

# Promising Strategies 2010

## UGANDA

### Goat Rearing Enterprise

In rural Uganda goat rearing ranks high in animal husbandry and the average household will own 4 or 5 goats. In addition to generating income through goat's milk and goat meat, goats are considered as a symbol of wealth and are used as dowry payments in arranged marriages.

This project will assist 48 people with epilepsy. Each participant will be provided with a pregnant goat and receive instruction on its care. In return each person will be asked to give back two goats to the project within a period of 2 years. As most goats produce twin kids, this should be easily achievable. The young goats will then be used to extend the program further. Profits will provide a means of independent living and improve self esteem for many members of the Epilepsy Support Association of Uganda.



## RE-

### A new concept in retailing

The concept of the second hand shop is not new: it's a tried and tested way of generating funds for charities around the world. However, the plans Epilepsy Namibia has for RE- will broaden the scope of this enterprise to great effect.

RE- will follow the structure of any commercial retail outlet with a shop manager, sales assistants and stock controllers. People with epilepsy will be given preference in the selection of staff and the shop will also act as an awareness and information centre. Sales training will be provided for all RE- employees.

In addition, it is envisaged that others not directly involved in RE- will have the opportunity to create new employment opportunities through the creation of spin-off businesses, such as laundry and alteration services.

## NAMIBIA

## ARGENTINA

### A Legal Brief

Monitoring the newly introduced Argentinean legislation on epilepsy, National Law of Epilepsy N° 25.404, the FUNDEPI association will study how successfully the law is being implemented. The association will monitor, in particular:

- whether the new legislation has had an impact on the gap between diagnosis and treatment,
- the implementation of the legislation with respect to employment issues,
- the situation for indigenous communities where the use of traditional medicines still exists,
- implementation of educational programmes for health care professionals at primary level,
- whether the law has had an impact on stigma related to epilepsy. This element will be addressed by way of a planned survey.

The IBE Promising Strategies Program was set up in 2006 in order to support IBE Members by providing financial help for projects aimed at improving the quality of life of people with epilepsy. We are delighted to introduce the 11 new projects recently selected to receive funds under the 4th round of the program. The program is now supporting 38 projects around the world.

[www.ibe-epilepsy.org/promising-strategy](http://www.ibe-epilepsy.org/promising-strategy)

## Learning by the Book

Epilepsy South Africa is developing a self-advocacy, human rights and rights-to-health training manual to be used by its National Social Development Manager in self-advocacy training workshops for members of the community and staff members from the association's branches. A secondary objective is to train 30 trainers, from seven Epilepsy South Africa branches during 2010-2011. These trainers will then have the potential to facilitate further training of 600 persons with epilepsy and other disabilities each year.

The organisation also plans to conduct a pilot study with the two-fold aim of:

- Training members of staff in implementing and facilitating the training programme in their respective Epilepsy South Africa branches.
- Monitoring to establish how successful the training program is and the level of learning achieved by participants during and after training.

**SOUTH AFRICA**



## Jamming it in **ZAMBIA**

Epilepsy Association of Zambia plans to add value to the tomato-growing enterprise already in place in the association's garden by embarking on a jam-making enterprise. Not limiting production to tomato jam, there are also plans to extend the range by buying fruits such as mangos, pawpaws, oranges, strawberries and bananas at the local market which will also be used to produce jam.

The finished product will be sold in a new association shop that will be located in the garden. The shop will also stock garden and poultry products produced by people with epilepsy working in the garden and more produce will be sold at wholesale prices to local shops.

The enterprise will train people with epilepsy in jam-making techniques and the profits will be used to pay the workers and to fund the Epilepsy Association of Zambia.

The ANLICHE hairdressing workshop will train 15 people with epilepsy in hairdressing techniques for ladies, gents and children. The workshop participants will also undertake a course on running a small business, so that they can set up their own micro enterprises once they are trained.

The workshop is aimed primarily at housewives whose epilepsy is now well controlled. These women would have had little chance to study or work when they were still having seizures and will have neither social benefits nor healthcare assistance within the normal parameters of a national health system.

It is expected that up to 80% of participants will find work within a period of 8 months.



**CHILE**

## The Cutting Edge

## The Promising Strategies Program has supported projects in:

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

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## Artistic Direction in CHINA

In late 2007, the Sea Horse self-help club of the China Association Against Epilepsy conducted an art and crafts competition in Shanghai for persons with epilepsy. The artworks created were both elegant and valuable, representing the fighting spirit to overcome difficulties faced by those living with epilepsy. The artworks were of very high quality and were showcased on the IBE website.

In follow up to the art competition, a 4-week course in handcrafts, which took place in August 2009, also proved both popular and successful. Feedback from Sea Horse club members indicated that these activities were much appreciated and there was a desire for people with epilepsy to have a central place where they could relax and create artworks.

In response to this, the China Association Against Epilepsy has taken the decision to create an Art Studio for people with epilepsy in Shanghai. Based on the train the trainers model, the studio will provide an artistic environment for people with epilepsy and their care-givers. Here they will be able not only to learn and share art techniques, but to exchange their experiences related to epilepsy.

Through future planned exhibitions of artwork created in the studio, the China Association Against Epilepsy also hopes to be able to raise awareness and understanding of epilepsy in the general public as well as improving the quality of life and self esteem of all those involved in the project.

## REPUBLIC

## CZECH

### Children's Survey

Using existing methodology and verified questionnaires, Epistop plans to undertake a survey involving school children, their teachers and parents to establish whether the situation has changed for children with epilepsy in the Czech Republic since similar surveys were carried out in 1995 and 2007. Based on the data obtained, the association will inform all those interested how it is possible to improve the quality of life of children with epilepsy. These questionnaires could be a reliable tool for the next investigation in the Czech Republic.

The next plan will be to use the results of the survey to prepare an information brochure or leaflet and to upload the information on websites with a pro link to the website of the Ministry of Education.



Details on the projects supported under this round, as well as in previous rounds of the Promising Strategies Program, can be found on the website. The next round of the program will begin in late 2010, when IBE member associations will be invited to submit letters of intent. Full details on the application process are also available on the IBE website.

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**Raising Awareness** is the main goal of the Romanian project planned by EpiRomania. Despite the obvious beauty of the architecture and countryside of Transylvanian, stigma, prejudice and ignorance about epilepsy are still widespread in this region—both in people with epilepsy and the general public.

ROMANIA



LEBANON

## Lights, Camera, Action!

With a high level of illiteracy in Bangladesh, the written word is not always the best way of educating the public. With that in mind, the Epilepsy Association of Bangladesh has decided to use the medium of film to inform people about epilepsy.

The documentary film has already generated interest from a media partner. It is planned to use famous local actors in the production, in order to increase public interest and to attract media interest in the project.

With a huge population, most of whom have little or no formal education, the incidence of epilepsy in Bangladesh is still unknown.

BANGLADESH



## Good news for chocoholics!

The initiative of the Association for the Care of People with Epilepsy will come as good news to all those with a sweet tooth! The ECAL project is a chocolate making workshop which will also teach chocolate moulding and wrapping. The project is open to people with epilepsy and to anyone else interested in learning the craft of the chocolate maker.

Once the techniques of chocolate making have been mastered, the chocolates produced at the workshop will be sold to generate income for the chocolate makers. Some of the profits will also be used to support people with epilepsy who come from poor backgrounds.