

Step 5

Conducting Dialogue sessions



Things to be done before, during and after every Dialogue session

Four facilitators are required to facilitate a Dialogue session. Male facilitators facilitate Men's Dialogue sessions and female facilitators facilitate Women's Dialogue sessions.

What needs to be prepared before every Dialogue session?

On the day before the Dialogue session, facilitator teams should:

- Confirm the availability of the room.
- Make sure that all materials needed for the session are prepared and ready.
- Arrange for lunch to be prepared and served for participants.

On the day of the Dialogue session, 45 minutes before the participants arrive, facilitator teams should:

- Make sure that the room is clean and decorated nicely with fabrics and objects that symbolise the local culture. Organise chairs or mats upon which participants can sit comfortably.
- If available in the community, provide local instruments to encourage participants to play local music and to share songs and dances that relate to the issues that are being discussed.
- Read the goal and the description of the session in the Dialogue manual and go through all the exercises in the manual to make sure that the members of the facilitation team remember how to facilitate them.
- Agree who will take the lead for which exercise and what the other three facilitators will do to support him or her.

Step 5 - Conducting Dialogue sessions



What are the standard elements of every Dialogue session?

At the start of the session, facilitator candidates should:

- Warmly welcome the participants as they enter the room.
- If participants bring 'guests', kindly explain to them that only the invited Dialogue participants can take part in these sessions and make sure that the guests leave again.
- When all have arrived, start the session with a song or a prayer.
- In all but the first Generation Dialogue session, ask one or two participants to give a short summary of what happened in the previous session. Make sure to ask a different participant each time.
- Check feedback from the community: After the weekly sessions, the participants should share what they heard and did with their families and friends. In all but the first Generation Dialogue session, ask the participants whether they have shared last week's discussions with their families and friends in the community and what these people have said to them. Did any of them have some new ideas? Or some strong reactions?

At the end of each session, facilitator candidates should:

- Ask the participants to give their evaluation of the session:
- If there is enough time left, ask all participants to say one thing they learned in this session, with the first participant standing up and saying something, the next one joining him/her and holding his/her hand, and so on until they all stand in one circle holding hands.
- After sessions that were especially long, simply ask two volunteers from each generation to say what they thought was the most interesting thing they learned in this session.

Step 5 - Conducting Dialogue sessions



- As another variation, ask one younger participant to ask two or three older participants for their feedback on the day, and one older participant to interview two or three younger participants in the same way. The young participant and the older participant who did the ‘interviews’ should then stand in front of the group and present what they just found out from the other generation.
- Before the participants leave, remind them to tell other community members about the Generation Dialogue session and to get their views on the issues that were discussed.
- When the participants have left, the facilitator team should sit down together with the Dialogue coordinator (male coordinator at Men’s Dialogue sessions, female coordinator at Women’s Dialogue sessions) and debrief the session. The coordinator should make notes of what went well, what was difficult, what could be done differently next time, and what the facilitator team learned from participants about the process of change in the community.
- Tidy up the room and collect and pack up all the things you will need again in next week’s session.

This document is part of the Generation Dialogue toolkit which is available at health.bmz.de/generation_dialogue_toolkit