

Promising Strategies 2009

Helping to make a difference!

www.ibe-epilepsy.org/promising-strategy

CHILE



Educational Puppet Show

All young children love puppets and puppetry has been shown to be a successful means of educating young people and of dealing with issues that can be otherwise more difficult to confront. ANLICHE, IBE's Full Member in Chile, will use a puppet family in a video aimed at 7 to 12 years olds. The puppet story will start with the diagnosis of epilepsy in a family member and look at how the family learns to confront and to then accept the diagnosis.

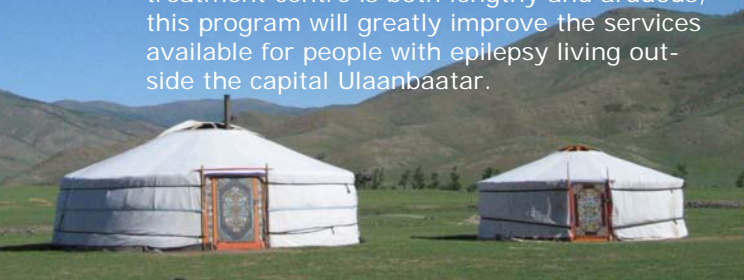
The video, which will be shown to more than 5,000 students in 20 primary schools in the Metropolitan Area of Chile, aims to eliminate stigma thereby improving the self-esteem and self-confidence of children with epilepsy. Following screening of the video, a social worker will be in attendance for discussion on the subject. In addition, the Chilean Ministry of Education has agreed to make more than 200 copies of the video available to schools throughout Chile.

Quality of Life Program

The Mongolian Epilepsy Association's "Quality of Life" program will conduct health education courses on epilepsy care for neurologists working in district hospitals, family doctors, nurses, people with epilepsy and their families, as well as the public in general and local government officials.

It is hoped that the programme will encourage governments and departments of health to address the needs of people with epilepsy throughout Mongolia

In a vast country, where most of the population lives in difficult terrain and in rural and isolated areas, and where travel to a major treatment centre is both lengthy and arduous, this program will greatly improve the services available for people with epilepsy living outside the capital Ulaanbaatar.



MONGOLIA



MAURITIUS

Teacher Training

Edyecs Epilepsy Group in Mauritius is creating an Epilepsy Advocacy Network, one action of which will be to train teachers working with special needs children. Other elements will include:

- Lobbying the health and education ministries to support the initiative;
- Development of an Advocacy Tool Kit for school boards;
- Training workshops for teachers on the management of epilepsy;
- Recruitment of a part time Visiting Liaison Officer to support and facilitate the programme;
- Development of an assessment tool to evaluate the programme.

From peanut butter to video production, from puppetry to vegetable farming, the six projects selected for funding under the third round of the IBE Promising Strategies Program will provide training and a means of self-sufficiency for people with epilepsy living in Chile, Togo, Mauritius, Zambia, Namibia, Philippines, Zimbabwe and Mongolia.

Promising Strategies has now funded 27 projects around the world, thanks to the generous donations of IBE members and supporters.

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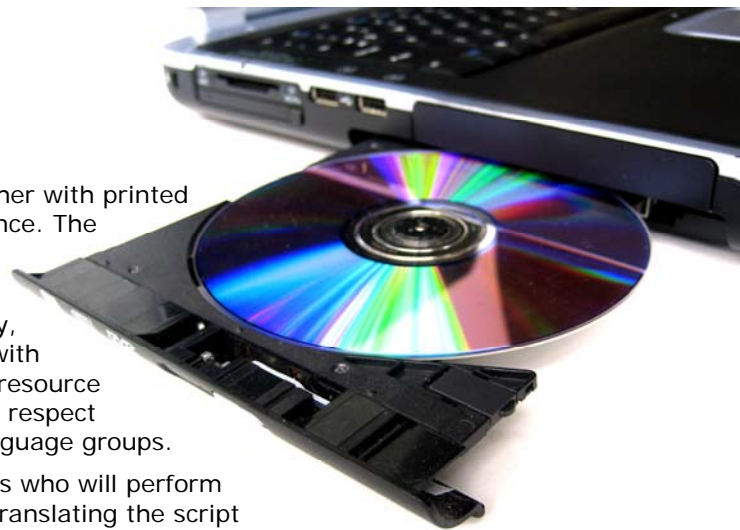
NAMIBIA

DVD Awareness Pack

Epilepsy Namibia is producing a DVD presentation, together with printed information on lifestyle management and seizure assistance. The presentation will be translated into six languages, with distribution of 600 units of the completed package.

The multimedia pack will explain the condition of epilepsy, lifestyle management and seizure assistance for people with epilepsy and their caregivers who do not have access to resource centres in the rural areas of Namibia. The production will respect indigenous cultures and will be available in the major language groups.

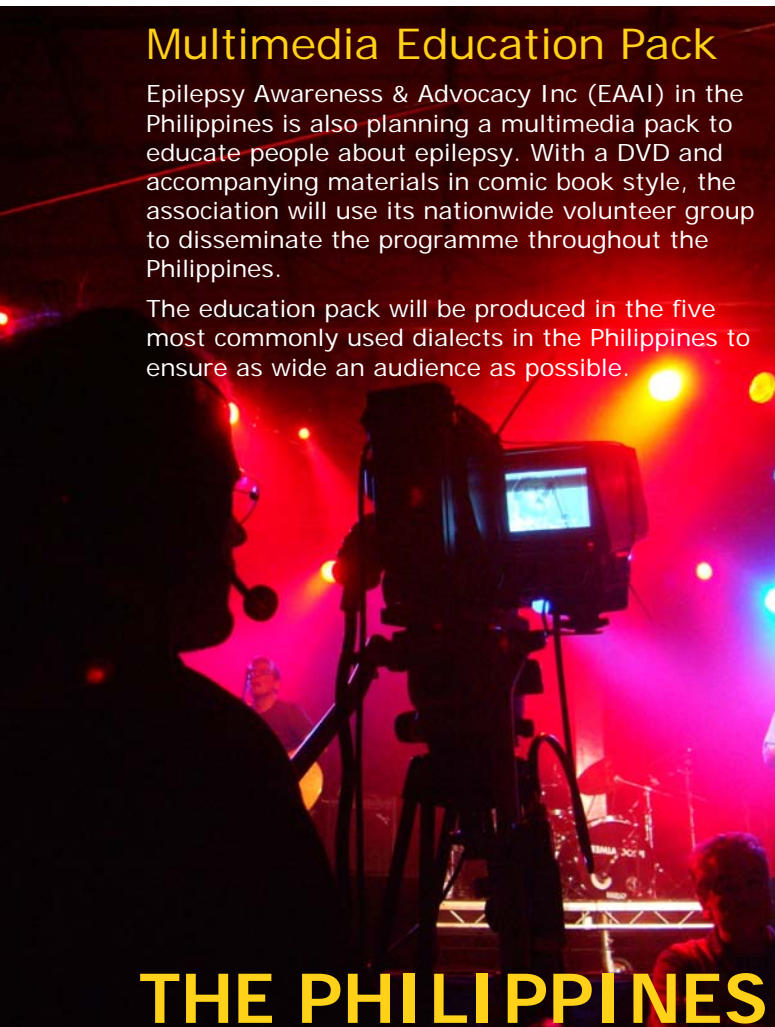
Epilepsy Namibia has begun the process of training actors who will perform on the video and has also begun the lengthy process of translating the script into the six languages in which the production is to be produced.



Multimedia Education Pack

Epilepsy Awareness & Advocacy Inc (EAAI) in the Philippines is also planning a multimedia pack to educate people about epilepsy. With a DVD and accompanying materials in comic book style, the association will use its nationwide volunteer group to disseminate the programme throughout the Philippines.

The education pack will be produced in the five most commonly used dialects in the Philippines to ensure as wide an audience as possible.



THE PHILIPPINES



Market Gardening Skills

Learning a skill increases self-confidence and self-worth and when that skill leads to self-sufficiency the value is multiplied. The Market Gardening Skills project of the Epilepsy Association of Zambia will train people with epilepsy in basic gardening and vegetable production skills. In this way, those attending the course will acquire, perhaps for the first time in their lives, the means of generating funds to support themselves and their families.

This project follows on the earlier very successful Promising Strategies Project in poultry rearing, which the association established in 2007.

ZAMBIA

Promising Strategies is supporting programmes in:

- Argentina
- Brazil
- Cameroon
- Chile
- Ecuador
- Ethiopia
- The Gambia
- Guatemala
- Kenya
- Mauritius
- Mongolia
- Namibia
- Philippines
- Romania
- Sierra Leone
- South Africa
- Tanzania
- Togo
- Uganda
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

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ZIMBABWE



Peanut Butter Project

Epilepsy Support Foundation of Zimbabwe has been provided with financial support to establish a peanut butter processing project that will benefit 70 rural dwelling people and 30 city dwellers, all of whom have epilepsy.

The main objective of the project is to improve income generating skills of the 100 people selected for training, who are all currently unemployed. Training will take place over a period of two months.

The association is renovating an existing building at the Epilepsy Centre that will serve both as a training area and an employment workshop, where the peanut butter will be produced.

The provision of training, in a skill that can lead to employment, will remove the dependence of these people with epilepsy and give them the opportunity to support their families, including funding for their own medication. The Epilepsy Centre provides the ideal location for the workshop, providing a clinic, social support and is located in Harare, Zimbabwe's largest commercial zone.

TOGO



Bridging the Gender Gap

In Togo, as in other areas of the developing world, poverty, illiteracy, language barriers and gender discrimination are great obstacles to obtaining proper epilepsy treatment. The population to be targeted in the project in Togo, concerned with health care education, are women and children with epilepsy as well as their family members. The project will include:

- Knowledge building on seizure recognition and prevention, and first aid and drug treatment
- A seizure calendar using symbols and pictures
- The importance of taking medication as prescribed
- Knowing which elements of traditional medicine are helpful and which herbal medicines are harmful
- Information on schooling, employment, sleep, and pregnancy.

Find out more

Detailed information on each of the 27 projects funded through the Promising Strategy Program since 2007 can be found on the IBE website at www.ibe-epilepsy.org/promising-strategy

Information on what constitutes an IBE Promising Strategy, and how projects are selected, is also included on this webpage.

Donate to the Program

The number of projects funded through the Promising Strategies Program is limited to the level of funding available to IBE. If you would like to help us support even more projects, please consider making a donation to the program. Contact Ann Little, IBE Executive Director to find out more ibedublin@eircom.net.