

Core challenge

What is it? Defining a core challenge that the project will build around is a complex task. This tool can help you see the core challenge from different perspectives. It can also help you visualise the wider context, and clarify what to prioritise as the main focus of your work. This is crucial when working with a diverse team and groups of stakeholders - there needs to be a shared understanding of what you are working on. This activity may lead you to reframe the main problem that your project is aiming to address.

How to use it? Gather a small but diverse group of participants, including team members, relevant experts, residents, and other stakeholders. Following the template on the right, write down the key discussion points while capturing, comparing and discussing different perspectives about the core challenge.

Start from the question 1 in the centre - what is the challenge and why is it important. Then, continue with reformulating the challenge from the perspective of different groups. Reflecting on the factors (social, cultural, environmental and economic) will help you zoom-out and understand the wider context. Finally, write down the main causes and consequences of the challenge.

Keep in mind: This activity will help you to focus on the long-term solutions rather than quick fixes. When discussing causes and consequences, try using the "5 why-s" method - asking the "why" question for any new cause/ consequence brought to the table.







