**Key facts on Oral Cholera Vaccines**

* Oral Cholera Vaccine 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 geographical area through campaigns.
* OCV offers ***direct protection*** to the taker of the vaccine
* Where more than 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 gut which is where ***vibrio cholerae*** locate themselves and multiply
* Easier to administer if it is orally taken
* 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 (3-4%) and these are usually temporary and consist of slight fever, headaches and nausea. Nearly all people experience no side effects.
* Some people do not like the taste of the vaccine, if a person (children or adult) spit the vaccine out refer to your supervisor for guidance.