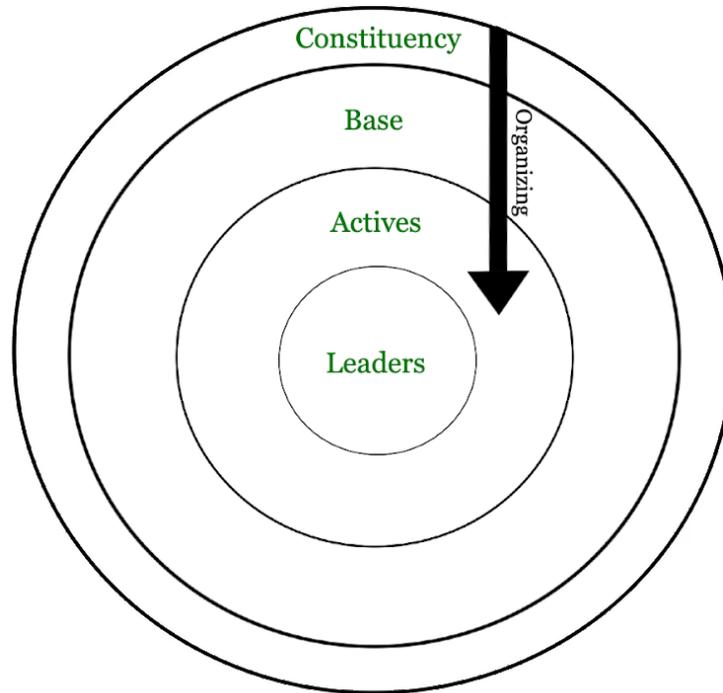


## Organizing in a Legal Empowerment Context: Self Assessment Worksheet

Question	Answer
<p><b>Describe a case or advocacy effort that could have benefited from an organizing approach</b></p>	<p><i>This could be a single case, a collective case, or a campaign for systemic change. Pick one that you are/were involved with and can address in detail, and this worksheet will help you think through how it could have benefited from an organizing approach.</i></p>
<p><b>What roles were created for the justice seeker(s) or community members?</b></p>	<p><i>Think of the whole range of activities that come with casework or mobilizing collective action: legal advice, research, document preparation, communication, planning, setting up meetings, speaking to government officials, mobilizing others, etc. How much did justice seekers take on, and how much was driven by paralegals or program staff?</i></p>
<p><b>How could justice seeker(s) or community members have been activated to take on a bigger role in the case or campaign?</b></p>	<p><i>Examples:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>“Instead of the paralegal, the client could have gone to the ministry to request an update on their paperwork.”</i></li> <li>- <i>“Clients could have helped come up with the public messaging we put out during the campaign.”</i></li> <li>- <i>“Clients could have collected stories or data from their neighbors to show how widespread the issues are.”</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>How could an organizer have designed the case or campaign to build the power of affected community members?</b></p>	<p><i>What would allow community members to more effectively take on the next fight? What training, connections, opportunities, or experience could help them be stronger or more confident? What would make those in power view them differently?</i></p> <p><i>Examples:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>“We could have created client groups so they could meet people facing similar problems and work together on a range of strategies to build power.”</i></li> <li>- <i>“More training and practice on public speaking or storytelling would have made justice seekers more effective when speaking to decision makers.”</i></li> </ul>

## Identifying our Base and Beyond

How would you describe your team's community? Think about what characteristics each group shares, how your team built a relationship with them, how many are in each group, what they do for your team, and how your team supports them.



**Constituency:** This is the whole of the population who are affected by the issues you work on in the places where you work. Who are the people impacted by the issues you work that could benefit from your casework or systemic change efforts?

**Base:** This is the entirety of the people who we can reach, teach, and mobilize.

**Actives:** A subset of the base that we rely on to do more than just show up or sign on, those that we ask to give their input, participate in forums, invite others to join us, and mobilize in other ways.

**Leaders: The small group of people that we rely on and support to take on more responsibility in our decisions and actions.**