



MzN Sprint

Designing a solution to complex strategy challenges for an aid and development organisation in 2 days



Getting Started

Before we meet for the first time, we will send you information about the Sprint process and allow you to assemble the Sprint team.

1st Briefing (1 hr): You tell us the most important challenge your organisation is facing or the opportunity your organization would like to use. At the end of the session, we will brief you about the next steps.



Definition workshop

A couple of weeks before the start of the workshop, we will conduct a 2-hour online workshop to get a clear understanding of the challenge or opportunity. We do this using the MzN-Solution Map - a MzN model combining the Theory of Change approach with a Startup-Canvas.

This initial workshop is also a good way to align the team and get everyone up to speed. By the end, we should agree on the challenge or opportunity as a single sentence.



The workshop - Day 1

1. Where are we heading?

Every journey starts with a goal.

We start by agreeing on a challenge or opportunity statement and then define the long-term goal.

2. What does “perfect” look like?

Most strategic goals get watered down or drift away. To avoid this, we will together develop the end state clearly.

What will our programme, organisation and impact look like **when we are done?**

A realistic design of the end state is what we need to test the concept with colleagues, beneficiaries and partnering organisations.

We focus entirely on what does this look like when it's done.

3. What are the milestones?

Every journey has milestones. We will set them out and sequence them.

Let's cover some floorspace!

4. Brainstorm and Move

Let's get moving!

And by doing so, we move the conversation to the “how” questions, focussing entirely on finding the best route towards success.

The workshop - Day 2

1. Narrow Our Focus

We have established **a few pathways to success**, but we cannot do all of them.

We need to decide which elements have the best chance of success and combine them into a possible pathway.

2. Use Our Imagination

We know the final state and the best pathway.

Wonderful.

That alone makes it a worthwhile couple of days, but let's take it one step further.

In an imaginary capacity, skill and resources workshop we list out everything we need to achieve for every milestone.

3. Share Our Findings

At the end of the day, **we present our end state**, pathways, milestones and list to stakeholders, investors, partners and friends.

We learn from observing their reactions, recording their comments and consider adjustments to the plan.

4. Done!

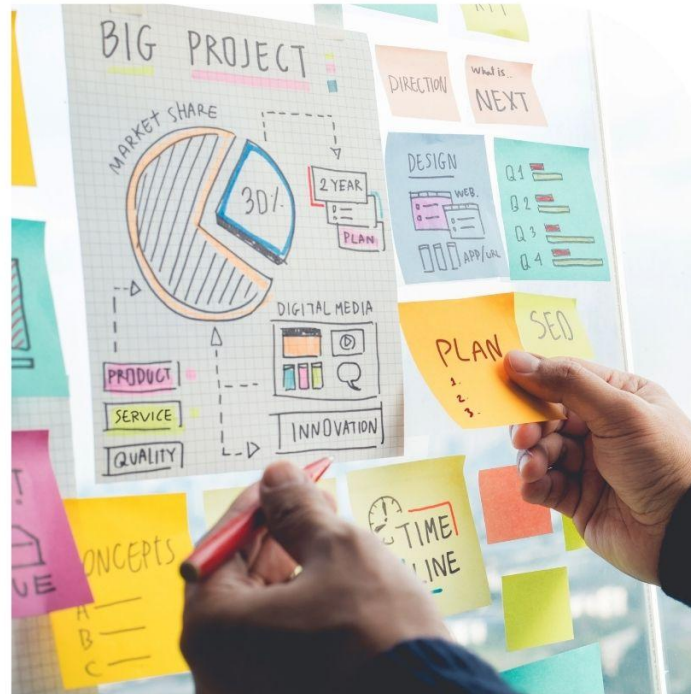
Who's **hungry**?!

Atmosphere

An MzN Sprint boosts our knowledge about where we want to go, how we might get there and what we need. Most importantly, it boosts motivation. It's a great way to get a team together under a shared vision and pathway to success.

We follow a structured process, with strict planning to move from vision to prototype in a short period of time.

You will leave the sprint exhausted, spinning with ideas, motivated and in a different mindset.



Who should join the Sprint?

Experience tells us that the ideal sprint team consists of **7 to 10 individuals**, where each one has a specific contribution* to the final results.

- **The programme expert:** someone who knows the customer or beneficiary, usually a programme leader, who has significant daily exposure to the people we work for.
- **The business expert:** someone who understands the organisation, usually makes decisions at C-Suite level.
- **The money manager:** someone who understands the financial situation and performance of the organisation, and its key programs or profit centres.
- **The people manager:** someone who understands the team and culture, what skills they have, what drives them and what they want to do.
- **The newbie:** someone who has not been in the organisation very long, has little or no experience in the sector and is happy to insert some fresh thinking.

*one person can have multiple roles

FAQs



1. What is an MzN Sprint?

Our sprint workshops are a high-pressure cooker event where we find solutions to organisational and strategy challenges.

2. What do I need to bring?

We will have a “no-screens” policy for most of the days together, but you may need your laptop. Also, bring a fresh pair of socks... you’ll see why!

3. Does the entire team need to be there all the time?

Yes. Everyday we start at 9am, and we aim to finish around 3pm. If you need time to work during the 2 days, then please feel free to come early or stay later.

4. How do I prepare?

You only need to bring yourself and lots of energy!

5. What about Covid-19?

To attend, you must send proof of your Covid-19 vaccination or your recovery from a Covid illness in the last 12 months. Please bring your vaccination proof with you each day. We accept PCR tests only for those who cannot get vaccinated for medical reasons.

Note: We operate carbon-negative

We offset all our carbon emissions. If your team travels to come to the sprint, we mandate that all carbon created will be offset twice. If your organisation does not have a carbon offset facility, then we will calculate the entire workshop’s footprint and offset it by planting trees.