

# Mapping a Wicked Problem

*In this exercise, map as many facets of the complex, wicked problem as possible within the five archetypal areas below. Use post-it notes (of a corresponding color if possible). Print clearly and in a brief phrase (single words may mean something to you, but not to others) that describes a single issue—it is important to list just one issue per post-it note. After you have listed as many issues as possible within each category, next look for connections between the issues. For instance a lack of policy that might address a problem is often connected to issues in other areas such as a lack of understanding of the problem in the social sphere that means voters do not support it. Or, it could be that it is connected to a perceived expense or impact on profits in the economic/business arena. After a group discussion about the interdependencies/interrelations among issues contributing to the complex problem, begin to connect them with either markers or tape and label the nature of the connection.*

TEAM MEMBERS

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## Technology/Infrastructure

What issues in the area of technology/infrastructure (artifacts/buildings/technology) contribute to the problem or are related to it? It could also be a 'lack/absence' in this area that exacerbate the problem or helped give rise to it.

## Policy/Governance/Legal

What issues in the areas of policy, governance and laws contribute to the problem or are related to it? It could also be a 'lack/absence' in this area that exacerbate the problem or helped give rise to it.

## Social/Psychological

What issues related to 'how' and 'what' we think contribute to the problem or are related to it? It could also be what we're blind to/ignorant of that exacerbate the problem or helped give rise to it. How do group or cultural norms/traditions/expectation contribute?

PROBLEM DESCRIPTION HERE

## Economic/Business

What issues in the area of economics/business/market forces contribute to the problem or are related to it? How do dominant 'rules' about business and the marketplace contribute to/exacerbate the problem?

## Environmental

What issues related to the environment contribute to the problem or are related to it? How is the environment affected by the problem? Which members of the local or regional ecosystem are adversely affected by it? Is their demise/depletion related to the problem?