**Key facts on Oral Cholera Vaccines**

* Oral Cholera Vaccine protects people from getting and developing severe forms of cholera and from spreading cholera to others.
* OCV consists of inactivated (killed) bacterial cells which cannot become virulent or cause cholera.
* OCV is not part of normal scheduled vaccination but targets a population in a certain area (district) through campaigns.
* OCV offers ***direct protection*** to the taker of the vaccine. Where more than half (50%) of the population targeted have had the vaccine there is ***indirect protection*** because it reduces the amount of vibrio cholerae in the community.
* Indirect protection is especially important for those who cannot take the vaccine, mainly those under the age of 1 year.
* Taking orally means that the vaccine sites itself in the intestine which is where ***vibrio cholerae*** locate themselves and multiply.
* Easier to administer if it is taken by mouth.
* Reduced risk of transmitting blood borne infections.
* Impacts other similar antigens such as ***Escherichia Coli*** which is a key cause of diarrhea in many parts of the world.
* Very few people experience side effects, in about 4 in 100 people (3-4%), consist of upset stomach, diarrhea, vomiting and nausea. These symptoms are mild and experienced for a short time. Nearly all people experience no side effects.
* Some children do not like the taste of the vaccine, if someone (child or adult) spit it out refer to your supervisor for advice.