

## Step 3

### Listening and learning through consultations



## Template for preparing a discussion guide for Community Consultations

This template will guide you as you formulate questions for the Community Consultations. Keep in mind that the questions should be formulated in a **simple and straightforward** way that will be understandable for people of different ages and educational backgrounds.

**Use your own words:** do not just copy the formulations below! Always consider how you would ask the questions in the **local language**.

### Introductory remarks

The Community Consultations should begin with a warm welcome and an introduction to the purpose and the overarching topic of the discussion. You should respect the traditions for public greetings in the community.

The example provided below can be used in all Community Consultations regardless of the specific topic of your Generation Dialogue. However, you can also modify these remarks to tailor them to your specific context.

### Sample introductory remarks

Today, we would like to learn from you about the **relations between younger and older people, and between women and men** in your community: what you appreciate about these relationships and whether there are issues you are concerned about.

We are particularly interested in **traditions and customary practices** in relation to [topic] and how you pass them on from one generation to the next.

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### Section One: Intergenerational relationships and communication

The first set of questions aims to initiate a discussion about the relationships, ways of communication, and typical areas of conflict between younger and older people in the community.

These questions should be asked in the beginning of all Community Consultations, as the existing intergenerational relationships constitute the foundation for all types of Generation Dialogues. Also, making them stronger and more constructive is one of the aims of the Dialogue.

#### *Areas to explore*

Start by asking questions about how younger and older people in the community get along with one another. Explore the following:

- good things about their relationship
- areas of disagreement
- where and when they talk with one another
- how interested each generation is in what the other has to say
- how the relationship between the two generations has changed over time

Finish by asking what, if anything, they would like to change about the relationship between the younger and the older generation.

### Section Two: Exploring the topic, traditions and customary practices related to it, potential harmful effects and interest in change

The next section of the discussion guide will explore the topic that you have identified. It will look at how it is lived in the community, which traditions exist in relation to it, and how these affect various groups of people in the community.

It is important that you first discuss core values underpinning the topic *before* you explore the harmful effects of customary practices that the Dialogue wants to address.

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### *Areas to explore*

Start this part of the discussion by asking questions about the topic of the Generation Dialogue and what it means to people in the community. Explore the following:

- traditions and practices associated with this topic
- how these have changed over time
- how they feel about these changes

Next, ask questions about the values which underpin the traditions and practices they have just described. Explore the following:

- why these traditions and practices matter to people
- what older men and older women think about them
- what younger men and younger women think about them

Now, ask questions about how these traditions and practices affect different members of the community. Explore the following:

- harmful effects of these customary practices
- who is affected, and how
- how this affects relationships between different groups in the community

Finally, explore whether there is any desire in the community to change these practices. Ask about the following:

- who would like to change these practices, and how
- what people think about this desire for change

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### *Sample closing remarks*

Thank you very much for this very open and helpful discussion. What we learned from you today will help us prepare the Generation Dialogue sessions that will be held in this community over the course of the next six weeks.

In a few months we would like to meet with you once more to continue this conversation.

### **Follow-up Community Consultations**

About three months after the Dialogue sessions have taken place you will repeat the Community Consultations to find out whether the quality of the relationship between the generations, as well as attitudes and practices, have changed. You should ask the same questions as in the first Community Consultations and, where suitable, add a question to explore whether something has changed since the Generation Dialogue has taken place.

### *Sample introductory remarks for follow-up Community Consultations*

Some months ago we gathered to discuss the relationship between younger and older people in your community. We also spoke about customs and traditions in relation to [topic] and how you pass them on from one generation to the next. Today we would like to speak to you about these questions again.

For each set of questions, explore whether over the past few months anything has changed. At the end, explore community members' perception of the Generation Dialogue and its effects.

Ask questions to find out:

- whether people have heard about the Dialogue and, if so, what they have heard
- if and how the Generation Dialogue may have affected relationships between the generations and between women and men

This document is part of the Generation Dialogue toolkit which is available at [health.bmz.de/generation\\_dialogue\\_toolkit](https://health.bmz.de/generation_dialogue_toolkit)