



YOUR RESEARCH PLAN

WORKSHEET

What is it for?

This worksheet is designed to help you translate your policy issue into a concrete and actionable research plan. While the Policy Landscape Analysis helps you understand the bigger picture, this is about shaping your own contribution to that picture through targeted inquiry.

By working through these questions, you'll develop a clearer sense of direction and feasibility for your research. The goal is to make your work more focused, strategic, and grounded in the realities of the issue you're addressing.

Use this as a living document to guide your next steps – and adapt it as your project evolves.

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What is your core research question? Formulate it clearly and concisely. What exactly do you want to find out?



Why does this question matter for policy? How could your findings inform decisions, shape debates, or support advocacy?



What are your assumptions or working hypotheses? What do you expect to find – and what are you testing or exploring?



Which key actors do you need to speak to or learn from? Think broadly in terms of sectors but specific in terms of actors.



What methods will you use to gather insights? Interviews, focus groups, surveys, desk research, field visits – be specific.



How will you access your sources or contacts? Do you already have networks you can tap into? Who can help you make connections?



What challenges do you anticipate—and how will you deal with them? Think about ethical concerns, access barriers, or knowledge gaps you might face.



What's your timeline for this research? Sketch a rough plan: when will you do what? Consider prep time, outreach, follow-ups.