



## Session 2: Wicked Problems & Grand Challenges

**Overview** This session takes a look at the issues that social entrepreneurs are attempting to solve at their grand scope: Wicked Problems and Grand Challenges. These terms are defined and examples are given.

- Key Points**
- ❖ Most societal and environmental problems are very difficult to solve.
  - ❖ Interconnectivity is just one, but an important one, of the characteristics of wicked problems that make them difficult to solve.
  - ❖ No single venture can completely solve a wicked problem or grand challenge and that impacting just a few people or even a single community can make a really big difference.

- Discussion Questions**
1. What are all of the Wicked Problems that you can see in your own communities?
  2. What's the difference between entrepreneurship and gambling?
  3. Did you ever make or do something without instructions? How did it come out and how did you feel about the result?

**Additional Resources**

[Wicked Problems: Problems Worth Solving Project](#)

[The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy's site on 21st Century Grand Challenges](#)

[NAE Grand Challenges for Engineers](#)

- Possible Assignments**
1. Pick a Wicked Problem and try to get to the root and explore all of the interconnected problems.
  2. Watch the [Story of Stuff](#) video and identify all of the Wicked Problems mentioned in this story of production and consumption patterns worldwide.



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