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| ORT Training - Level 01 (Community ORT Volunteers) |
| Session #06 – Stigma prevention and Rumour management |

Timing 🕝 30’

**Objective**

* To prevent stigma at community level and help identify and prevent rumours

**Material**

* PowerPoint presentation

**Key elements to remember**

>What is Stigma

* *a mark of disgrace associated with a particular quality, circumstance or person.*
* *rejection or unfair treatment of individual or group because they have cholera*

> WHY stigma and rumours need to be addressed?

*Because they will interfere with the appropriate behaviors of community members and will possibly lead to dangerous outcomes*

> What can be done to prevent stigma?

*Engage in open discussions, understanding that cholera can affect everyone and not just a category of people, understanding that cholera can be prevented and treated and that treated people will return to good health*

> How can you be informed of running rumours in the community?

*Engage in open discussions; organize cholera talks, quizzes, questions and answers games.*

> What should you do if you fear that a rumour can be detrimental?

*Verify with community if you have well understood what is the message; Verify with health personnel, Red Cross supervisors if true or not. Respond through influent people, trusted communication channels - Follow up on the spread of the rumour and inform management.*

**>Main messages:** Even when taking ORS some people’s condition will continue to deteriorate so can appear to become sicker; Sometimes people reject ORS by vomiting – they are not getting more ill, it is that their body cannot deal with the ORS because they are already too ill. These people need to get IV treatment.

Community leaders and church or Mosque leaders, elders of the community, involve the lady who the rumour was about to explain what happened to her. Authority figures such as local doctors and nurses.

**Exercises**

**Activity 1 –** do as brainstorm in forum and list the rumours. This list can help direct future IPC materials and information dissemination. If volunteers already have a good idea of what rumours have appeared in the past responses can be pre-prepared.

**🡺 Listen Verify and Respond**

**1. Listen:** Collect rumours and listen to diverse groups.

**Should you respond ?**

**Activity 2 -** Discuss in groups for 15 minutes. Join the group conversations. Rumours should be linked to the impact they may have. A rumour may have more than one consequence. Allow participants to justify their answers.

**2. Verify:** What truth is there in the rumour? Check with experts. Find the source of the rumour. Understand why the rumour developed. Can something be done or information given to prevent more rumours like this.

**3. Respond:** Don’t ignore or deny – replace with factual information. Reliable communications channel. All staff and volunteers have the same and correct information.

**Activity 3 -** The idea of the activity is first to go through the process of triangulation and reference to an authority figure. The statements are introduced one at a time.

* Put the first statement up
* Could it be that the ORS did make someone more ill? What is the source of the rumour ? Ask the source of the rumour? (statement 2)
* Triangulate: Village leader and volunteer at the ORP (statements 3 and 4)
* ORP Leader and Supervisor: (statement 5)