

CAREEPILEPSY ETHIOPIA

2022

ANNUAL REPORT

Prepared By:
CareEpilepsy Ethiopia

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1

About us

2

From the Desk of the Executive Director

3

Top Stories

4

What we focus on to achieve our overall goal

5

Activities we perform to reach our goal

6

Activities we perform to reach our goal

7

Challenges we faced during 2022

8

Financial Highlights

About us

CareEpilepsy Ethiopia is the first non-governmental, non-religious epilepsy-focused charitable organization in Ethiopia. We aim to improve the welfare of patients who have epilepsy by facilitating easy access to medical treatments, creating more awareness in society to dispel negative perceptions of epilepsy, and enhancing preventative measures against epilepsy at a national level.

Our Vision

We envision a future where people with epilepsy are protected, respected, live free from discrimination and stigma, and are allowed to realize their full potential.

Our Mission

We exist to radically improve the quality of life of people with epilepsy in Ethiopia and change perceptions of epilepsy in the community.

Our Values

Our moral compass for CareEpilepsy Ethiopia and our employees is compassionate care, integrity, accountability, innovation, inclusiveness, and a holistic approach to health and well-being based on the World Health Organization guidelines.

Our Objective

Our objective to achieve our mission is to close the gap between knowledge and action in medical care and treatment, build clinical care providers' capacity to treat epilepsy, enhance public awareness of epilepsy, and engage in partnership and advocacy work.

Our People

We work for people with epilepsy, their families and anyone who is affected by epilepsy.

From the Desk of the Executive Director

Reflecting on 2022, we realize how much our commitment to serving anyone affected by epilepsy has been reaffirmed, as has our wish to create a caring environment for the vulnerable. The year 2022 was certainly a busy and exciting yet challenging one for everyone at CareEpilepsy Ethiopia. We spent time planning and preparing for the launch of our Epilepsy and Health Assessment Clinic. We also continued to develop our new Epilepsy Center, which we moved into in March 2022, making it easier to offer our services.

We provide daily outpatient epilepsy consultations, general health check-ups, EEG testing, and counseling to optimize anti-seizure therapy, manage epilepsy-related behavioral or psychological problems, and give emotional support and counseling to families. We believe early intervention can help to have less intense treatment, fewer dangers and consequences and longer and fuller recovery. Change takes time, but I am pleased to share that we are now well-settled into this new way of running the clinic and remain firmly focused on fulfilling our patients and the community's needs. Our patients and their families who have access to our services have seen great improvement in their physical and mental wellbeing since utilizing our services.

In 2023, we will finalize prerequisite arrangements to operate tele-health and provide epilepsy care and training remotely. International neurologists are expected to support this service. As a pilot study, during the past year, our health officer benefited from our first tele-training program, a video conference by Dr. Etsegent and Dr. Wong. A special welcome goes to Dr. Etsegenet Tizazu, an Epileptologist from Newark, Delaware, USA, who joined our National Advisory Board. She is already making her presence felt by helping to expand our epilepsy clinic and EEG services and promoting our work with the international community.

In addition, our support services continued to promote social bonding, allow patients to learn new skills, and gain access to services that help patients live a more integrated community life. In addition, our 'Whole Community Approach' utilised educators, employers, medical communities, faith leaders, traditional healers and other stakeholders to drive change to make life better for people with epilepsy. Our multidisciplinary conference included the above professionals to foster interdisciplinary knowledge exchange on eradicating the stigma associated with epilepsy, as well as epilepsy's social and behavioural implications. We continued to work with our national partners, such as the Addis Ababa Health Bureau, Ministry of Health, Association of Ethiopian Neurologists and sub-cities, to initiate and implement joint projects of clinical care and public education. This year, we have seen an increased engagement from the Ethiopian Diaspora community.

One of the highlights of our organization was celebrating the African Epilepsy Stripes Week on the 21st of September 2022 by raising awareness about epilepsy in schools. We received the much-needed anti-seizure medication donated by the ROW Foundation. We thank the Foundation for donating Roweepra® (levetiracetam) and Subvenite® (lamotrigine) tablets worth \$6,360.00. I am also delighted to share that we are now a chapter member of the prestigious International Bureau for Epilepsy. We look forward to connecting with the organization's vast community to exchange best practices and explore exciting avenues for collaboration.

Using the ever-growing social media platforms on offer, our educational team has continued to develop exciting content and campaigns to spread our message. As a result, your charity, CareEpilepsy Ethiopia, continues to be a significant source of information on epilepsy. This achievement stems from our continued persistence in shedding light on the topic.

During 2022 we found it extremely difficult to continue to meet the high demand for our services due to a lack of donations. The economic pressures on individuals meant fewer people gave to our charity. In addition, the Ethiopian government has carried out several projects this year that required significant financial contributions from the business sector, which meant we carried out this year's program with very few donations nationally. Traditionally, the most crucial portion of our income would have been sponsorship during National Epilepsy Week in February. It would be an understatement to say the effects of this were felt. Our strategy to combat this was to build a volunteer pool and mobilize them.

We have been searching for Ethiopian diaspora medical professionals to engage as development partners on epilepsy, specifically in training, clinical service, policy formulation and fundraising. We will continue to build on this during 2023. This being the case, I would like to warmly welcome CareEpilepsy's new partners, staff, and volunteers. They have been excellent to work alongside and have definitely increased our ability to tend to the needs of our patients.

From the Desk of the Executive Director cont...

Reflecting on this year, the most important thing for me as a CEO is our ability to work in line with the culture and values of our organization, providing quality, compassionate care, working with a quiet determination to consistently deliver at our best, and pulling together when the demands placed on us are at their most challenging.

It has been my privilege and honour to establish and lead CareEpilepsy Ethiopia for the past seven years, an exceptional charity that is both a pioneering initiative in the country and a force for good in the communities we serve. The year 2022 has given us plenty of success and moments to be proud of, which we owe to you –our supporters, and as we say farewell to 2022, I sincerely believe that your support will continue in the new year.

That's it for 2022! Once again, thank you for all of your support. I will keep you updated on the progress of our work through our quarterly e-newsletter. As always, get in touch if there's anything you'd like more information on!

Best wishes,

Enat Yewnetu

Top Stories

- Mr Amos, the Vice President of the International Bureau of Epilepsy for Africa, visited CareEpilepsy Ethiopia in September 2022. He was impressed with the services we provide. As such, the IBE accepted and registered CareEpilepsy Ethiopia as a chapter member by the International Bureau for Epilepsy, an umbrella organisation comprised of national epilepsy associations whose focus is on the social aspects of epilepsy. This is a great success for Ethiopia as well as CareEpilepsy. In addition, we were supported with 500 USD to produce epilepsy education materials for schools.
- Received 'A Health Center Licence' from The Ethiopian Food and Drug Administration, the National Regulatory Body of Ethiopia under the Ministry of Health. Our Health Officer and neurologists will run the center. Our team is delighted seeing as we have worked for three years to achieve this status.
- It is with great joy that I can announce that our epilepsy center has moved into bigger and more accessible premises. Our staff and beneficiaries are ecstatic about the space we have. Many of our patients believe they now have a home to go to.
- We have appointed S/r Meron Shimeles as Outreach Nurse to support our community outreach work and epilepsy training.
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- We secured a free place in the yearly Christmas bazaar at the Addis Ababa Exhibition Center to raise awareness about epilepsy. We thank Dream Come True Entertainment Plc, the bazaar's organizer.



Right to the left, Dr Kindu Wolde Michael, CareEpilepsy National Board Member; Mr Action Amos, International Bureau of Epilepsy Vice President - Africa; and Mr Abiy Asrat, Administrative and Finance Manager @ CareEpilepsy Ethiopia.



CareEpilepsy Ethiopia new office next to Denberwa MCH Hospital, Togo Street, Yeka Sub-City, Woreda 08, House No. 897, Addis Ababa

Top Stories

- We held a fundraising event on 10th March in our new premises. A representative from Enat Bank attended the program and donated 50,000 Birr (£735.00).
- CareEpilepsy Ethiopia is now widely recognized as a hub for information and support.
- Dr Etsegenet Tizazu, an Epileptologist from Newark, Delaware, USA, has joined our National Advisory Board and spent many hours giving training to our health officer. She further arranged training for our health officer with Dr Jeremy Wong on pediatric epilepsy.
- We celebrated International Epilepsy Day on the 14th of February and National Epilepsy Week from the 15th-20th of February 2022. Our training was geared toward school personnel, such as school nurses and staff responsible for special educational needs/additional learning needs. We also raised awareness and taught first aid in a football stadium. Our organisation is grateful to the Addis Ababa Education Bureau, which sponsored the venue and catering, allowing us to run this successful programme.
- We welcomed Emmanuel Ability Center and Nehemiah Autism Center as our partners. We will work to improve awareness of our causes, learn and share new skills and resources.
- Our annual Service of Thanksgiving celebration was held on the 17th of September, 2022, and there were about 100 people present. This is when CareEpilepsy Ethiopia shows gratitude to organizations and individuals supporting our work financially and in-kind contributions during 2022. In addition, we want to thank Jupiter International Hotel for sponsoring the event.



Enat Bank representative expressing her appreciation of the services CareEpilepsy provides.



Abiy Asrat taught the public about epilepsy at a football stadium during the 7th National Epilepsy Week campaign in February 2022.



Careepilepsy Ethiopia's annual Service of Thanksgiving celebration was held on the 17th of September, 2022, at Jupiter International Hotel.

- Neurologists, nurses, and youth volunteers continued to significantly impact clinical care and awareness-raising programs through their engagement with our work. CareEpilepsy Ethiopia is well aware of the importance of volunteers and the hours they give to our organization. Without them, we couldn't run our programs as smoothly or give as much back to our community. During 2022, the hours our volunteers gave covered major project costs.

WHAT WE FOCUS ON TO ACHIEVE OUR OVERALL GOAL

Our Strategic Objectives (SO)



SO1. Provide and facilitate early epilepsy diagnosis and treatment for patients.

- Strengthening our consultation and referrals program to available epilepsy clinics, both government and private.
- Strengthening the epilepsy clinic by recruiting more neurologists
- Increasing supply and access to antiepileptic drugs.
- Increasing access to EEG and MRI services
- Continuing to provide our 'Home Monitoring' service using trained staff and volunteer epilepsy counselors.
- Providing clinical training for nurses and health officers currently involved in epilepsy care at government health centers.

SO2. Increasing education to promote medical-seeking behavior and inclusion and disassociate the undue stigma and exclusion placed on epilepsy patients;

- Update, print/produce, and distribute epilepsy education materials such as epilepsy information leaflets and posters in various languages.
- Organize campaigns, including the 7th National Epilepsy Week, in partnership with the Addis Ababa Education office, the Association of Ethiopian Neurologists, and a chosen sub-city.
- Run community epilepsy education at hospitals and health centers.
- Continue to run epilepsy education for students and teachers and engage 12 more new government schools to join our program.
- Recruit companies to run our 'seizure at work' program to educate employers and employees about epilepsy and seizure first aid.
- Produce a quarterly e-Newsletter about epilepsy and our work.

SO3. Improve patients' emotional and social well-being and 5 family economic wellbeing of children and adults with epilepsy.

- Organise teaching sessions for patients.
- Produce a booklet for patients and families about epilepsy and their care plan.
- Our confidential epilepsy helpline continues to give confidential and personal advice and support to people affected by epilepsy.
- Continue to run the monthly 'patient support group meeting' project.

SO4. Increase our partner organizations to expand our impact and influence on policies that affect people with epilepsy.

- Engage our Patient Representatives Committee in advocacy by attending meetings, visiting patients, and promoting patient support group meetings.
- Increase community conversation by engaging educators, employers, medical communities, faith leaders, traditional healers, and other stakeholders to develop policies that promote the needs of people with epilepsy and raise awareness to eradicate the stigma of epilepsy.
- Continue to work with our national partners such as - Addis Ababa Health Bureau, Ministry of Health, Region Health Bureau, and sub-cities to initiate and implement collaborative clinical care and education projects and awareness-raising.

Activities we perform to reach our goal

Objective 1 – Facilitate access to medical care and anti-epileptic drugs

PROJECTS	DETAILS	OUTCOME
Epilepsy Clinic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New patients attended epilepsy clinic. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We observed increased knowledge about epilepsy among patients and their families. Patients seem to adhere to the seizure medication prescribed by doctors.
Anti-seizure medication.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide emergency anti-seizure medication for people with Epilepsy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Patients gain good seizure control. Less physical injuries.
Diagnostic services EEG and MRI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We offered EEG services from our center and MRI services externally for those who require it 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Epilepsy diagnosis assisted by EEG and MRI tests instead of word of mouth
Epilepsy Training for clinical staff	<p>Epilepsy training was given to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health officers and nurses who work with children in schools to empower them to identify, refer and treat children with epilepsy in schools. Nurses, Health officers, and Psychiatry Nurses at Debre Berhan Comprehensive Specialized Hospital in Debre Berhan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Epilepsy training Increased knowledge on treating children with epilepsy.
Epilepsy Awareness Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School teachers also received training on the fundamentals of epilepsy and first aid administration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Epilepsy training Increased knowledge on supporting children with epilepsy.

01 Clinical care and Training



02 Clinical training for school nurses and school teachers



Thanks to our volunteer neurologists, psychiatrists, and nurses, we were able to continue to provide clinical care and grow the service. This year, we have seen an increase in the number of neurologists involved in our programs

The lack of a functioning drug supply chain has been observed to be one of the major causes of poor access to anti-seizure medication. Therefore, in 2022 we struggled to acquire medication to support our patients. Despite this, we were able to receive anti-seizure medication in donation from the ROW Foundation, which enabled us to help our patients. In addition, EEG and MRI services were made available to patients. We are delighted with our accomplishments, but we still need to increase our services when taking into consideration demand



The leading cause of disabilities is uncontrolled seizures. Therefore, lives will be saved if there is access to epilepsy care in health institutions, a continuous supply of appropriate antiepileptic medication, and diagnostic services like EEG and MRI.

Impact Snapshot *Objective 1*

421

Patients received care from a health officer/nurse.

191

Adult patients accessed medical care in our free clinic.

216

Children were seen by pediatric neurologists in our free clinic.

539

Patients received emergency anti-epileptic medication.

40

Patients were registered and supported to purchase Tena Medhin (Health Insurance).

142

Patients received EEG and MRI service.

827

Patients benefited from our "Home Monitoring" service.

91

Health officers and school nurses attended a 1-day "Epilepsy Basics" training

82

School teachers and staff attended a 1-day "Epilepsy Basics" training.

Activities we perform to reach our goal

Strategic Objective 2 – Public Education and Awareness in 2022. Our awareness campaign contributes to stigma reduction, allowing people with epilepsy to participate in education, the workplace, and the community.

PROJECTS	DETAILS	OUTCOME
Education Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update and print education materials/teaching aids (leaflets, posters and banners) to promote education and awareness about epilepsy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Epilepsy education materials. Information disseminated to close the epilepsy knowledge gap in the community.
Epilepsy Education at Schools (Seizure@school)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Run epilepsy education at schools. Engage 12 more government schools to join our program, which raises awareness for pupils and teachers. Distribute teaching aids to health centers and schools. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15 schools, a total of more than 10,195 students, and 395 teachers are received epilepsy education and seizure first-aid training.
Epilepsy Education at Work Place (Seizure@work)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage two organizations to join our 'Employers Epilepsy Champions' initiatives, which raises awareness for staff and management. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management and staff increased their knowledge of epilepsy and felt equipped to deal with anyone having a seizure at work.
Campaign (Campaign4epilepsy)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organize the 7th National Epilepsy Week in joint partnership with the Association of Ethiopian Neurologists and the Addis Ababa Education office, from the 14th – the 20th 2022, in Addis Ababa 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conference Training TV and Radio interview was given. Street education campaign
Other Campaigns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> African Epilepsy Week Eyoha Exhibition Center 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educational workshops at local schools. Acquired a booth at Eyoha Trade Exhibition center to promote epilepsy and the work of CareEpilepsy.
Newsletter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produced a quarterly newsletter to showcase the work we do, make appeals for donations and other support and raise awareness of epilepsy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarterly newsletter. Showcase the work we do. Raise awareness of epilepsy and the problems CareEpilepsy tackles. Connected with volunteers and supporters.

The principal cause of stigma, rejection, and worsened health is the lack of knowledge about the causes of epilepsy as it is viewed to be supernatural, carrying out spiritual healing and traditional medicine as the chosen therapeutic modality. Therefore, educational intervention is the only way to decrease disability, worsen health, and change the general population's attitude to improve patients' quality of life.

Impact Snapshot *Objective 2*



Leaflets and 300 booklets were printed for people with epilepsy, those close to them and health centers to give them knowledge about epilepsy.



Posters were printed to be used as a teaching aid.



Health centers and one hospital within Yeka, Kiroks, Arada, and Bole sub-cities received epilepsy education and seizure first-aid training.



Schools showed commitment to support children with epilepsy by allowing us to teach at their school.



Students received epilepsy and epilepsy first-aid training.



Teachers are received epilepsy education and seizure first-aid training



Patients receive education and further clinical assistance due to our teaching at health education



Newsletter was disseminated



Organizations were visited to give epilepsy awareness. Poor interest in organizations to be involved in this program

02 Public Education at schools



Our school awareness-raising campaigns and training are planned to change behaviour and improve the focus on better outcomes for children with epilepsy allowing them to participate in education. We organise teaching sessions to improve students' and teachers' knowledge, perceptions, attitudes and practices to create an environment where teachers are empowered to deal with epilepsy and are open to supporting the child in need.

02 Public Education at workplaces

Having epilepsy does not necessarily stop someone from being able to carry out the job they desire, but there are some issues that can affect them at work. Unfortunately, due to the stigma of epilepsy, patients continue to be denied access to employment, which is the primary cause of child neglect, poverty, mental health issues and unaffordability to pay for medication and diagnostics.



**ADDIS ABABA
REVENUES BUREAU
FEBRUARY 2022**



02 Public Education at health centers



The more everyone talks about epilepsy, the fewer people living with the condition have to fear discrimination, worry about receiving improper first aid, or keep their epilepsy hidden in the shadows. We want all people with epilepsy to know the extent of treatment options available to help control their seizures. Ensuring access to quality health care that is affordable, physician-directed, and person-centered. Most people believe that anyone who has epilepsy is unable to participate in any activities. This stereotype can influence the economic independence of people with epilepsy through loss of productivity; the essential point to give awareness at health centers is we get to teach people from every walk of life, including children, adolescents, adults, and elderly persons. This makes our effort a crucial first step towards ensuring early detection and effective treatment of seizures and is key to eradicating the stigma associated with epilepsy.

02 Campaign - International Epilepsy Day and the 7th National Epilepsy Week



International Epilepsy Day is a special event which promotes awareness of epilepsy in more than 120 countries each year. Every year on the second Monday of February, people celebrate and highlight the problems faced by people with epilepsy, their families and carers. This year, International Epilepsy Day was celebrated on the 14th of February.

CareEpilepsy was proud to partner with the Addis Ababa Education Bureau, Addis Ababa Health Bureau and

Association of Ethiopian Neurologists to organize a conference and clinical training. The multi-disciplinary conference aimed to identify ways to confront the stigma of epilepsy as a national issue that needs a national solution.

During our 7th National Epilepsy Week campaign, we raised awareness and helped to educate the general public on epilepsy. The week-long program included raising awareness at schools, health centers, press conferences, clinical training and a closing program in one of Addis Ababa's football stadiums.

Activities we perform to reach our goal

Strategic Objective 3 – Improve the wellbeing of people with epilepsy by addressing the psychosocial factors affecting their lives.

PROJECTS	DETAILS	OUTCOME
Patient Educaton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organize teaching sessions for patients and their families Produced a booklet for. patients about epilepsy and their care plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11 teaching sessions were arranged for patients and families. The "My epilepsy care" booklet was designed. It holds information about epilepsy and care plans.
Telephone Helpline (Helpline4epilepsy)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Epilepsy Helpline runs throughout the year which offers expert advice and compassionate guidance covering a wide range of issues such as up-to-date advice on medication, treatment options, listening for emotional support and counselling. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> People with epilepsy felt accepted, listend to and received practical information. Clinical care providers were empowered to treat patients especially those living outside Addis Ababa.
Peer support group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monthly meeting for patients and their families. This group allow people affected by epilepsy to share experiences and give and receive support from each other. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Empowerment Increased confidence and self-esteem Finding a source of hope and optimism Companionship and friendship Reduced isolation
Coffee morning for epilepsy support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An opportunity to meet and chat with others in a similar situation over a cup of coffee and speak to a CareEpilepsy professional. Meetings are held on Wednesdays from 9 am to 1 pm. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Patients developed a friendship and felt more connected with each other. Transportation cost was covered by CareEpilepsy.
CareCraft	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our craft group continue to do craft work which will eventual be an income generating skill. CareEpilepsy provided the materials and covered transportation cost. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learn new creative skills. It builds social skills. It improves health and wellbeing. It creates a sense of community.
Counseling (Counseling4epilepsy)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued to provide counseling and psychotherapy services for our beneficiaries to help them cope with their condition better. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dedicated counseling support by CareEpilepsy staff. It improves health and wellbeing.
Home visits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A nurse and a patient representative make a "home visit" to patients home to provide them with care and counseling. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visits from a nurse and a patient representative. Patients adherence to medication and follow-up appointments has increased.

Patients suffering from epilepsy face complexities and problems that necessitate the support of a network of professionals, relatives, friends, and fellow patients. Denied access to employment and lack of support and training is the primary cause of child neglect, poverty, emotional problems, drug abuse, and unaffordability to pay for medication and diagnostics. Therefore, our focus on wellbeing interventions includes counseling, group support, and skills training to improve the psychosocial wellbeing of children and adults with epilepsy. At CareEpilepsy we believe support should be part of their treatment.

Impact Snapshot *Objective 3*

1010

Patients received information and counseling through our telephone helpline service. This service was also used by health professionals from outside Addis Ababa requesting information on care and medication.

856

Patients and families participated in our monthly patient support group program.

294

People participated in our 'coffee morning for epilepsy' program in 2022. We organized forty-six meeting sessions.

315

People with epilepsy and their families got access to counseling support by epilepsy trained staff.

315

People with epilepsy and their families got access to counseling support. 4 patients were referred to receive psychiatric support.

315

Participated in our craft training program in 2022. CareEpilepsy Ethiopia provided patients with raw materials such as needles, threads, plastic mats for table mats, coffee mats, and cards to continue learning and doing craftwork. However, due to a lack of funding, we could not open a shop for them.

03 Coffee Morning and Carecraft



A new craft program we started this year is recycling and repurposing worn car and truck tires into very awesome planters and furniture, as above. We aim to expand this project and use it as an income-generating activity.

CareEpilepsy Ethiopia has found craft beneficial for wellbeing and relieving stress, anxiety, depression and cognitive functioning.

04 Group Counseling



04 Patient Support Group Meeting



Activities we perform to reach our goal

Strategic Objective 4 – Advocacy to influence public policy and organizational practice.

Unaddressed medical, social, and environmental factors contributing to epilepsy cause poor health and lack of epilepsy awareness. Through a strong partnership with the Ministry of Health, other government agencies at the local, regional, and federal levels, and stakeholders, CareEpilepsy Ethiopia continued to address the needs of people with epilepsy and raise awareness of epilepsy. Our work is hoped, through grassroots engagement and establishing a link and connecting with the local community and people with epilepsy, the reduce the stigma associated with epilepsy.

PROJECTS	DETAILS	OUTCOME
Patient Representatives Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members of the committee engage in advocacy work to express the epilepsy community's needs. Attend appropriate meetings and provide a platform to speak. Make visits to patients in their homes. Lead the monthly patient support group meeting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Empowered patients to make a difference. Patients felt cared for.
Community Conversation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The conversation focuses on how to develop policies to raise awareness of epilepsy to eradicate the stigma of epilepsy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gave various professionals a chance to learn more about epilepsy and participate in identifying ways to eradicate the stigma associated with epilepsy.
Development Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We continued to work with national partners such as the Addis Ababa Health Bureau, Ministry of Health, Association of Ethiopian Neurologists and sub-cities to initiate and implement joint clinical care and public education projects. We have been searching for Ethiopian medical professional diasporas to engage as development partners on epilepsy clinical training, clinical service, policy formulation and organizational practice. Great start! We will continue to build on this during 2023. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On a positive note, AEN was involved in leading the clinical training and joint in Addis Ababa Education Bureau the 7th National Epilepsy Week. More collaboration is sought. We welcomed Emmanuel Ability Center and Nehemiah Autism Center as our partners. We will be working to improve awareness of our causes and learn and share new skills and resources. We had the privilege to meet a team from TotalEnergies in Ethiopi
Volunteering and Internship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To inspire our youth and other professionals to make a difference in their community. Get the organization work done for free. Internships provide training and skills development for participants. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 30 neurologists were involved in our community clinic during 2022. 161 new volunteers actively engaged in supporting the activities of CareEpilepsy Ethiopia.

04 Volunteers



Working with youth volunteers is one of the programs we run tapping into the time and experiences of young volunteers.

During 2022, we recruited 161 youth volunteers consisting of high school pupils and university students from different backgrounds with a passion for raising awareness of epilepsy in the community. By using younger and fresher minds, we found creative ways of boosting awareness and raising money.



5,730

hours were given to our patients to receive extended clinical care, where they could discuss their epilepsy and associated problems with epilepsy-trained nurses and neurologists free of charge.

14,490

hours were dedicated by volunteers to raising awareness and educating the general public about epilepsy to reduce stigma and misunderstanding, and promote public acceptance of people with epilepsy.

Development Partners

The solutions to epilepsy problems in Ethiopia are too complex to be solved by an individual organization. During 2022, CareEpilepsy Ethiopia has been reaching out to partners to help us incubate new ideas and come up with proven solutions.



Professor Redda Teklehaimanot and his team from Garbet Tehadiso Mahber came to CareEpilepsy Ethiopia to discuss partnership opportunities in raising awareness about epilepsy, epilepsy training, and EEG service. Prof. Redda is a world-renowned first Ethiopian neurologist and academician who have done great work for people with epilepsy.



Ms Rigbe Gebrehawaria Hagos, Commissioner for Disability Rights & the Rights of Older Persons, and Miss Meti Atomsa, Director, Disability Rights and Rights of Older Persons Department from the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission, met with CareEpilepsy team to discuss areas of partnership that will drive impact and longevity in the lives of people with epilepsy.

During 2022, our partners provided essential funding and support in the form of cash and in-kind to complete our programs and initiatives.

- Total Energies visited our office and considered us trustworthy to donate and commit to continue supporting our work.
- We started working in Debrebirhan and surrounding hospitals and health centers to provide education about epilepsy and clinical training for nurses. This was an initiative taken by Dr Tesfaye Zelleke, Associate Professor of Neurology at Children National Hospital, Washington, D.C.; the Ministry of Health contributed various second-hand office supplies.
- CareEpilepsy Ethiopia signed an MOU with ROW Foundation to receive anti-seizure medication (Lamotrigine and Kepra) by donation.
- It has been a privilege to give four health officers from Garbet Tehadiso Mahber the opportunity to attend clinical training and shadow in our clinics to improve their epilepsy service in Butajera (outside Addis Ababa). Professor Redda Tekle Haimot, Ethiopia's first neurologist, established the center, one of Ethiopia's most respected centers for eye health. Professor Redda has been advising CareEpilepsy for the last eight years.

National Policy influence

- As a regulator, we are putting pressure on the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs to enforce equal opportunity law so that people with epilepsy are not denied employment.
- In discussion with the Ministry of Education and the Ethiopian Teachers' Association to provide equal access to education for children with epilepsy.
- We have identified new partners such as Kirkos Sub-City, Bole Sub-city, Gefersa Mental Health Rehabilitation Center, and Ethiopian Mental Service Users' Association.
- Working together with the AEN in training and clinical care.

CHALLENGES WE FACED DURING 2022

- Acquiring a donor.
 - We continue to search for international donors to build our financial capacity and publicity.
- Anti-epileptic medication
 - Shortages
 - Inaccessibility
 - Lack of information on availability
 - Lack of finance to purchase medication
- Covering the cost of CareEpilepsy Ethiopia's center.
- Lack of funds to provide financial assistance for purchasing safe cooking equipment to prevent seizure-related burn injuries that can be caused by hazardous domestic environments like open-fire cooking.
- Identify new partners to support our women-run microenterprise business idea.

a year's overview

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Plan for 2022 in cash and in-kind	Actual in cash and inkind	%	Program Costs	Administrative expenses
6,337,658 Birr (£94,290.00)	4,191,930 Birr (£62,366)	66	3,542,827 Birr (£52,062)	649,103 Birr (£9,539)

Note! Birr = Ethiopian Birr

We completed the year 2022 by complying with the Ethiopian government policy of charities finance guideline "70/30" (Remarks: "70/30" means 70% of our project income is used on direct project cost, and only 30% of our project income can be used to fund core organizational costs or capacity building). CareEpilepsy Ethiopia's final output was 85/15 (where 85% of the financial income in cash and in-kind was used to cover the direct project costs).

Funding Sources

In 2022, financial support came from donations from national sponsorships, fundraising activities, international supporters and friends of CareEpilepsy. Our primary international funder was our partner Dr Tesfaye Zelleke, from Children's National Hospital in Washington, DC. In addition, we signed an MOU to run epilepsy awareness-raising activities working with Debre Berhan Comprehensive specialized hospital and others nearby. Unfortunately, despite our efforts, funding for epilepsy remains limited internationally. This means during 2023, we need to look into government partnerships, philanthropic and commercial resources available to achieve our mission.

Auditors Report

The 2022 Audit report can be accessed on our website.

OUR SUPER TEAM



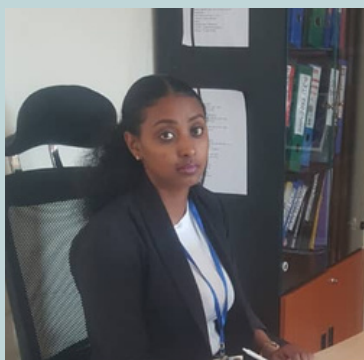
Enat Yewnetu
Founder and
Chief Executive Officer



Abiy Asrart
Administration and
Finance Manager



Sister Haimanot Altaseb
Epilepsy Specialist Health Officer



Sister Meron Shimeles
Community Outreach Nurse



Meron Worku
Office Administrator



Birhane Habte
Admin Assistant



Hirut Deriba
Center Service
Assistant and Housekeeper



Kibrom Sahele
Patient Representative



Dr Etsegenet Tizazu
CareEpilepsy Ethiopia
National Advisory Board Member



Dr Kindu Wolde Michael
CareEpilepsy Ethiopia
National Advisory Board Member



Kelemework Tesfaye
CareEpilepsy Ethiopia
National Advisory Board Member



Saada Mustefa Awel
CareEpilepsy Ethiopia
National Advisory Board Member

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & THANK YOU

CareEpilepsy Ethiopia wishes to thank everyone who supported our work in kind through assistance or donations. Specifically, we want to thank the following organizations and teams for their generous donations, hard work, time, and patience during this quarter.

- Our national youth and professional volunteers for their in-kind donations of service and other governmental and private organizations
- The Association of Ethiopian Neurologists for their in-kind donations of service
- The Addis Ababa Education Bureau
- Commercial Bank of Ethiopia
- Tracon Trading, Adulin Coffee Exporter, Mulege PLC, Novartis Ethiopia, Woudase Diagnostic Service
- CareEpilepsy Ethiopia Advisory Board
- CareEpilepsy UK Board of Directors
- CareEpilepsy Ethiopia friends in Atlanta
- CareEpilepsy Ethiopia friends in Canada

WAYS TO SUPPORT US

CareEpilepsy works with the most marginalised children, women and men who face barriers to getting the education and employment they deserve. At CareEpilepsy, we believe in the power of the individual and of a group of thoughtful, committed people to change the lives of people with epilepsy; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has. **Together we can save lives. Together we can change the perception of epilepsy. Together we can make a difference.** There are many ways to support us: [become a member](#), [volunteer your time](#), [become a corporate partner](#) and [donate](#).

Ethiopia: CareEpilepsy Ethiopia, Account Number: 1000161849166, COMMERCIAL BANK OF ETHIOPIA
or call us on 0911633077 nationally.

UK: Direct Debit to HSBC A/C - (Sort code: 40-07-27) - (A/C No: 11621491)

Give online - <https://www.careepilepsyethiopia.org/donate>

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CAREEPILEPSY ETHIOPIA



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