Ideias através destes meios. Estas publicações são uma porta segura para o fortalecimento da sociedade civil e um modo de pressão para que os governantes resolvam os problemas das comunidades e que estas por sua vez participem do desenvolvimento. A médio e longo prazo, as próprias comunidades ganharão consciência no sentido de contribuir financeiramente para a continuidade destas publicações, contribuindo para a sustentabilidade das publicações, bem como para o desenvolvimento de novas iniciativas. 

Gary Mundy, Cândido Mendes e Angelina Jorge

Endnotes

1. Mó Kamba is produced in Luanda by the BBC World Service Trust as part of a multi-format campaign. Between 2005 and 2007, the project has been funded by the UK Government’s Department for International Development. For further details about BBC Worldwide Trust projects, see http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/trust/researchlearning/

2. The state owned Radio Nacional de Angola remains the only national broadcaster in Angola. For a comprehensive overview of the media landscape in Angola, see http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/trust/researchlearning/2006/10/10 Angola/summary

3. For an overview, see http://www.commissionafrica.org/english/consultation/submissions/nt/ib-Nov-Dec04-025.pdf


5. “Formats, partnerships, and content: optimising the components of an HIV and AIDS media campaign in Angola” Cândido Mendes, Argentina Michinga, Gary Mundy, Dr Tomaz Volf, BBC World Service Trust. Forthcoming.

6. The BBC World Service Trust has a network of over 30 media and audience researchers, working across Africa, Asia, the Middle East and London.

7. Regular listeners are respondents who reported listening to Mó Kamba every week or “most weeks”.

Community press: voice of the voiceless?

Jose Paulo, Media Programme Officer, OSSIA Angola

A ngola has not had any community media - written, spoken or televised - since 1976, thanks to the Marxist-Leninist regime adopted after independence.

Private newspapers appeared on the scene only in 1995, but it was not until 2000 that community publications made their debut, even though they are not yet the main source of information for the Angolans.

Radio programmes dedicated to communities have been around since 2001, mainly financed by donors, who would pay for airtime on existing radio stations. These programmes are irregular and have little impact. The government loosened its control on media activity soon after the first elections in 1992, but because of financial constraints it was not until 2001 that the first papers surfaced - and as weeklies at that. Their shortcomings remained unchanged: they are expensive, bought by few and they depict community issues from a national angle and in a language that is inaccessible to most.

A number of magazines have hit the streets, but again plagued by issues of quality due to lack of resources and skilled staff. The end of the war was the death knell for magazines kept afloat by donors, as these considered their task over and departed.

Open Society stepped into the breach, targeting journalism training for those in the hinterland of the country. In 2004, 65 journalists participated in a number of training events held in collaboration with media departments of universities in Luanda and assistance from experts from Brazil and Portugal. Specialist training was provided for community media on how to report on community issues. Three community papers have since hit the market. A number of community radio stations remain on hold, as the Regulation of the Press Law has yet to be tabled and approved. Sources close to the State电视台 indicated that there are no plans to change the status quo. Nonetheless, the OSSIA training makes provision for community radio journalism.

Two journalists were sent on internships to Brazil as part of the project. Early in 2007, a well known Zimbabwean community radio journalist was invited to Angola to share experiences.

OSSIA firmly believes that with more creativity, a keen eye and professionalism, community and investigative journalism will inject a new dynamism in the fight for the well-being of the communities.