

## **Zambia League Against Epilepsy**

### **2021-2022 Report**

#### **CHAPTER OFFICERS**

Melody Asukile, President  
Lisa Nkole, Vice President  
Naluca Mwendaweli, Secretary General  
Nfwama Kawatu, Treasurer  
Dickson Munkombwe, Vice-Treasurer  
Gretchen Birbeck  
Stanley Zimba  
Frighton Mutete



*Officer Election Date: 13 May 2022*

#### **ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

##### 2021

Took part in the International Epilepsy Day (IED) 50 million steps challenge, in collaboration with the Epilepsy Association of Zambia, an affiliate of the International Bureau of Epilepsy

##### 2022

- Awareness activities
  - Participated in a live phone-in TV program discussing Epilepsy on 17 January 2022
  - Held activities at the Chainama Special school on IED, under the theme “Show Love and support for Epilepsy.”
- First General Assembly held on 13 May 2022, where the current executive committee was elected to office. This committee took over from the interim executive committee that was running the association affairs since its inception.
- Held an Epilepsy Training workshop themed “Bridging the Gap in Epilepsy care: Clinical and Research updates”. This training was conducted both in-person and virtually, from 28-30 September 2022 and was funded by ILAE-Africa. There were 85 attendees, 74 participants and 11 speakers. Participants comprised residents in various specialties (adult/pediatric neurology, internal medicine, and general pediatrics), internal medicine physicians, psychiatrists, general medical practitioners, and clinical officers.

#### **CHALLENGES FACED IN 2021 AND 2022**

- The COVID-19 pandemic made it difficult to have some of the activities that were planned as these were in person activities.
- Lack of funds as the membership fees were not collected from members and most of the membership that was present before the pandemic fell off in 2020.

### **FUTURE PLANS FOR 2023**

- Increase association membership: Recruit/advocate for more health professionals involved in epilepsy care to join the association.
- More awareness activities to improve community engagement: Disseminate Epilepsy information via TV/radio and social media platforms. As part of increasing awareness, we plan on increasing our social media presence including working creation of a website, funds permitting.
- More training activities to improve epilepsy care in the communities.
- Research collaborations both locally and internationally
- Fundraising through membership fees and other social activities

### **MEETINGS**

First General Assembly – 13 May 2022, Executive meetings (4)

*Report submitted by Naluca Mwendaweli*