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COMMUNITY PUBLICATION - HUAMBO

Project Final Report



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for the

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

From August 2000 to June 2001, the British Embassy in Angola has provided funding for a community publishing project in Huambo, coordinated and executed by the organization Development Workshop Angola (DW). The objective of the project was to develop a model of community publishing appropriate to the Angolan context to ensure better quality community research on human rights abuses.

In partnership with the African Community Publishing Development Trust (ACPDT) in Zimbabwe, DW has reached the objective and developed a strong program that currently involves six community groups with some 150 members actively involved in research and publication activities. Results of these activities can be observed on various levels:

Publications, published or ready to publish

A monthly newsletter, a book on live stories, two literacy manuals, 10 community research activities, 6 published papers, a booklet of cartoons and 6 published interviews.

Community initiatives

More active engagement of traditional leaders with local government structures, construction of 16 literacy class rooms, research and production of traditional medicine, dancing groups, and a community library.

Overall, the project has given a voice to those that are often marginalized from provincial and national social, political and economic life. It has helped to give confidence to people and to facilitate processes that help to empower communities and to make them stronger. As a traditional leader after a meeting with community publishing groups from different communities said: 'Alone, we are too weak to change things. But if we work together among the different communities, know each other and each others problems, then we can make a change.'



2. INTRODUCTION

Community Publishing is an innovative approach to the empowerment of the poor and the vulnerable in emerging democracies where the systems and institutions do not guarantee representation for the poor or demand accountability from those who are exercising power on behalf of the poor. The community Publishing process facilitates the poor to implement their own research and use the published results of their research to disseminate the reality of their situation more widely and to directly pressurize their local authorities to respond to their real needs.

In August 2000, DW Huambo started to implement a community publishing project with funding from the British Embassy in Angola. The community publishing approach used in Huambo has been practiced by the African Community Publishing Development Trust (ACPDT) in Zimbabwe during the last years. The experience in Zimbabwe has been positive, giving confidence to rural Ndebele and Tonga villagers. Participating villages have won significant gains in recognition of their culture and in respect for their human rights in relation to access to basic services and more just distribution of available resources. Also the project in Huambo had very positive experiences with an adapted community publishing model. A consultant from ACPDT has visited the Huambo project and given invaluable input. Further in September 2001, four members of the project (including the coordinator) went to Zimbabwe for a ten days visit. These visits helped to develop a strong program in Huambo that, although in start-up phase, has shown considerable results that are presented in this report.

In regard to the project's impact, it is important to understand that the project reaches a segment of society that is often marginalized when discussing human rights and peace in Angola. These are provincial, peri-urban and rural communities. Community publishing in Huambo therefore gives an input where national initiatives for peace and the respect for human rights are not very active and influential. Lessons learned and experiences from community publishing in Huambo are therefore important on the national level – this in regard when considering the importance of a national, broad based and representative peace movement.

3. DW HUAMBO'S COMMUNITY PUBLISHING APPROACH

METHODOLOGY OF INTERVENTION

The project uses what is called a "context methodology", meaning that the project context defines the way of intervention, pace of intervention and methodologies used. It is a flexible and explicit "bottom-up" approach. Nevertheless, some specific steps can be mentioned that may help to illustrate the way of intervention by the project:

1. Creation of water and school committees by DW's Water/Sanitation (watsan) and school building (shelter) program
2. Best committees are chosen by the community publishing project
3. Community publishing project engages with the chosen community, encouraging and facilitating a thorough analysis of the social structures of a given community. This analysis is done and presented by community members themselves.
4. In the course of this work, more people join the existing water and school committees, so that at the end of a community analysis often some 40-50 people are involved in the work.
5. With those people more specific researches are carried out and published (e.g. in the 'Ondaka' newsletter). Alphabetization courses are integral to this work, involving the wider community.

The community publishing approach in Huambo therefore contains following components:

CONTENT OF INTERVENTION

Literacy

Literacy is the basis of all activities related to information and therefore to community publication. For this reason, the project has established literacy courses in 4 of the 6 communities where community publishing groups were established.

Cultural Activities

Through colonisation and later the armed conflict, the cultural heritage of the people of the Plano Alto is threatened. This does have a negative impact on community structures as values important for social life are lost and social structures disrupted. For communities to become more vocal through community publishing, efforts are undertaken to strengthen the self-confidence and peace within and among those communities. In this regard, encouraging cultural activities creates space and dynamics that play an important role for community publishing activities in the context of Huambo.

Research activities

Raising awareness is often the starting point to improve a certain situation. Through research activities on specific activities, the community publishing groups (that initiate, conduct and communicate the research) help to raise awareness on certain issues that facilitates action to improve their immediate living environment.

Publication activities

Written publications are a powerful tool for communities to raise awareness about issues of concern for them. Language and target group of publications are important factors.

Radio broadcasting

Given the high level of illiteracy, radio broadcasting is an important medium, also for community publishing.

Building relationships

Research activities, cultural activities and publishing often brings different communities together, facilitating the exchange of information and building of new relationships.

4. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

The project is currently active in six different communities: Bairro do Lossambo, S. Bartolomeu, Capango, S. Pedro, Lumbandi (km 25) and Casseque III.

Lossambo:

Community location and characteristics:

It is a small village, 8 km east of the city of Huambo, that has been affected by the instability in the region including the 1999 period of shelling.

Community publishing group characteristics:

The group has 30 members (23 women, 7 men). It is a very dynamic and active group.

Activities of the group:

Survey on health within the community, analyzing the communities mortality rate as well as the causes for various diseases. The study suggested increased health education for improving health as many diseases are caused by a lack of knowledge on basic health issues. A part on the study also touched on the AIDS issue and was presented to the then Director of health, Sr. Cachicolo. He prohibited the publication of the study, considering it as being a shame for Huambo.

Study on traditional medicines. Many of the results were published in 'Ondaka'.

Planned: A community farming field for those in need, to be started in the next agricultural season.

Visit to the group in Lumbandi (see below), with the aim of information exchange and building relationships.

Construction of two community schools.

Literacy

80 students enrolled, with a first school pass rate of 70%

Vilinga/S. Bartolomeu

Community location and characteristics:

It is a city peripheral 'bairro' on the road towards Bié. It has the same characteristics as Lossambo.

Community Publishing group characteristics:

The group has 17 members (4 women and 13 men)

Activities of the group:

Dance group that performs the Olundongo traditional dance.

On 25 June 2001, the group initiated the construction of a house destined to cultivate and process traditional medical herbs. The construction of the building is done with advise and support of DW' school construction project.

A survey for assessing the number of street children in the bairro, and analyzing the conditions they are living in with the ultimate aim to disseminate the information gathered in the form of a written document.

Literacy

There are no literacy classes being held in Viling/S. Bartolomeu.

Samacau

Community characteristics:

The community is in the 'bairro' of S. Pedro, near the biggest market in the city.

Community Publishing group characteristics:

The group has experience difficulties as many members left, not being satisfied by the remuneration for their activities. The remaining ones (3 men and 1 woman) however are strong in collecting data for publications.

One of the male members of the group became a member of DW's community publishing team and participated on the visit to Zimbabwe in September 2001.

Activities of the group:

Training session on information gathering, to study and discuss mechanisms for gathering stories and proverbs to be included in the 'Ondaka' newsletter.

A community library: The group used an existing building to install a small library.

Literacy

4 classrooms, 101 students enrolled.

Kapango Nzaji

Community characteristics:

This community is an urban bairro

Community Publishing group characteristics:

14 members (2 women, 12 men)

Members of the group have basic schooling. The group has improved a lot in its leadership, which, for many months, was a problem. The group's strength is the knowledge of the mother tongue Umbundu and of the cultural values of the high plateau people.

Literacy

90 students enrolled, of 45 participating in a test on 4 June 2001, 60% passed on a test. There are considerable drop outs from the literacy classes due to illnesses that affect the community.

Lumbandi (km 25)

Community characteristics:

It is a small village some 47 km from Huambo city and 25 km south of Caála that has suffered greatly with the instability in the region. In the wake of the 1998-1999 crisis, the village was left almost desert with its residents seeking refuge in the city of Caála. Due to an improvement in the security conditions and support from national and international organizations, the village is undergoing revitalization. The increase in agricultural activity is visible, a community school was built and a health center is functioning although at half swing for lack of medicines.

Activities of the group:

Production of many documents published by the national NGO ADRA

Holding of a meeting on the occasion of the visit of the Lussambo group with the objective of sharing experiences and improving relationships between the two communities. The meeting has been attended by the respective community leaders.

Study on the history of their community.
Assistance in the construction of a community school for their children.
Plans to build a health center in the Kwala II 'bairro'.
An animation theatre group that is performing regularly.

Literacy

There are no literacy classes held in this community.

Casseque III

Community characteristics:

It is the biggest displaced camp in the province of Huambo. People from the municipalities of Katchuingo and Tchicala-Choloanga, and the communities of Sambo, Samboto, Kuima and Catala (Caála) are living in the center. It has about 60.000 displaced persons and several humanitarian organizations are implementing projects in the area.

Community Publishing group characteristics:

60 members (33 women, 27 men)

The group has been trained on 12 May 2001, building upon the water and sanitation committees created by DW's water and sanitation program.

Activities of the group:

Dance group is performing every weekend.

Planned: survey on life conditions in the displaced centers.

Literacy

4 classrooms, 4 literacy teachers, 160 students enrolled

Involvement of all groups

Sharing of information among the various groups

In June 2001, the project organized a meeting for the publishing groups from all six communities. The main objective was to get various cultural experiences from each of the groups as they carry out their activities and sharing them with others. It also served as well to make an assessment of the project during its implementation. 150 group members and 12 people invited have participated in the meeting.

The groups have described their activities in reports, have performed plays, recited poems, and danced. All these activities are linked to the reality of Umbundu culture. The groups have decided to open a year-long contest among themselves with a view to find a winner for dance and for the best dish and to find a revelation group. A positive aspect was the use of local products, typical of their communities.

The aim of this meeting was to get a more harmonious relation among the various groups trying to get experience from others in order to jointly produce mechanisms that aim to a better understanding of the communities: In the meeting, important ideas have come out, as for example:

- The project co-ordination should study mechanisms for the continuity of activities due to the

impact it has within the communities and because it serves as a vehicle in the education of people on their rights; concerning this there is a need, however, to procure funding for the continuity.

- That more of those kind of meetings should take place, because only when the different communities work together, certain problems can be solved.
- There should be an active participation of group members in the preparation of the bulletin and an improvement in the regularity of its publication.

Activities with children

Activities with children have been carried out. Four groups have initially been formed with the objective of helping the children to carry out extra-school recreational and educational activities. In all 6 communities together, some 300 children have become engaged in various activities like sewing, drawing, manual works (e.g. clay dolls). All these activities were done with close co-operation with school management and community leaders. Additionally to the project staff, an additional consultant was hired from ICRA, an Angola institution working with communities and training social educators.

5. RESULTS (referring to project proposal)

Result to Specific Objective:

Objective: To develop a model of community publishing appropriate to the Angolan context:

DW has developed a functioning and valuable community publishing model in Huambo that is by many commentators considered unique and with great possibilities for expansion.

R.1. One book with fifty live stories from displace people in Huambo

The book has been completed and awaits publication. The delay in publishing the book is caused by the need of looking for an alternative publishing house as Angolan options are too expensive. There are three options at the moment:

- Publishing in Zimbabwe;
- Publishing in Angola with all in-house resources available;
- Publishing in any other country.

R.2. Completed training and preparation for four community groups to ensure better quality community research on human rights abuses

The project has engaged more communities in community publishing than foreseen. Currently, 6 Communities have active community publishing groups. They have been involved in following training activities:

Literacy Classes

The process of teaching how to read and write is a component that has come out to enable a better access to information and a better understanding of the human rights issue. This process has now developed substantially: there are about 461 registered people distributed in 14 classrooms. And the results are very encouraging: 50% of those being taught already manage to

read and write and are actively participating in research activities and gathering of information. 747 literacy manuals in the national language Umbundu have been published and distributed. There are currently 4 groups getting lessons in Samacau, Nzaji, Lossango and Casseque III. The literacy manuals have been produced in consultation with the groups themselves.

Communication techniques

With the objective of improving the gathering of information on production and quality of the bulletins, a workshop was organized in April, at the 2nd Baptist Church, located at "Rua do Comércio" with themes such as: journalism, non verbal communication, communication and culture, interviews, differences between an activist and a journalist and the importance of communicating. The workshop produced positive results that are expected to improve the gathering of information and permitted the community activists to convey information to other people on production of various documents. Around 29 members from all groups have participated in this workshop.

Children's rights

With a view to provide the groups with understanding and analysis concerning dissemination of children's rights, a training session was organized for discussing issues related to children's rights and the circle "children-family-community". 25 members from the publishing groups and other NGOs attended the workshop. One of the results of the workshop was that the community publishing groups subsequently organized several presentations about children's rights in their respective communities.

A course for literacy teachers

Literacy teacher related to the project's literacy program participated in this workshop. The workshop lasted two days and was attended by 18 participants. Various themes have been addressed such as phonetics and spelling, teacher's psychology, self-understanding, teacher's word and characteristics of illiterate adults. The workshop was organized and facilitated by individuals with profound experience on this subject.

Course in 'Page Maker

On 16 May, the project co-ordination group has spent some time studying the Page Maker program (for computer-assisted composition). 12 members benefited from the training and members from other DW project teams have been present.

R.3. Trained local project coordinator to develop and replicate community publishing in Angola

With the help of 3 assistants, the project local project coordinator is currently managing an extensive community publishing program in 6 communities. During the year, he underwent following training and formation:

- Course in page maker
- Visit from Zimbabwe
- Visit from Holland
- Visit to Zimbabwe

Other Results - publications

'Ondaka' newsletter (7 issues at 250 copies each)

6 editions (January to June) of the 'Ondaka' bulletin have been published and a 7th edition is in the process of being published. The bulletin intends to be monthly and serve as a way of disseminating the local culture, facts and voices of the populations in the region. There are still delays in the publication due to the quality of news that come from the groups. Stumbling-block factors are being gradually overcome with training actions targeted to the groups. The co-ordination team now handles the program through which the bulletins are produced, although still with some weaknesses and the groups are already starting to produce factual news. There is still a lot to do with the groups and there is a need for much engagement on the part of the co-ordination members in conveying initiatives and capacity to the groups.

The 1st Literacy manual in Umbundu (747 copies)

was reproduced, published and distributed to all those being taught to read and write, some NGOs and individuals. 747 books have been reproduced.

The 2nd Literacy manual in Umbundu (1000 copies to be printed)

On the 22nd of August, it was tested and amended during a session attended by members from the groups, religious entities, government authorities and people invited from other organizations. The participants have reaffirmed that it was urgent to publish the book and that it should be included in the school curriculum. At this moment the book is being prepared, then it will be reproduced.

The listening survey

Result of the survey carried out by the groups in economic, social and political aspects in the province of Huambo.

Cartoons

They were prepared in the wake of meetings held by drawers who have done drawings within their groups focusing educational themes for their communities. For example, in Lossambo they focused on agricultural seasons; in Samacau they depicted hygienic rules; in Nzaji they expressed the care people must have with water; and in Vilinga they described the incidence of diseases in their community and how to treat them.

Stories and proverbs (100 copies to be printed)

It is a document that will help all those that live close to the communities to convey their message on the use of our habits. The written material from the groups is prepared and digitalized. At this moment, its composition is going on and the Book Committee is analyzing all the materials.

RESULTS FRAMEWORK

OBJECTIVE	INDICATOR	RESULTS ACHIEVED – (Quantifiable)
Increase the community's capacity to articulate and lobby-for its own interests.	Cases or incidents demonstrating enhanced community capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 16 trainings for capacity building of group members. ➤ Four community groups (S. Bartolomeu, Lossambo, Samacau e Lumandi-km25) where asked by local leaders to talk about human rights in the communities. ➤ The groups are often contacted by their communities and involved in resolving the problems in these communities.
	Community representations to local authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 6 traditional leaders are providing a link with local government structures in the resolution of community conflicts.
Develop a community publishing model appropriate to the Angolan context	Model conceived of	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Model transferred from the Africa Community Publishing & Development Trust (ACPDT) in Zimbabwe.
	Adaptations of the model	<p>Two other approaches were included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Community participation for resolving their conflicts with the help of written information and workshops. ➤ Change of perception within the communities through the divulgation of Human Rights.
Build capacity of community groups to undertake local initiatives of research and publication	Number of members of the community involved actively in the project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 150 community members actively participate in research and information gathering. ➤ 461 students of literacy classes
	Number of groups involved in research and publications	4 groups
Community self-knowledge enhanced through project activities and local research	Number of local research initiatives undertaken	<p>5 initiatives were undertaken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ construction of two community schools in Lossambo; ➤ construction of on house for the sale of traditional medicine in S. Bartolomeu; ➤ Creation of a community farming field in Lossambo; ➤ Creation of 16 literacy school buildings with some 461 literacy students; ➤ One community library in Samacau

	Number of publications, interviews, articles produced	Publications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 6 issues of 'Ondaka' newsletter (250 copies each) ➤ First literacy manual in Umbundu published (747 copies) ➤ Book of life stories ready for publishing (100 copies) ➤ Second literacy manual ready for publishing (1000 copies) ➤ 10 community researches in some 15 communities; ➤ 6 Interviews published; ➤ 6 published articles; ➤ Booklet of cartoons.
Increased public understanding of community's problems	Level of public access to publications produced by project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Some 620 persons in the communities have access to the literacy manuals; ➤ Distribution of 'Ondaka' (250 copies/month): 52% to communities, 32% to NGOs and Churches, and 20% to public institutions, partners and donors. ➤ One community library ➤ Radio Nacional broadcasted about a visit of a journalist to a community.
Community publishing project unit created within the NGOs participating in the project	Number of persons involved on project unit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 1 coordinator ➤ 3 assistants ➤ 4 Social mobilizers (from other DW projects) ➤ 10 Huambo NGO members that constitute the Book committee.
	Number of organizations involved in the Community Publishing project	8 Organizations that are directly involved in the project: Okutyuca, ADRA-Angola, Christian Children Fund (CCF), Baptist Convention in Angola (CBA), Microform, Congregational Evangelic Church in Angola (IECA), Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC) and DW

6. LESSONS LEARNED AND WAYS FORWARD

Lessons learned:

The community groups need more training to improve their research and reporting;
 To use radio broadcasting more widely; the possibilities of community radios will be considered for next year;
 Train community groups in a way that they have a more direct role in the project actions;
 A greater integration of Community Publication activities in other communities where DW operates, in areas such as the water and sanitation sectors or construction using local materials.

Ways forward

To expand the community publishing in the province during the next two years;
Start Community Radio Broadcasting;
Install community libraries;
To have a closer link with DW and its partner's 'Peacebuilding Program';



Drawing of community meeting in a traditional "Ojango" village meeting place.

ANNEXES

- 1. Photographs**
- 2. ONDAKA – monthly newspaper – January – June 2001**
- 3. Ombundu Literacy Manual 1**
- 4. Ombundu Literacy Manual 2**
- 5. Stories & Proverbs Book – draft (selected pages)**
- 6. Listening Research – (examples of field notes)**
Book “Stories About People Like Ourselves” – draft (selected pages)