



Increased Awareness and Capacity for Protecting the Rights of Women and Girls

RESEARCH INTO
COMMUNITY MEDIA CENTRES
AND COMMUNITY RADIO IN NAMIBIA

INCREASED AWARENESS AND CAPACITY FOR PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN AND GIRLS

Research into Community Media Centres and Community Radio in Namibia

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THE COMMUNITY RADIO AND MULTIMEDIA CENTERS ENVIRONMENT IN NAMIBIA:

COMMUNITY RADIO IN NAMIBIA

BACKGROUND, REGULATION AND POLICY



Illustration 1: Karas Community Radio: Keetmanshoop, Namibia

Namibia has a diverse, technically advanced and, generally, free media landscape. Since independence there have been moves to deregulate and liberalise the electronic media sector in particular, resulting in a variety of new commercial and community radio and television stations.

Nevertheless, some areas of concern remain, including a heavy-handed ban on advertising and the purchase of a popular newspaper, *The Namibian*, as well as the removal of popular open phone-in programmes (*The Chat Show/Open Line*) from the public broadcaster.

The result for smaller commercial and community stations can be seen in the creation of a culture of fear, meaning that most of these stations rely to a large extent on news from the government press agency (NAMPA) or even staying away from coverage of Namibian events and concentrating on news from neighbouring South Africa.

Regarding the press, there are a variety of publications (in a relatively small population). These include independent dailies in English/Oshiwambo, Afrikaans and German (*The Namibian*, *Republikein*, *Allgemeine Zeitung*), a government daily (*New Era*), a political (SWAPO) publication (*Namibia Today*), independent weeklies (*Informanté*, *Windhoek Observer*, *Namibia Economist*), and a government weekly, published in conjunction with the Zimbabwe government (*Southern Times*). The *Windhoek Observer*, it should be noted, has recently had a change in ownership, and is now in the hands of Paragon Investments, led by a local businessman and popular comedian, Lazarus Jacobs.

The state broadcaster is the Namibian Broadcasting Corporation, governed by a Board of Directors directly appointed by the Minister of Information and Broadcasting. It is also heavily reliant (approximately 70%) on government subsidies and funding. An area of growth since independence, however, has been private television and radio.

There are currently three private television stations, all Windhoek based. These are One Africa Television (24 hours a day, relaying programmes from BBC World and South Africa, with 15% local content), TBN (a community religious station, with both Namibian and imported programming) and DStv/M-Net. This is the most popular private channel, although very expensive at approximately N\$500 per month and it also requires a satellite dish and a decoder.

On the radio side, there are now 27 FM frequencies in Windhoek (see table on page 3). These include not only the nine NBC (public) stations, but also a wide variety of new private stations such as Radio 99, Radio Wave, Kosmos, Kudu FM, Radio Energy and Omulunga Radio. All of these stations are highly focused on music with little news content, although this situation has improved from a few years ago, when stations relayed Voice of America or BBC news instead of gathering local news.

Regarding the community radio stations, they have a varied history, with **Channel 7** (a religious station, broadcasting in English and Afrikaans) perhaps being the most “stable” in terms of funding and professionalism over the years. They also have the widest nationwide transmitter network of all radio stations outside of the NBC.

Radio Ecclesia found themselves in a poor location (necessitated by the Catholic mission in the area) and had to spend a lot of money on building a huge antenna to reach the city of Windhoek proper. They have since re-branded and are now a younger Christian-oriented radio station operating from a local shopping complex (Maerua Mall).

Katutura Community Radio changed its name to BASE FM in 2008, partly because of their plans to expand coverage to other parts of Namibia rather than limiting it simply to Katutura. They continue to broadcast a variety of community-oriented programmes, including, amongst others, environmental issues, gender issues and a popular weekly programme (Talking Pink) that remains the only local outlet for discussion on issues of sexual orientation.

UNAM Radio was established with funding from UNESCO in 2000. It broadcasts throughout the campus of the University of Namibia as well as the city of Windhoek with a 100W FM transmitter. The station operates 24 hours a day, with programmes of an educational and informative nature, coupled with a selection of music popular amongst the young listenership. The programmes are produced and presented by students from the University, and the station is managed on a day-to-day basis by a resident station co-ordinator.

LIVE FM is based in Rehoboth, a town 90 km south of Windhoek, and caters for the community with music and information. A dramatic incident earlier in 2009 illustrated the power of community radio, when thieves broke into the studios and stole some of the equipment. Within hours the community had been informed of the theft, and shortly thereafter the equipment was located and returned.

Karas Community Radio is a station established in Keetmanshoop in 2008, capital of the Karas Region. It is now fully operational and broadcasts a variety of content, including information of relevance to listeners in the area of transmission. Plans are under way to expand the coverage of this station.

Ohangwena Community Radio was originally established by UNESCO in Eenhana (Ohangwena Region). However, it then faced difficulties of sustainability and the Government Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (at that stage) had to assist its broadcasts.

!Ha Radio was established by the NBC in Tsumkwe, an area in the Otjozondjupa Region, in order to cater for the San people, a group of marginalised Namibians scattered across various regions. Its reach is only about 30 kilometres. It is not reachable by the San in other regions.

At the coast is **Radio Wave**, a community radio that is partly housed and hosted by a commercial radio, West Coast FM. Radio Wave is still to receive official acknowledgement and licence for operation from the government.

Table 1: Public, Commercial and Community Radio in Namibia: 2009

Frequency	Station	Transmitter	Licence	Language
87.8	Radio Wave		Commercial	English
88.6	NBC Afrikaans	Klein Windhoek	Public	Afrikaans
89.5	NBC Afrikaans	Gross Hertzog	Public	Afrikaans
91.3	Radio Ecclesia (Catholic)	Klein Windhoek	Community	English
90.4	NBC Setswana		Public	Setswana
91.7	NBC National	Klein Windhoek	Public	English
92.6	NBC National	Gross Hertzog	Public	English
93.5	NBC Silozi	Gross Hertzog	Public	Silozi
94.1	Radio Kosmos		Commercial	Afrikaans
94.9	NBC German	Klein Windhoek	Public	German
95.8	NBC German	Gross Hertzog	Public	German
96.7	Radio Wave		Commercial	English
97.4	UNAM Radio		Community	English
98.2	NBC Otjiherero	Gross Hertzog	Public	Otjiherero
99	Namibia FM 99		Commercial	English
99.5	Show Radio (2009 Windhoek Show)	Windhoek Showgrounds	Temporary Commercial	English/Afrikaans
100	Radio Energy		Commercial	English / Oshiwambo
100.9	Omulunga Radio		Commercial	Oshiwambo
101.7	NBC Oshiwambo	Gross Hertzog	Public	Oshiwambo
102	Fresh FM		Commercial	
102.3	Channel 7		Community/ Religious	Multilingual
103.5	Kudu FM		Commercial	Afrikaans / English
104.5	Channel 7		Community/ Religious	Afrikaans / English
105.3	NBC Damara>Nama	Gross Hertzog	Public	Damara / Nama
106.2	Base FM		Commercial	
107.1	NBC Rukavango	Gross Hertzog	Public	Rukavango
107.9	Radio France International		International	French / English

Community Broadcasting Law and Regulation

Namibia is a signatory to the Millennium Declaration as well as to the Declaration of the Principles of the Information Society and its Action Plan. The Declaration, agreed on by UN Member States at the Millennium Summit in 2000, focuses on specific goals, including the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women.

Regarding ICT, the Declaration notes that individuals should not be deprived of the benefit of development to free men, women and children from abject and dehumanising conditions of extreme poverty, to encourage attitudes of conservation, and to make the advantages of new technologies, especially information and communication technologies, available to all.

The World Summit on the Information Society (2003) encourages an inclusive Information Society. This puts the obligation on governments and all stakeholders to play a key role in promoting ICT for development. It also notes an “all-inclusive” information society in which all members participate (and benefit from). Cultural and linguistic diversity (in which ICT should be used to stimulate and preserve) is also noted, along with an obligation on the international community for “concrete international approaches and regional cooperation, including financial and technical assistance”.

Namibia has, since independence, been committed to various regional integration initiatives, both from SADC (the Southern African Development Community) and the African Union (AU).

According to Buch Larsen, Namibia “has accordingly ratified the vast majority of SADC and African Union (AU) Protocols and Declarations of the last decade” (Buch Larsen 2007:19).

In addition, the Namibian constitution (Article 144) states that the general rules of public international law and international agreements shall be binding upon Namibia.

SADC Heads of State approved the SADC Protocol on Culture, Information and Sport in 2000, which was ratified by the Namibian Parliament in 2002. However, because it has not yet been ratified by the required nine member states, the Protocol is not legally binding or required to be adopted in the Namibian legal system (Buch Larsen 2007:19).

Nevertheless the Protocol does mention community media, and defines this as non-profit and community-based media, which serve a geographically based community or any group of people or sector of the public having an ascertainable common interest.

It calls on member states to ensure editorially independent media, to strengthen codes of ethics and to establish a SADC “accreditation system for media practitioners”.

The other SADC Declaration (on Information and Communications Technology) was adopted by Heads of State and Governments in 2001, and notes that the need for continuous development of ICT in the region should not increase the already existing disparities between men and women, rich and poor and rural and urban populations.

A Declaration which forms part of the law of Namibia (Buch Larsen 2007:22) is the African Commission Declaration of Principles of Freedom of Expression in Africa. This notes various issues related to a free, independent and diverse media environment in Africa. It focuses on freedom of expression and equal opportunities to access information as a fundamental human right.

The Constitution of the Republic of Namibia specifically enshrines media freedom, noting that all persons “shall have the right to freedom of expression, which shall include freedom of the press and other media” (Article 21[1][a]). However, there are restrictions under Article 21(2), which include “the interests of the sovereignty and integrity of Namibia, national security, public order, decency or morality, or in relation to contempt of court, defamation or incitement to an offence”.

All broadcasting is regulated under the NCC or Namibian Communications Commission Act (No. 4 of 1992), which Commission has the mandate to issue broadcasting licences and controls/supervises broadcasting activities. The Commission is also required to allocate the spectrum in such a manner as to ensure the widest possible diversity of programming and optimum utilisation of broadcasting resources. The Minister of Information and Broadcasting appoints the members of this Commission.

The powers of the NCC are wide ranging. They include the mandate to require broadcasters to correct “false” allegations against any person or entity. They also empower the minister to broadcast any announcement “that the minister deems to be in the interest of national security or the public interest at any time and in any specified manner”.

However, it should be noted that since independence these powers have not been applied, and generally the NCC has not interfered with the content of commercial or community radio stations in Namibia.

There have been two instances, however, that pointed at the power of commercial interests over that of community stations. The first, in the mid-1990s, came soon after the establishment of Katutura Community Radio, which originally broadcast on the frequency of 100FM. A commercial station (Radio Energy), backed by Kalahari Holdings (a company of the ruling party, SWAPO), then applied for the same frequency. The NCC ruled that KCR must change their frequency, and the (desired) frequency of 100FM was then given to Radio Energy. They still have it today.

The second was the application for the “last” available frequency on the FM band in Windhoek (107.9FM). Despite calls from the community for this to be allocated to a community station, it was granted to, of all entities, a foreign broadcaster (Radio France International), with programming predominantly in French (a language which very few Namibians understand).

The state broadcaster, the Namibian Broadcasting Corporation, is an interesting paradox, for in many ways it fulfils the mandate of a community station. The so-called "language services" (inherited from the South African apartheid "divide-and-rule" strategy) continue to broadcast, although the previous focus on stations broadcasting only to specific regions is now changing. For many rural listeners, the NBC remains the only station available. Apart from news (generated in Windhoek in English and then translated into the various languages), these stations have a strong community content. Phone-in programmes are particularly popular, and the most popular radio programme in the country (broadcast on the NBC Oshiwambo Service) is a programme of announcements concerning community events (meetings, funerals, weddings, etc.). For many rural listeners, this is a "lifeline" with the rest of the community and is often the only form of contact they might have with the rest of the country and even the rest of the world.

A positive new development in terms of self-regulation has been the adoption of a revised code of ethics for Namibian media (including a section dealing specifically with broadcasting) as well as the appointment, in August 2009, of a Media Ombudsman, whose job it will be to adjudicate on issues regarding the media. Both the community and the commercial radio sector were active in the establishment of this media council and in revising the code of ethics.

However, although the Media Council is now in existence (to handle complaints about media content) along with the Editors' Forum of Namibia (representing essentially media owners and editors, both print and broadcast, state, commercial and community), there is no trade union as such for media workers. Several trade unions exist in difficult circumstances. Their members are paid hourly rates on a temporary basis, are "employed" as part-time employees, or, in the case of community radio, are asked to "volunteer" their services, or, if remunerated, are paid a low amount for "transport and food allowance".

The Namibia Community Radio Network was established in 2003 with funding from the Hans Boll Stiftung and MISA. It was originally intended as a two-year project. The aim was to conduct awareness of community radio and embark on initiatives in four regions (Erongo, Omaheke, Oshana and Karas). It currently falls under the ambit of MISA Namibia.

There are currently no specific regulations regarding local content for media in Namibia (unlike, say, in South Africa, where specific percentages are defined for public, commercial and community media). The existing NCC Act merely mentions that licence holders should "encourage the development of Namibian expression by providing a wide range of programs (sic) that reflect Namibian attitudes, opinions, ideas values (sic) and artistic creativity by displaying Namibian talent in entertainment programs (sic) in so far as it is practicable to do so" (Article 17). The same article continues that broadcasters should "serve the needs and interests and reflect the circumstances and aspirations of Namibian Men. Women and children (sic) in a multi-cultural and multi-racial Namibian society". Regarding local input, the same Article encourages broadcasters "to make maximum use of Namibian creative and other resources in the creation and presentation of programming". It further asks broadcasters to "contribute through programming to shared national consciousness and identity".

Advertising is restricted to "a maximum of 20 percent of the total daily broadcasting time". Internet content is not filtered, although the provisions in the Communication Act regarding the right of government authorities and agencies to access personal information (e-mails, SMS messages, cellphone conversations, etc.) could act as a deterrent for those planning to access certain websites.

However, the latest African Media Barometer (2009) notes that "certain state bodies and institutions, such as the University of Namibia and the Polytechnic of Namibia do filter the internet feed ... While this can impact on the ability to conduct research and access information, the institutions argue that 'it's a bandwidth issue'" (2009:21).

There are seemingly preferential tariffs for the licensing of community radio stations. The NCC website (www.ncc.org.na) quotes the licence fee for a community radio station (TARIFSCOM 18/7/2007) as being N\$600. However, in a presentation at a UNESCO workshop held in Windhoek (May 12, 2009) an NCC spokesperson (Bhartos Hara-Gaeb) clearly distinguished fees for community and commercial licences, with a financial incentive (cheaper licence fees) for community radio and television stations. He was quoted as presenting fees as N\$1 800 for rural community radio, N\$3 600 for urban community radio and N\$27 500 for urban commercial radio (all fees per annum).

Community Broadcasting Legislation

The present legislation on broadcasting makes little mention of community radio in particular. The NCC is given the mandate (in the NCC Act) –

to be responsible for the standardisation, planning and management of the frequency spectrum available for broadcasting and to allocate such spectrum resources in such a manner as to ensure the widest possible diversity of programming and optimal utilisation of those spectrum resources, and, where possible, to give priority to broadcasters transmitting the maximum number of hours per day and to community-based broadcasters.

In allocating licences they also must investigate –

the desirability of giving priority to community-based broadcasts.

These are the only two references to community broadcasting in the document. To some extent the NCC has fulfilled this mandate. Community broadcasters have received frequencies, and also receive a minimal licence fee requirement (as compared to commercial broadcasters).

The Act, however, also makes it clear that all broadcasters (including commercial broadcasters) have certain obligations to the community. These obligations include:

- Δ to present all news in a factually accurate and impartial manner
- Δ to present current affairs in a fair, clear, factual, accurate and impartial manner
- Δ to encourage the development of Namibian expression by providing a wide range of programmes that reflect Namibian attitudes, opinions, ideas, values and artistic creativity by displaying Namibian talent in entertainment programmes in so far as it is practicable and with due regard to the nature of the service pertaining to the licence holder
- Δ to serve the needs and interests and reflect the circumstances and aspirations of Namibian men, women and children in a multicultural and multiracial Namibian society
- Δ to have and maintain programmes of a high standard
- Δ to make maximum use of Namibian creative and other resources in the creation and presentation of programming, unless the nature of the service provided renders that use impracticable or the resources and expertise are not available in Namibia, and
- Δ to contribute through programming to shared national consciousness and identity, but with due regard to the nature of the service pertaining to the licence holder.

Communications Act of Namibia

In November 2009, the controversial Communications Bill of Namibia was passed by both the National Assembly and the National Council. The controversy surrounding the Bill was mainly due to the so-called “spy clause” (adopted at the last minute without public participation) which allows agencies of the government to “spy” on phone calls, internet messages and the like.

However, the Bill also refers to Community Radio, and in particular to new structures to govern this sector, namely the Communications Authority of Namibia (CAN), essentially replacing the existing Namibian Communications Commission.

Chapter six specifically deals with the broadcasting sector, and, amongst others, recommends the maximum length of licence for a “channel” as ten years.

It favours the licensing rather than the non-licensing of applicants, stating that “the Authority must renew a licence unless there is a good reason to refuse to renew the licence” (Section 49 [5]). However, it notes later that such refusal can be made if “in the public interest”.

Regarding ownership the Bill makes reference to the fact that the licence holder must be a Namibian citizen and the company must be 51 percent owned by Namibians (51 [a & b]).

The application for renewal must also be accompanied by documentation, including the nature of the service, the programme schedule of the station and available financial resources. This is so that the authority can ascertain the “nature and quality” of the service (Section 51 [2e]).

Regarding the allocation of licences, the authority will look at the following factors (Section 51 [6]):

- Δ The character of the applicant
- Δ The expertise, experience and financial resources of the applicant
- Δ The desirability of a person holding more than one licence for a broadcasting service, or holding a licence for broadcasting as well as for a newspaper
- Δ The technical ability of the applicant to run the station
- Δ Whether the conditions of a broadcasting licence will unjustly benefit one licence holder of a broadcasting licence over another
- Δ Whether the allocation of licences will ensure the “widest possible diversity of programming”, considering the favourability of a station broadcasting “the maximum” hours a day
- Δ Reserving broadcast spectrum “for future use”, and
- Δ The desirability of giving priority to community-based broadcasts”.

It also emphasises the need for proper balance of reporting and high standards in general. Further, it stresses that the Authority will be responsible for supervising compliance with these conditions, and, if the conditions are breached, the licence holder will have to make written submissions to the Authority in explanation. The Authority has the power to fine a radio station (up to N\$1 000 000) if found “in breach”.

It also has the power to demand a response to or denial of any assertion or fact from a radio station broadcast if that fact is proved to be false (although this excludes statements made in the National Assembly).

Financial statements must be provided to the Authority on an annual basis, and, finally, the Bill does not necessarily apply to the Namibian Broadcasting Corporation. This will only be effective to the Corporation if “determined by the Minister [of ICT]” (Section 56 [1]).

The only mention of community broadcasting in the Act is that the regulating Authority (Communication Regulatory Authority of Namibia – CRAN) must “ensure that community broadcasting is promoted” (Communications Act of Namibia, 2009. 89:3[c]).

COMMUNITY MULTIMEDIA CENTRES IN NAMIBIA



Illustration 2: Salona Multipurpose Centre, Mayzini

A speech by the Director of Audiovisual Media and Copyright Services (Ministry of Information and Communication Technology) on 4 November 2009 made note of the plan to equip "Multi-Purpose Community Centres" in three regions at a time until all thirteen regions in the country are covered.

The purpose was to provide information (on health, sanitation, "national pride", human rights, education, agriculture, environment, gender, traditional knowledge, intellectual property, SMEs, banking and entertainment) through "a multimedia format, which will cater for everyone, including people who cannot read and write. The overall goal is to provide access/exposure and usage of ICT as a tool to enhance development in rural communities for our economy to grow."

Components of the project would include:

- Δ Customised solar systems and accessories (such as batteries)
- Δ Digitalised public address systems
- Δ Digitalised video cameras
- Δ Computers and accessories
- Δ Printers, photocopiers and facsimile machines
- Δ Microsoft Office packages
- Δ Software program packages, and
- Δ Generators (for back-up).

The Director noted that at the time (November 2009) the following multi-purpose community centres had been established:

Kavango Region

- Δ Mphungu Constituency: Mukekete MPC Centre
- Δ Rundu Constituency: Ministry of Gender Youth Centre

Kunene Region

- △ Outjo Constituency: Queen Sophia Multipurpose Community Centre
- △ Epupa Constituency: Okangwati Multipurpose Community Centre

Omaheke Region

- △ Otjombinde Constituency: Eiseb School Multipurpose Community Centre
- △ Steinhausen Constituency: Plessisplaas Multipurpose Community Centre ("Farm Du Plessis")

Caprivi Region

- △ Katima Rural Constituency: Ibbu
- △ Linyanti Constituency: Sachona
- △ Impalila Island (some equipment received "like video cameras")

Ohangwena Region

- △ Okongo Constituency: Okongo
- △ Endola Constituency: Endola

Karas Region

- △ Luderitz Constituency: Aus
- △ Keetmanshoop Rural Constituency: Aroab

There are also a number of educational centres throughout Namibia with internet access. These include:

NOLNET Centres: NOLNET is a charitable and educational trust, established in 2001 as a partnership between the Government of the Republic of Namibia, acting through the Ministry of Education and the Namibian College of Open Learning, the Polytechnic of Namibia and the University of Namibia. It is committed to making quality contributions to the achievement of Education for All in Namibia through optimising collaboration and networking of Open and Distance Learning resources.

There are currently 51 centres throughout Namibia. (http://www.nolnet.edu.na/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=5&Itemid=10).

The centres are libraries, Community Learning and Development Centres and Teacher Resource Centres, and are owned and operated by NOLNet Partners. NOLNet supplements the resources and provides training to staff members of the centres as far as possible.

Of these, 17 are Category 1 centres. Such centres have tertiary and secondary level textbooks, on-line computers, photocopiers, fax and audio equipment, as well as trained staff.

In addition there are a further 17 Category 2+ centres, also with on-line computers and trained staff.

The **University of Namibia** operates centres throughout the country (http://www.unam.na/centres/regional/regional_index.html), all with on-line internet access. In the larger centres such as the Northern Campus there is a wide access base, but even in smaller centres (such as Katima Mulilo and Henties Bay) there are at least ten on-line computers per centre. These have recently been updated with Riverbed software, allowing greater control over bandwidth usage, which means that access speeds in the centres have been greatly improved.

The centres are situated at Oshakati, Rundu, Katima Mulilo, Khorixas, Tsumeb, Otjiwarongo, Swakopmund, Keetmanshoop and Gobabis.

The **Polytechnic of Namibia** has a network of regional centres (http://www.polytechnic.edu.na/centres/coll/region_cen.php), which provide library resources and access to reliable information and communication technology. They all have internet access.

The centres are based at Gobabis, Katima Mulilo, Keetmanshoop, Ongwediva, Opuwo, Otjiwarongo, Rundu, Tsumeb and Walvis Bay.

Ounongo Technological Centre (OTC) is based at Gobabis (in the Omaheke Region) and is a non-governmental, non-political community organisation that provides an environment for community members to learn about and utilise computer technologies for practical purposes in their daily lives.

Established in May 2004, OTC has grown from one centre in the Omaheke Region capital, to five technology centres throughout the region. Ounongo is currently supported by donor funding from OSISA and collaborates actively with government ministries, the Gobabis local authority and the Omaheke Regional Council.

The most significant support that the organisation receives is from the Ministry of Youth, National Service, Sports and Culture. The partnership with the ministry provides OTC with office space as well as with transport on a regular basis to implement its activities.

A survey conducted in 2009 made recommendations that the private sector should invest in ICT infrastructure, but also warned that the national policy on ICT "is dormant and needs review, particularly with regard to commitment to breaking the digital divide".

ICT Policy Development

Namibia has grown to embrace ICT, following world trends. In 1990, the Department of Public Service Information Technology Management (DPSITM) was created in the Office of the Prime Minister to guide and oversee all aspects of ICT usage in the Public Service. The IT policy also allowed government ministries to have their own information technology units that would assist in the execution of plans and the implementation of various applications at ministerial level.

The process for developing a Namibian ICT Policy began in 1998 with the Telecommunication Framework finalised in 1999. The Draft ICT Policy was tabled in 2001.

It states: "Our vision is that Namibia will be an industrialised state by 2030, with a significant improvement in the essential quality of life of all Namibians."

As part of this policy the priorities of the Namibian government are to:

- Δ enhance rural access to information
- Δ grow and stabilise the ICT professional community
- Δ facilitate excellent ICT public education, particularly in schools
- Δ foster e-commerce, e-business and e-government
- Δ strengthen the existing ICT infrastructure, and
- Δ create an ICT cluster.

Within SADC as a whole the adoption of ICT is mainly guided by the "SADC Protocol on Transport, Communications and Meteorology", the "SADC ICT Declaration" and the "Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP)" where ICT has been singled out as an enabling tool for socio-economic development and regional integration.

To this end, a three-pronged strategy has been adopted:

- Δ To create a conducive environment and level playing field in the region so as to attract the much-needed investment. This will entail, amongst others, the need for a proper regulatory, legislative and policy framework for the ICT sector.
- Δ To deploy the relevant infrastructure that will enable the benefits of ICT to trickle down to people at grassroots levels; and
- Δ To implement ICT applications that will enhance socio-economic development and regional integration.

E-governance Policy for the Public Service of Namibia

This policy, developed by the Office of the Prime Minister, was drawn up in 2005. It was based on the principles of the Inclusive Information Society (as advocated in the World Summit on Information Society), as well as the Millennium Development goals and their targets for 2015.

The vision is a government that will “provide its services to all the citizens 24 hours a day, 7 days a week” (E-governance policy 2005:14).

It mentions a four-phase implementation of e-governance solutions, namely –

1. information
2. interaction
3. transaction, and
4. transformation.

(E-governance policy 2005:24)

These solutions are also categorised according to government to community, government to business and government to government.

On a practical level it discusses the possible solutions for e-governance, including using internet, e-mail, cellphones, telephones and purpose-built service points similar to ATMs used by banks (E-governance policy 2005:3).

It also notes the 48 community libraries currently operated by the Namibian Library and Information Service in the Ministry of Basic Education and Culture (E-governance policy 2005:28). A recommendation is that these libraries could become public access points (community multimedia centres), with links to all government sectoral portals.

Areas that could be covered by such centres include education, health, transport, jobs, properties, environment, tax, investment, travel and politics (E-governance policy 2005:6). Such access points could also include a possibility of paying for services (traffic offences, licence renewals, etc.) as well as seeking information and opportunities.

GENDER AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

The declaration, adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1979, sets up an agenda for national action to end such discrimination. This includes ensuring women's equal access to (and equal opportunities in) political and public life, education, health and employment. The Convention targets culture and tradition and encourages state parties to take all appropriate measures against all forms of traffic in and exploitation of women.

SADC Protocol on Gender and Development

This Protocol, adopted on 17 August 2008, advances gender equality by ensuring accountability by all SADC member states, as well as providing a forum for the sharing of best practices, peer support and review.

Articles 29 to 31 note in particular the need for gender to be mainstreamed in all information, communication and media policies and laws. The Protocol calls for increasing programmes for, by and about women, and the challenging of gender stereotypes in the media.

National Gender Policy (Republic of Namibia)

This policy, dated August 2009, was submitted to parliament for adoption by the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare. It follows an earlier Gender Policy (1997).

The overarching goal of the policy (which receives its direction and focus from Vision 2030) is to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of both female and male persons in Namibia.

It notes the following current challenges:

- △ Poverty and rural development (poor households make up 28% of the country's households)
- △ Gender, education and training (girls face challenges such as teenage pregnancies and dependency on older men for an income)
- △ Gender, health, reproductive health and HIV and AIDS (Namibia has one of the highest HIV prevalence rates in the world, with women accounting for 53% of all reported new HIV cases)
- △ Gender-based violence (including domestic violence and rape)
- △ Trade and economic development (women's participation in the labour force is lower than that of men)
- △ Decision making and political empowerment (women are under-represented in Regional Councils)
- △ Gender, media, research information and communication (only 19% of news sources are women)
- △ Gender and environment (women are the primary users of environmental resources)
- △ The girl child (young girls drop out of school for a variety of reasons)
- △ Gender, legal affairs and human rights (Namibia should implement existing progressive laws and policies)
- △ Women, peace-building and natural disaster management (women do not play a significant role in natural disaster management), and
- △ Gender equality in the family context (the family remains an unfortunate locus of gender inequality, as men are still perceived as the head of the household).

Objectives of the policy:

- Δ To promote women's access to information and communication technology and eliminate negative media portrayals of women and girls (3.3.2.8)
- Δ To reduce and eventually eradicate poverty by improving access to and control of productive resources and services such as land, credit, markets, employment and training for women. (3.3.2.1)

A specific policy objective (4.7) that has relevance is: To promote women's access to information and communication technology and eliminate negative portrayal of women and girls.

Strategies include making community radio, alternative video, access to television, public call-in stations, community internet access, computer networking and alternative print media services accessible to both men and women.

In addition, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, to avail resources and implement programmes that would increase women's access to ICT resources and knowledge, especially to new communication technologies, in a framework of respect for cultural diversity, as well as for regional and local needs and priorities.

ANALYSIS OF COMMUNITY RADIO AND MULTIMEDIA CENTERS ENVIRONMENT IN NAMIBIA

METHODOLOGY

The research took place during the final few months of 2009 and employed techniques of participatory research. Such techniques can transform local patterns of awareness, equalise distribution of power and resources and increase participation in development activity.

These techniques consisted of administered and self-administered questionnaires as well as site observations at the six targeted regions, Karas, Ohangwena, Omaheke, Kunene, Caprivi and Okavango.

Two questionnaires were developed, one for community radio stations, and the other for community multimedia centres.

In particular the survey looked at how information (specifically information targeted at women) is disseminated, the status of women practitioners in community radio and community multimedia centres, and how developmental projects in these media centres are undertaken to impact on women and girls.

COMMUNITY RADIO IN NAMIBIA



Illustration 3: Ohangwena Community Radio

Two community radio stations (with community radio licences) were visited and researched:

- 1 Karas Community Radio
Sam Nujoma Drive/6th Avenue
PO Box 1697, Keetmanshoop
063 225644 (telephone)
063 225644 (fax)
karas102.3fm@iway.na (e-mail)

- 2 Ohangwena Community Radio
Eenhana, Ohangwena Region
Private Bag 88011, Eenhana
065 263349 (telephone)

	Hours	Commencement	Frequency	Watts	Radius	Gender policy?
Karas C.R.	06:00-00:00	31 May 2008	102.3	500	50 km	No
Ohangwena C.R.	06:00-21:00	8 Sept 1997	94.1	250	160 km	No

Karas Community Radio

Funding

Funding for this station was received from the Namibia Institute for Democracy (equipment for two studios) and Seaflower (a Luderitz-based fishing company), which assisted with renovation and security measures for the studios. FES (Fredrich Ebert Stiftung) provided funding for the reception and office equipment.

Aims

It aims to:

- Δ disseminate relevant and objective information to and from local communities in the Karas Region
- Δ give a platform to the community, and in particular the previously disadvantaged communities, to air their views, and
- Δ recognise awareness about the various cultures in the region and ensure better understanding and acceptance of cultural diversity.

Programmes

The policy on music content allows for 55% international music and insists on 45% local music, while 45% is allocated to speech and 55% to music.

Programmes for female listeners include "Everyday People" (09:00 – 10:30 on weekdays) and "Let's do it Right" (15:00 – 17:00 on Sundays).

Programmes for young people include "Young and Fresh" (09:00 – 12:00 on Saturdays).

The "community" is defined as a geographical area, which also has a religious side – programmes on a Sunday focus on religious programmes, and they claim that many jobs have been created through the "community information network" programme. This programme (10:30 – 12:00) announces job seeking opportunities, job offers, lost and found items and small advertisements for free. A unique programme on the schedule is "Streetwise" (19:00 – 20:30), with a focus on the history and culture of communities in the Karas Region.

Sustainability

The status of the equipment is "deteriorating". The main computer is out of order, and there are transmitter problems. "We don't have a back-up computer if anything happens now." They try to fix problems internally, but they have to call for computer technicians if the problem is big (3.1, 3.2).

The members of the community do not have any specific technical skills – they rely on technicians from Globecom, who installed the equipment, but they claim that, until now, these technicians have never been available (3.3).

The station is sustained (3.6) through advertising, and the major sponsorship (news) is from Telecom Namibia.

Training needs:

These needs include (3.4):

- △ training in management skills
- △ training in office management
- △ training in marketing
- △ training to maintain studio equipment, and
- △ training staff to write/compile news in different formats.

Staffing

There are nine full-time staff members and one part-time general worker. There are seven volunteers. Gender balance is six males and two females on the Board of Directors, and three females and six males as staff members (full time). There are three volunteer females and four volunteer males.

Community involvement

This is achieved through using field recorders to determine the level of listener satisfaction, using “vox pops” and other forms of programming. The community “always participates in topics and competitions”. “Regular” listener feedback takes place.

Challenges

- △ No technical expertise
- △ Sustainability of the station and keeping volunteers at the station
- △ No computer to record programmes on a daily basis
- △ No PA/Outside Broadcast system that would allow for fund raising
- △ No SMS line that could be used to raise finances, and
- △ Uncertainty regarding the building – the premises are currently owned by somebody else.

Ohangwena Community Radio

Funding

The station received equipment from the Namibia Institute for Democracy, including a production and recording studio, but no funding as such.

It is the only community radio station in the Ohangwena Region and the station “provides information at the right time” to the community. It also has a community educational mandate.

Aims

It aims to -

- △ To inform and interpret information, to educate and entertain
- △ To strengthen the modes of communication
- △ To promote culture and the spirit of learning, and
- △ To broadcast news and actuality programmes.

Programmes

The station has no policy on music, but there is “more percentage of speech”. There is a programme that deals with women, called “Issue”. There are also “specific programmes” for young, educated girls who are given a chance to discuss issues that affect their lives.

The “community” is defined as a geographical area, but the aspect of religion is also kept in mind. In these programmes they have a chance to present morning and evening devotions from different churches. Gender is considered in aspects of programme participation as well as in staff recruitment.

Unique programmes on the schedule include “Tulonga”, “Jaiva” and “Penduka”.

Sustainability

The computer “needs servicing” and cannot record nor do outside broadcasting. In the studio, the computer is out of order and the CD player is used instead.

No repair or servicing has been carried out on the equipment.

Financial sustainability is achieved with “a little income from advertising”.

Training needs:

None of the volunteers have been trained. Specific training needs include:

- Δ news gathering
- Δ editing
- Δ marketing
- Δ advertising, and
- Δ technical skills.

Staffing

All the staff members are currently volunteers. There are seven female and two males at the station and one female and six males at board level.

Community involvement:

Some programmes (“Give your Idea”) allow people to call in and give ideas – these are then discussed in the studio.

Research was conducted before opening the station, consulting the community, including women and girls.

Challenges

- Δ A lack of funds
- Δ Insufficient equipment
- Δ A lack of servicing current equipment
- Δ A lack of volunteer allowances, and
- Δ Weak board members who are unable to solve problems.

COMMUNITY MULTIMEDIA CENTRES IN NAMIBIA

The following centres were visited and questioned:

- 1 Salona Multipurpose Centre
118 km south of Katima Mulilo
Salona Combined School
PO Box 8060, Mayzini
- 2 Frans Dimbare Integrated Rural Youth Development and Integrated Centre
196 km east of Rundu
Diyogha Village
PO Box 5066, Divundu
066-258307 (telephone)
066-258427 (fax)
- 3 Koës Community Centre
Near the main road to Mata-Mata
PO Box 68
063-252747 (telephone)
063-252757 (fax)
koesvill@iway.na
- 4 Mukekete Multimedia Centre
222 km west of Rundu
Mukekete Village
Mpungu Constituency
- 5 Farm Du Plessis Youth Centre
90 km from Gobabis
PO Box 552, Gobabis
062-568334 (telephone)
062-568334 (fax)
- 6 Hompa Matumbo Ribebe
Near Kehemu Settlement, near Rundu
Maria Mwengere Street, Rundu
PO Box 1274, Rundu
066-267185/6 (telephone)
066-255603 (fax)
- 7 IBBU Community Multimedia Centre
Near the Chobe River, Botswana border
IBBU Combined School
PO Box 6027
081 214 7878 (telephone)
- 8 Okangwati Multipurpose Community Communication Centre
110 km north of Opuwo
Kunene Regional Council
Private Bag 502, Opuwo
065-27444522 (telephone)

Table 2: Community Centres – Namibia

	Hours	Established	Reach	Physical structure	Profile of users	Population served	Gender of management / board	Gender or HIV/AIDS policy?
Saloma	Mon-Fri 08:00 – 17:00	June 2009	14 km	1 classroom and small storeroom	Video (50- 70% women), photocopies (20 – 70% women), computer (30- 50% women)	Mbukushu (70%) San (5%) Mafwe (25%)	56% women, 44% men	No
Frans Dimbare	08:00 – 17:00	2003	70 km	5 “class- rooms”		Mbukushu (80%), San (5%) Ovambo (6%) Rukwangali (9%)	3 male, 2 female	No
Koës	8 hours per day	April 2009	Two suburbs	3 rooms, toilet		Hereros Whites Namas Ovambos Damaras	Board is 50% men and women	No – but in preparation
Muke-kete	As long as attendant is present	Jan 2008	within reach	1 classroom and hall in Rundu	Unemployed youth and students		1 female staff member at Rundu, 1 female and 2 male teachers at Mukekete	Yes
Farm Du Plessis	08:00 – 17:00	1992	5 km	Hall (250 people), small boardroom and office	Youth and church groups	Herero (5%) Damara>Nama (40%) Tswana (40%) San (10%) Oshiwambo (5%)	1 female supervisor	No
Hompa Matumbo Ribebe	08:00 – 17:00	15 October 2001	5 km	5 office blocks, 1 conference hall		Mbukushu (50%) Yakwangali (70%) Yambunza (60%) Yagciriku (60%), YaZambyu (80%)	2 female staff members	No
IBBU	07:00 – 19:00	20 April 2008	30 km	Permanent structure	Subsistence farmers are regular users	Subia - speaking Caprivians	50% female	Yes
Okangwati	Weekdays 08:00 – 17:00	October 2007	110 km	Conference room at Okangwati Constituency Office	Religious groups more vocal and active	Ovahimba Ovambo Ovazemba Ovangambwe OkaKuvare	2 men, 1 woman	No

Organisations involved in funding the establishment of the centre

Respondents noted (1.6) their equipment as coming from the following sources:

- Δ Ministry of Information, Communication and Technology (1, 4, 7, 8)
- Δ Ministry of Education (1)
- Δ Ministry of Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture (2)
- Δ Ministry of Gender Equality (6)
- Δ Government (3, 5)

Organisational structures

Item 1.11: These varied, with some centres (1) noting an inclusive mix of community members, staff and students, with others (2, 5) noting youth officers and instructors or simply staff members (3, 8). Other centres noted that “ownership” was in the hands of the Kavango Regional Council (4). One centre (6) admitted there was “no organisational structure in place”, but noted the involvement in the running of the centre of two staff members from the Ministry of Gender Equality.

What are the objectives of your centre?

Respondents noted (under 1.15) that these were to:

- Δ enhance computer literacy (1)
- Δ allow equitable access to the internet (1) or provide access to ICT facilities (4)
- Δ share information (1, 7) and give access to government programmes through showing videos (4)
- Δ assist the rural youth in acquiring life skills (2, 5) or to encourage them to study (3)
- Δ educate and inform (7)
- Δ provide training to the community from surrounding villages (8)
- Δ provide optimal care to children to interact with each other (6)
- Δ provide opportunities for the youth to engage in recreational activities (2), to enhance their physical stimulation and prevent them from “wandering the streets” (6)
- Δ provide technical equipment, teaching aids and materials (2), including a public address system for meetings and community gatherings (8)
- Δ fulfil the needs of the society (3), especially the community’s information needs (5), and
- Δ encourage traditional material manufacturing through training (3).

Services offered by the centres

These included the following (item 2.2):

- Δ Internet and computer skills (1, 2, 3 ⁱⁱ, 4)
- Δ Photocopying (1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8)
- Δ Video shows (1, 4, 5, 7, 8)
- Δ Radio programmes or musical productions (3, 7)
- Δ Tailoring (2)
- Δ Hospitality and catering (2)
- Δ Health programmes (2)
- Δ Conference facilities (3)
- Δ Training facilitation (5)
- Δ Transport (5), and
- Δ Preschool learning (6).

i. The following centres noted that the internet was “not yet connected” (3, 7, 8)

Involvement of women and girls

Item 2.3: Some comments included that this is “very limited as men are in the forefront of everything” (8). Some centres simply stated that in terms of involvement there was “none” (2). Others, however, noted that there was such involvement in “all services” (3). Hompa Matumbo Ribebe noted that “the preschool is the input of the women and girls mostly.”

Regarding governance of the centre (3.12), some noted women at the forefront – the head of centre and chairperson of the students (2), and the supervisor of the Rundu Community Multimedia Centre are women (4) or that “they are part of the management team” (3) or “manage and run the affairs of the centre” (6). Others simply stated that “the leadership is female” (5)

How are the voices of women and girls heard in your centre?

Item 2.6: Although most respondents referred in general terms to the involvement of women and girls in the centres, some specific initiatives were mentioned:

- Δ Women and girl gatherings (3)
- Δ Conferences and workshops (3)
- Δ Government and individual civic education (5, 7)
- Δ Information-sharing meetings by all stakeholders of government and non-governmental agencies (6), and
- Δ Religious involvement – “religious groups are more vocal and active” (7, 8)

Table 3: Current state of equipment

	Equipment	Ownership	Maintenance
Saloma	Good condition but computer applications outdated	Community committee	Community committee
Frans Dimbare	Good	Government	Ministry of Works / Ministry of Youth and Sport
Koës	New	Council property	Not necessarily – new
Mukekete	Not enough computers, – restocking of audiovisual equipment needed	Kavango Regional Council	Kavango Regional Council
Farm Du Plessis	Good and functional state	Ministry of Youth / Regional Council	Ministry of Youth / Regional Council
Hompa Matumbo Ribebe	Not enough equipment. Broken photocopier. In need of equipment	Ministry of Gender Equality	Ministry of Gender Equality
IBBU	Excellent	Committee members	Ministry of Information, Communication and Technology
Okangwati	Good	Kunene Regional Council	No maintenance plan

Training of local community to maintain centre

Item 3.4: This was not done in some centres (1, 2, 5, 6, 7), but others noted studio operators who were trained (3) or received basic training to operate the equipment (4) or specifically “eight people trained to handle the equipment and manage the centre”. (8)

Most important training needs

Item 3.5: The following were identified:

- △ Computer trainer trainee including computer literacy (1, 3, 5, 8)
- △ Welding and auto mechanic instructors (2, 5)
- △ Gardening (5)
- △ Plumbing (5)
- △ HIV/Aids (3)
- △ Women and child abuse (3)
- △ Media training (3)
- △ Maintaining sustainability of centres through courses in financial management and record keeping (4, 6) as well as training on how to lobby for support from donors
- △ Research in training skills (6)
- △ Use of equipment (7) as well as service and care for these items
- △ Training in PA system sound control and management (8)

Challenges

Item 3.6: The following were identified:

- △ Not enough space for all of the equipment or need for a separate building, and dedicated staff for the centre (1,8)
- △ A need for more instructors (2)
- △ Upgrading needed for all equipment (3)
- △ A need for gym facilities (3)
- △ A lack of trained officers in labour relations (3)
- △ A lack of staff members who can administer and maintain the centre (3,4)
- △ A lack of ownership in the project or proper supervision by the Regional Council (4)
- △ A lack of control measures (4)
- △ Water problems, printer toner or paper running out, lack of internet connection, lack of trainers (5, 7)
- △ A lack of knowledge and skills on how to run the centre (6)
- △ A lack of equipment – audio/video, radio production, cameras, internet, reading material, fax machines, tables and furniture, air conditioning (6, 7)

Economic sustainability of the centre

Item 3.7: Centres were funded through local community support, including village councils (3), money raised through video shows, recording/designing and burning of music CDs (1, 3) and renting out of training facilities or conference halls and accommodation (5, 6). Some centres (6) also relied on money collected from school fees of the preschool or sales from the kiosk.

Others noted that centres sustain themselves by charging fees for services (4). These included charges for printing, hiring out of the PA system (7), or simply requesting voluntary donations from the community (7).

In other cases no fund raising took place and centres relied on support from ministries or the constituency office (2, 8).

RECOMMENDATIONS AND THE WAY FORWARD

1. **Training**, with the emphasis on women, should be considered in the following areas:
 - 1.1. Computers (hardware aspects of installation and maintenance – upgrading RAM, replacing DVD ROM drives, replacing/formatting hard drives, etc.) as well as software (virus removal, defragmenting hard drives, use of directories for user documentation, etc.). Ideally, all computers should be upgraded to free, open-source software such as Ubuntu, with free, open-source office applications (Open Office) and, if necessary, audio- recording programmes (Audacity) and music play list programmes (Rhythmbox Music Player). Desktop publishing software (Scribus) and Video Editing software (KdenLive) are also available for open-source operating systems.
 - 1.2. Maintenance and understanding of the operation of audio and radio station equipment such as Public Address (PA) systems, studio mixers, speakers, CD players, microphones, cassette recorders, etc. In some cases, the ability to maintain such equipment can also become a source of income for the centre or station where community members facing difficulties with equipment can receive technical help from the centre or station. This can even be taken further, with the establishment of SME operations in areas such as DVD and CD burning of music and locally generated video material, cleaning and restoring of scratched CDs and DVDs, and maintenance and repair of DVD players, CD players, cassette decks, etc.
 - 1.3. Bookkeeping, management, fund-raising and lobbying to donors. These are essential functions in ensuring the sustainability of the community centres or radio stations. Training should be practically oriented, with the emphasis on using examples from the actual centre and individuals who are trained. Other areas for training, especially regarding interaction with potential donors, might include project proposal writing and report writing. Again, using modern open-source applications would free participants from having to use a limited number of computers with licensed software and each participant should receive their own copy of the software. A motivating technique sometimes used by donors is to also encourage participants to engage in practical projects (e.g. writing a proposal or writing a report) after the conclusion of the training. The reward for continuing with practical implementation of what was learned during the workshop would be, for example, the presentation of a small laptop computer (net books using open-source operating systems are available at less than N\$2 000) to each participant. A workshop bringing the centre managers together and sharing ideas and experiences on some of the unique fund-raising activities (making of music CDs, hiring out of PA systems, charging for photocopies, etc.) could be presented.
2. **Equipment purchase** is needed in some centres, in others the consumables are a problem. Certainly, units are now available that allow for scanning, photocopying and printing in one unit, with laser units (essential in Namibia's dry climate as ink cartridges dry out rapidly) at less than N\$2 000. A selection of half a dozen laser toners (N\$1 000 each) with each printer would probably be vital. However, control should be stringently applied to ensure that money is recovered and generated from the use of such equipment. Otherwise it might tend to be used by all and sundry for their individual projects and requirements, and, rather than being an asset, it may become a drain on the centre's resources.
3. **Development of a "hard drive internet"**. In other words, rather than having open internet access (very expensive, and open to abuse by community members who would use it for unproductive purposes), a hard-drive-based internet could have a series of .html pages (web pages) from the various government ministries, as well as other relevant information (agriculture, health, etc.) from government and NGO sources. In addition, a hard-drive-based version of the open source Wikipedia can be made available to all users. The advantage is that information for the community can be controlled and can be targeted with pages that are relevant for each community and placed on the individual computers.

4. **Develop “win-win” partnerships for the community.** In other words, a project such as recording music by community members seems to fulfil the requirements of the community (allowing cultural self-expression), the centre (providing a small income for doing the recordings and burning CDs) and individuals (technicians who have skills in recording, CD burning, etc.). Similar initiatives could be developed around welding, plumbing, electrical work, typing, photocopying and report writing. Other initiatives that could benefit the centre as well as individuals could be printing and desktop publishing (posters for local activities, community and school newsletters, wedding invitations, etc.), as well as video recordings (of weddings, birthdays, christenings, funerals, etc.).

Centres could thus become areas where such skills (writing, typing, translating, recording, etc.) are shared to the benefit of all. Such partnerships can also be engaged with Namibian companies and institutions such as MTC, Leo, Telecom Namibia, UNAM and the Polytechnic of Namibia in order to transfer skills and knowledge to local community members.

5. **Operational manual development and implementation.** A manual for community radios and community multipurpose centres should be developed, taking into account existing strategies and best practices in other countries.

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This document was prepared using free open-source operating systems (www.ubuntu.org) and free open-source office software (www.openoffice.org)

Appendix 1: Breakdown of budget requirements for the setting up of a community radio station

Mixing console	N\$40 000
Microphones (X4)	N\$ 2 000
Monitor speakers	N\$ 5 000
Headphones (X2)	N\$ 1 000
Headphone amplifier	N\$ 2 000
Computer (X2)	N\$12 000
Software (scheduling, editing)	N\$ 2 000
Microphone stands	N\$ 3 000
UPS Power supply	N\$10 000
Zoom recorders (X4)	N\$20 000
Transmitter	N\$60 000
Antenna mast	N\$20 000

NB: A PA (public address) system can allow such a station to gain revenue through outside broadcasts and by renting out the equipment for community functions (weddings, funerals, community events). This is not included in the above costing.

Appendix 2: Breakdown of budget requirements for community centres

Computers (X6)	N\$30 000 ⁱⁱⁱ
Colour laser scanner/printer/fax	N\$ 4 000
Colour laser refills (X8)	N\$ 8 000 p.a.
Monochrome laser scanner/printer/fax	N\$ 2 000
Monochrome laser refills (X2)	N\$ 2 000 p.a.
Consumables (paper, blank CDs, DVDs)	N\$ 3 000 p.a.
Digital camera (5MP)	N\$ 5 000
Digital video camera (SD card)	N\$ 4 000
Digital hard-drive recorder	N\$ 4 000
Whiteboard and accessories	N\$ 5 000

Appendix 3: Community Radio Questionnaire

INSTRUCTIONS: Please answer the following questions to the best of your ability.

Historical and current status of the station

What is the official name of your radio station?

What is the slogan/catchphrase of the station?

What are your hours of broadcast?

When (month /year) was your radio station started?

ii. Available at Creative Computer Connections, Windhoek at N\$2 999 each, including full Ubuntu software as well as Open Office suite. Thus, 10 computers could be purchased rather than 6, with no costs for additional software.

Please provide your contact details (telephone numbers, postal address, physical address, e-mail address, website, etc.).

Did any organisation (UNESCO, non-governmental organisations, churches, government, etc.) assist with funding in order to establish the radio station? If so, how?

What licence (type of licence) has been granted to the station? (Community/Commercial/Public)

What is the frequency of the station?

What is the power of the transmitter (in kilowatts) and how far does your station reach (in kilometres)?

Where is the office/studio?

How would you define the nature of the "community" that your radio station serves? (Geographical, religious, employment, gender, etc.)

What makes your station unique compared to other public/commercial radio stations?

What are the objectives of your radio station?

Programming

Do you have a policy on music content; for example, do you compel your presenters to play a certain amount of locally produced music?

What percentage (on average) of your programme content is devoted to speech, and what percentage to music?

What are the specific original programmes that your station introduced that make it unique?

Please provide us with a sample schedule of a daily broadcast (Monday to Friday).

Please provide us with the gender of the presenters of each of the programmes listed in 2.4.

Sustainability

In general, what is the current state of the equipment at the station?

If there are maintenance problems, how is the equipment maintained or fixed?

Have any of the local community members been empowered with (or do they possess) specific technical skills for producing programmes and news as well as maintaining the station?

What are the most important training needs at the station?

How is the station currently sustained financially? (For example, through advertising, NGO or church funding, government funding, local community involvement and support, etc.)

What methods do you currently use to raise funds for the station?

Who are the most common advertisers on your station?

What contracts (volunteer, part-time, full-time) are there for your station presenters?

How are the presenters paid? (Per hour, per month, etc.)

Gender issues

How many staff members does the station currently employ? (For example, full-time, part-time, voluntary)?

What is the current gender composition of the station management and of the Board of Directors?

What is the current staff gender complement?

What role do women play in the governance of your radio station?

Does the station have a gender or HIV/AIDS policy in place? Does it work in practice? If not, why not?

How are the voices of women and girls heard on your radio? (For example, civic, government, corporate, religious, etc.)

What specific programmes on your station target children, particularly girls?

What specific programmes on your station reach a female audience?

Community Involvement

Describe the overall structure of your radio station and its impact on the community you serve.

How do you ensure community involvement in the running and management of the station?

What kind of research do you conduct in order to establish the level of listener satisfaction with the station, particularly women and girls?

How do you ensure community interaction with regard to programmes and programme content?

Multimedia centres. (Separate questionnaire structured in the same way as the community radio questionnaire.)

An idea currently under discussion is the establishment of various "multimedia centres" throughout Namibia. These would be central sources of information on a variety of topics, using a variety of media (in particular the internet) to access this information.

Does the location of the multimedia centres serve your needs and aspirations? How?

Where would you like such a multimedia centre to be established in your area?

How does/would a multimedia centre serve your community?

What should it contain? (For example types of information, services.)

What challenges/shortcomings do you experience at your multimedia centre?

How could such a multimedia centre benefit your radio station?

Any other comments, inquiries or inputs you wish to share.

Appendix 4: Community Multimedia Centres Questionnaire

INSTRUCTIONS: Please answer the following questions to the best of your ability.

Historical and current status of the community centre

What is the official name of your community multimedia centre?

What is the slogan/logo of the centre? What is its relevance to the community that is served?

What are your hours of service delivery/accessibility to the community?

When (month/year) was your centre established?

Please provide your centre contact details (telephone numbers, postal address, physical address, e-mail address, website, etc.).

Did the government and/or any other organisation (UNESCO, non-governmental organisations, churches, etc.) assist with funding in order to establish the centre? If so, how?

What policy or regulation created the centre?

Where is this centre located? (Proximity with access to resources/suppliers)

What is the reach of the centre (in kilometres) in serving the community?

Describe the physical layout of the centre (size/design).

Describe the organisational structure (hierarchy) of the centre.

What is the profile of the users? (Geographical, religious, employment, gender, etc.)

Describe the diversity of the population that this centre serves (language/ethnic/tribal).

What makes your centre unique compared to other institutions that serve this community?

What are the objectives of your centre?

Content and services

What specific original services has your centre introduced that make it unique?

What services does your centre offer?

What is the usage breakdown of these services percentage wise? (Internet, landline, photocopying, video/audio, radio broadcasting, etc.)

What part of the said services is based on local originality/innovation?

What part of the said services is based on the actual input of women and girls?

What specific programmes in your centre target children, especially girls?

How are the voices of women and girls heard in your centre? (Civic, government, corporate, religious, etc.)

What specific programmes in your centre reach a female audience?

Sustainability and management

In general, what is the current state of the equipment at the centre?

Who owns the equipment at the centre?

If there are maintenance problems, how is the equipment maintained or fixed?

Have any of the local community members been empowered with (or do they possess) specific technical skills for maintaining the centre? If so, how?

What are the most important training needs at the centre?

What challenges/shortcomings do you experience at the centre?

How is the centre currently sustained financially? (Through advertising, NGOs, church or government funding, local community involvement and support, etc.)

What methods do you currently use to raise funds for the centre?

How many staff members does the centre currently employ? (Full-time, part-time, voluntary.)

What is the current gender composition of the centre management and of the Board of Directors?

What is the current staff gender complement?

What role do women play in the governance of your centre?

Does the centre have a gender or HIV/AIDS policy in place? Does it work in practice? If not, why not?

Community Involvement:

Describe the overall impact of the centre on the community that you serve.

How do you ensure community involvement in the running and management of the centre?

What kind of research do you conduct in order to establish the level of participant/user satisfaction with the centre, particularly women and girls?

How do you ensure community interaction with regard to content and services?

Does the location of the centre serve your needs and aspirations? How?

General

Any other comments, inquiries or inputs that you wish to share.

