



?? Identify the Problem

Exercise – Identifying the Problem

Methodology:

When working with a number of people from the SAME organization, this exercise will help you facilitate the identification of the problem they will work on together using the **Strategic Effectiveness Method**.

Objectives:

- To identify a key problem participants want to work to address.
- To build awareness among the participants (and potentially their organizations) of their commonalities and differences.
- To help the participants identify potential areas for future collaborative efforts.

Getting Ready:

This exercise should take approximately 30 minutes. The materials you will need include: blank/notebook paper; pens/pencils for each person in the group; flip chart paper; marker pen.

The Group Exercise Process:

1. Individual Process (5 minutes): Ask each person to reflect and write on a piece of paper TWO problems or issues that are most important to them. (This individual process should take about 3-5 minutes.)
2. Ask each member of the small group to share their two problems or issues with the others in the group.
3. Everyone in the group works together to decide on the ONE problem or issue that they will all agree to work on together during the workshop.

Reflection and Sharing:

Now that the group has decided on a problem, everyone in the group should work together to describe the problem or issue in a short phrase. As the facilitator, write these short phrases on a piece of flip chart paper to share with everyone in the workshop. USE BIG LETTERS.

Facilitation Note:

Assist the group in using human rights language for phrasing their problem. For example, **People with disabilities do not have access to polling places to exercise their right to vote**. Build agreement on the statement for an operating definition of the problem. Additional problem analysis is critical. There are tools such as the Problem Tree (use the Worksheet - Problem Tree Analysis), or [Cutting the Issue](#), as well as others.

Source: Initially developed and written by Philippe Duhamel and Nancy Pearson for the New Tactics Asia Regional Workshop, August 2005.

