

TRAINING REPORT

**Name of the project: Training nurses, General Medical Officers (GMOs),
Allied Health Workers (AHW),
Herbal and Spiritual Healers and the community on
Epilepsy Management**



Date: 05 June 2024

Venue: Mahusekwa Hospital

Number of Persons Attending: 31

Sponsoring Organization: Zimbabwe League Against Epilepsy (ZLAE) and International League Against Epilepsy

Purpose of the training: To bridge knowledge gaps about epilepsy in Zimbabwe

- Expectations:** To know more about epilepsy management
- To know about epilepsy traditional beliefs
 - Myths and misconceptions about epilepsy
 - Treatment and management of epilepsy

PARTICIPANTS PROFILE

Participant	Number
Herbal healers	2
Community Health Workers	3
Social worker	2
Nurses	16
Member	
Allied Health Workers	7
GMOs	
Doctor	1
Physiotherapist	

RESOURCE PROFILE

NAME	DESIGNATION	TOPIC
Miss Mhanda	Social Worker	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Expectations and purpose of training• Myths and misconceptions about epilepsy
Mr Kadzviti	ZLAE Coordinator	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Zimbabwe League Against Epilepsy• Epilepsy Support Foundation• What is epilepsy, causes, triggers and treatment
Miss Perekwa	Student intern	Epilepsy Resource Centre Zimbabwe

Training Summary

On June 5, 2024, the Zimbabwe League Against Epilepsy, supported by the International League Against Epilepsy (ILAE), conducted the second of three training sessions on epilepsy management. The training was open to nurses, general medical officers, allied health workers, herbal and spiritual healers, and community health workers, with approximately thirty-one people attending.

Mr Egesi, the Environmental Officer of Mahusekwa Hospital gave the opening remarks, introduced the ERCZ and ESF members to different stakeholders including nurses, general medical officers, allied health workers, herbal and spiritual healers. Everyone was welcomed to the training on epilepsy management.

Miss Brander initiated the session by inquiring about the participants' expectations and clarifying the primary goal of the training. She emphasized that the focus of the training was on epilepsy management. Following this, she encouraged participants to share their expectations regarding the training. Several participants expressed a desire to learn about

traditional beliefs, myths, and misconceptions surrounding epilepsy, as well as the treatment and management of the condition.

Miss Brander then presented the overarching purpose of the training, which was to align with the participants' expectations. She outlined several key objectives, including:

- Bridging knowledge gaps regarding epilepsy in Zimbabwe.
- Combating the stigma associated with epilepsy, particularly in rural areas.
- Equipping health professionals in Zimbabwe with essential skills for effective epilepsy management.

This training aims to enhance understanding and improve the quality of care for individuals affected by epilepsy in the region.



Miss Brenda Mhanda presenting on stigma associated with epilepsy.

The second presenter was Miss Perekwa as she shed light on Epilepsy Resource Centre Zimbabwe. She further emphasized on the history and background of the organisation, its vision which is to reach out to all persons with epilepsy in Chitungwiza and the surrounding areas, its objectives namely creating a forum for organisations and support groups for persons

with epilepsy to share ideas, advocating for legislation and policies which advance the rights and interests of persons with epilepsy. She also shed light on ERCZ main services which is research and evidence use, information dissemination and training and last but not least social work and support.

Taurai Kadzviti gave a presentation about Zimbabwe League Against Epilepsy (ZLAE) as he emphasized that the League was established in 2000 and is affiliated with the International League. Its purpose is to enhance the skills and knowledge of health professionals on epilepsy care in Zimbabwe. He further explained the mission of the ZLAE which is to help everyone involved in epilepsy care, especially in areas where resources are scarce. to access the knowledge and tools they need to understand, diagnose and treat epilepsy. He also listed certain goals of ZLAE namely advocating for epilepsy as a public health imperative, promoting research and innovation for epilepsy among others.



Mr Kadzviti shading more light on ZLAE and ESF

After the presentations, the participants were awarded with certificates for completing the Epilepsy Management Training Programme and later the training briefly adjourned to allow all participants to have their lunch.



Presentation of certificates to participants

Conclusively, Dr Gumbo gave a vote of thanks to the sponsoring organisation, ZLAE and International League and to all the participants who attended the epilepsy management training.

Challenges faced

- Technical issues, the network was not favourable for the virtual presentation.

Recommendations

- Take key people to push more about epilepsy even on policy making.
- Take on board social media to showcase much of what the International League do for instance Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and You Tube.

- Support groups in Mahusekwa District and the supply of anti-epileptic drugs.

Lessons learnt

- Implementers learnt that they should visit schools, educate them and prevent stigma and discrimination at grass roots level.
- Cooperation and group cohesion makes work easier