

INTRO



Welcome to Part 2 of 3 in the Take Action Lab Changemakers Workshop!

- 01 Finding My Flame:** Identify what you're passionate about and where to put your energy as a changemaker.
- **02 Looking at the Landscape:** Assess the resources, people and opportunities available.
- 03 Activating my Agency:** Explore the kind of role you could play and decide on the action you will take.

Part 2: Looking at the Landscape

What you'll accomplish:

- Begin researching your issue.
- Identify who else is connected to or working on your issue.
- Assess the resources available to you.

Activity 1: Complete your Landscape Analysis

So, you've narrowed down the issue that you want to focus on – awesome!

Up next: Conducting a “Landscape Analysis.” This is a method to better understand your issue and identify who else might be already working on it. Taking the time to do this assessment will help you be more strategic later on about how to make an impact.

Use the worksheet on the next page to create your Landscape Analysis.

- **Step 1: The Flowers of Fact!** Do some research about the issue you have chosen and then put a relevant fact in each of the flowers. A fact is something that is objectively true (e.g. a statistic, a verified statement, a scientific fact, a theory). Think about: primary sources, secondary sources, the reliability of sources, opinions vs facts

- **Step 2: The Root of the Issue!** In the earth, put down some of the root causes behind the facts that you have gathered. What are the beliefs, conditions, or actions that lead to the facts? Think about: With each root cause, challenge yourself to dig deeper by asking ‘why’. You might be surprised by how many layers deep a root cause can go!

- **Step 3: The Rays of Energy!** In the sunbeams, find the key stakeholders and organizations putting energy into your issue. Think about: Who are the individuals and organizations that campaign or work on your issue? What organizations have responsibility for your issue? (e.g. a municipal government). What examples are there of solutions to your issue in other places?

- **Step 4: The Clouds of Tension!** In the clouds, put what might be some of the tensions about your issue. For example, are there differing perspectives about the issue? Are enough resources being directed to the issue? Are there any competing issues? Think about: Consider different perspectives from different stakeholders (e.g. people impacted by the issue, people who work on the issue, people who make laws or policies about the issue, people who provide funding for the issue, the non-human life impacted by the issue)



Activity 2: Bridging the Gap

Now that you've created your landscape analysis, take a step back and consider the whole picture. Are there any opportunities you can identify where a need is not being met? Write down these opportunities below.

Examples:

- You found that a school in your area runs a student leadership program but there isn't one at your own school.
- You found out that the local government is piloting a composting scheme but it doesn't extend to your neighborhood.



Activity 3: Asset Based Soup!

It can be easy to get weighed down by all the problems and challenges in a landscape analysis. But only focusing on the negative means we miss out on all the abundance that also exists. As changemakers we stay on the lookout for the bright spots and help identify the resources, connections, and opportunities that make change possible.

Have you ever heard the story Stone Soup? The basic premise is that travelers come to a village hungry. They don't have any food, but by getting other people excited to contribute ingredients to their stone soup they end up with a delicious pot of soup that everyone can share!

Imagine your issue is a metaphoric stone soup. What 'ingredients' could you collect to add to your pot?

→ **People**

- What can different people contribute?
- Who can you speak with who has created a similar project or faced similar challenges?
- Who will be your biggest supporters?

→ **Ideas**

- Where can you draw inspiration from?
- Where will you look for ideas that lead you in the right direction?
- How will you decide which ideas to pursue and which ideas need more thought?

→ **Organizations**

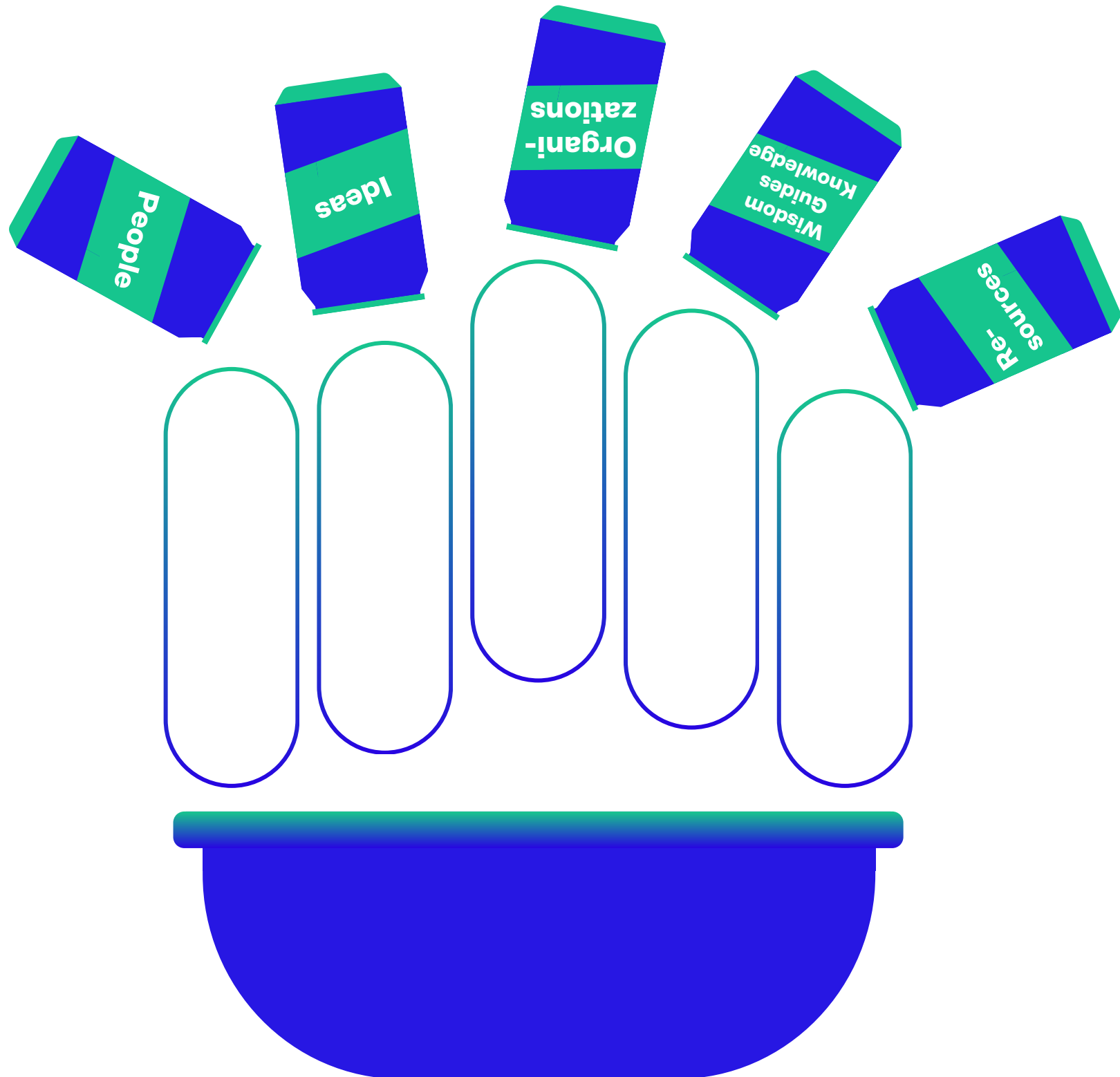
- What organizations already exist doing similar work?
- What organizations could you collaborate with?
- What challenges have other organizations faced that you expect you may come across, too?

→ **Wisdom / Guides / Knowledge**

- How can you use intergenerational learning to understand what others have done before you?
- What lessons have already been learned?
- How can you balance innovation with not reinventing the wheel?

→ **Resources (books, articles, documentaries, news reports, etc.)**

- Can an internet search help you find valuable resources and information?
- What resources are available to you as you embark on a new project or as challenges arise?
- Are there items around that could be repurposed or used to help you?



Activity 4: Together We Can!

In this activity we're going to explore some of the different paths open to you as a changemaker, and consider which will help you make the most impact. Will you be best positioned by joining an existing organization, starting a new group, or going solo?

Reflect on each approach and add your pros and cons to the chart below. We've put some examples below to help you get started (but feel free to ignore them if they don't apply to you!). Once you've filled in the chart completely, step back and review each option. Which approach seems most fitting for your situation?

PROS

CONS

Doing something by myself

- Fully in control

- Keeping up my own motivation

Starting a new group or organization with others

- We can address an issue that isn't being addressed at the moment in our context

- There are already so many organizations out there - isn't it better to join forces for greater impact?

Joining an existing group or organization

- I can learn from others who have got more experience than me

- I may not be able to fully focus on the area I want to within the structure of another organization

Other possibility.....

- Other Pros...

- Other Cons...

Thank you for joining us!



If you enjoyed this workshop, you're likely a great candidate for Take Action Lab!

We invite you to learn more about our immersive learning program where students learn how to create a meaningful impact on human rights issues during a semester in South Africa.

