



National Epilepsy Association of Malawi

“ENDING EPILEPSY SILENCE IN RURAL MALAWI: A CONTRIBUTION TO A NATIONAL PLAN DEVELOPMENT”

The Association launched phase 2 of their project, identified and engaged health centers in two project districts. The Ministry of Health has been engaged on the MOU drafted in Phase 1. 3 radio stations and 2 national TV stations have been engaged on the IGAP, to promote it to the nation. Support groups have been formed in the project areas and members trained using the Advocacy Toolkit.

The association has managed to;

- Promote WHO Resolution 73.10 (advocate for the development of National Epilepsy Plan), UNSDG 10 and 11, and the UNCRD–Article 25. [*ensuring epilepsy drugs are available at health centers consistently; reporting gender based violence against persons with epilepsy; and task force identification and meetings*].
- Draft the Memorandum of Understanding [*Completed all the requirements and followed all procedures; and follow up meetings*].
- Build Capacity [*used the Epilepsy Africa Advocacy Toolkit for Advocacy Training*].

The association has encountered a few challenges;

There is a delay by the government to sign the MOU, however the association has been conducting follow up visits on that regard. The lack of information about epilepsy in the government system has also been noticed, to which data is being collected from the support groups to close the gap. There has also been some unwillingness by some government officers to work with the association, and have since involved the DHO to draft letter of support. The unwillingness of people with epilepsy to come out and be public with their condition also proves to be a challenge, sensitization meetings and advocacy trainings continue with the goal to overcome this challenge.

The National Epilepsy Association of Malawi plans to;

- Meet with the Ministry of Health to present the IGAP, sign the MOU and discuss the way forward of the National Epilepsy Plan.
- Meet with Parliamentary Committee of Health on IGAP to a presentation and proposition paper presentation.
- Capacity building with project volunteers and health personnel
- Run media programs
- Continue to form Support Groups and economically empower persons with epilepsy
- Lobby support for the adoption of IGAP.





Community Development and Epilepsy Foundation (CODEF) - Cameroon

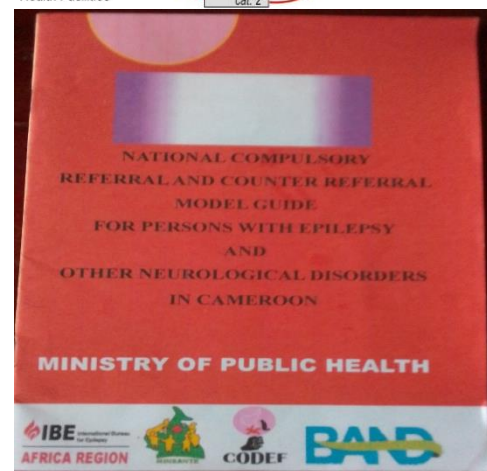
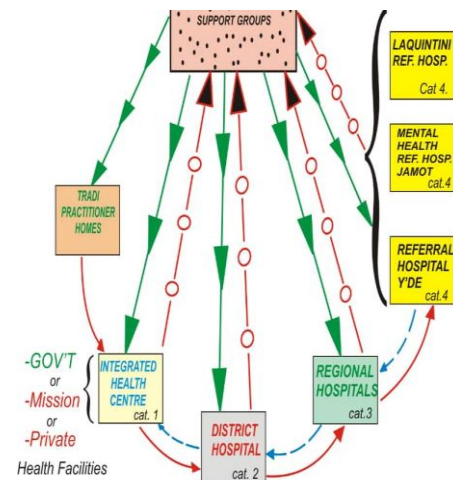


DEVELOPING A REFERRAL AND COUNTER REFERRAL MODEL GUIDE FOR PWE & OTHER NEUROLOGICAL DISORDERS

The foundation has hosted planning workshops with Persons with epilepsy, caregivers, health center heads, regional health personnel and some CSO's. In June, CODEF held a national level consultation meeting with Directors of Epidemics, Pandemics and Disease Control in the Ministry of Public Health. The foundation also managed to have two follow up meetings with Dr. Yepjio, a representative of the Cameroon League Against Epilepsy and DR. Ngo Sack Françoise of the Department of Epidemics, Pandemics and Disease Control in MOH. Staff from the departments was also engaged to check on the level of work on the Model Guide by the MoH.

Some of the challenges encountered by CODEF include the need for funds to pilot the developed register in the Referral and Counter Referral Model Guide for the collection of epilepsy statistics in some regions or health districts in Cameroon. Some key stakeholders have slow in engaging with CODEF hence delaying the project.

Coming up in the next months, CODEF will host a sensitization seminar on the model guide with traditional healers in the South West Region late August and September, 2022. Organize a tripartite meeting between MOH, Cameroon League Against Epilepsy, and CODEF to make final inputs in the model guide. Follow up meetings with the MOH for the Minister of Public Health to endorse or sign the guide for production and distribution will be held. By 2023, CODEF will pilot the collection of epilepsy statistics using the developed register found in the model guide.



MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH

NATIONAL REFERRAL AND COUNTER-REFERAL REGISTER FOR EPILEPSY AND OTHER NEUROLOGICAL DISORDERS

* HEALTH FACILITY..... * HEALTH DISTRICT..... * REGION.....

SERIAL N°	DATE	CLIENT NAME	AGE	SEX	PHONE N°	CLIENTS ENTRY STATUS					CLIENTS EXIT STATUS																				
						PLACE OF RESIDENCE (Detailed address)	COMMUNITY/REFERRAL PERSON	DIAGNOSTIC (STATISTICS)	TREATMENT	HEALTH FACILITY REFERRED FROM	SMS RECEIVED FROM PHONE N° OF HEALTH FACILITY	HEALTH FACILITY COUNTER REFERRED FROM	SMS RECEIVED FROM PHONE N° OF HEALTH FACILITY	DATE OF REFERRED COUNTER REFERRED	HEALTH FACILITY REFERRED TO	SMS SENT TO PHONE N° OF HEALTH FACILITY	HEALTH FACILITY COUNTER-REFERRED TO	SMS SENT TO PHONE N° OF HEALTH FACILITY	DISCHARGED	DATE OF REFERRED COUNTER-REFERRED DISCHARGE	NAME OF RECEIVING/ REFERRING/ COUNTER-REFERRED OFFICER										

NOTE: The register should be filled on daily basis as clients are consulted and provided care. Where not applicable for a client put dash. No column should be left empty.





Epilepsy Association of Zambia



The Epilepsy Association of Zambia

DOCUMENTARY OF EPILEPSY IN ZAMBIA



The Epilepsy Association of Zambia signed a contract with the Broadcasting Corporation of Zambia to air the documentary produced under this project. The national television station was paid K63,800 for its services to broadcast, to handle interviews and filming, in conjunction with the Ministry of Health's Communications Unit. Interviewees for the documentary have been identified, for instance the WHO – Country Representative, a neurologist, Traditional Healers Association and the Clergy. The MOH granted authority to visit two districts on the 18th of July, where health providers were interviewed.

The Association has had to readjust its budget to accommodate the increase in television airtime as it can be costly. The interview and editing process is set to be completed by August as the documentary is intended to be showcased on the 29th of August given that it is Zambia's National Epilepsy Day.



Filming in Chongwe





Epilepsy Association of Sierra Leone (EASL)



Epilepsy Association of Sierra Leone

IMPROVING ACCESS TO TREATMENT AND SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE WITH EPILEPSY AND OTHER NEUROLOGICAL DISORDERS IN SIERRA LEONE

EASL has produced two awareness raising jingles on epilepsy, where composers were contracted to improve them in order for listeners to easy grasp the information shared. A radio broadcaster on health issues, Tumac Radio FM 89.3, has joined EASL as a volunteer to assist as a promoter and communications officer. The association had a total of 14 media engagement activities, 4 being TV interviews and 10 being on national radio stations. Health talks were carried out at local clinics as an effective means of sharing epilepsy information, this approach has encouraged a more participatory approach. Short Faith Based sensitization workshops were held in 4 mosques and 4 churches to debunk the myths attached to epilepsy. Leaflets with epilepsy information were distributed to passengers passing one station park.

Advocacy: EASL hosted meetings with the National Commission for Persons with Disability (NCPD) in agreement with the Disability Act 2011 – Section 6 – Subsection 2 and I (iv), which allows the registration of persons with disabilities (epilepsy) whose condition requires constant medical attention. This meeting was to plead with the government to source more anti-seizure medication. Posters and leaflets for each district have been produced and distributed, detailing contact numbers, clinic times for the public to access help. Epilepsy Support Groups have been established to support epilepsy interventions.





Foundation for People with Epilepsy (FPE) - Kenya

DISSEMINATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE KENYA NATIONAL GUIDELINE FOR MANAGEMENT OF EPILEPSY IN MALINDI SUB-COUNTY, KILIFI COUNTY - KENYA

One of FPE's expected outcomes was the adoption of the Kenya National Guideline for Management of Epilepsy by the Ministry of Health, of which it was achieved with an MOU signed. To support this great move, Technical Working Groups were formed. FPE is now a stakeholder in CHMT Kilifi County. A workshop with spiritual leaders and community leaders was hosted to discuss coming up with epilepsy information for PWE and their families. A workshop for parents and caregivers of children with epilepsy and other neurological disorders was held to also work on information for children and caregivers. A team of County Department Heads; Psychiatry Unit, Psychologist, Pharmacy, Occupational Therapy, and Social Worker; met to work on an algorithm on diagnosis and management of epilepsy.

The biggest challenge to FPE were the Kenya National General Elections, which were held on the 9th of August, 2022. The Kilifi County Ministry of Health Director had to focus on the elections, hence meetings were postponed and rescheduled, delaying the project. There has also been a surge of partners in the Kilifi County who are seeking audience with the County Health Management Team. The sudden increase in cost of commodities also has bearing effects on the project.

In the coming weeks, FPE will come up with a draft practical algorithm /flow chart on diagnosis and management; and an information leaflet for PWE and carers. Once the algorithm is done, compiling and designing the flow chart and practical leaflet for PWE's and carers will follow, then these will be translated to reach a much broader audience and easy to understand. FPE will also utilize the guideline recommendation on epilepsy diagnosis and management through CME.

