A tool to build a team's awareness of adaptation needs and highlight existing adaptation skills.

The "What Could Possibly Go Wrong?" Game

A game for members of a team who progress across the game board by naming and discussing different sources of complexity that may require adaptation.

SOURCE: Syntegral

The game will familiarize you with responding to complex and changing situations while you build a shared language to talk about past and/or future challenges. This team exercise asks you to remember and share experiences with adaptation in order to build confidence that it can be done. It also strengthens a team's ability for future adaptation of INSPIRE activities selected for scale up.

AVAILABLE FORMATS: The worksheets included here are meant for printing at A4 size. Visit the Guide's website for downloadable interactive (fillable) PDF worksheets, alternate languages and alternative formats.
inspire-strategies.org/adaptationandscale

How to use this tool

1   Team selects a previous, current, or future activity that they have all worked on as the subject for the game.

2   A moderator explains the meaning of the different squares using the Tool.

3   Roll the dice and move around the board as a single group.

4   Land on an icon. To be able to move again, discuss an example from the activity that fits the icon—a stable (green) or unstable (orange) event that happened or could happen in terms of shifts due to program variables (context), the passage of time (temporal) or different understanding (interpretation).

5   Find agreement on these events, and write them down as you move through the board.

THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND

○   The moderator needs to understand the icons ahead of time.

○   No more than 6 people should play together to allow for active participation. They should have worked, are currently working, or will work on the same activity.

○   If your main purpose is to build capacity and confidence—select an activity from previous work.

○   If your main purpose is to build readiness to adapt—select an activity from current or future work.

REMINDER...FEEL FREE TO ADAPT THIS TOOL IN ANY WAY THAT WORKS FOR YOUR TEAM AND YOUR CONTEXT!

TOOL
1E The "What Could Possibly Go Wrong?" Game

INSTRUCTIONS

If the team playing has worked together on an activity in the past, that activity will be the focus of the game. If the team playing is currently or is planning to work on an activity, that activity will be the focus of the game.

Roll the die and move your piece (a coin or any small object) that number of squares.

A) If you land on an orange or green square, note if it is asking your team to discuss contextual, temporal, or interpretive activity scale-up factors for adaptation.

B) If you land on a vertical arrow or horizontal arrow, discuss with your team a vertical or horizontal scale-up issue. Be sure to write down the adaptation or scale-up issue that the team chooses.

KEY

STABLE   UNSTABLE

CONTEXTUAL: How a significant programmatic element required/might require adaptation.

TEMPORAL: How time required/might require a significant adaptation.

INTERPRETIVE: How a significant issue was/might be understood very differently by different stakeholders.
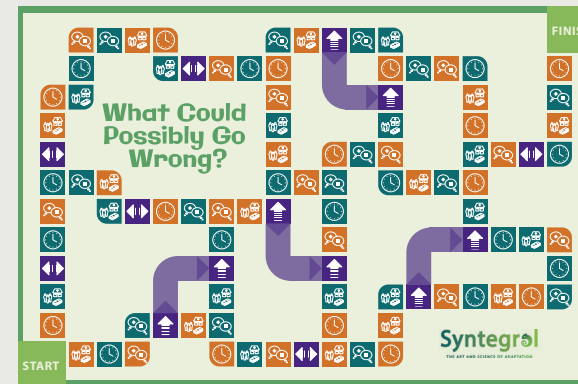
VERTICAL SCALE UP: What did we/will we do to integrate activities? How did we/will we do this?

HORIZONTAL SCALE UP: What did we/will we do to expand activities to new sites or populations? How did we/will we do this?

GAME BOARD

Use the game board on the following page.

TAKE AWAYS

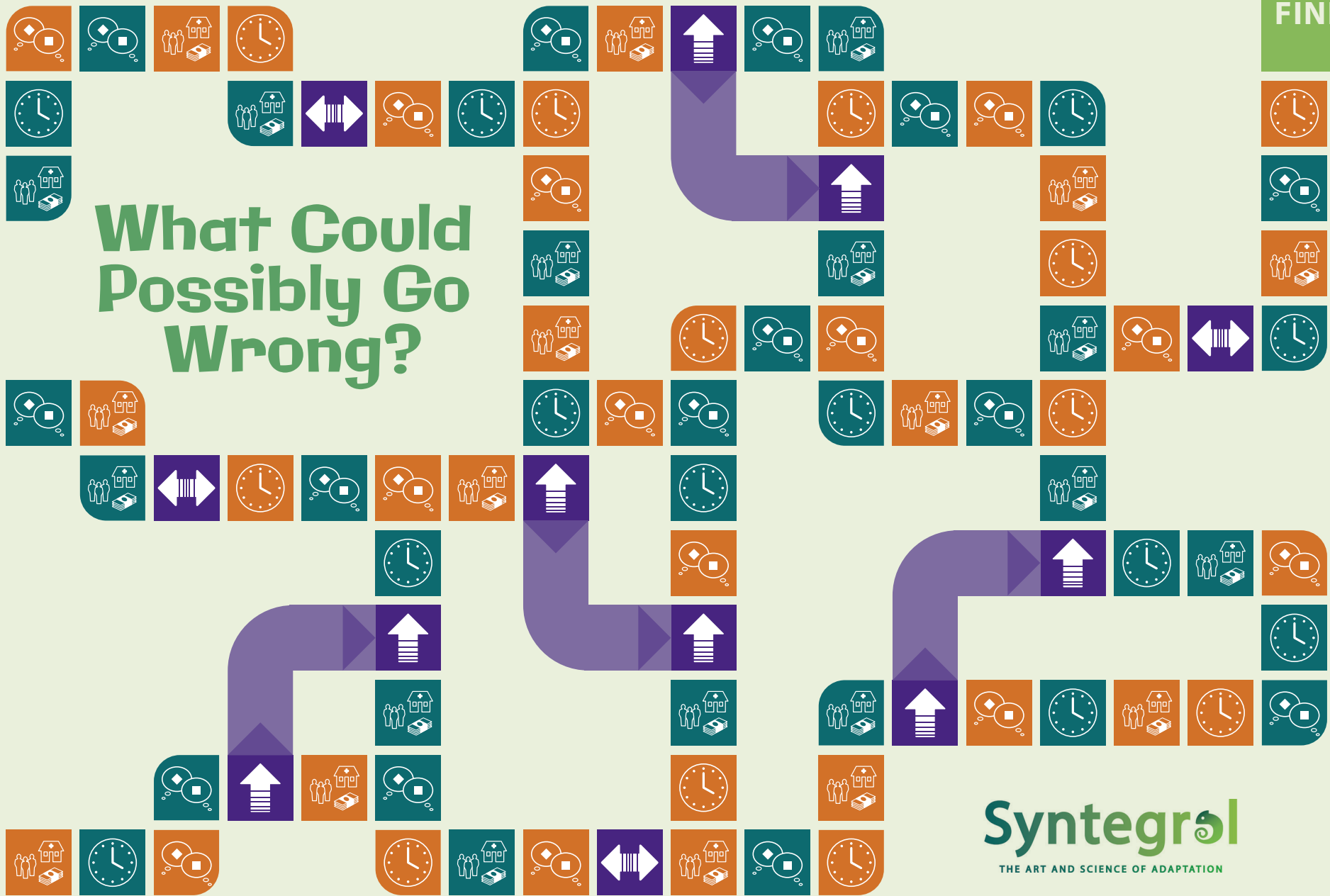After playing the Game, players should review the adaptations they discussed and consider:

- How project teams have adapted or will adapt to changing contexts.

- How and why we deal with changes in program realities, changes over time, and differences in understanding.

- The challenges of vertical scaling (institutionalization of an activity) and horizontal scaling (spreading an activity to new sites). Note: these important types of scale are covered in depth elsewhere in this Guide.

- The fact that team members already possess lots of adaptive capacity—and now it is time to strengthen it!

FINISH

What Could Possibly Go Wrong?

Syntegrol
THE ART AND SCIENCE OF ADAPTATION

START

INSPIRE | Tools for Adaptation and Scale Up

1E The "What Could Possibly Go Wrong?" Game

Now What?

YOU SHOULD NOW HAVE...

○ Increased confidence in your ability to adapt and respond to challenges

○ Awareness of likely adaptation needs

○ A shared language for complexity and adaptation to apply to future scale-up conversations

Act and apply

When completing other tools in the guide, consider complexity and anticipate "What could go wrong?"

Look again at your action plan, and identify places that are unstable. Keep an eye on those.

RELATED TOOLS:

• *Tool 1B*: Environmental Assessment: Ending Violence Against Children Timeline

• *Tool 1C*: Environmental Assessment: Domains