

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 rumors, 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.

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