

REACHING YOUNG PEOPLE WITH EPILEPSY IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS

In April 2012, Epilepsy Support Association Uganda (ESAU) was awarded a grant of US \$ 3000 by International Bureau for Epilepsy to which ESAU is a member to run a school Project for a period of one year. This project is intended to develop young persons with epilepsy into the governance of ESAU at all levels.

Project Objectives:

1. To create awareness about epilepsy in schools so students and teachers are better equipped to support children with epilepsy in schools.
2. To reduce drop out rates among children with epilepsy in schools.

Why this project

- Students living with epilepsy in Uganda are faced with a lot of stigma at school which forces them to keep silent about their condition.
- Worst still, the teachers are not aware of the many ways to positively handle epilepsy cases in their schools.
- Students are ill equipped to provide even basic first aid to their peers at school.

Activities carried out so far by the Project:

- Introduction of the project in 15 secondary schools in Kampala was done. 2 schools were not supportive of the project; however 3/4s of the schools accepted the project
- 1 school epilepsy club has been formed; others are in the process of formation.
- Epilepsy sensitisation drives in 15 secondary schools in Kampala. Over 2000 students were met during these sensitisation drives. They are still continuing. Students are getting accurate information on epilepsy and informing other students in other schools about how to manage epilepsy.
- 15 teachers were trained as trainers of trainers in epilepsy care and management and on their roles in implementing project activities.

Other Projects funded by International Bureau for Epilepsy

ESAU has been funded by International Bureau for Epilepsy to run 2 other projects previously. The first was a drug bank initiative for Persons living with epilepsy which was quite successful with 56 running drug banks established in ESAU programme areas.

The second was a project on Goat rearing for Persons with epilepsy, 72 persons with epilepsy have benefitted from this project and have running income generation activities and are living with dignity in their respective communities.