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## PROBLEM TREE AND SOLUTION TREE FOR NEW STRATEGY



2h 40m



PLENUM AND  
SMALL GROUPS

### DESCRIPTION

So you have an idea, great! But what are the next steps for turning this idea into a reality that brings your society one step closer to a positive future?

The problem and solution trees provide you a basis for determining the answer to this question. They will also help you decide how to plan activities that will bring you closer to realizing your vision for society.



### PREPARATION

Clear vision and mission statement with **Method Card**: Vision Statement for Guidance (20)



### MATERIALS

- Flip Chart
- Markers
- Moderation Cards



### TOOLS

- **Worksheets:**
  - Problem Tree (10)
  - Solution Tree (11)



GROUNDWORK



SUMMIT



STRATEGY

**STEP 1 IN PLENUM:**

Discuss what the main problem is that your organization seeks to address with your work. When there is a generally consensus, move on to the next step.

**[10 MIN]**


**STEP 2 IN SMALL GROUPS:**

Using moderation cards with **Problem Tree (10)**  as a format, write the main problem and place it on the trunk of the tree. **[30 MIN]**

- a. On the main roots of the tree, write 3-6 direct causes of this problem.
- b. On the secondary roots, write 3-6 factors that directly cause these causes.
- c. On the main branches of the tree, write 3-5 direct effects of this problem. On the secondary, smaller branches write 3-5 effects of the effects of this problem.

**STEP 3 IN PLENUM:**

Each group presents their completed Problem Tree, moving each moderation card to a corresponding place on one collaborative tree. After each group has presented, gather a small group to cluster the cards onto the collaborative tree in a way that makes sense, and then present the finished collaborative tree back to the plenum. **[30 MIN]**

**STEP 4** Now that you have finished the Problem Tree, repeat the process with **Solution Tree (11)**  (i.e. splitting into small groups if needed to fill in the output for the Solution Tree).

To complete the Solution Tree, flip each problem, cause, and effect written on the Problem Tree from a negative statement to a positive one (e.g. "Individuals create too much waste" might become "Individuals actively begin to reduce their carbon footprint"). **[60 MIN]**

**STEP 5 IN PLENUM:**

Examine all of the "Paths of Intervention" created on the Solution Tree from the causes to the effects. The last step of the process is to choose one of these "Paths of Intervention" to focus on and carry out as an organization. **[30 MIN]**

Think about the following questions:

- a. Where does your team have the passion and expertise to intervene?
- b. Which paths have the greatest impact on the overall outcome?
- c. What kind of funding would be available for that particular "Path of Intervention"?