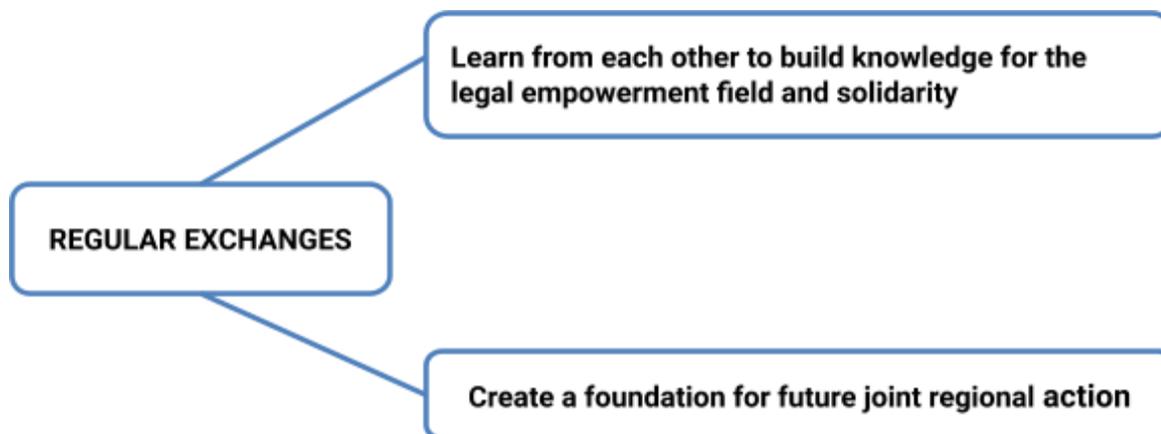




West Africa Virtual Legal Empowerment Conversations, 2021

Following the successful [Inaugural West Africa Legal Empowerment Summit](#), organisations from the region have identified regular exchanges as an important starting point for a regional conversation and collaborations.



We will begin with a series of virtual informal conversations that focus on paralegal management models in West Africa.

These sessions target 5-6 organisations from the region and will take place every 2 months. They are designed to be informal and interactive to create space for open dialogue and deep reflection.

The discussions will be documented so that we better understand where we are as a region and what we can do together to define the legal empowerment agenda for West Africa.

Through this series of conversations, we intend to strengthen links between legal empowerment organizations in West Africa.

Key points and takeaways from each conversation will be shared with other legal empowerment practitioners in West Africa and beyond.

SESSIONS

Date	Topic
21st Jan 2021	<p>How is your paralegal services program structured?</p> <p><u>THEMATIC / CASE-TYPE FOCUS:</u> Why do your paralegals focus on the kinds of cases they handle? If there are limits in case types, how are those limits set? Has the thematic / case-type focus evolved, and if so why?</p> <p><u>GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS:</u> Is there a geographic focus of your work? If so, why is this geographic focus chosen? Has the geographic focus evolved, and if so why?</p> <p><u>STRATEGIES:</u> What legal empowerment strategy has been most effective? What legal empowerment strategy has been least effective (or most challenging)? Have the strategies used evolved, and if so why?</p> <p>When interacting with the State, which strategy between collaboration and confrontation has been most effective ? why ?</p>
April 2021, TBD	<p>What paralegal training and support/supervision methods does your organization use?</p> <p><u>TRAINING:</u> What does your paralegal training consist of? How long does your paralegal training last? Do paralegals who complete the training get certified (or recognized in any other way)? Has your paralegal training evolved, and if so how?</p> <p><u>ONGOING PARALEGAL SUPPORT / SUPERVISION:</u> What kind of paralegal support and supervision methods does your organization use? What challenges have you encountered with your approach?</p>
July, 2021 TBD	<p>What is the profile of paralegals who work with your organization?</p> <p><u>PROFILE:</u> Who are the paralegals that work with your organization? Are there minimum qualifications? Has the profile of the paralegals who work with your organization evolved over time?</p> <p><u>REMUNERATION:</u> Are your paralegals remunerated? If so, how is remuneration calculated? What challenges have you encountered with your remuneration system? Has your remuneration system evolved?</p>
October 2021, TBD	<p>How do you manage cases?</p> <p>How do organisations document, track and follow up on cases?</p>

	<p>Is there a division of responsibility between paralegals and paralegal support NGO's?</p> <p>Is there a vertical network supporting the work of paralegals at the grassroots level?</p> <p>Does your organization make referrals to others for non-legal services?</p>
<p>Dec 2021, TBD</p>	<p>How do you measure your impact?</p> <p>How do you define impact?</p> <p>How do you measure the impact of your paralegal services?</p> <p>Is there a linkage between your case work and systemic change? What does this process look like?</p>
<p>TBD</p>	<p>What strategies do you use to sustain your paralegal services work?</p> <p>How does your organization sustain its paralegal work?</p> <p>What would be a sustainable paralegal structure for your organisation?</p> <p>To what extent would recognition by the State sustain paralegal services work?</p>