

# ROOT CAUSE IDENTIFICATION TOOL

**1 STEP 1: IDENTIFY THE PROBLEM**

Write down a single issue in the form of a personal statement.  
 Ex: 70% of the community thinks that giving oral polio vaccine is a "somewhat good" idea

**2 STEP 2: WHAT'S CAUSING THE PROBLEM?**

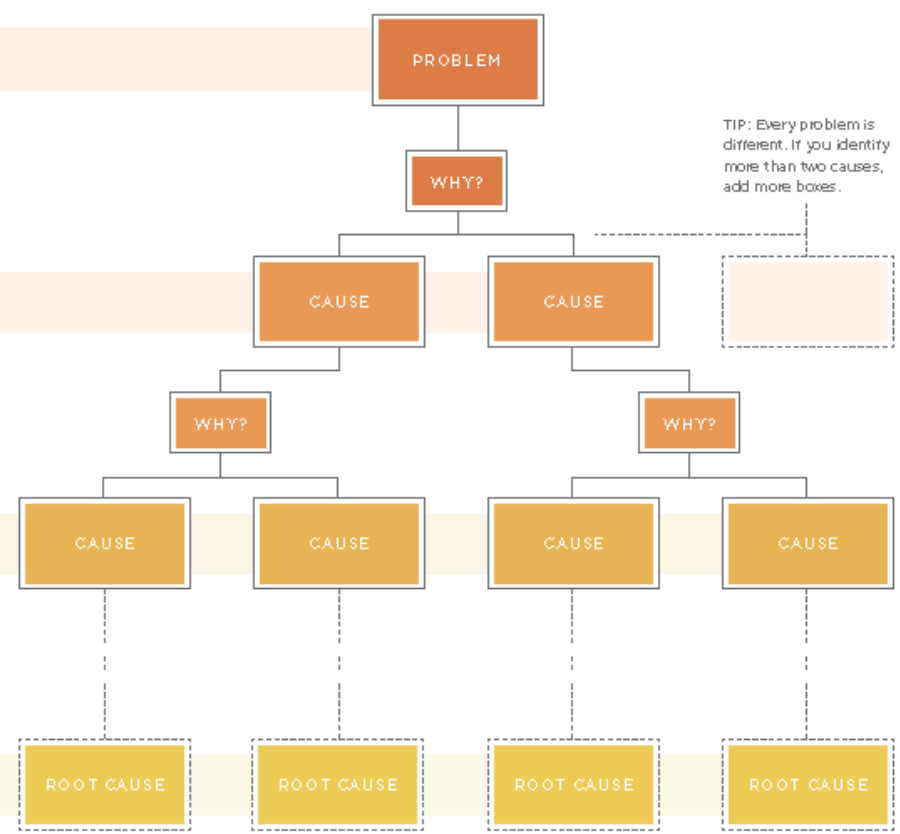
Identify what's causing the problem by asking "Why?"  
 Ex: Why?  
 80% of the community is not concerned about polio.

**3 STEP 3: KEEP GOING**

Continue to ask "Why?" until you can no longer answer the question.  
 Ex: Why?  
 70% of the community believes that the symptoms are curable.

**4 STEP 4: ROOT CAUSE IDENTIFICATION**

Once you can no longer answer "Why?" you have reached the root cause. You now have a list of barriers that you can effectively act upon.  
 Ex: Why?  
 Traditional healers, a trusted source of medical information, tell them that most diseases are curable, and medicine is only for "curative" purposes. Root Cause: Continging Knowledge



TIP: Every problem is different. If you identify more than two causes, add more boxes.

TIP: Every problem is different. It may take fewer, or even more causes to reach your root cause. Keep asking "Why?"