**Activity C**

**Responding to questions and statements about the vaccine which community members raise during community mobilization**

**Objective:** To give volunteers an opportunity to use the information they have been given to respond to commonly raised worries about the vaccine in a coherent and balanced way.

**Time required:** 40 minutes

**Preparation:** Each volunteer will have a one-page distillation of facts about the vaccine and the campaign. They will also have a list of the different statements and questions with spaces for them to insert notes on how they would reply. Facilitators should have the list of statements and questions and some answers to share as well as possible ‘come back remarks’ community members may give. If needs be, translate to the local language. Each volunteer is given two statements to work on responses. For stronger volunteers who finish quickly, allow them to look through the list of statements and questions and to come up with responses

**Takeaway:** Volunteers will take away the one-page list of facts about the vaccines and the list of questions and statements with their notes on how to respond and the suggested responses sheet used by the facilitator. The latter should only be given after the activity.

**Rationale:** A key element in the work of RCRC in an OCV campaign will be the mobilization of communities to get the vaccine. In doing this a number of statements and questions may have to be dealt with in order to persuade and influence. Mobilization offers the opportunity to continue general messaging around cholera and hygiene promotion and in persuading, the volunteers need reinforce such messaging.

**Set Up**

Trainees can work in pairs or small groups to note down the information they will use for each of the statements writing it on the back of the card. During this stage relevant slides from the power point or handouts with the power point information can be available for reference.

One trainer plays the person raising the worry and a role play is carried out. The trainer should not immediately accept the volunteer’s response but have a retort prepared. Keep these short. The second trainer should note any suggestions they would have or relevant information that has been missed. If possible, make a video of these exchanges.

Discuss each exchange immediately after getting suggestions from the trainees. Point out where it has developed into an argument and try to understand with the volunteers why this has happened.

Allow 25 minutes for role plays and feedback and give as many volunteers a go as possible. It may be better to have 5 to 6 role plays and video them and then look through them altogether at the end rather than feedback on each one immediately after. Ensure there is one example where there is complete refusal to take the vaccine so as to see how the volunteer deals with this.

**Advice to Volunteers**

Work in pairs to discuss how you would deal with the following statements from the population regarding the Oral Cholera Vaccine. Try to empathize with the view taken and to present the facts in a way not to win the argument but to persuade and give the feeling that you yourself had similar concerns. There may be some truth in the statements so do not dismiss this; rather, acknowledge it, but show why it should not persuade them.

Use the opportunity to reinforce messaging on cholera transmission and hygiene promotion. If it is clear that someone will not go to be immunized ensure they have a clear idea of how they can stop transmission in their home and in their community.