

# Striving for Better Understanding Between Generations to Address Barriers to Youth Reproductive Health

## Why use this approach?

The Intergenerational Dialogue approach brings together two different generations - typically the older generations and millennials - to engage in dialogue to better understand each other with the goal of addressing barriers to youth accessing reproductive health information and services. This approach helps to build bridges between the generations and overcome cultural and religious barriers.



### STEP 1: Identify the issues

that need to be addressed as identified by a civil society organization, life planning for adolescents and youth (LPAY) Ambassadors, other young people, as well as community workers, including service providers. These community change agents and influencers will also organize and facilitate the dialogues.



### STEP 2: Identify relevant stakeholders in the community

who have capacity to address the issues and encompass multiple perspectives on the issues - contributing to a richer conversation.



### STEP 3: Identify dialogue participants

that should be involved and targeted based on the purpose of the dialogue. This helps the organizer to know the approach and the logistics for the intergenerational dialogue.



### STEP 4: Develop questions

that are leading and will spark conversations on the issues that were identified in step one.



### STEP 5: Identify a facilitator

that speaks and clearly understands the local language, understands the subject matter and understands the diversity of the panelists.



### STEP 6: Select the venue

that is a convenient space where the target population will be free to articulate the issues.



## STEP 7: Conduct an intergenerational dialogue

that begins with the facilitator setting the stage and ground rules for the discussion according to the agenda. S/he introduces the panelists and informs the audience as to the purpose of the dialogue, the discussion topic and the goal to come to a greater understanding and next steps on the issue.

Each panelist speaks about the issue from their perspective. After the panelists speak, the facilitator facilitates a question and answer session among the panelists to gain further clarification and insights into each perspective, as well as taking questions and comments from the audience.

Typical intergenerational dialogues last at least 2-3 hours, which ensures sufficient time to hear the perspectives from all of the panelists and the opportunity for questions from the audience/community members. It also allows the facilitator the time to do a recap, identify action points for where there was agreement and next steps - for example, setting up advocacy visits.