Process 6.
The problem tree.

Resources for developing National Strategic Frameworks
We will do two things in this session of group work:

• Develop a Problem Tree
• Turn our Problem Tree into an Objectives Tree
The ‘Problem Tree’ starts with the problem

Describe the problem: issues and challenges
Ask ... Why?

Why...? Because....

Why...? Because....

Because.....
The Results Matrix turns the ‘Problem Tree’ about...

End Result

Goal = the changed situation

If this, then......

If this, then....

If we do this, then......

What we Will do

End Result
Basic rules of ‘problem’ analysis

• What’s the evidence say?

• Explore the unknown... research....

• Stay logical – what leads to this – and therefore to that.....?

• Consider alternatives.....is there another hypothesis to consider...?

• Use many ways – or methods - to gather ‘evidence’:
  
  – consulting stakeholders → workshops, FGDs, key informant interviews etc
  
  – Desktop reviews
Developing the Problem Tree

1. Using the focus question or problem statement, and reviewing the stakeholder map, brainstorm a list of “problem statements” (negative statements) about the situation.

2. Agree on the meaning of each problem statement – does it need to be clarified? [If you like, write it on a post it note – so you can move it around.]

3. Arrange the problem statements by “cause” or “effect” – is it a priority?

4. Generate further statements by asking “What leads to that?” or “Why is that present?”

5. Cluster related statements and organise them into a hierarchy according to cause-effect relationships

6. Construct a representation of the relationships between problems using lines
Writing the objective: digging deeper

• We might need to dig deeper,

• If this is the case, using a tool called the problem tree is useful...

• First we map the stakeholders

• Then, we dig....
Handy Hints for Problem Trees....

• Remember the 3 WHYs....
  – WHY
  – WHY
  – WHY
  – and Because......

• Ask
  – WHO is affected .. .?
  – Where?
  – When?
Handy Hints for Problem Trees....

Be thoughtful about how you describe the problems:

• Use terms that **describe** the current situation – rather than forecast an answer...

• Use phrases that open up an issue, rather than narrow the perspective.
  – e.g. “Lack of reliable taps” suggests only one solution: taps that work.
  – Instead: “limited access to water” could open up discussion about other ways to answer the problem:
    • Ensure routine maintenance on taps
    • Build workers’ skills to fix taps
    • look for other sources of water, etc.
Stakeholder Mapping – Relationships and Interests

• Who is affected by the issue or problem?
• How are they affected?
• What is their relationship to the issue or problem?
• Who could help address the problem?
• Why is it important to engage those stakeholders?
• What do you know of past success?
• Is participation important?
From Situation Assessment to Problem Analysis: The Problem Tree

AIM:
To use the analysis from your situation assessment to order ‘problems’ into a hierarchy according to cause and effect

Steps
1. Identify problems and “problem-owners”
2. Structure problems and relations between them
3. Develop a shared perception of problems
4. Develop options for which problems to concentrate on
Describe the situation....
High rates of STIs are identified in seafarers –
this puts them at risk of HIV and other health problems -
**Why are there high rates of STIs? ...?**

**Why ... Because...**
seafarers often ‘buy’ sex when they travel

**Why do they ‘buy’ sex?**
Because they are away from home & earning money;

Seafarers don’t use condoms;
Seafarers STIs are not treated;
Seafarers don’t know they have STIs

**Why ...?**
Because... cant access Condoms

**Why don’t they get treatment?**
Because - no access to health services on board ship or in port

**Why are there no health services?**
Because there is no funding... Its not a priority .....
Analysis with the Problem tree

{We want to respond to} The high rates of STIs in 15-39 year age group identified in an SGS survey (inc testing for HIV & STIs) of seafarers by the local clinic

Because... high rates suggest lots of seafarers practice unsafe sex behaviors & risk their /partners current & future health

Because... seafarers are not treated for STIs - so STIs are passed on to partners

Because... there is no screening service available to seafarers who are mobile

Because... no condoms available & seafarers are not convinced they will feel good

Because... no education programs reach seafarers

Why is there no routine screening... No BCC programs... Because there is no staff; staff are not trained; community reluctant to discuss education programs for seafarers....
Some critical questions once you develop your ‘problem’ tree

- **How will you determine** your priority for the point of intervention?
  - What resources do you have?
  - What areas can you influence – and for what are you responsible?
  - Is this your ‘line of control’?
  - Does this reflect how you think change happens - in this context?
  - Would (should) anything else influence your choice of priorities?
Handy Hints for Problem Trees....

Determine your priorities amongst the ‘problem statements’:

– The challenge is to know where to ‘draw the line’, to understand and assess your level of influence or control...

Ask:

– What skills and experience and expertise can we offer to address the ‘problems’?

– What are you able to be responsible for?
Marshall Islands: One small group drew a Problem Octopus, 2011