

# Mapping the system & Overlaying forces

Build a visual systems map and synthesize key insights for each part of that system.

## Description

Building a systems map will allow participants to understand the whole of the system as it works currently and, along with the work done in Tools 3, 4, 7 and 8, lays the groundwork for understanding the huge problems within the system.

**Suggested time** 20-30 hrs facilitator prep; 2 hrs exercise

**Level of difficulty** Difficult

**Materials needed** System research materials, mural board

## Steps

1

Layout major components

2

Research and map key flows

3

Synthesize the "5 Things You Should Know"

4

Study the components and flows

**Check how we used this in WFP-X:**

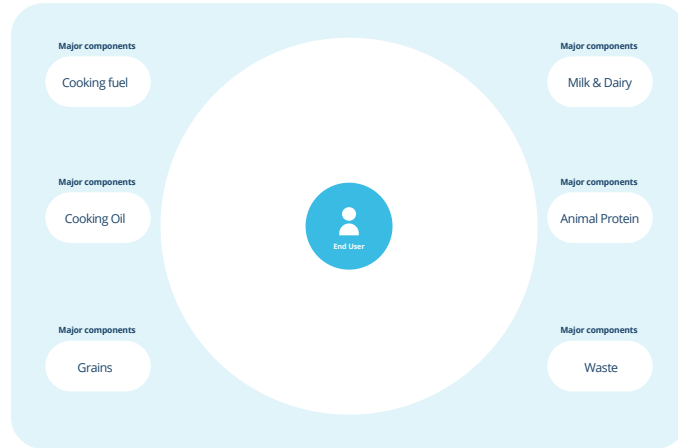
**Mural Link:** <https://app.mural.co/t/wfpx20daressalaam8404/m/wfpx20daressalaam8404/1596774696742/dc274dc716a9a5a9887bf86c8e0b544fb7c8eea9>

**Resource library:** <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1UpQt3DiTX2szYEA8mMHjpMZgo81-lbqH?usp=sharing>

## Tool 8 / Mapping the system & Overlaying forces

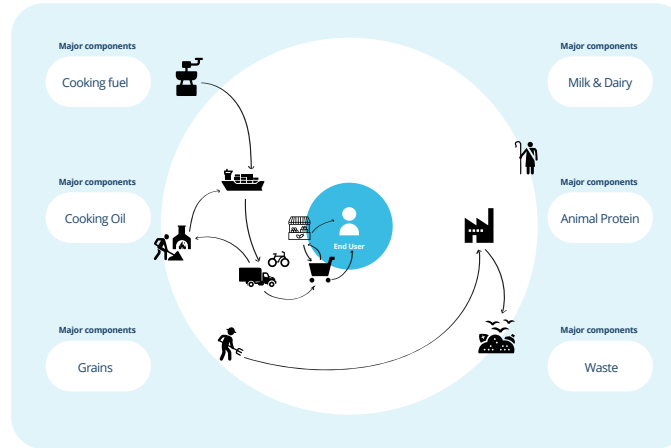
Build a visual systems map and synthesize key insights for each part of that system.

### Example



### Step 1

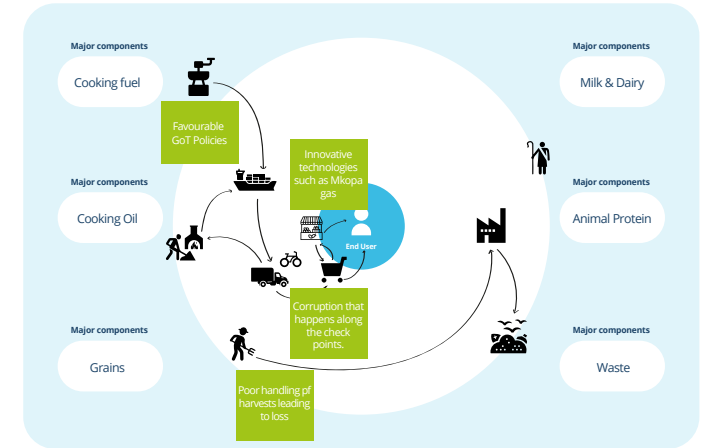
Layout the major components of the system you are exploring on your canvas with the end user at the center. Major components are the broad groups of products within the system such as oil, grains, waste and others.



### Step 2

Bring together your country-specific research on each of the major components and begin mapping out the journey from the point of origin to the final consumer. Use post-its and icons to map the stakeholders, drawing arrows between them as connections are made on route to the end consumer.

Use post-its and icons to map the stakeholders, drawing arrows between them as connections are made on route to the end consumer.



### Step 3

For each of the core flows, from source to end consumer, identify the 5 Things You Should Know (5TYSK).

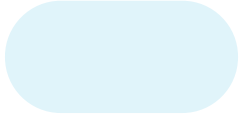
The 5TYSK are key insights that allow you and your participants to quickly understand where challenges exist within each flow and should be directly related to the North Star outcomes you are pursuing.

## Tool 8 / Mapping the system & Overlaying forces

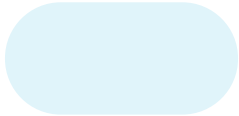
Build a visual systems map and synthesize key insights for each part of that system.

---

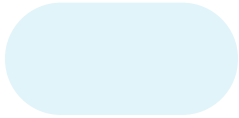
Major components



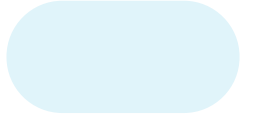
Major components



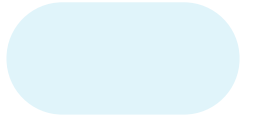
Major components



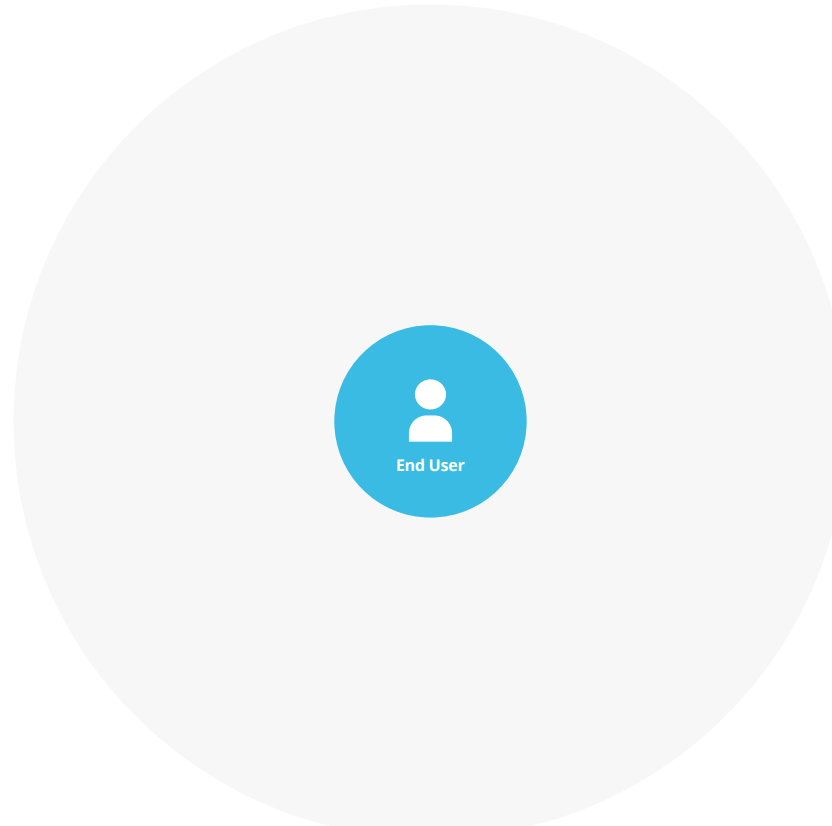
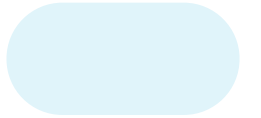
Major components



Major components



Major components



## Tool 8 / Mapping the system & Overlaying forces

Build a visual systems map and synthesize key insights for each part of that system.

### Your task in this step

Have presenters break into groups to study one or two of the components, their process flows and the 5TYSK. Have them add sticky notes onto the map to ask questions or challenge assumptions. Then have groups generate response to the following three questions:



### Suggested time

10 minutes

**1**

What stakeholders or key gaps might exist in the map?

Fill the tool task sheet

**2**

What are the bottlenecks/pain points in the system?

**3**

What are the biggest opportunities in the system?