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Nepal strengthens cholera vaccination to help prevent and control outbreaks

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The vaccination campaign is part of an IVI-led project to prevent and control cholera in Nepal



The International Vaccine Institute (IVI), in collaboration with SmileGate in Korea and Nepalese partners, will vaccinate 28,000 people against cholera to help prevent and control outbreaks in Nepal in May 2022.

The project will vaccinate about 28,000 individuals including children in Rupani Rural Municipality in the southeastern region of Nepal to help prevent and control outbreaks of cholera and diarrheal diseases there. Diarrheal cases were detected in the municipality in late October 2021. On top of the COVID-19 pandemic, this outbreak of cholera and diarrheal diseases has further strained the local public health delivery mechanism in the area.

IVI will work with the Epidemiology and Disease Control Division (EDCD), Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP), Nepal, to execute the vaccination campaign, in coordination with Child Health and Immunization section in the Family and Welfare Division (FWD) as well as other local partners, including Group of Technical Assistance (GTA).

IVI and partners will provide the first dose of oral cholera vaccine (OCV), and the second dose of the vaccine will be self-administered by the vaccinees, an effort designed to assess the feasibility of self-administration strategy for the 2nd dose of oral cholera vaccine.

The mass vaccination campaign will use Euvichol-Plus, the OCV developed by IVI and produced by the Korean vaccine manufacturer EuBiologics. The vaccine, which was prequalified by the WHO in 2017, has been proven to be safe and effective and is widely used in cholera control efforts worldwide. More than 60 million doses of the Euvichol and Euvichol Plus vaccines have already been administered in over 20 countries worldwide through the WHO's OCV stockpile.