WORKSHEET
Define the Challenge

When beginning a design challenge, it’s important to define the challenge and make sure that you and your teammates share a common understanding of what it is you are aiming to achieve with your design. Use this worksheet to define your challenge and generate a design question.

1. Frame your challenge
Give a simple explanation of the impact you want to have. (Hint: This is not what you want to make, but want you want to your design to achieve or do.)

2. Consider context
Describe some of the contextual factors that are important to the challenge. (Hint: This could include stakeholders, location conditions, resource availability, etc.)

3. Design question:
Using the information above, phrase your challenge as a question:

How might we ________________________________?

4. Test the question:
Is it too broad? Your question should give a sense for the context in which you are designing as well as the impact you want to have and what/who it benefits. If it doesn’t, it may be too broad.

Is it too narrow? Your question should be somewhat open-ended to ensure you haven’t jumped to conclusions about what you are designing. If your question is very specific, it may be too narrow.

5. Try again, if necessary:

How might we ________________________________?