IBE AFRICA PROJECT 2025 – 2026

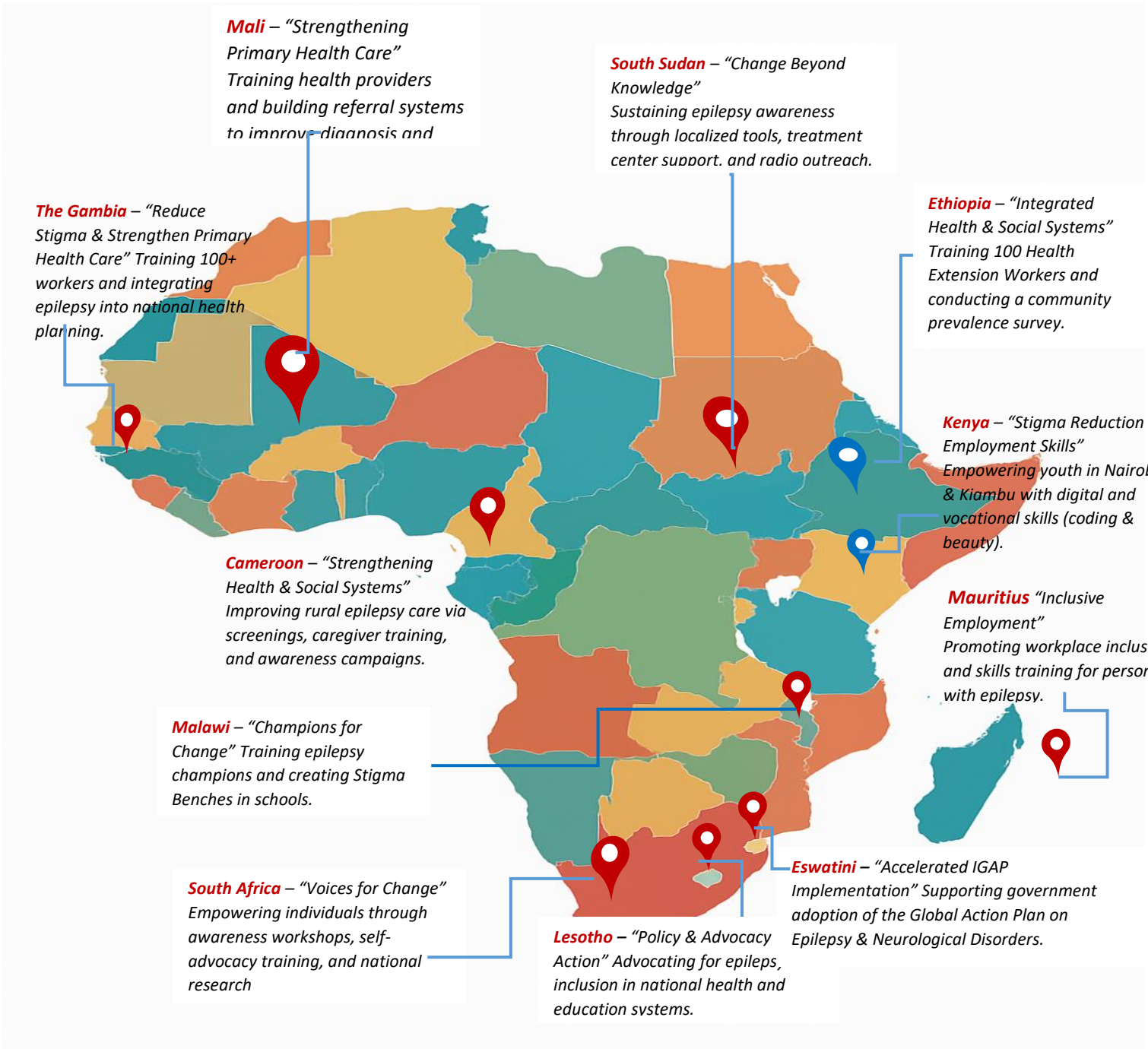
Making Epilepsy a Health Priority in Africa 2025–26

Empowering Communities, Breaking Stigma, Transforming Lives

As we launch the next phase of our mission in 2025–26, IBE, together with our national chapters across the continent, is proud to introduce a new wave of community-led projects aimed at transforming epilepsy care and awareness. With the generous support of the BAND Foundation, these initiatives are taking across Africa, focused on amplifying the voices of people with epilepsy, reducing stigma, and building stronger, more inclusive health systems.

A Continental Movement for Change

Across Africa—from Southern Africa to the Sahel—our chapters are putting local solutions into action to serve a shared goal: ensuring dignity, inclusion, and equitable access to care for everyone affected by epilepsy. Together, we are turning commitment into action, and action into lasting change.



COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS

The impact from different chapters cutting across Western, Eastern, Southern and Central Africa supported by **BAND FOUNDATION**.

Highlights:

- **South – Africa**: **Epilepsy South Africa** will engage in a project ***"Voices for Change"*** which aims to break stigma, empower individuals, and inform policy through awareness workshops, self-advocacy training, and national research. In partnership with key institutions, the project supports SAINAP and IGAP

- **Lesotho**: ***"Policy and Advocacy Action for Epilepsy Inclusion in National Health"*** implemented by **Epilepsy Lesotho**.
  This project aims to improve epilepsy care in Lesotho by advocating for its inclusion in national health and education strategies. It promotes access to quality care, protects human rights, and reduces stigma through awareness and partnerships, aligning with the WHO IGAP to support multisectorial collaboration and government commitment.

- **Eswatini**: **"*Accelerated IGAP Implementation*" by Eswatini Epilepsy Organization EEO**. In 2022, EEO launched a project to promote the Inter-Sectoral Global Action Plan on Epilepsy and Neurological Disorders in Eswatini. The current initiative aims to raise awareness, facilitate adoption, and support the government in implementation. Future efforts will focus on stakeholder engagement, developing a position paper, and public campaigning.

- **Kenya**: In Kenya, **Kisserem Epilepsy Foundation & Youth On *The Move*** organization will be implementing a project ***"Epilepsy Stigma Reduction and Acquisition Of Employment Skills For PWE's*** in Kiambu And Nairobi County. The project seeks to empower young people with epilepsy through digital and vocational training. Targeting marginalized urban areas, the initiative offers coding and beauty skills to 60 youth, coupled with community awareness sessions to reduce stigma. The project promotes inclusion, economic independence, and improved quality of life by bridging treatment gaps with practical empowerment opportunities in education and employment.

- **Mauritius**: ***"Empowering Persons with Epilepsy through Inclusive Employment"*** with **EDYCS Epilepsy Group**.
  This Epilepsy and Employment Initiative in Mauritius empowers persons with epilepsy by promoting inclusive employment through skills training, employer engagement, and public awareness. Aligned with global and national disability frameworks, the project aims to reduce stigma, enhance economic opportunities, and foster inclusive workplaces for lasting social and economic impact.

- **South Sudan**: **"*Change beyond knowledge*" by Initiative For Epilepsy Awareness**
  This project in Mvolo County, Western Equatorial State, aims to sustain epilepsy awareness by localizing tools and training personnel. It builds on previous efforts, supports the new treatment center, and reduces stigma through monthly bench sessions, community dialogues with key groups, and radio talk shows on local FM stations.

- **Malawi**: ***"Champions For Change, Community-Led Epilepsy Stigma Reduction and Awareness"***
  The project by the **National Epilepsy Association Malawi** seeks to empower trained champions to lead awareness campaigns and establish Stigma Benches in eight schools, creating safe spaces for epilepsy education and support. Utilizing grassroots methods, it emphasizes the voices of those with epilepsy to combat stigma, promote empathy, and strengthen community protections against social judgment.

- **Cameroon**: "***Strengthening the health and social systems for persons with epilepsy in Cameroon"***
  The project by the **Community Development & Epilepsy Foundation (CODEF)** aims to improve epilepsy care in rural Ntui, Cameroon, through screening missions with the Catholic Health Center. It will develop a caregiver support curriculum, train caregivers and health workers, and distribute educational materials on medication adherence and the Intersectoral Global Action Plan to enhance community awareness and support.

- **Mali: "*Strengthening Primary Health Care for Epilepsy in Mali"***
  This project by **Global Health Mali** aims to improve epilepsy care in Kalaban Coro, Mali, by training 30 primary health providers, strengthening referral systems, and conducting community awareness campaigns. Through practical tools and partnerships, it seeks to reduce stigma, enhance diagnosis and treatment, and establish a scalable model for broader national and regional impact.

- **Gambia**: "***Reduce Stigma & Strengthen Primary Health Care"*** by **FESSGAM**
  FESSGam, will be enhancing primary health care in The Gambia by integrating epilepsy into national health planning. The project trains over 100 workers, develops toolkits, and produces educational materials, aiming to reduce stigma, improve diagnosis, and prioritize epilepsy in public health through community engagement.

- **Ethiopia: "*Integrated Health & Social Systems"*** with **Care Epilepsy Ethiopia.**
  This initiative aims to improve epilepsy care in the Bench Maji Zone by conducting a community prevalence survey and training 100 Health Extension Workers. Focusing on stigma reduction and community engagement, the project seeks to influence national policy, ensuring people with epilepsy gain visibility, dignity, and equitable access to care.

Beneficiary organizations:

Community Development & Epilepsy Foundation
CODEF

Epilepsy Lesotho

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INITIATIVE FOR EPILEPSY AWARENESS
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NATIONAL EPILEPSY ASSOCIATION MALAWI
"Putting Epilepsy On the Agenda"

FESS-GAM
Epilepsy and Stigma Support

GLOBAL HEALTH MALI

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Kiserem epilepsy foundation

CAREEPILEPSY ETHIOPIA