The Problem Framing Canvas

Strategy and Risk

The Problem Framing Canvas is a strategic tool designed to guide individuals and teams through the process of identifying and defining complex problems. It provides a structured framework to analyse the root causes, stakeholders, and context of a problem, facilitating a more comprehensive understanding before embarking on the solution-finding journey.
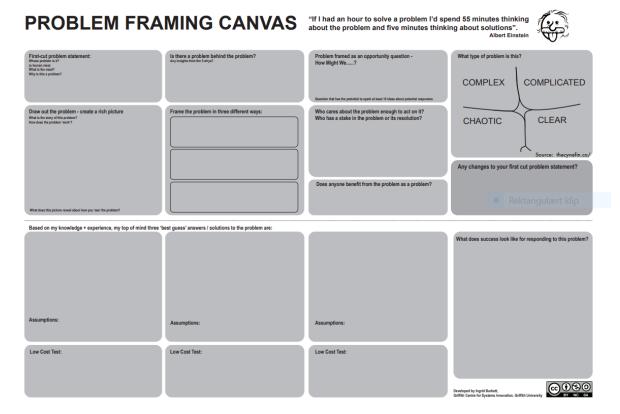
Purpose

In the problem framing canvas the innovation focus starts with problems as the starting point for exploring potential alternatives. This approach helps people to develop better skills to analyse problems and to reflect, test, and learn about responses more effectively.

Expected outcomes of applying the tool

The Problem Canvas helps the group dive deeper into understanding the problem that needs solving and facilitates a deeper analysis of underlying dynamics and problems to let the group understand the root causes and thereby design efficient solutions.

PROBLEM FRAMING CANVAS

"If I had an hour to solve a problem I'd spend 55 minutes thinking about the problem and five minutes thinking about solutions".
Albert Einstein

First-cut problem statement:
Whose problem is it?
(a human view)
What is the need?
Why is this a problem?

Is there a problem behind the problem?
Any insights from the 5 whys?

Problem framed as an opportunity question -
How Might We......?

Question that has the potential to spark at least 10 ideas about potential responses

What type of problem is this?

COMPLEX   COMPLICATED

CHAOTIC   CLEAR

Source: thecynefin.co/

Draw out the problem - create a rich picture
What is the story of this problem?
How does the problem "work"?

What does this picture reveal about how you 'see' the problem?

Frame the problem in three different ways:

Who cares about the problem enough to act on it?
Who has a stake in the problem or its resolution?

Does anyone benefit from the problem as a problem?

Any changes to your first cut problem statement?

Rektangulært klip

Based on my knowledge + experience, my top of mind three 'best guess' answers / solutions to the problem are:

Assumptions:

Low Cost Test:

Assumptions:

Low Cost Test:

Assumptions:

Low Cost Test:

What does success look like for responding to this problem?

Developed by Ingrid Burkett,
Griffith Centre for Systems Innovation, Griffith University

Preparation

The Problem Canvas works best in teams or groups that want to change a system and builds on a general understanding of the system that you week to change.

Suggested follow up steps

Please see in depth explanations for how to use the tool here: Problem Framing Canvas Handbook: Making sense of problems for better responses (griffith.edu.au)

Links and references

Problem Framing Canvas Handbook: Making sense of problems for better responses (griffith.edu.au)