EXAMPLE RUMOR CATEGORIZATION TOOL

NB: This tool was adapted from the CDAC Network’s *Rumor has it: A practice guide to working with rumours*, 2017.

Below you will find a table of guiding questions to help you assess the potential consequences of a rumor, as well as illustrative rumors and examples of what the consequences of those rumors might be. Work through these questions to help you think about the possible impact of a rumor. Once you have assessed the potential consequences you can categorize the rumor: label the rumor as having minor, moderate or major consequences depending on their potential to do harm.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Questions to assess the potential consequences</th>
<th>Example rumors and their potential consequences</th>
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| Could it cause harm?                           | *Gargling with bleach can kill the Covid-19 virus.*  
This rumor could lead to injury or loss of life |
| Could it stop people accessing services?       | *Healthcare workers are spreading Covid-19.*  
Could lead to people not going to health centers when they sick. |
| Could it cause conflict?                       | *Vaccines are available but horded for friends and family ministry staff.*  
This rumor could lead to pre-emptive attacks |
| Could it result in risky behavior?             | *Gargling with salt water protects you from Covid-19.*  
This rumor could lead to a false sense of protection from Covid-19 |
| Could it put your staff, partners and communities at risk? | *That organization is creating Covid-19 in a laboratory.*  
This rumor could lead to protests and/or problems of access |
| Could it stigmatize certain groups?            | *Eating Chinese food should be avoided; contaminated with Covid-19.*  
This rumor stigmatizes certain groups and can lead to isolation and economic loss |
| Could it pose a significant reputational risk? | *That organization is corrupt, look at the big cars they all drive.*  
This rumor could lead to protects and/or problems with access. |