TOOL TEMPLATE: CHECKING YOUR CHALLENGE

References: Design for America's Process Guide

SOCIAL INNOVATION COMMUNITY

What is the social problem/need and are there existing alternatives?

Complexity: Medium
Time required: 4-5 hours
Material required: pen, post-its

Try to include people who have a good understanding of the social problem and the context in which the solution is to be created.

What is it for?

"Checking your Challenge" is a great tool for innovators to test if their challenge is:

daring (i.e. it is not easily solved while having the potential of impacting the lives of many people);

feasible (i.e. the team has easy access to beneficiaries, supporters and partners and hence the team can influence the problem); and

scalable (i.e. the challenge is widespread and not limited to the single community).

Challenges that are framed well from the beginning are more likely to bring about impactful solutions.

How to use it?

Start by finding out if the challenge is feasible by answering the related questions with post-it notes. Take time to really answer the questions in each section, asking yourself after each response: how? Proceed in the same manner, testing if the challenge is daring and scalable.

CHECKING YOUR CHALLENGE

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Can we test
the problem?

Do others nod
when we tell the them
about it?

Are local organizations
working on the problem?

Does the problem appear
in nationa news?

is it need in my community?

does it tackle big problem?

Can we identify
& reach users/
beneficiaries?

Are we excited
about working
on this problem?

DARING

FEASIBLE

SCALABLE

Can we access
the expertise & tools
needed to implement
our solution?

If we had a minute
with the
President / Prime Minister,
would we talk about this?

is there a wide-scale need?

Are there foundations,
non-profits or companies
interested?

Are there
multiple places across
the country where
the problem occurs?

Are there a number
of existing solutions
for the problem?