNA was extracted
295 in 96-well format from 100 µL of sample using the MagAttract PowerMicrobiome DNA/RNA Kit (Qiagen,
296 Hilden, Germany) automated on a Hamilton Microlab STAR robotic platform. Bead disruption was
297 conducted on a TissueLyser II (20 Hz for 20 min) instrument in a 96 deep well plate in the presence of 200
298 µL phenol/chloroform. Genomic DNA was eluted in 90 µl water after magnetic bead clean up and the
299 resulting genomic DNA was quantified by Pico Green. The genomic DNA was shipped to the Centre for
300 Genomic Research (University of Liverpool) for whole genome sequencing. Sequencing library was
301 constructed using NEBNext® Ultra™ II FS DNA Library Prep Kit for Illumina and sequenced on the
302 Illumina® NovaSeq 6000 platform, generating 150bp paired-end reads.

303 An additional 125 publicly available *Shigella* and *E. coli* reference genomes were included in the
304 analyses. Details of GEMS and reference genomes analysed in this study are listed in table S1 and table S2,
305 respectively.

306

307 ***Sequence mapping and variant calling***

308

309 Adaptors and low-quality bases were trimmed with Trimmomatic v0.38 (50), reads qualities were
310 assessed using FastQC v0.11.6 (<https://www.bioinformatics.babraham.ac.uk/projects/fastqc/>) and MultiQC
311 v1.7 (51). Filtered reads were mapped against *Shigella* reference genomes with BWA mem v0.7.17 (52)
312 using default parameters. *S. flexneri*, *S. sonnei*, *S. boydii* and *S. dysenteriae* sequencing reads were mapped
313 against reference genomes from Sf2a strain 301 (accession NC_004337), Ss046 (accession NC_007384),
314 Sb strain CDC 3083-94 (accession NC_010658) and Sd197 (accession NC_007606), respectively.
315 Mappings were filtered and sorted using the SAMtools suite v1.9-47 (53), and optical duplicate reads were
316 marked using Picard v2.21.1-SNAPSHOT MarkDuplicates (<http://broadinstitute.github.io/picard/>).
317 QualiMap v2.2.2 (54) was used to evaluate mapping qualities and estimate mean sample depth of coverage.
318 Sequencing reads for isolates sequenced using the LITE pipeline and re-sequenced at CGR were combined
319 to increase overall sample depth of coverage. Sequence variants were identified against reference using
320 SAMtools v1.9-47 mpileup and bcftools v1.9-80 (53). Low quality SNPs were filtered if mapping quality
321 <60, Phred-scaled quality score <30 and read depth <4.

322

323 ***Phylogenetic reconstruction and inference of genomic diversity***

324

325 Filtered SNP variants were used to generate a reference-based pseudogenome for each sample,
326 where regions with depth of coverage >4x were masked in the pseudogenome. Additionally, regions
327 containing phage (identified using PHASTER (55)) and insertion sequences were identified from the
328 reference genomes, and co-ordinates were used to mask these sites on the pseudogenomes using BEDTools
329 v2.28.0 maskfasta (56). For each species, chromosome sequences from the masked pseudogenomes were
330 extracted and concatenated. Gubbins v2.3.4 (57) was used to remove regions of recombination and invariant
331 sites from the concatenated pseudogenomes. This generated a chromosomal SNP alignment length of
332 78,251 bp for *S. flexneri* (n=806), 5,081 bp for *S. sonnei* (n=305), 98,842 bp for *S. boydii* (n=75) and 45,031
333 bp for *S. dysenteriae* (n=60). Maximum-likelihood phylogenetic reconstruction was performed
334 independently for each species and inferred with IQ-TREE v2.0-rc2 (58) using the FreeRate nucleotide
335 substitution, invariable site and ascertainment bias correction model, with 1000 bootstrap replicates. In
336 order to contextualise GEMS isolates within the established genomic subtypes and to infer the most
337 appropriate root for each species tree, phylogenetic trees were reconstructed including publicly available
338 reference genomes of isolates from previously defined lineages/phylogroups/clades and *E. coli* isolates
339 (table S2). Phylogenetic tree for *S. flexneri*, *S. boydii* and *S. dysenteriae* was rooted using *E. coli* strain

340 IAI1-117 (accession SRR2169557) as an outgroup, respectively. Phylogenetic tree for *S. sonnei* was
341 midpoint rooted. Visualizations were performed using interactive Tree of Life (iTOL) v6.1.1 (59).

342

343 To measure the extent of *shigella* genomic diversity among GEMS population, pairwise SNP
344 distance was determined from the alignment of core genome SNPs identified outside regions of
345 recombination using snp-dists v0.7.0 (<https://github.com/tseemann/snp-dists>). For each species, the
346 genomic diversity, measured by SNPs per kbp, was determined by dividing the core genome SNP alignment
347 length by the core genome size (*S. flexneri* 4,015,307 bp, *S. sonnei* 4,177,070 bp, *S. boydii* 4,088,693 bp
348 and *S. dysenteriae* 3,821,602 bp). Scaling the proportion of disease burden attributable by the genome
349 diversity of each species, the percentage of species contribution to GEMS shigellosis disease burden was
350 divided by the number of SNPs per kbp.

351

352 *Serotype switching time frame inference*

353

354 To estimate the likely time frame of serotype switching, we performed temporal phylogenetic
355 reconstruction in order to infer the time of divergence along branches exhibiting serotype switching. We
356 streamlined the analysis and focused on isolates belonging to two subclades of *S. flexneri* PG3. First, for
357 each of the two subclades ($n=99$ and $n=45$), a maximum-likelihood phylogeny was reconstructed based on
358 genome multiple sequence alignments (described above). Then, TempEst v1.5.3 (60) was used determine
359 if there is sufficient temporal signal in the data by inferring linear relationship between root-to-tip distances
360 of the phylogenetic branches with the year of sample isolation. Data from both subclades revealed positive
361 correlation between sampling time and phylogenetic root-to-tip divergence, with R^2 of 0.186 and 0.111 (fig.
362 S16). Once temporal signals within each of the two datasets were confirmed, core genome SNP alignments
363 of length 559 bp and 1,244 bp were analysed independently using BEAST2 v2.6.1 (61). The parameters
364 were as follows: dates specified as days, bModelTest (62) implemented in BEAST2 was used to infer the
365 most appropriate substitution model, a relaxed log normal clock rate with a coalescent Bayesian skyline
366 model for population growth. A total of five independent chains were performed, each with chain length of
367 250,000,000, logging every 1,000 and accounting for invariant sites. Convergence of each run was visually
368 assessed with Tracer v1.7.1 (63), with all parameter effective sampling sizes ≥ 200 . Tree files were sampled
369 and combined using LogCombiner v2.6.1, the combined files were then summarised using TreeAnnotator
370 v2.6.0 with 10% burn-in to generate Maximum Clade Credibility tree (64). Divergence time was inferred

371 by reading the branch length from the most recent common ancestor to the first sampled isolate that
372 serotype-switched.

373

374 ***Genome assembly and annotation***

375

376 Draft genome sequences were assembled using Unicycler v0.4.7 (65) with `-min_fasta_length` set
377 to 200. QUAST v5.0.2 (66) was used to assess the qualities of the assemblies. Assemblies with total
378 assembly length outside the range of <4Mbp and >6.4Mbp were removed. Resulting in an average length
379 of 4,275,508 bp (range: 4 4,004,109 – 4,538,734 bp) for *S. flexneri*, 4,264,097 bp (range: 4,008,630 –
380 4,779,279 bp) for *S. sonnei*, 4,227,671 bp (range: 4,000,714 – 4,689,815 bp) for *S. boydii* and 4,297,921 bp
381 (range: 4,040,642 – 4,659,860 bp) for *S. dysenteriae*. An average N50 value of 29,804 bp (range: 6,810 –
382 34,658 bp) was generated for *S. flexneri*, 23,961 bp (range: 11,547 – 30,008 bp) for *S. sonnei*, 20,835 bp
383 (range: 15,323 – 40,119 bp) for *S. boydii* and 22,137 bp (range: 14,090 – 31,358 bp) for *S. dysenteriae*.
384 Draft genomes were annotated using Prokka v1.13.3 (67).

385

386 ***Pangenome analysis***

387

388 The pangenome of each species was defined using Roary v3.12.0 (68) without splitting paralogues.
389 The pangenome accumulation curves were generated separately for each species using the `specaccum`
390 function from Vegan v2.5-7 (<https://github.com/vegandevs/vegan/>), with 100 permutations and random
391 subsampling. Inspections of the variable gene content showed that all four species had open pangenomes,
392 implying that the number of unique gene count increases with the addition of newly sequenced genomes.

393

394 ***Shigella flexneri* molecular serotyping**

395

396 *Shigella* serotype data was provided by collaborators at the University of Maryland School of
397 Medicine (Baltimore, Maryland), serotyping was performed as previously describe (19). *In silico* serotyping
398 of *S. flexneri* genomes was performed using ShigaTyper v1.0.6 (69) which detects the presence of serotype-
399 determining genetic elements from sequencing reads to predict serotype. ShigaTyper predictions were 84%

400 concordant to the serotype data provided. SRST2 v2 (70) was used to detect mutations within serotype-
401 determining genetic elements, run against ShigaTyper sequence database with default parameters.

402

403 ***Protein antigen screening***

404

405 To determine the presence of antigen vaccine candidates among GEMS *Shigella* isolates, genes of
406 the antigen vaccine candidates was screened against draft genome assemblies using screen_assembly (17)
407 with a threshold of $\geq 80\%$ identity and $\geq 70\%$ coverage to the reference sequence. Reference sequences for
408 *ipaB*, *ipaC*, *ipaD* and *icsP* were derived from *S. flexneri* 5a strain M90T (accession GCA_004799585) and
409 *ompA* and *sigA* was derived from *S. flexneri* 2a strain 2457T (accession NC_004741), both strains are
410 commonly used in the laboratory for vaccine development. Antigen sequence variations were determined
411 by examining the BLASTp (71) percentage identity against relevant query reference sequence. Allelic
412 variations of antigen vaccine candidates among *S. flexneri* population were identified manually by
413 visualising amino acid sequence alignments using AliView v1.26 (72).

414

415 ***Protein antigen modelling***

416

417 In order to assess the effect of point mutations on protein stability and vaccine escape, six antigen
418 candidates from *S. flexneri* PG3 were modelled: OmpA, SigA, IcsP, IpaB, IpaC and IpaD (Table 1). PG3
419 was selected as it is the most prevalent phylogroup and is therefore the target of current vaccine
420 development. To model the antigen targets, we first searched for a suitable template using HHPred (73, 74).
421 Five of the six proteins (OmpA, SigA, IcsP, IpaB and IpaD) had suitable homologues available. To improve
422 the performance of the comparative modelling, the signal peptides for OmpA, SigA and IcsP were removed
423 and OmpA, SigA and IpaB were modelled in two parts to make use of optimal templates. RosettaCM (75)
424 was used to generate 200 models for each of the five proteins using the single best available template. For
425 IpaC, where no suitable templates were available, trRosetta (76) was used to create five de novo predicted
426 models. The best model for each antigen candidate was selected using QMEAN's average local score.
427 QMEANbrane (77, 78) was used for suitable membrane proteins (IpaB, IpaC & IpaD), otherwise
428 QMEANDisCo (77) was used (table 6). Full details of the modelling and ranking are shown in table 7. The

429 effect of point mutations on the stability of the antigen candidates was assessed using PremPS, and the
430 default criterion of ($\Delta\Delta G > 1 \text{ kcal mol}^{-1}$) used to defining highly destabilising mutations (79).

431

432 *Detection of AMR genetic determinants and AMR testing*

433

434 To detect the presence of known genetic determinants for AMR, AMRFinderPlus v3.9.3 (80) was
435 used to screen draft genome assemblies against the AMRFinderPlus database, which is derived from the
436 Pathogen Detection Reference Gene Catalog (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pathogens/>). AMRFinderPlus
437 was performed with the organism-specific option for *Escherichia*, to screen for both point mutations and
438 genes, and filter out uninformative genes that were nearly universal in a group. Output was then filtered to
439 remove genetic determinants identified with $\leq 80\%$ coverage and $\leq 90\%$ identity. The presence of *S. sonnei*
440 virulence plasmid was confirmed using short-read mapping using BWA mem (as described above) against
441 the reference virulence plasmid from Ss046 (GenBank accession CP000039.1). Presence of the plasmid
442 was defined by mapping of $>60\%$ breadth of coverage across the reference. Visualisations of AMR
443 resistance profiles were performed with UpSetR v2.1.3 (81). Four *S. flexneri* isolates with triple QRDR
444 mutations were phenotypically tested for ciprofloxacin resistance using the Kirby-Bauer standardized disk
445 diffusion method (82).

446

447 *Statistical analyses*

448

449 The strength of association between *S. flexneri* genomic subtype and serotype with the occurrence
450 of case outcome was calculated using MedCalc's odds ratio calculator v20
451 (https://www.medcalc.org/calc/odds_ratio.php) to report the odds ratio, 95% confidence interval and
452 statistical association. Association of genomic subtype with serotype and serotype switching was tested
453 using Fisher's exact test. Linear regression analysis was used to determine the correlation between serotype
454 diversity to various properties of genomic subtype. Both analyses were performed using R v4.0.3.

455

456

457 **Acknowledgements**

458

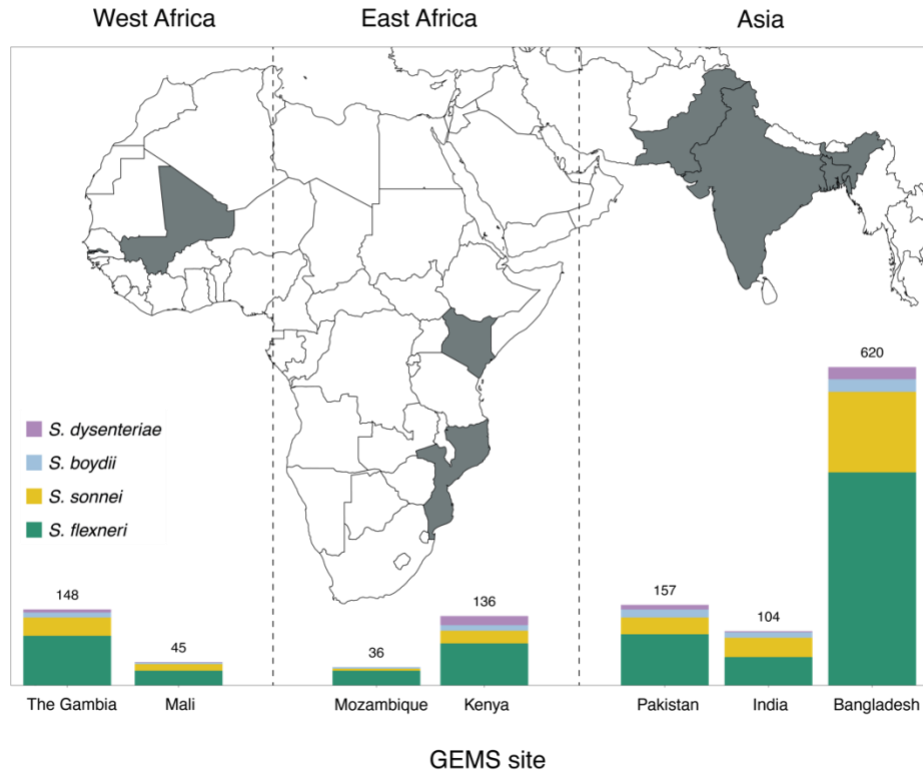
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460 Bacigalupe at KU Leuven for invaluable discussions. We also thank Jay Hinton and Blanca Perez
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479 Public Health England. **Competing interests:** The authors declare no competing interests. **Data and**
480 **materials availability:**

481 **Author contributions**

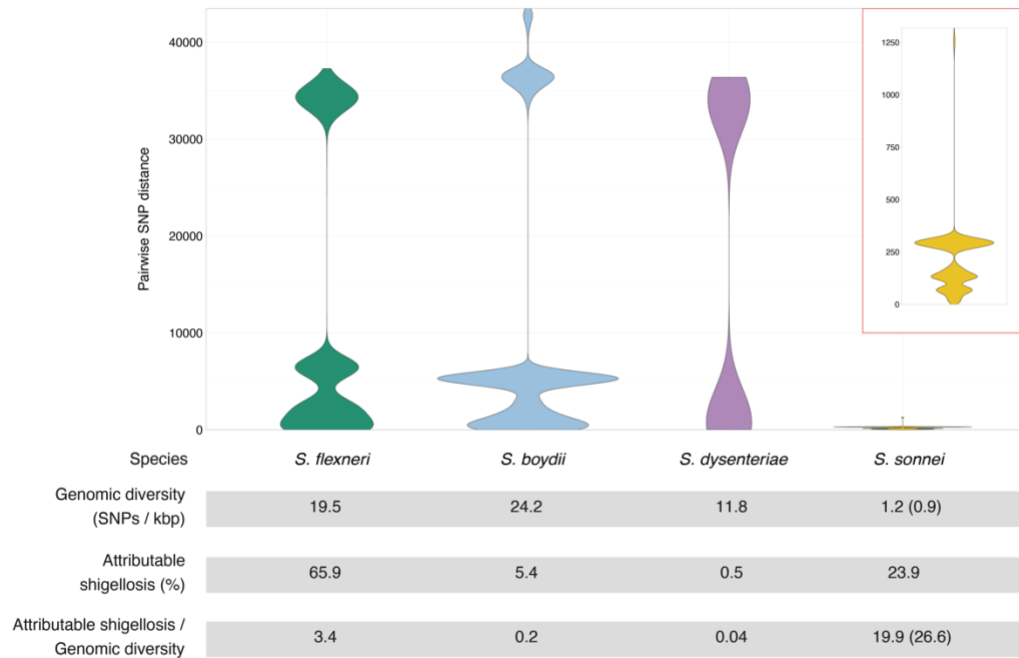
482

483 R.J.B performed majority of the data analysis and interpretation of the results under the scientific guidance
484 of K.S.B. A.J.S and D.J.R performed *in silico* protein antigens modelling and prediction of the impacts of
485 amino acid substitutions on protein stability. C.V.P supported Bayesian Evolutionary Analysis by Sampling
486 Trees. S.M.T. prepared and provided GEMS *Shigella* isolates and metadata. DR contributed to sample
487 preparation. R.J.B and K.S.B drafted the manuscript. All authors contributed to editing of the manuscript.

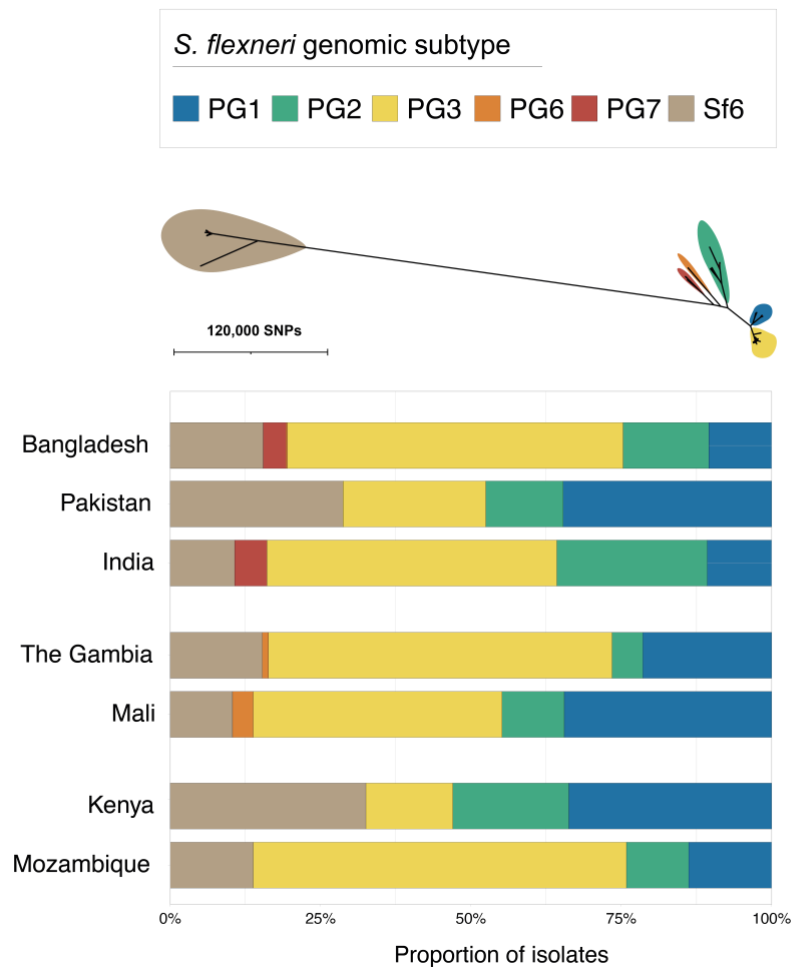
A



B

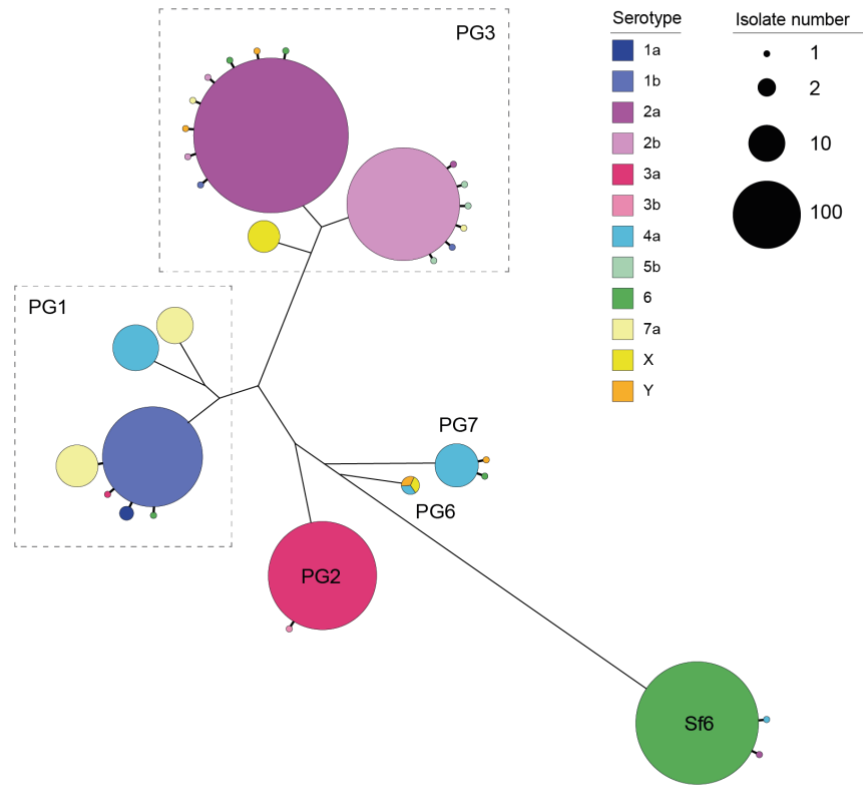


489 **Fig. 1. The diversity of *Shigella* spp. across seven LMIC.** (A) Stacked bar graphs illustrate the number
490 of isolates from each *Shigella* spp. sequenced from GEMS and used in the current study, grouped by study
491 sites. (B) Pairwise genomic distances (in SNPs) among *Shigella* isolates within subgroups are shown as
492 violin plots. A magnified plot for *S. sonnei* is displayed inside the red box. The table below the plots
493 demonstrates for each species the genomic diversity (as measure by total number of SNPs per kbp
494 [methods]), the contribution to GEMS shigellosis burden and the shigellosis burden relative to genomic
495 diversity. For *S. sonnei*, the genomic diversity and shigellosis burden relative to genomic diversity that was
496 calculated excluding the two outliers are shown in bracket.

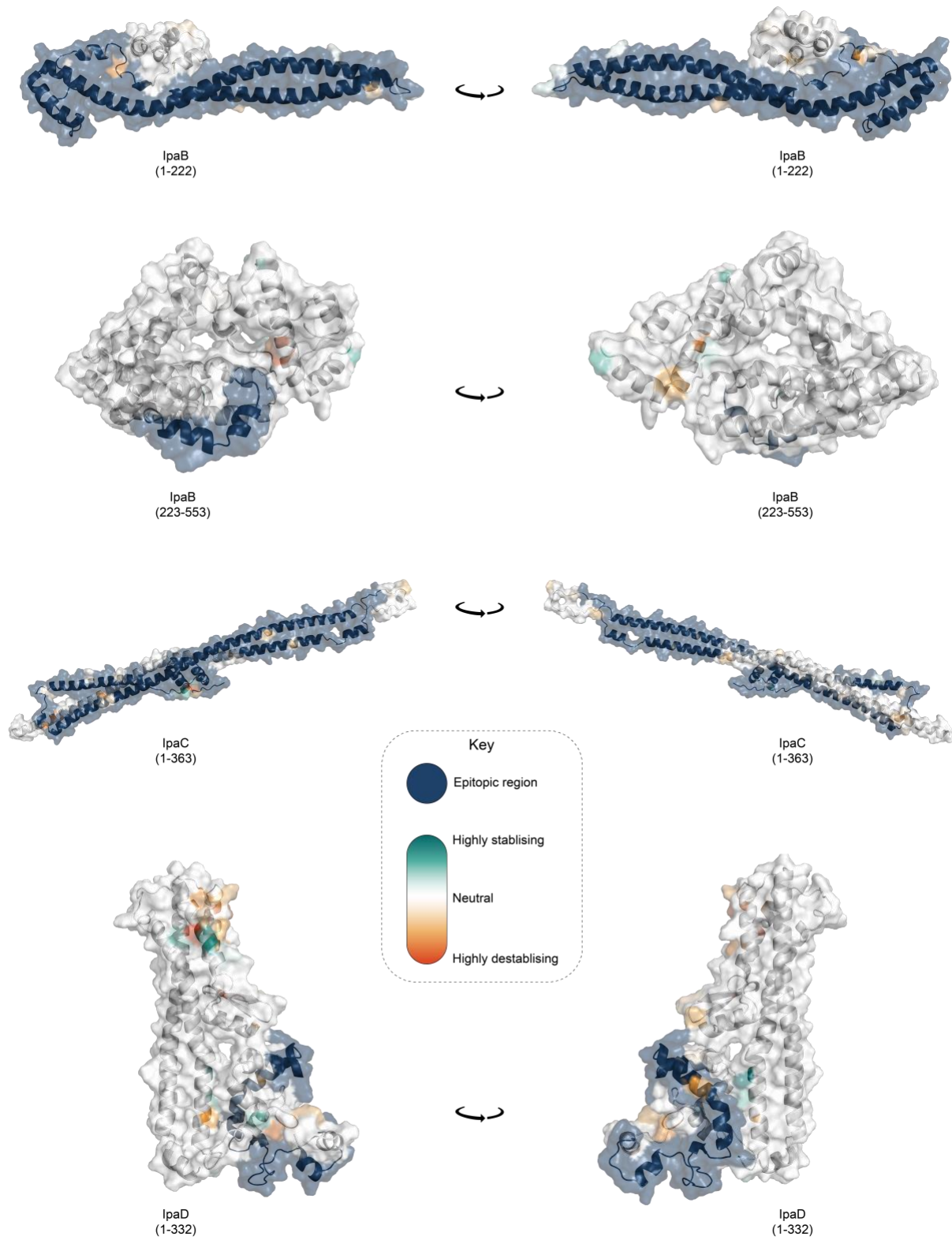


497

498 **Fig. 2. The diversity of *S. flexneri* genomic subtypes across seven GEMS study sites.** An unrooted ML
499 phylogenetic tree of *S. flexneri* genomes identified six distinct genomic subtypes, each highlighted in a
500 different colour according to the inlaid key displayed above the tree. The bar plot below the tree
501 demonstrates the relative frequencies of the subtypes at each study site.

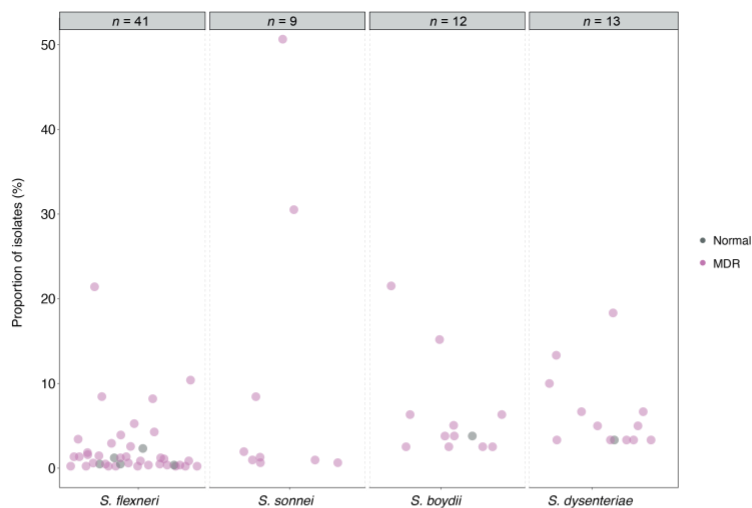


502 **Fig. 3. Diversity of *S. flexneri* population with respect to serotype switching.** The unrooted *S. flexneri*
503 phylogenetic tree is shown with the five phylogroups (PG1-PG7) and Sf6 labeled accordingly. For each
504 genomic subtype, monophyletic clusters of the dominant serotype are shown collapsed into bubbles
505 coloured according to the inlaid key. Single isolates or groups of isolates within a subtype of an alternative
506 serotype are represented by further branches, indicating a single serotype switch. The number of isolates
507 within a single cluster is represented through bubble size.

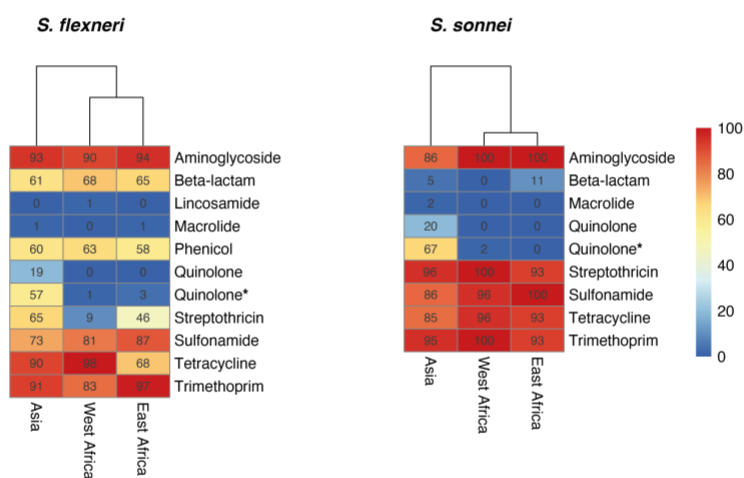


509 **Fig. 4. Visualization of mutations and its predicted effect on modeled IpaB, IpaC and IpaD protein**
510 **antigens.** Visualisation of mutations on modelled proteins IpaB, IpaC and IpaD. The protein residue ranges
511 modelled are shown in brackets. Blue region represents empirically determined epitopes. Mutations
512 identified within the proteins are coloured using the scale shown in the inlaid key, where highly
513 destabilising mutations are dark orange and highly stabilising mutations are dark green.

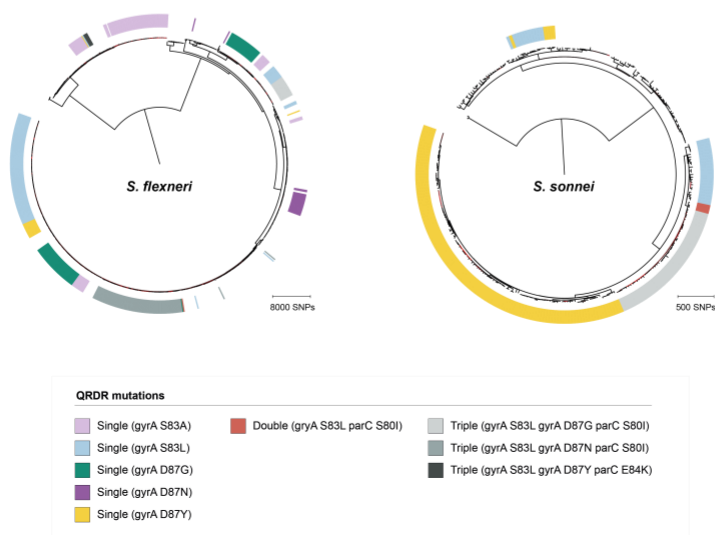
A



B



C



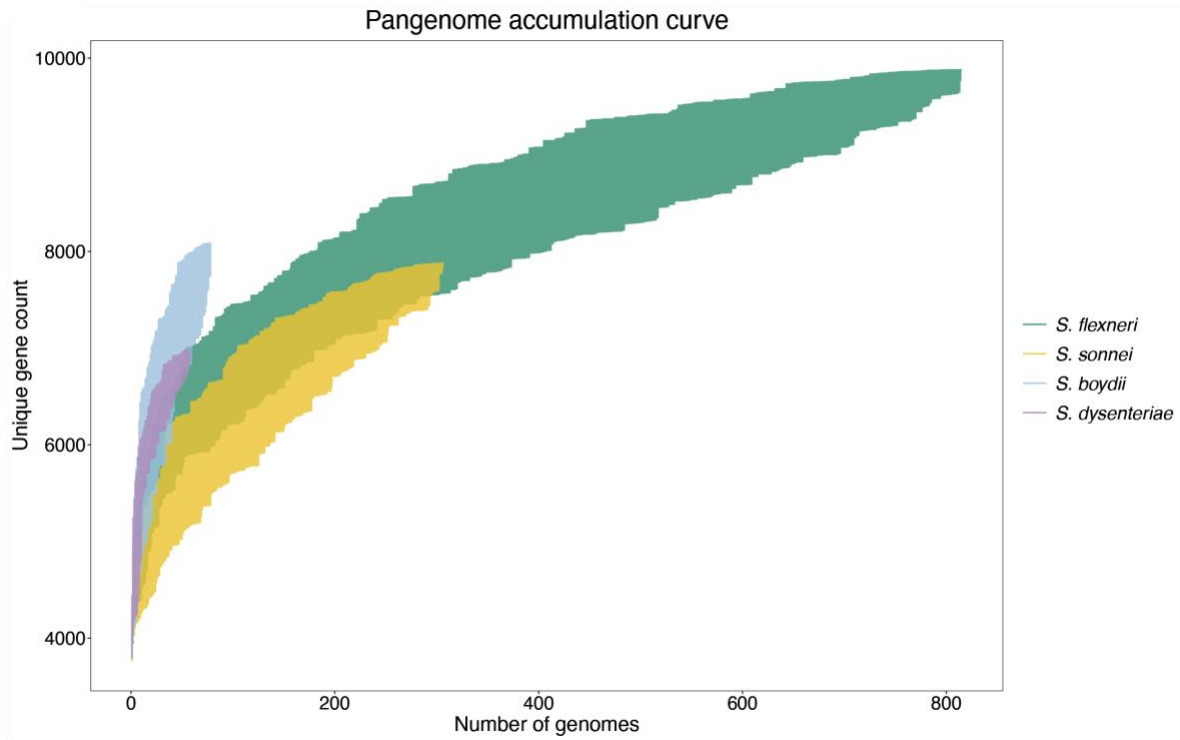
515 **Fig. 5. AMR genotypic profile diversity and convergent evolution of ciprofloxacin resistance. (A)**
516 Frequencies of AMR genotypic profiles among *Shigella* spp. Each point in the scatterplot represents a
517 unique AMR genotype profile: the proportion of isolates with a particular profile is displayed along the y-
518 axis. Profiles identified in only a single isolate are not displayed. MDR genotypic profile conferring
519 resistance or reduced suppressibility to three or more drug classes are highlighted in pink, and normal AMR
520 genotype profile conferring resistance or reduced suppressibility in fewer than three drug classes are in
521 grey. Numbers displayed above the plot represents the number of AMR genotype profiles plotted for each
522 species. **(B)** Detection of known AMR genetic determinants associated with drug class grouped by country.
523 Each cell in the heatmap represents the percentage of isolates from a region containing genetic determinants
524 associated with resistance to a drug class. Genetic determinant conferring reduced susceptibility to
525 quinolone is indicated with an asterisk. **(C)** The genetic convergent evolution of ciprofloxacin resistance in
526 *S. flexneri* and *S. sonnei*. The presence of multiple monophyletic clades of QRDR mutations (single, double,
527 or triple according to the inlaid key) conferring reduced susceptibility or resistance to ciprofloxacin is
528 shown in the outer ring. B and C for *S. boydii* and *S. dysenteriae* are shown elsewhere (fig. S15).

529 **Table 1. *Shigella* antigen vaccine candidates examined in the current study.**

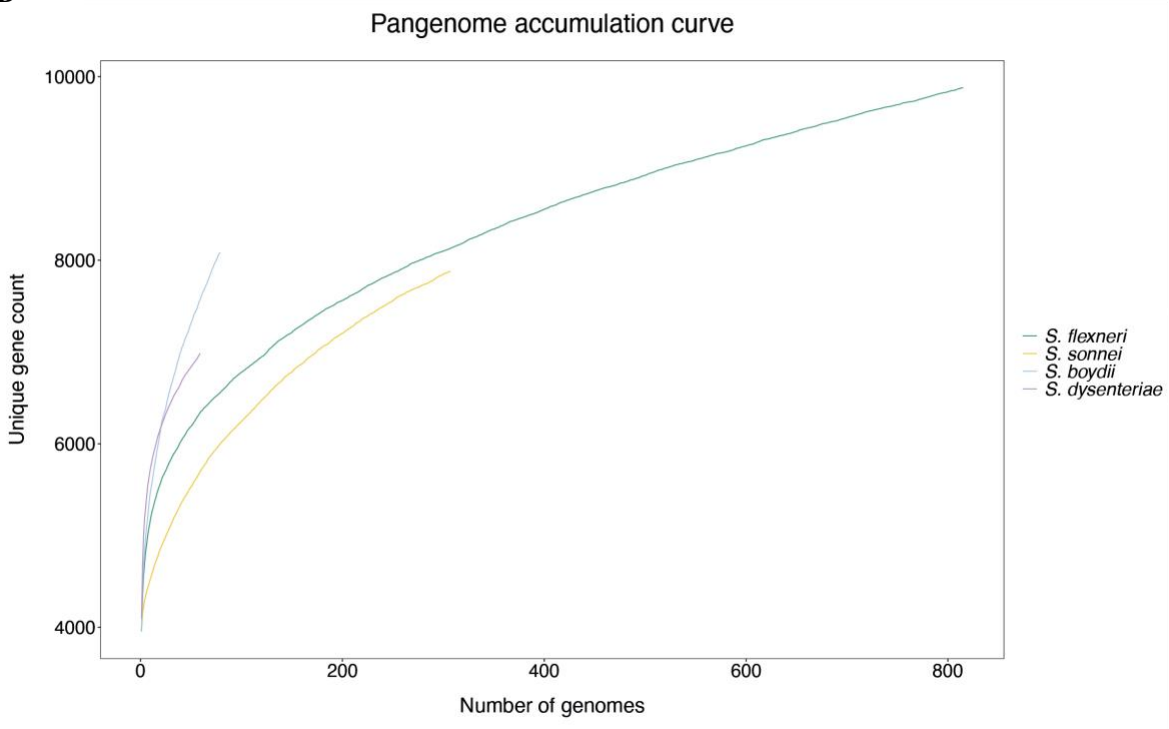
Vaccine candidate	Development stage	Location	Reference
IcsP (OmpP)	Preclinical	Virulence plasmid	Czerkinsky and Kim (37)
SigA	Preclinical	Chromosome (pathogenicity island)	Czerkinsky and Kim (37)
IpaB	Phase I	Virulence plasmid	Martinez-Beccera (16); Riddle et al (83); Tribble et al (84)
IpaC			
IpaD			
OmpA	Preclinical	Chromosome	Pore <i>et al</i> (85)

530

A

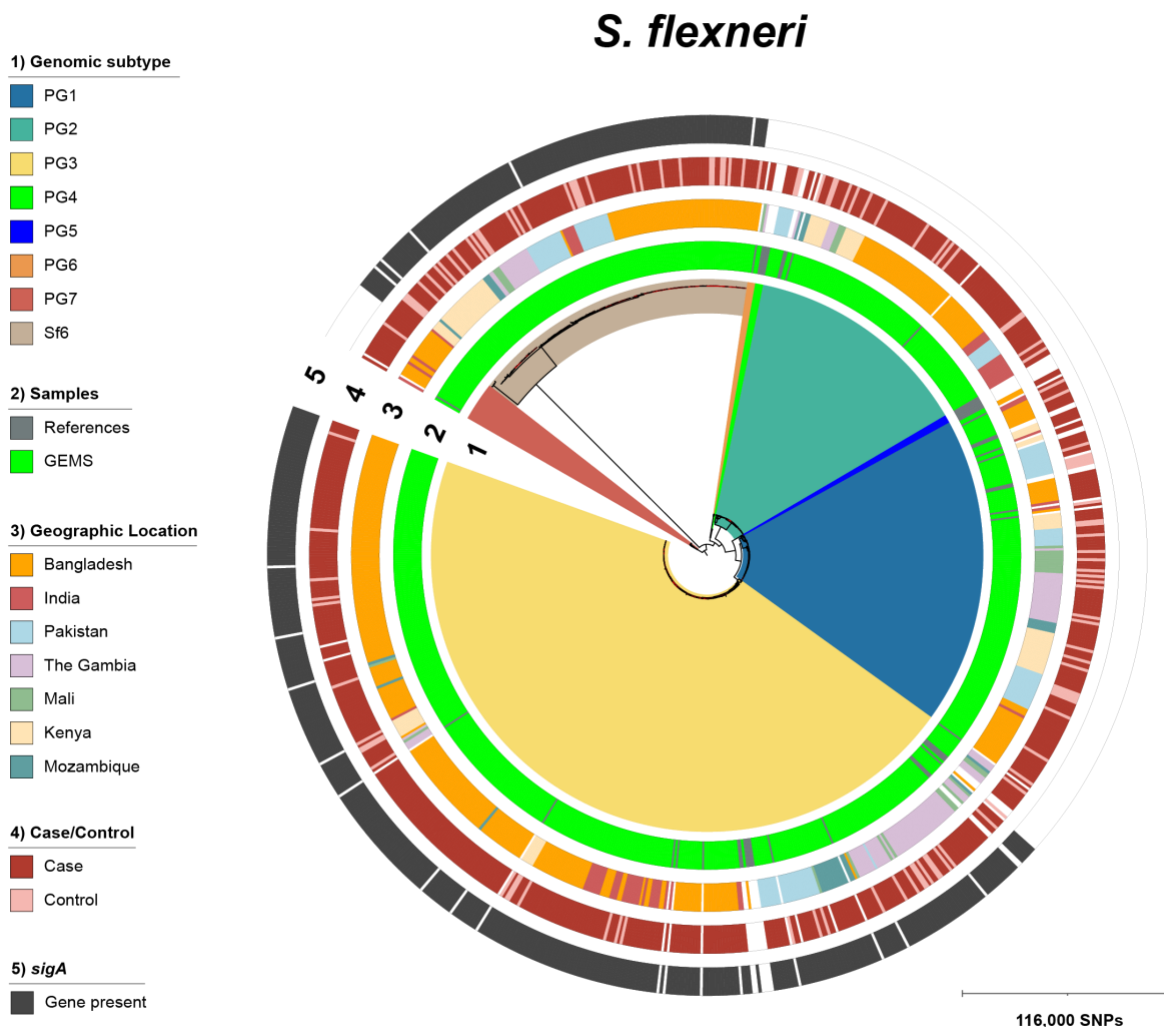


B



532 Fig. S1.

533 **Pangenome accumulation curve of *S. flexneri*, *S. sonnei*, *S. boydii* and *S. boydi*.** Each curve demonstrates
534 the number of unique protein coding genes in the pangenome as a new genome is randomly added, with the
535 number of genomes plotted along the x-axis. Random permutation of the data were subsampled 100 times,
536 in which genomes are subsampled without replacement at each iteration. The y-axis shows the minimum
537 and maximum range of unique gene count after each iteration in (A) and the mean value in (B).

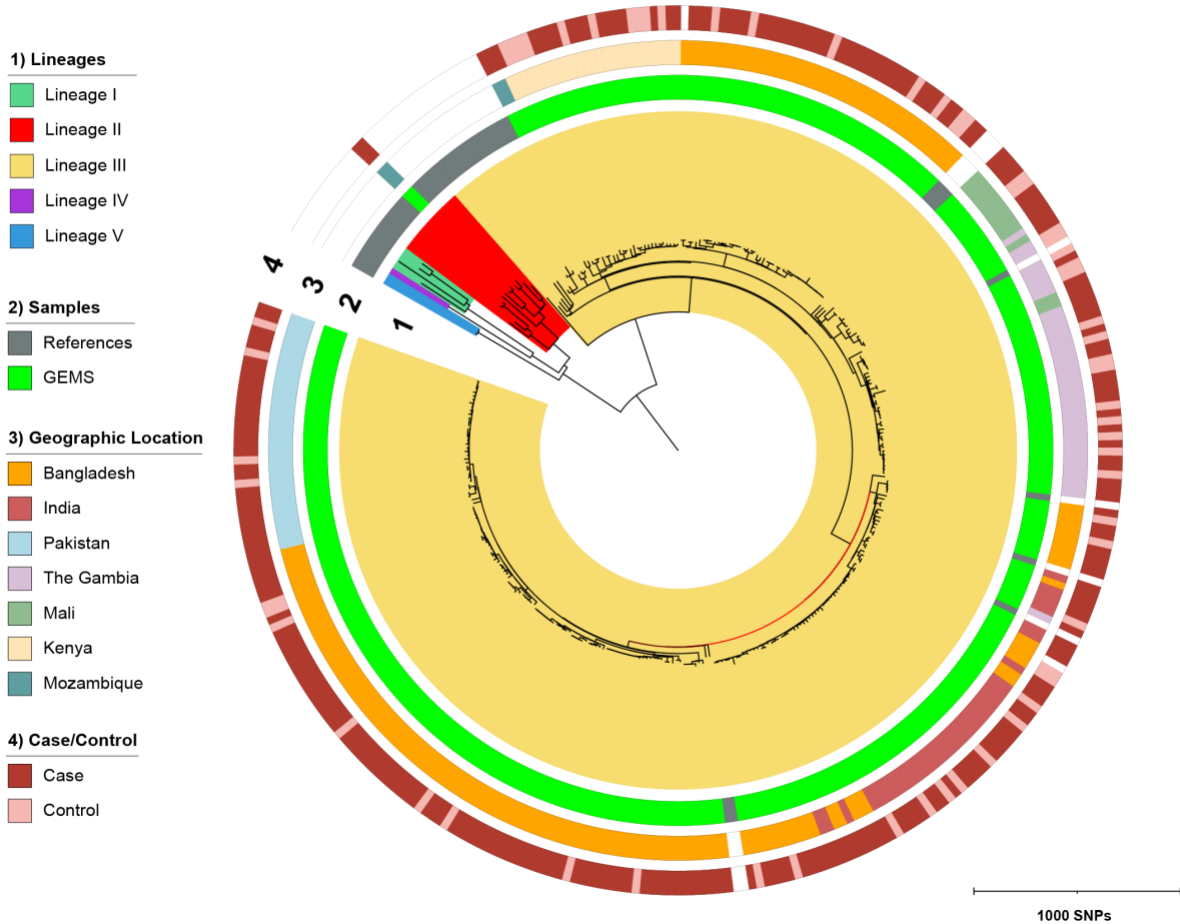


538

539 Fig. S2.

540 **Phylogeny of *S. flexneri* population from GEMS.** ML phylogenetic tree constructed using core genome
541 SNPs from alignments of 817 *S. flexneri* genomes from GEMS and publicly available genomes. Tree was
542 rooted using *E. coli* genome. The outer concentric rings illustrate different genotypic and epidemiological
543 data according to the numbered inlaid keys displayed next to the tree. Scale bars represents the number of
544 SNPs.

S. sonnei



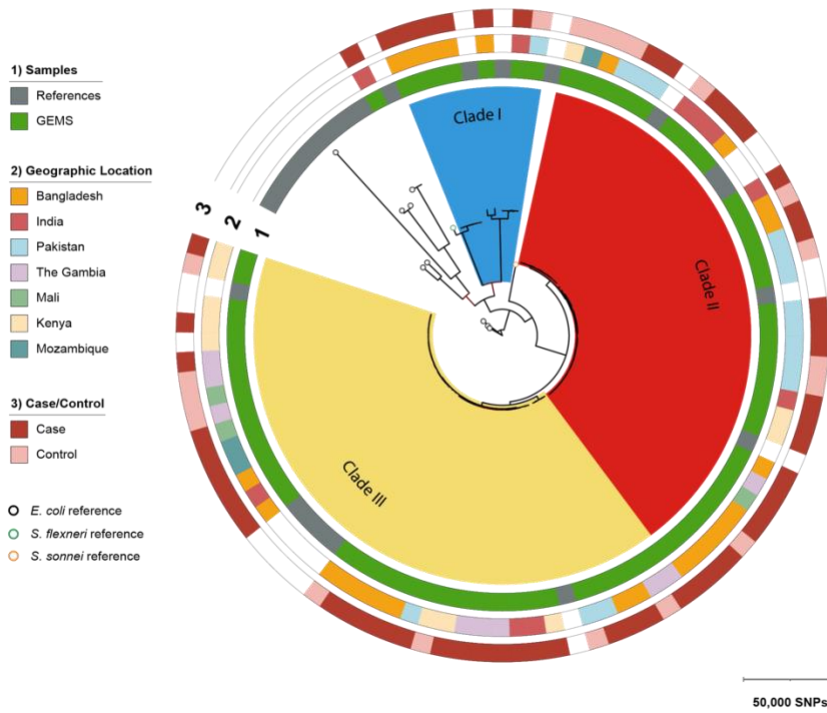
545

546 **Fig. S3.**

547 **Phylogeny of *S. sonnei* population from GEMS.** Midpoint rooted ML phylogenetic tree constructed using
548 core genome SNPs from alignments of 308 *S. sonnei* genomes from GEMS and publicly available genomes.

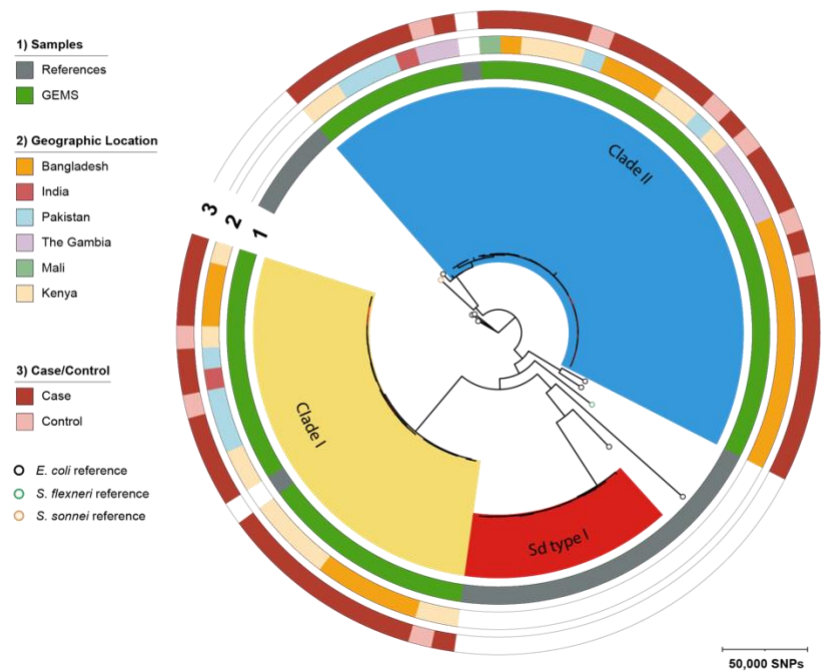
A

S. boydii



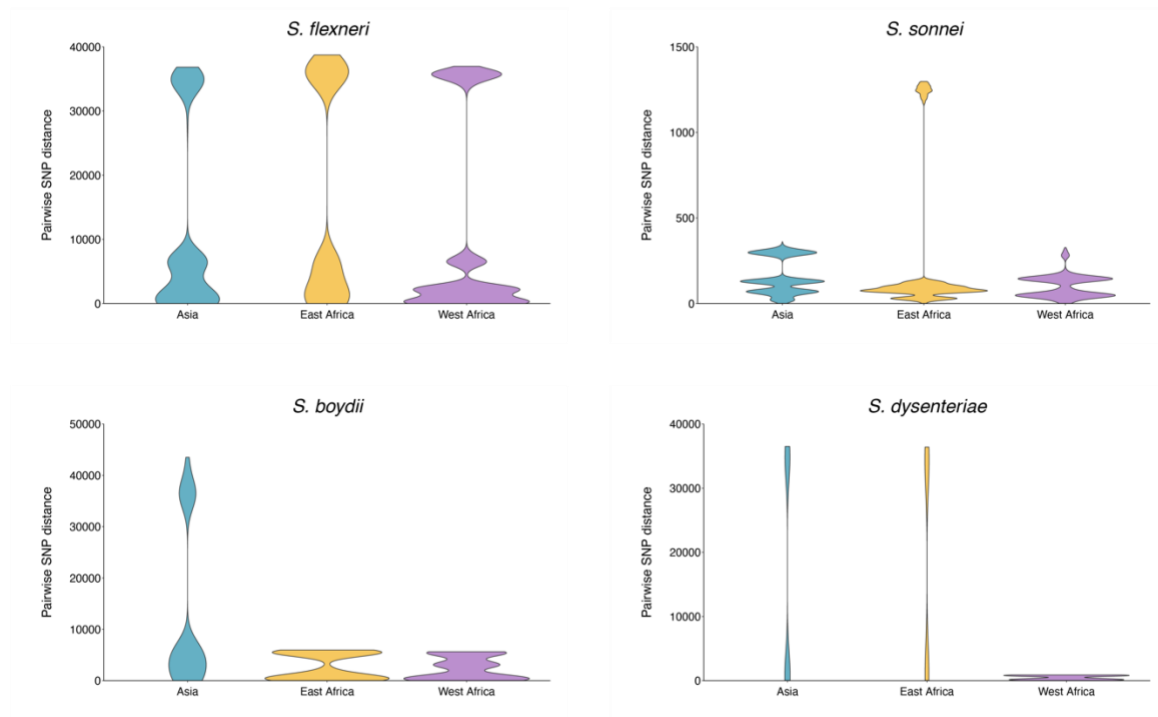
B

S. dysenteriae



550 **Fig. S4.**

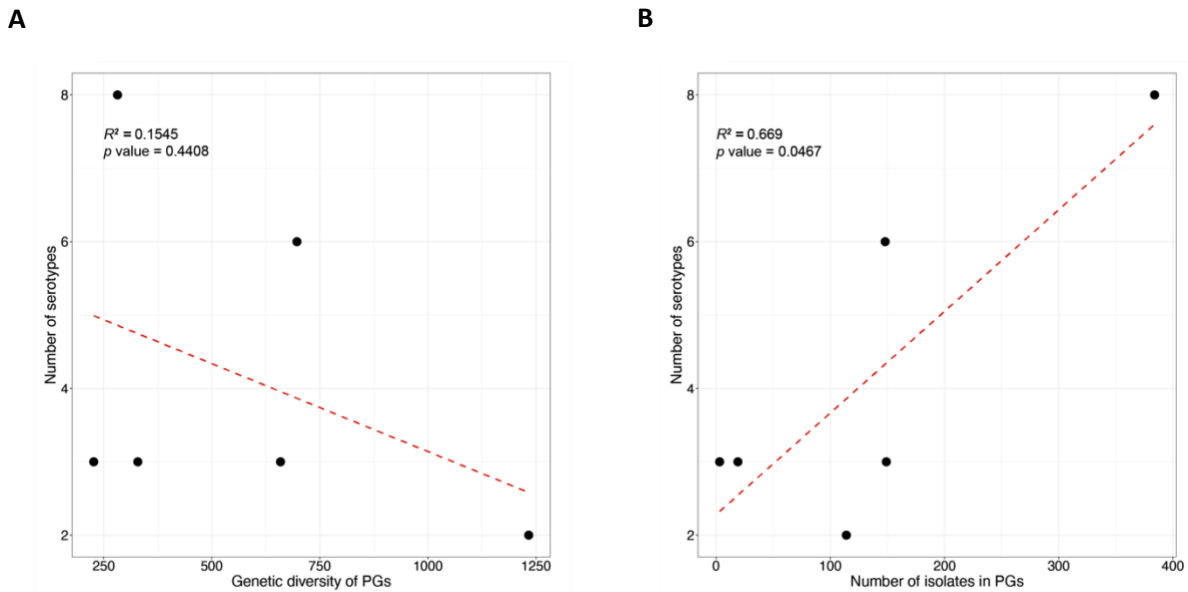
551 Phylogeny of *S. boydii* and *S. dysenteriae* population from GEMS. ML phylogenetic trees were constructed
552 based on core genome SNPs outside region of recombination from alignments of (A) 79 *S. boydii* and (B)
553 60 *S. dysenteriae* genomes from GEMS and publicly available genomes. Both trees were rooted using *E.*
554 *coli* genome. Scale bar represent number of SNPs.



555

556 **Fig. S5.**

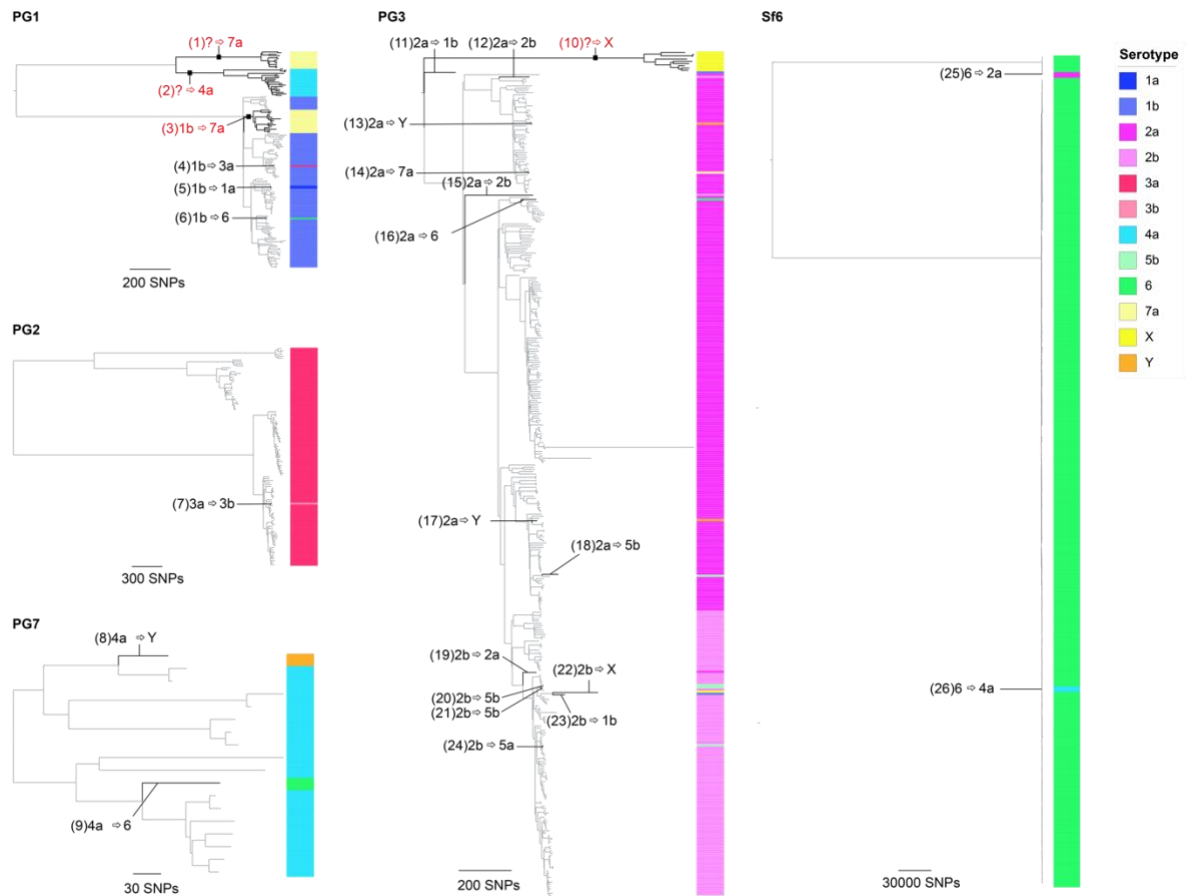
557 Regional diversity of Shigella spp. Comparison of genomic diversity, as measured by pairwise core SNP
558 distance, across GEMS study sites (Asia: Bangladesh, India and Pakistan; East Africa: Kenya and
559 Mozambique; West Africa: The Gambia and Mali) for *S. flexneri*, *S. sonnei*, *S. boydii* and *S. dysenteriae*.



560

561 **Fig. S6.**

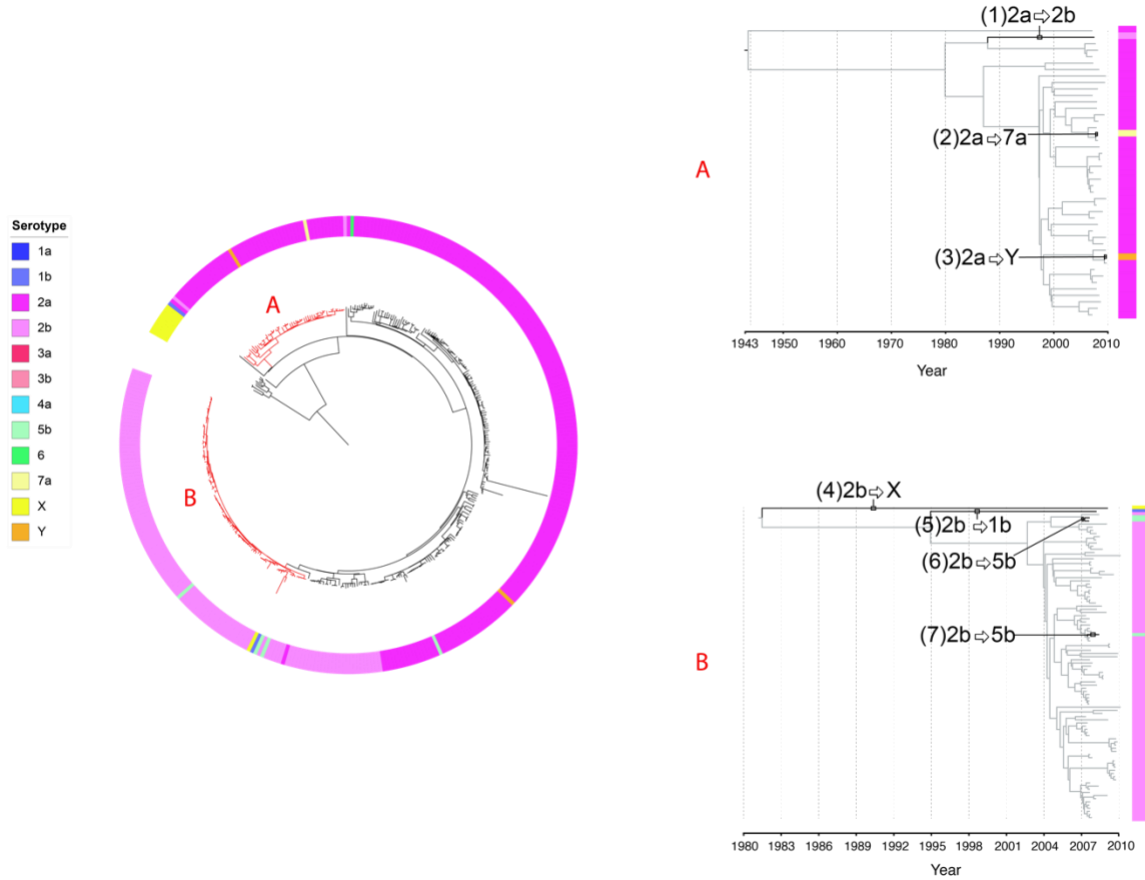
562 Association of *S. flexneri* serotype diversity with different properties of a genomic subtype. For each of the
563 six subtypes identified among *S. flexneri* (PG1-PG7 and Sf6), the number of different serotypes is displayed
564 along the y-axis and plotted against (A) the number of isolates within the subtype and (B) the genetic
565 diversity of the subtype, as measured by pairwise core SNP distance and plotted along the x-axis. Linear
566 regression analysis was performed to assess the association between serotype diversity and the different
567 properties of subtypes. The regression coefficient of determination (R^2) and p -value are displayed on the
568 top left of each plot.



569

570 **Fig. S7.**

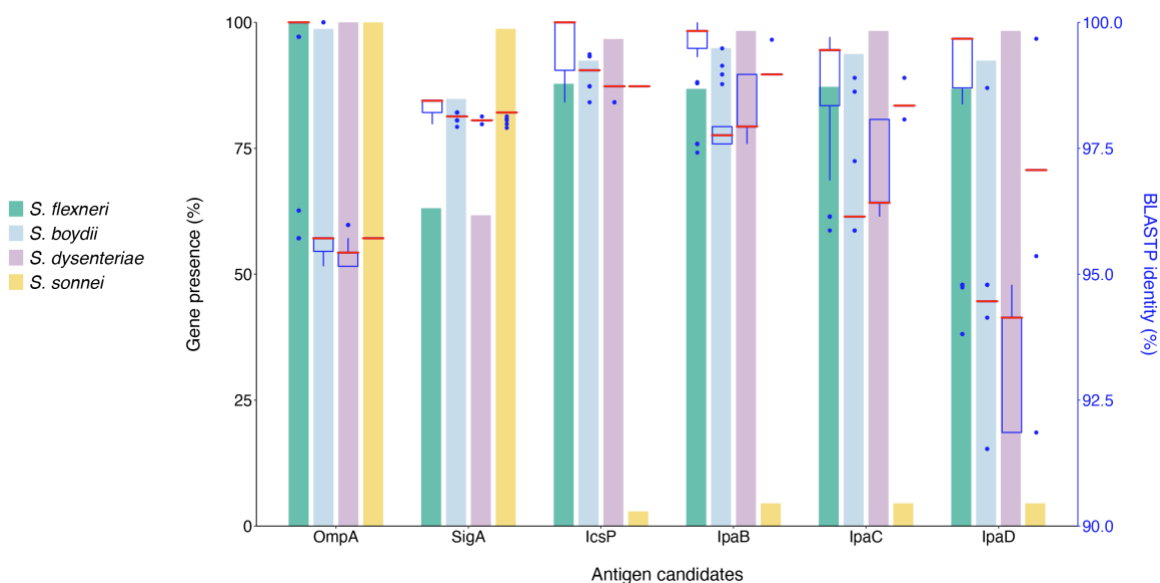
571 Serotype switching events across *S. flexneri* genomic subtypes. ML phylogenetic tree of each subtype was
572 generated based on core genome SNPs. Serotypes determined through biochemical serotyping are displayed
573 on the right-hand side of each tree, and coloured according to the inlaid key. The 26 inferred serotype
574 switching events occurring along the phylogenetic branches are labelled accordingly. Numbers inside each
575 brackets represents switch IDs, with further details provided in table S3. Where the dominant serotype
576 cannot be determined, a question mark is displayed, indicating switch from unknown ancestral type.
577 Serotype switching events resulting in more than two descendant isolates are highlighted in red.



578

579 **Fig. S8.**

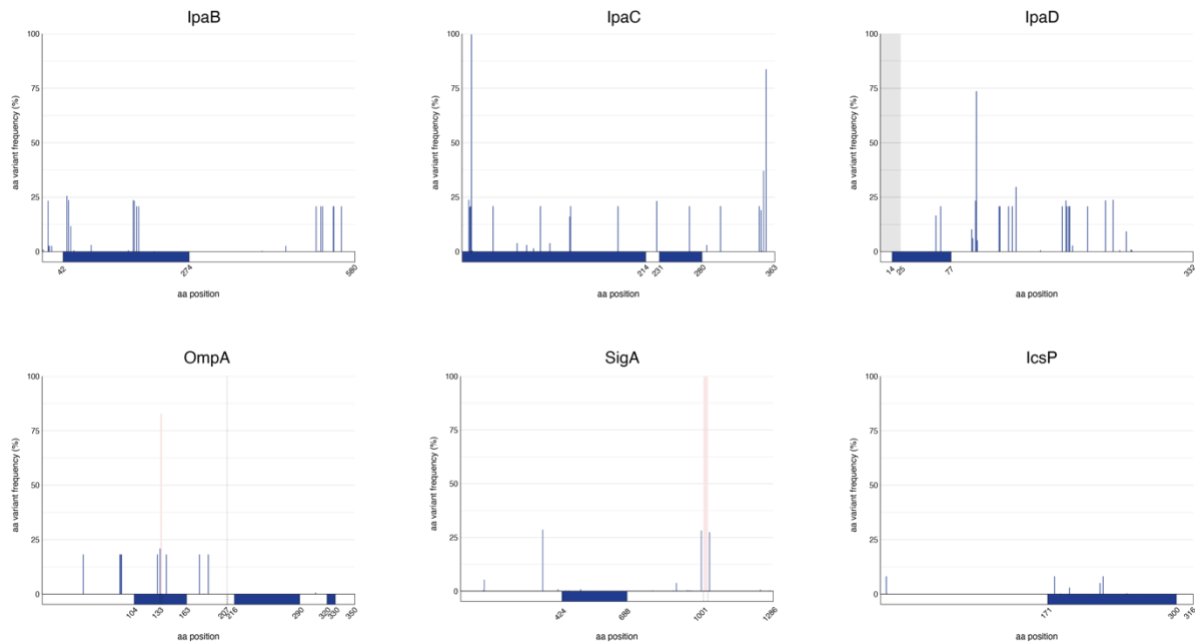
580 Estimation of time frame for serotype switching among *S. flexneri* PG3 isolates. ML phylogenetic tree of
581 *S. flexneri* PG3 ($n=384$) generated using core genome SNPs is displayed on the right. Isolate serotype is
582 displayed on the outer ring, coloured according to the inlaid key displayed next to the tree. Two subclades
583 with branches highlighted in red were selected for BEAST analysis. Maximum clade credibility trees based
584 on two subclades within PG3 are displayed on the left. Independent switching events occurring along the
585 various phylogenetic branches are highlighted in black, labelled and annotated. BEAST estimated time
586 frame of divergence along the branches of the seven isolates that have undergone serotype switching are
587 shown in table S5.



588

589 **Fig. S9.**

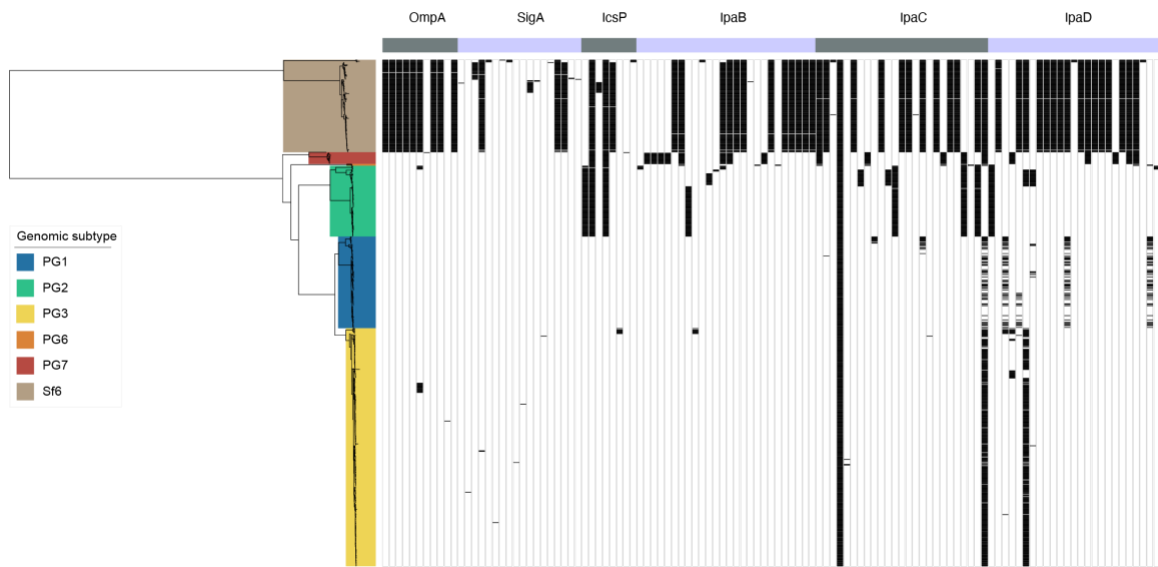
590 The distribution of vaccine antigen candidate and protein sequence identity among *Shigella* spp. (A)
591 Lefthand y-axis refers to the grouped bar plot displaying presence of vaccine candidate genes identified
592 among *Shigella* isolates from GEMS. Bars are grouped by genes and coloured according to species.
593 Righthand y-axis (blue) refers to the boxplot displaying the interquartile range, median (red) and
594 minimum/maximum pairwise percentage identity of the amino acid sequences of antigen vaccine
595 candidates among GEMS, compared against the reference sequences. Presence of genes were identified
596 using BLASTn search against draft genome assemblies and amino acid sequence percentage identity were
597 inferred using BLASTp. (B) Mapping coverage of *Shigella* spp. virulence plasmid. Low percentage of
598 virulence plasmid were detected among *S. sonnei* isolates, likely contributed by the fact that *S. sonnei*
599 virulence plasmid is comparatively unstable and often lost during subculturing.



600

601 **Fig. S10.**

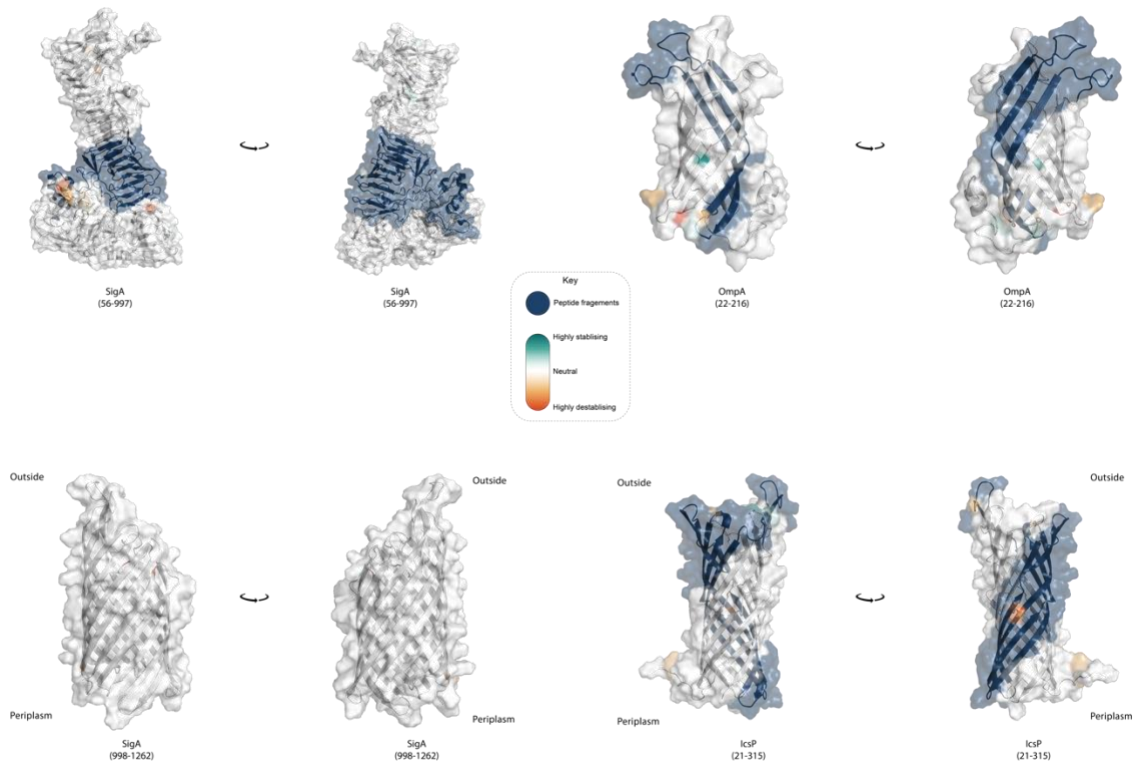
602 Frequency of amino acid variation among *S. flexneri* population for antigen vaccine candidates. Frequency
603 of amino acid variations within *S. flexneri* genomes for the six vaccine candidate protein sequences. For
604 each protein sequence, the proportion of genomes with the variant is shown along the y-axis with the
605 position of the variant plotted along the x-axis. Grey bars highlight regions where there is a deletion and
606 red bars highlight insertions. Schematic of the known epitope positions (in blue) for the protein sequences
607 are displayed below the x-axis.

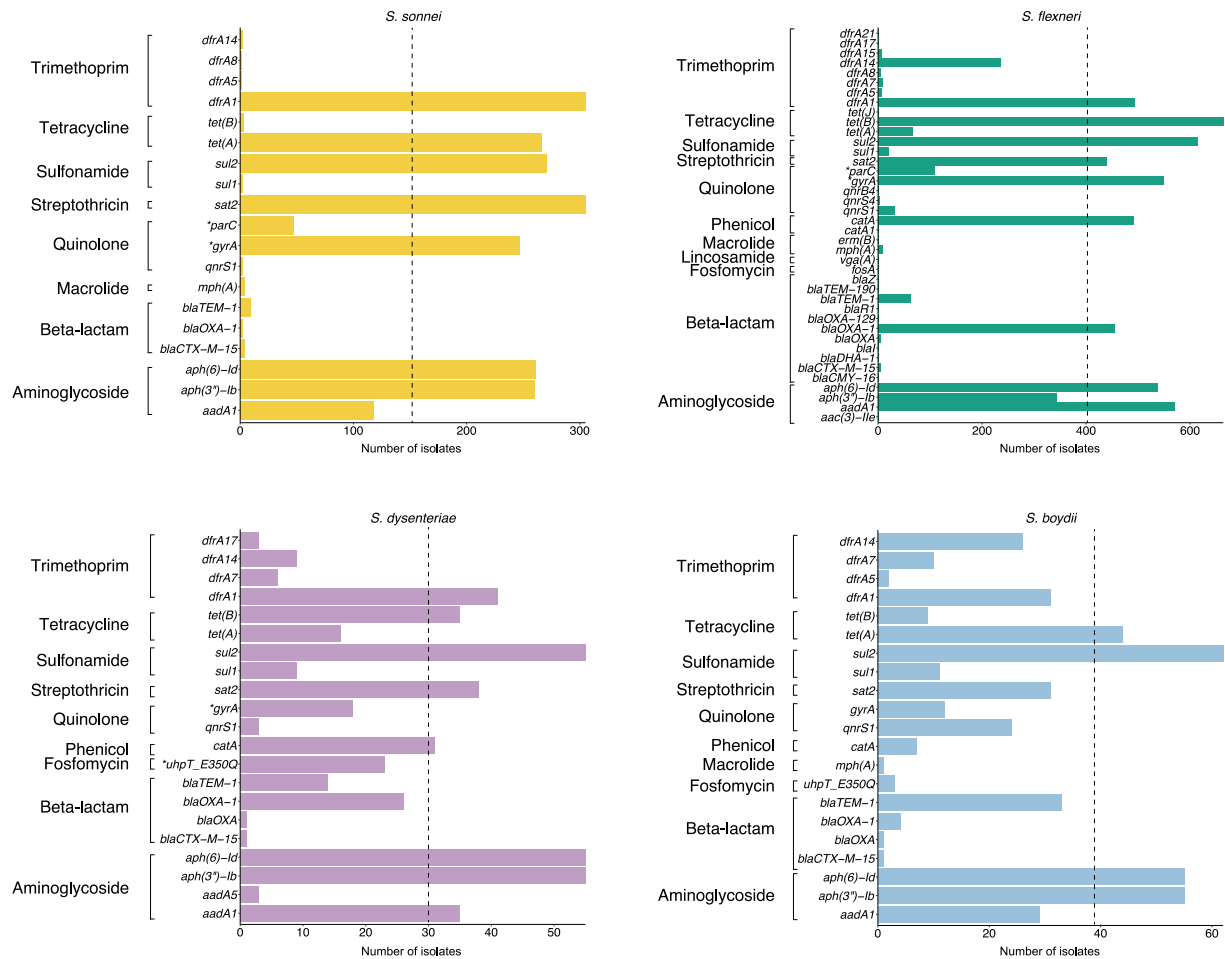


608

609 **Fig. S11.**

610 Vaccine antigen variation among *S. flexneri* subtypes. ML phylogenetic tree of 806 *S. flexneri* isolates based
611 on core genome SNPs is displayed on the left, the six subtypes identified among the population are
612 highlighted in different colours according to the inlaid key. The alternating grey and purple colour blocks
613 displayed above the top panel represents the six antigen vaccine candidates assessed in the current study.
614 The matrix in the centre demonstrates presence (in black) of aa variation for each antigen vaccine. Only
615 variable sites are displayed.



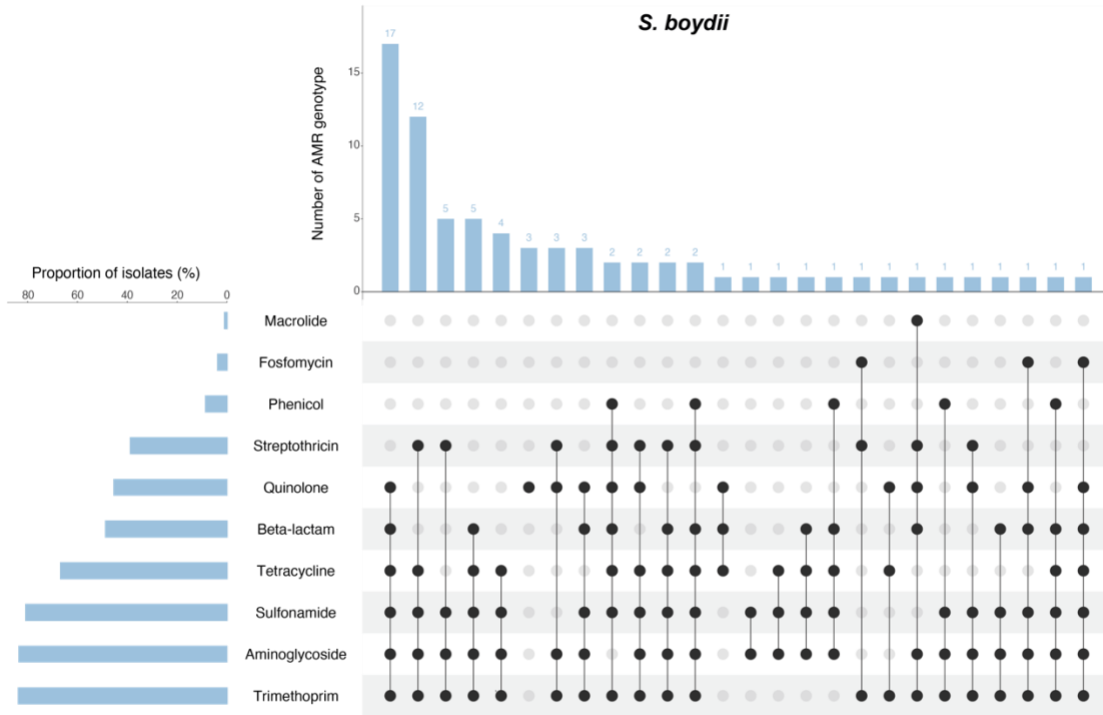


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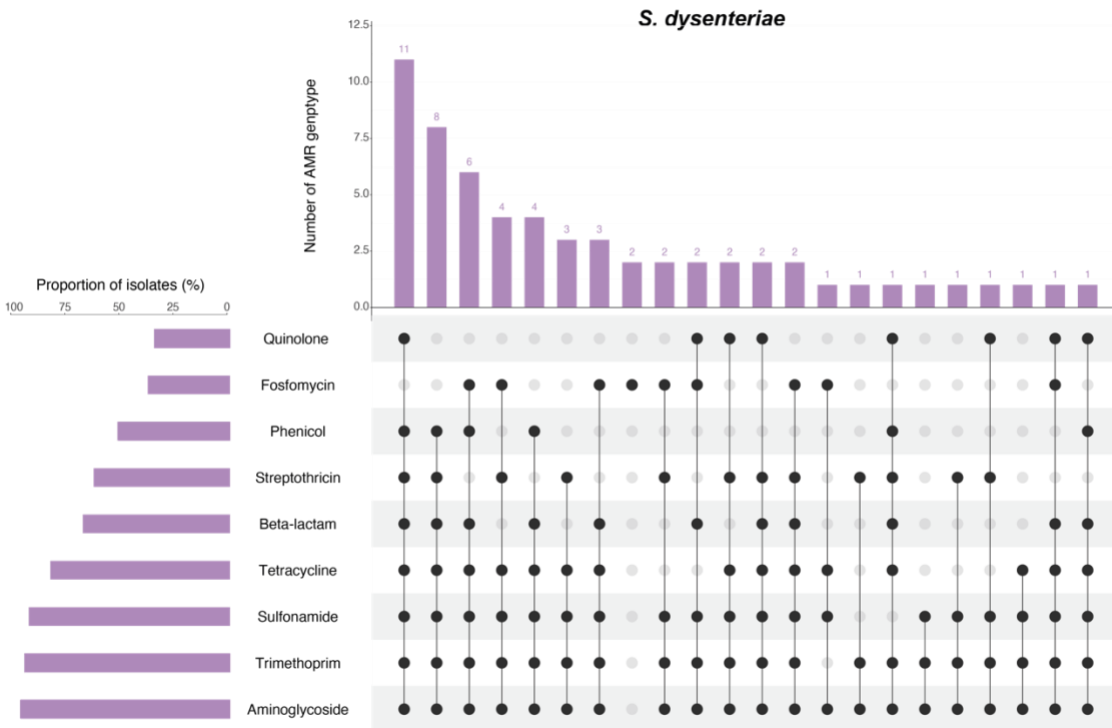
624 **Fig. S13.**

625 Prevalence of genetic determinants conferring AMR among *Shigella* spp. Bar plots shows the number of
 626 genetic determinants detected in *S. sonnei*, *S. flexneri*, *S. dysenteriae* and *S. boydii* isolates that confer
 627 resistance or reduced susceptibility to various antimicrobials. Genes and point mutations (indicated with an
 628 asterisk) are plotted along the y-axis and grouped by drug class (displayed on the left). The dashed lines
 629 highlight genetic determinants identified in half or more of the isolates for each species.

C



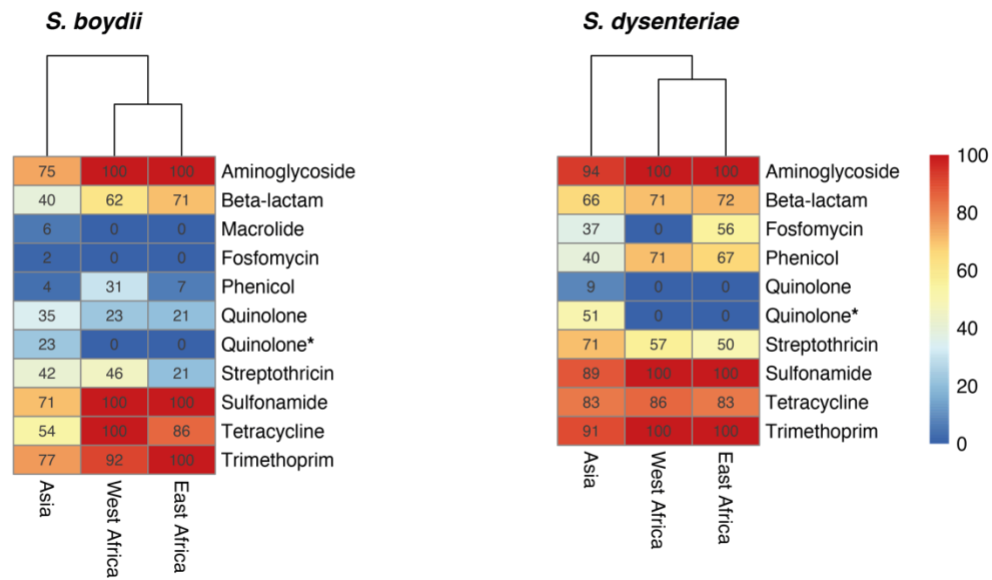
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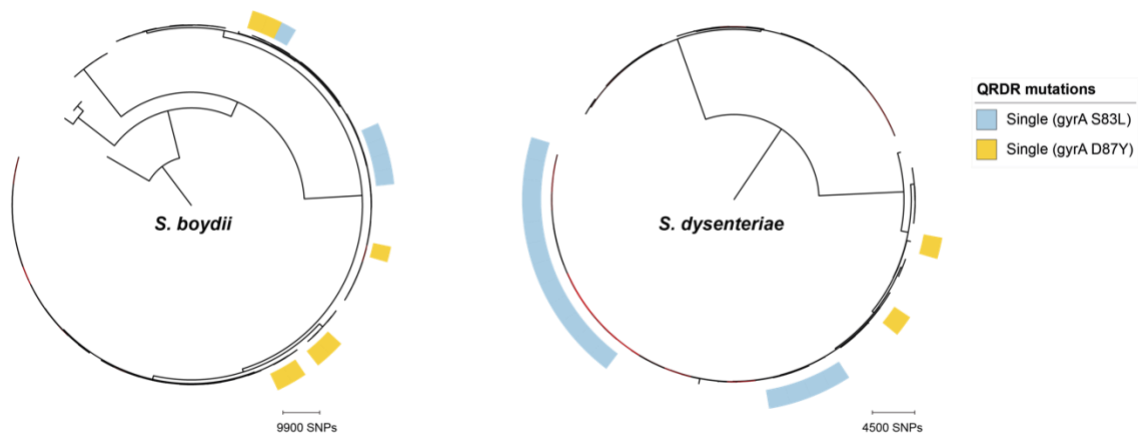
633 **Fig. S14.**

634 Diversity of AMR genotype resistance profiles. UpSet plots illustrate the AMR genotype resistance profiles
635 for (A) *S. flexneri*, (B) *S. sonnei*, (C) *S. boydii* and (D) *S. dysenteriae*. Genotypic AMR profiles are shown
636 in the combination matrix in the center panel. Each column represents a unique genotypic profile, where
637 each black dot represents presence of a genetic determinant conferring resistance or reduced susceptibility
638 to a drug class (displayed on the left). The vertical the bar plot above the matrix displays the number of
639 isolates with a particular profile, with the exact number of isolates displayed above each bar. The horizontal
640 bar plot on the left of the matrix illustrates the proportion of isolates containing AMR genetic determinants
641 associated with a drug class.

A



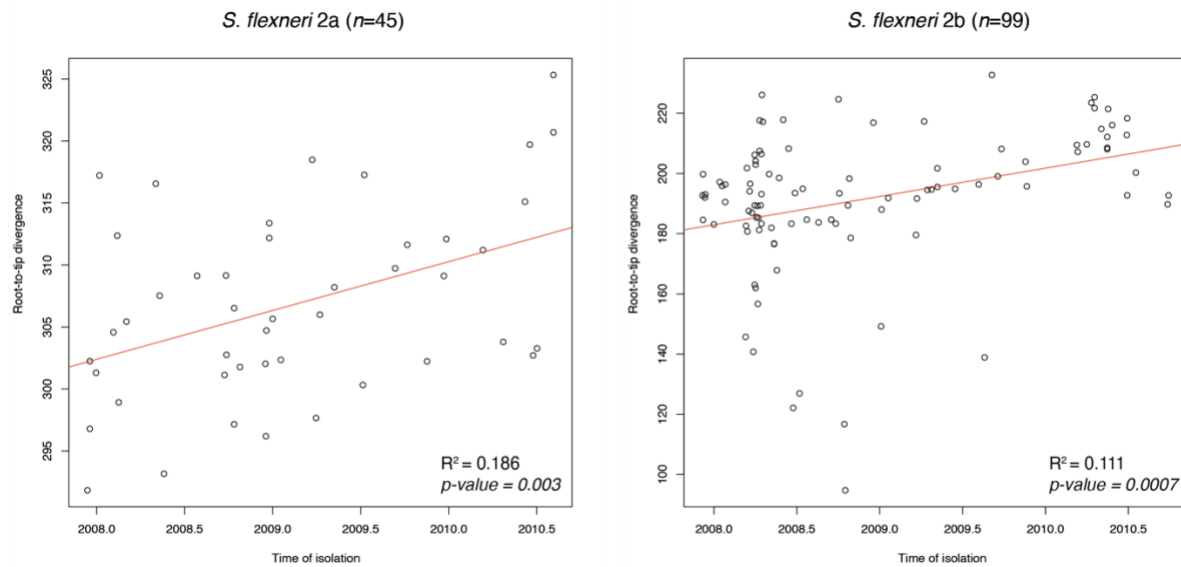
B



642

643 **Fig. S15.**

644 Detection of known AMR genetic determinants conferring resistance (reduced susceptibility marked with
 645 asterisk) to various drug class, grouped by region (A) and convergent evolution of ciprofloxacin resistance
 646 (B) for *S. boydii* and *S. dysenteriae*.



647

648 **Fig. S16.**

649 Temporal phylogenetic signal for *S. flexneri*. Correlation between isolate sampling time in months (x-axis)
650 and phylogenetic root-to-tip divergence (y-axis), as estimated by TempEst based on ML phylogeny of each
651 subclade. The two datasets correspond to *S. flexneri* 2a isolates belonging to node A (left) and *S. flexneri*
652 2b isolates belonging to node B (right) from PG3 in fig. S8. The linear regression line is coloured in red,
653 with the coefficient of determination (R^2) and p -value displayed for each plot.

654 **Table S1.**
655 **Details of *Shigella* isolates used in this study.** Includes accession numbers of the sequencing reads used
656 in the study, *Shigella* serotype, assembly statistics, year and country of isolation, condition of the child
657 (case/control) from which the isolate was derived from as defined by GEMS, genomic subtype, AMR genes
658 and QRDR mutations.
659
660 See separate Excel file

661 **Table S2.**
662 **Details of publicly available *E.coli/Shigella* genomes used in this study.**

Accession	strain	Species / serotype	Phylogroup/Lineage/subtype
ERR028677	5417_1#4	<i>S. sonnei</i>	Central Asia III
ERR028679	5417_1#6	<i>S. sonnei</i>	Central Asia III
ERR024610	5008_7#5	<i>S. sonnei</i>	Central Asia III
ERR028705	5417_3#8	<i>S. sonnei</i>	Central Asia III
ERR024611	5008_7#6	<i>S. sonnei</i>	Central Asia III
ERR200544	8403_8#89	<i>S. sonnei</i>	V
ERR200550	8403_8#95	<i>S. sonnei</i>	V
ERR025737	5236_6#2	<i>S. sonnei</i>	IV
ERR025768	5236_8#9	<i>S. sonnei</i>	Global III
ERR316396	9803_4#91	<i>S. sonnei</i>	Global III
ERR200471	8403_8#16	<i>S. sonnei</i>	Global III
ERR025765	5236_8#6	<i>S. sonnei</i>	I
ERR025722	5236_5#10	<i>S. sonnei</i>	I
ERR024606	5008_7#11	<i>S. sonnei</i>	I
ERR025754	5236_7#7	<i>S. sonnei</i>	I
ERR025735	5236_6#10	<i>S. sonnei</i>	II
ERR025726	5236_5#3	<i>S. sonnei</i>	II
ERR028675	5417_1#2	<i>S. sonnei</i>	II
ERR028673	5417_1#11	<i>S. sonnei</i>	II
ERR025751	5236_7#4	<i>S. sonnei</i>	II
ERR025762	5236_8#3	<i>S. sonnei</i>	II
ERR025689	5236_1#5	<i>S. sonnei</i>	II
ERR025692	5236_1#8	<i>S. sonnei</i>	II
ERR025724	5236_5#12	<i>S. sonnei</i>	II
ERR028700	5417_3#3	<i>S. sonnei</i>	II
ERR028688	5417_2#2	<i>S. sonnei</i>	III
ERR025747	5236_7#10	<i>S. sonnei</i>	III
ERR025749	5236_7#2	<i>S. sonnei</i>	III
ERR025702	5236_2#5	<i>S. sonnei</i>	III
ERR025700	5236_2#3	<i>S. sonnei</i>	III
ERR025701	5236_2#4	<i>S. sonnei</i>	III
ERR025748	5236_7#11	<i>S. sonnei</i>	III
ERR028695	5417_2#9	<i>S. sonnei</i>	III
ERR025698	5236_2#12	<i>S. sonnei</i>	III
ERR316322	9803_4#17	<i>S. sonnei</i>	Latin America IIIa
ERR212328	8489_1#60	<i>S. sonnei</i>	Latin America IIIa
ERR316241	9789_6#32	<i>S. sonnei</i>	Latin America IIIa
ERR025767	5236_8#8	<i>S. sonnei</i>	OJCA
ERR190834	8290_4#28	<i>S. sonnei</i>	OJCA
ERR319257	9870_7#10	<i>S. sonnei</i>	OJCA

NC_007384	Ss046	<i>S. sonnei</i>	III
LVIU01000110.1	ASM164910v1	<i>S. flexneri</i> 4s	
NZ_CM001474.1	M90T	<i>S. flexneri</i> 5a	
NC_004741.1	2457T	<i>S. flexneri</i> 2a	
ERR042803	ERR042803	<i>S. flexneri</i> 2a	Phylogroup 3
ERR042850	ERR042850	<i>S. flexneri</i> 2a	Phylogroup 3
ERR048281	ERR048281	<i>S. flexneri</i>	Phylogroup 2
ERR048288	ERR048288	<i>S. flexneri</i>	Phylogroup 6
ERR048302	ERR048302	<i>S. flexneri</i> 2a	Phylogroup 3
ERR048305	ERR048305	<i>S. flexneri</i>	Phylogroup 1
ERR048317	ERR048317	<i>S. flexneri</i>	Phylogroup 7
ERR048339	ERR048339	<i>S. flexneri</i> 2a	Phylogroup 3
ERR126987	ERR126987	<i>S. flexneri</i> 2a	Phylogroup 3
ERR126993	ERR126993	<i>S. flexneri</i>	Phylogroup 2
ERR127032	ERR127032	<i>S. flexneri</i> 1a	PHE type strain
ERR127033	ERR127033	<i>S. flexneri</i> 1b	PHE type strain
ERR127034	ERR127034	<i>S. flexneri</i> 1c	PHE type strain
ERR127035	ERR127035	<i>S. flexneri</i> 2a	PHE type strain
ERR127036	ERR127036	<i>S. flexneri</i> 2b	PHE type strain
ERR127037	ERR127037	<i>S. flexneri</i> 3a	PHE type strain
ERR127038	ERR127038	<i>S. flexneri</i> 3b	PHE type strain
ERR127039	ERR127039	<i>S. flexneri</i> 3c	PHE type strain
ERR127040	ERR127040	<i>S. flexneri</i> 4a	PHE type strain
ERR127041	ERR127041	<i>S. flexneri</i> 4b	PHE type strain
ERR127043	ERR127043	<i>S. flexneri</i> 5a	PHE type strain
ERR127044	ERR127044	<i>S. flexneri</i> 5b	PHE type strain
ERR127046	ERR127046	<i>S. flexneri</i>	Phylogroup 4
ERR127047	ERR127047	<i>S. flexneri</i> Y	PHE type strain
ERR127048	ERR127048	<i>S. flexneri</i> E1037	PHE type strain
ERR1363976	ERR1363976	<i>S. flexneri</i> 2a	Phylogroup 3 Central Asia
ERR1364007	ERR1364007	<i>S. flexneri</i> 2a	Phylogroup 3 Central Asia
ERR1364014	ERR1364014	<i>S. flexneri</i> 2a	Phylogroup 3 Minor MSM clade
ERR1364050	ERR1364050	<i>S. flexneri</i> 2a	Phylogroup 3 Minor MSM clade
ERR1364087	ERR1364087	<i>S. flexneri</i> 2a	Phylogroup 3 Central Asia
ERR1364097	ERR1364097	<i>S. flexneri</i> 2a	Phylogroup 1 Central Asia
ERR1364106	ERR1364106	<i>S. flexneri</i> 2a	Phylogroup 3 Major MSM clade
ERR1364137	ERR1364137	<i>S. flexneri</i> 2a	Phylogroup 3 Major MSM clade
ERR200376	ERR200376	<i>S. flexneri</i> 2a	Phylogroup 3
ERR217085	ERR217085	<i>S. flexneri</i>	Phylogroup 1

ERR449043	ERR449043	<i>S. flexneri</i> 3a	MSM-outbreak associated
ERR449077	ERR449077	<i>S. flexneri</i> 3a	MSM-outbreak associated
ERR559526	ERR559526	<i>S. flexneri</i> 2a	NCTC1
ERR832464	ERR832464	<i>S. flexneri</i>	Phylogroup 5
ERR832481	ERR832481	<i>S. flexneri</i>	Phylogroup 3
SRR7886341	SRR7886341	<i>S. flexneri</i>	MSM associated
NC_017328.1	ASM2224v1	<i>S. flexneri</i>	
NC_004337	<i>S. flexneri</i> 2a str. 301	<i>S. flexneri</i> 2a	Phylogroup 3
NC_007606	<i>S. dysenteriae</i> Sd197	<i>S. dysenteriae</i>	
ERR1013692	ERR1013692	<i>S. dysenteriae</i> type 1	IV
ERR1013770	ERR1013770	<i>S. dysenteriae</i> type 1	IIIa
ERR1014006	ERR1014006	<i>S. dysenteriae</i> type 1	III d
ERR1014139	ERR1014139	<i>S. dysenteriae</i> type 1	III c
ERR1014187	ERR1014187	<i>S. dysenteriae</i> type 1	IV
ERR1014220	ERR1014220	<i>S. dysenteriae</i> type 1	II
ERR1014530	ERR1014530	<i>S. dysenteriae</i> type 1	III c
ERR1014532	ERR1014532	<i>S. dysenteriae</i> type 1	III d
ERR1014536	ERR1014536	<i>S. dysenteriae</i> type 1	I
ERR1014541	ERR1014541	<i>S. dysenteriae</i> type 1	II
ERR1014551	ERR1014551	<i>S. dysenteriae</i> type 1	III b
ERR279284	ERR279284	<i>S. dysenteriae</i> type 1	II
GCA_000268105	SD_225-75	<i>S. dysenteriae</i> type 2	S1
GCF_000815495	SD_S6205	<i>S. dysenteriae</i> type 2	S3
ERR200454	SB_K-11124	<i>S. boydii</i> (ST 1767)	
NZ_AMKG01000009	248-1B	<i>S. boydii</i>	3
NC_010658	3083-94	<i>S. boydii</i>	2
AMJZ00000000	SB_08_0009	<i>S. boydii</i>	3
AMKA00000000	SB_08_0280	<i>S. boydii</i>	2

AMKB00000000	SB_08_2671	<i>S. boydii</i>	3
AMKC00000000	SB_08_2675	<i>S. boydii</i>	2
AMKD00000000	SB_08_6341	<i>S. boydii</i>	2
AMKE00000000	SB_09_0344	<i>S. boydii</i>	2
AFGC00000000	SB_3594-74	<i>S. boydii</i>	3
AKNB00000000	SB_4444-74	<i>S. boydii</i>	3
AFGE00000000	SB_5216-82	<i>S. boydii</i>	1
AKNA00000000	SB_965-58	<i>S. boydii</i>	1
AMJX00000000	SB_S7334	<i>S. boydii</i>	3
NC_010658	3083-94	<i>S. boydii</i>	
AAJT00000000	B7A	<i>E. coli</i>	
AM946981	BL21(DE3)	<i>E. coli</i> O7	
NC_009801	E24377A	<i>E. coli</i> O139:H28	
SRR2169557	IAI1-117	<i>E. coli</i> O8	
SRR306102	K12-W3110	<i>E. coli</i> O16	
NC_011751	UMN026	<i>E. coli</i> O17:K52:H18	
NC_013941	CB9615	<i>E. coli</i> O55:H7	

663

664 **Table S3.**
665 **Association of *S. flexneri* genomic subtype / serotype with case status.**

Genomic subtype / serotype	OR	95% CI	z statistic	p-value
Sf6	0.5043	0.3198 - 0.7953	2.945	0.0032
PG1	0.5773	0.3619 - 0.9211	2.305	0.0212
PG2	0.8926	0.5102 - 1.5616	0.398	0.6906
PG3	2.3196	1.5051 - 3.5748	3.813	0.0001
PG6	1.1339	0.0582 - 22.1005	0.083	0.9339
PG7	2.9426	0.3889 - 22.2638	1.045	0.2959
1a	0.8088	0.0386 - 16.9574	0.137	0.8913
1b	0.6867	0.3942 - 1.1961	1.328	0.1843
2a	1.9329	1.1712 - 3.1900	2.578	0.0099
2b	2.2614	1.1117 - 4.5997	2.252	0.0243
3a	0.8926	0.5102 - 1.5616	0.398	0.6906
4a	0.7946	0.3230 - 1.9548	0.501	0.6167
5b	0.4798	0.0495 - 4.6540	0.633	0.5264
6	0.4829	0.3072 - 0.7590	3.155	0.0016
7a	0.6029	0.2399 - 1.5151	1.076	0.2818
Y	1.46	0.0781 - 27.3032	0.253	0.8001
X	1.6157	0.2048 - 12.7458	0.455	0.6489

666

667 **Table S4.**

668

669 Details of serotype determining genes facilitating *S. flexneri* (n=72) serotype switching.

670

671

672 See separate Excel file

673 **Table S5.**
674 **BEAST estimated timeframe for serotype switching among *S. flexneri* PG3 isolates.**

675

Switch ID#	Subclade [¶]	Serotype change	Molecular serotype gene detected ^{&}	Median branch length (days) [§]	95% HPD branch length (days)
3	A	2a → Y	-	159	16 - 344
2	A	2a → 7a	<i>gtrII</i>	154	27 - 307
1	A	2a → 2b	<i>gtrII</i> , <i>gtrX</i>	7203	4792 - 10009
7	B	2b → 5b	<i>gtrII</i> , <i>gtrX</i>	348	244 - 479
6	B	2b → 5b	<i>gtrII</i> , <i>gtrX</i>	254	134 - 491
5	B	2b → 1b	<i>gtrI</i> , <i>gtrII</i> , <i>Oac1b</i>	4888	2962 - 7114
4	B	2b → X	<i>gtrX</i> , <i>gtrII</i>	10206	5494 - 15408

676

677 Footnotes:

678 [#] Serotype switching event labelled according to Fig S8

679 [¶] Phylogenetic subclade isolate belong to

680 [&] Presence of serotype determining genes, as detected by ShigaTyper, - indicates no genes were detected.

681 [§] Phylogenetic branch length represents divergence time, predicted by BEAST and inferred from a time-
682 scaled tree.

Table S6.

An overview of the protein modelling. Table includes information about the antigen candidates modelled, the range of residues the proteins were modelled over, homologues used in template modelling and the QMEAN method and score.

Species	Antigen candidates	Phylogroup	Serotype	Start	Finish	Homolog	Sequence Identity	QMEAN method	Average local QMEAN score
<i>S. flexneri</i>	OmpA	PG3	5A	22	216	1QJP	93%	QMEANDisCo	0.46
<i>S. flexneri</i>	OmpA	PG3	5A	349	490	1R1M	41%	QMEANDisCo	0.31
<i>S. flexneri</i>	SigA	PG3	2A	56	997	3SZE	44%	QMEANDisCo	0.71
<i>S. flexneri</i>	SigA	PG3	2A	998	1262	2QOM	85%	QMEANDisCo	0.83
<i>S. flexneri</i>	IcsP	PG3	5A	21	315	1I78	60%	QMEANDisCo	0.81
<i>S. flexneri</i>	IpaB	PG3	5A	1	222	3U0C	76%	QMEANBrane	0.83
<i>S. flexneri</i>	IpaB	PG3	5A	223	553	3WXX	19%	QMEANBrane	0.79
<i>S. flexneri</i>	IpaC	PG3	5A	1	363	-	-	QMEANBrane	0.85
<i>S. flexneri</i>	IpaD	PG3	5A	1	332	3R9V	100%	QMEANBrane	0.80

- 1 **Table S7.**
- 2 Details of amino acid variants identified for the six antigen candidates among *S. flexneri* isolates from
- 3 GEMS. Table includes variant type, variant location, reference and alternative variant, and energy score of
- 4 the variant as predicted by premPS.
- 5
- 6 See separate Excel file

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8

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