

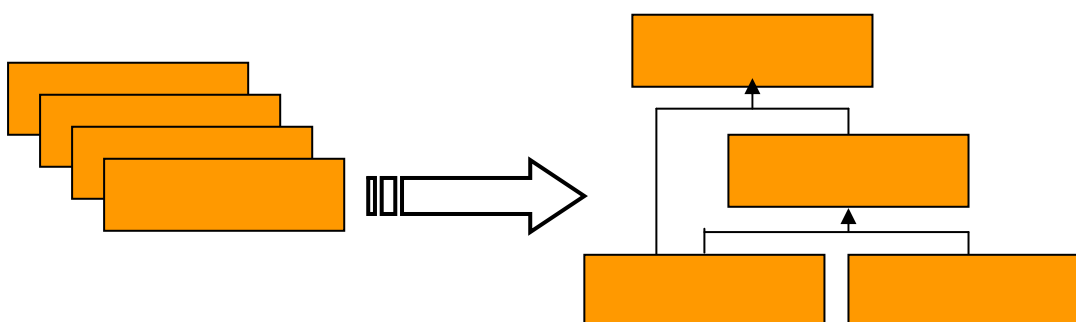
## Streamlined approach for building trees and the logical framework

### A – Problem analysis

The "problem tree" demonstrates the impact of a problem plus its root causes, while providing a means of identifying the true origins of an unsatisfactory situation.

*The key stages are:*

1. identify one or two (initial) basic problems affecting the target group (s)
2. identify the related problems/ constraints
3. analyse and identify the cause and effect relationships and create a preliminary outline of a problem tree.
4. check the causality logic



#### a – Identify and formulate the problems

*Problem = current unsatisfactory situation:*

- needs that are not met or might not be met;
- situations immediately felt as negative;
- causes of these dissatisfactions: waste, conflicts, under-investment...

*Precaution:*

- Avoid thinking in terms of "missing solutions". Think about the future project without any preconceived notions.
- State the problems precisely and clearly
- Break down the problem and avoid any repetition.

<i>A well expressed problem is :</i>	<i>A well expressed problem is not :</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>—a single idea (break down the ideas)</li> <li>—expressed as a negative situation</li> <li>—a combination of a (partially) subjective perception and an objective reality</li> <li>— successful at identifying stationary situations ("low incomes") and underlying situations ("reduced incomes")</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>—a review of natural constraints (low rainfall)</li> <li>—a lack of specific solutions when others might be feasible (ex: highlighting the shortage of water is acceptable, but not the shortage of mineral water)</li> <li>—minor or individual problems</li> </ul>

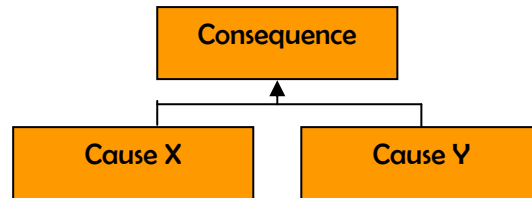
In the light of this initial "framework" the problem to be analysed has to be broad-based (undertaken in the light of the needs and not (yet) the opportunities for action):

- gradually identify the causes and consequences of the initial problems,
- exceed the capabilities for response, include more problems than can be solved

## b – Cause and effect relationships

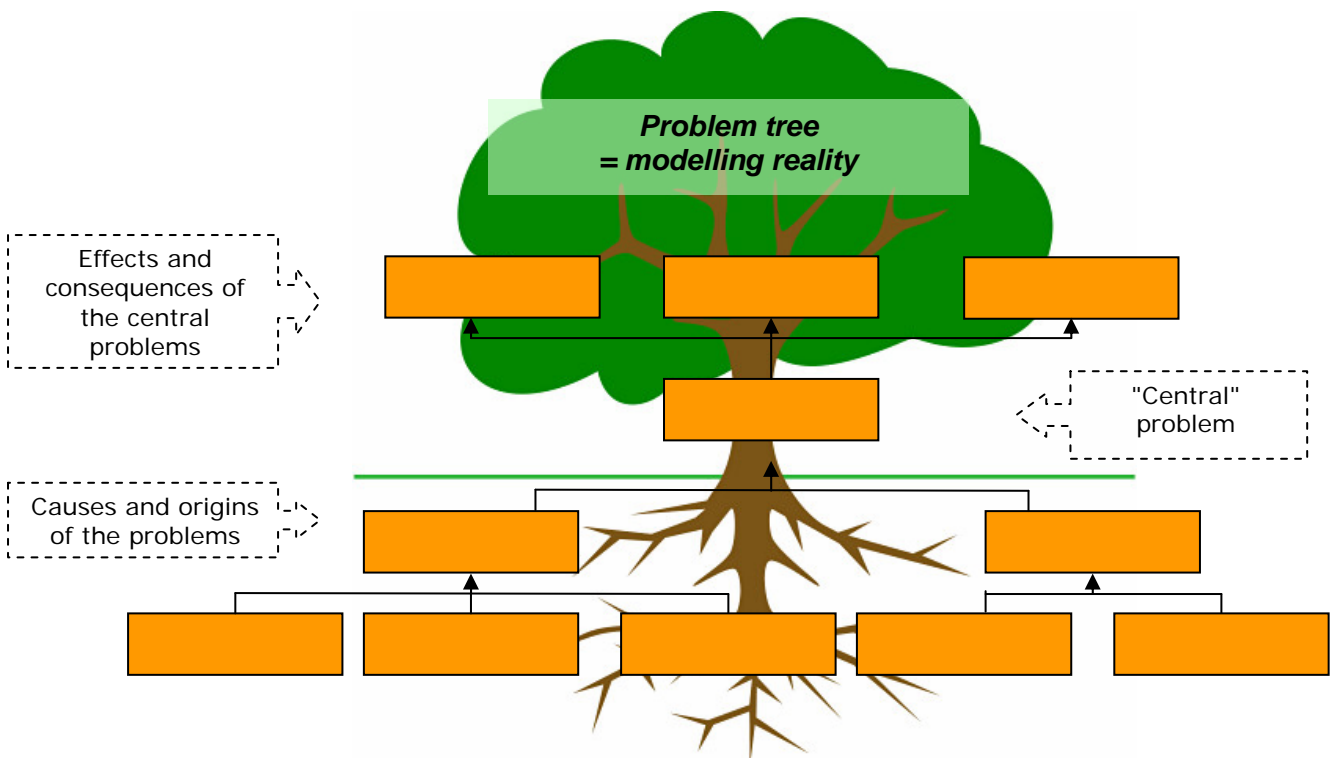
Convention for representing causal links in the tree

- Consequences: above.
- Causes: below
- The arrows show the direct relationships.



Precaution:

- Check the compatibility of the direct and indirect links ;
- Do not create the tree on the basis of a central problem chosen ex ante ;
- Check to see if all the causal problems lead to a consequential problem at each level ;
- Consider the existence of other unspecified or underlying problems directly leading to the consequential problem.



### Practical tip

1. Identify the problem on the basis of the text in part 2 of the document received
2. Write 1 problem per file (post-it, for example)
3. Organise the files in relation to each other so as to create the causal links.
4. Once the logic of the relationship between the problems has been checked, the tree may be recopied on paper.