Problem Tree

# What is this tool used for?

* A problem tree helps you to find solutions by mapping the causes and effects of an issue, like a mind map, but with a structure that helps to guide you to new opportunities and solutions. The problem tree helps you unpack a pre-existing problem statement and break it down into its components.
* The main output of this exercise is a tree shaped diagram, where a trunk represents the original problem, the roots represent possible causes, and the branches represent potential effects. This diagram creates a logical hierarchy of causes and effects and allows you to clearly see the pathway between them.

**How the problem tree helps**

* The problem tree allows you to understand the bigger picture of a problem, while maintaining focus on core issues. It is a way to deep dive into the root causes of these issues and understand what they affect. By separating the cause and effect of a problem, you can visualise clear solutions that address each different element.
* By working through a problem and understanding the pathways within it, you may uncover new learnings and develop a better, more holistic perspective. When working through a problem tree as a team, you can build a shared understanding of the issue you are facing and align efforts to solve it.

# How to use this tool

*Want to work collaboratively? See the* [*Mural*](https://app.mural.co/template/b0209e71-80db-41d4-8d93-41307b9282d4/3c799a13-2502-4257-98b4-4dd2e5a60d6e) *template!*

* In group(s), discuss and capture notes on an assigned challenge/them/problem.

CORE PROBLEM

* Start by capturing your core problem in the centre of the page. This will form the trunk of our problem tree.

CAUSES

* Next, focus on the first row of root causes. Things that are directly related to the problem. Capture one cause per note. Add as many sticky notes as required.
* Use your root causes to discuss and capture any secondary causes. Pose the question "*what are the causes of this root cause?"*

EFFECTS

* Once you have completed your causes, turn your attention to what are the effects (branches) of the challenge? E.g., how is the system, team or stakeholders impacted by this challenge?
* Capture one effect per sticky note. Add as many sticky notes as required.

## PROBLEM TREE

Project title:

## Secondary Causes

## Core Problem

What problem are we solving?

## Causes

The root of the problem

## Effects

The impacts of the problem