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EPILEPSY IS PERSONAL.



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ROW® One World.
One Standard.®

10 YEARS
OF GLOBAL IMPACT
2025 Program Report



10 YEARS

OF GLOBAL IMPACT

In 2025, ROW crossed an important milestone: ten years dedicated to addressing the global epilepsy treatment gap. ROW Foundation was launched in 2015, making its very first grant in June of that year. This first grant was an EEG machine to support diagnosis of epilepsy through our health partner in Armenia.

Ten years later, ROW has worked through 95 partners in 41 countries. The scope of our partnerships has expanded to include treatment grants of anti-seizure medication, community- and school-based epilepsy education, health worker training in epilepsy care, engagement of community health workers to fight stigma, and establishment of diagnostic clinics.

While the treatment gap has historically had little attention, the past 10 years has shown increased momentum building around addressing this long-neglected crisis. Although there is much work to be done, ROW is proud to be playing a role in the progress being made. We remain steadfast in our commitment to fighting both the epilepsy treatment and knowledge gaps.

We hope you enjoy this 10-year lookback on what ROW, our partners, and you have together accomplished.

Thank you for your partnership.

Ken Koskela, President
ROW Foundation



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“Epilepsy is one of the most common serious brain conditions of increasing burden that affects individuals of all ages across the globe. The disease imposes a substantial economic, psychosocial, physical, and mental burden for health systems, societies, and affected individuals and their families.”

- THE LANCET Public Health, March 2025

One world. One standard.

Accessing treatment for epilepsy shouldn't depend upon where a person lives. Yet, 75% of people with epilepsy in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) cannot access appropriate care. ROW is uniquely positioned to help address this long-standing inequity.



A Unique Social Enterprise

Focused on Rest of World countries, three organizations form a one-of-a-kind, epilepsy-centered social enterprise. Profits and medication from OWP Pharmaceuticals support ROW Foundation's efforts to raise the global standard of epilepsy care through treatment, diagnosis, training, and education.



ROW Foundation – A U.S. 501(c)(3) private foundation founded in 2014. Develops and manages epilepsy programs globally.



OWP Pharmaceuticals – A for-profit pharmaceutical company founded in 2014. Supports U.S. providers and patients with neuroscience medications while sharing profits and medication with the foundation.



ROW Global Health – A U.S. 501(c)(3) public charity founded in 2021. Mobilizes resources from the public sector for foundation programs.



How It All Began

Our global epilepsy journey began in Yerevan, Armenia through a lasting partnership with Arabkir Medical Centre.

2015 Grant of a video EEG workstation

2016 First medication grant: Levetiracetam

2019 Add-on medication: Lamotrigine

2025 Today, more than 4,500 children are monitored at the Pediatric Epileptology Dispensary of Armenia. Short- and long-term video EEG studies made possible by donated equipment have enabled specialists to determine with precision each child's type of epilepsy. For drug-resistant epilepsy, areas of the brain where seizures originate are successfully identified, allowing patients to undergo effective surgical treatment.

"For many years, ROW Foundation has continuously provided essential anti-seizure medications, including levetiracetam and lamotrigine, ensuring uninterrupted access to vital treatment. Thanks to this sustained support, seizures in numerous patients are successfully controlled, significantly improving their quality of life and offering hope for a healthier future."

- Dr. Biayna Sukhudyann, Arabkir Medical Centre



EPILEPSY IS A GLOBAL PROBLEM THAT DESERVES A GLOBAL SOLUTION



70,000,000

MORE THAN 70 MILLION PEOPLE LIVING WITH EPILEPSY WORLDWIDE¹



80%

Live in low and middle income countries²



75%

Do NOT receive treatment²

“There are significant gaps in the provision of care for epilepsy around the world. Lack of diagnosis and care prevents people with epilepsy from realizing their full potential and poses a significant burden to countries’ economic, health and social systems. Low- and middle-income countries are disproportionately affected.” - World Health Organization



To reduce treatment gaps across low-resource regions, ROW Foundation supports program partnerships in:

TREATMENT

DIAGNOSIS

TRAINING

EDUCATION

Because epilepsy encompasses more than seizures, ROW also supports awareness activities that educate communities, helping address pervasive and harmful epilepsy stigma.

It’s a difficult truth: Most people living with epilepsy worldwide aren’t receiving medical treatment for their seizures. The majority of the world’s population lives in LMICs where epilepsy rates may be up to 4 times higher. On average, only 1/4 of people with epilepsy in these regions access care.

At least 42 million people in LMICs have yet to receive a diagnosis and effective treatment.

ROW Supports Epilepsy Treatment

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Globally, there are multiple barriers to epilepsy treatment, including:

- ➔ Lack of consistently available anti-seizure medications
- ➔ Lack of knowledge that epilepsy is a medical condition
- ➔ Persistent social stigma that prevents those affected from seeking care
- ➔ Healthcare systems unequipped to treat the condition

Access to a consistent, affordable supply of effective anti-seizure medications (ASMs) is a critical part of reducing the epilepsy treatment gap. ROW has provided ongoing grants of levetiracetam and lamotrigine throughout low-resource regions since 2016.



Barriers to accessing effective medication in low-resource regions include:

- ➔ Limited range of medications offered (30+ ASMs in high-income countries vs. 2 - 4 in most LMICs)
- ➔ Higher drug prices in LMICs than in high-income regions
- ➔ ASMs often not covered by national insurance
- ➔ Supply chain disruptions
- ➔ Inconsistent ASM quality

“ROW Foundation’s donation is more than medication; it’s life in a bottle. Because of this support, 480 patients have been able to stay on treatment and continue living with epilepsy, not defined by it. Thank you.”

- Enat Yewnetu, Founder/CEO | CareEpilepsy Ethiopia



Improving Access Improves Care

About 70% of people with epilepsy can live seizure-free, or have seizures well-managed, with the right ASM(s). Additionally, successful epilepsy management requires a consistent, ongoing supply of medication — even one missed dose can result in a seizure. However, safe, first-line ASMs aren’t typically available in LMICs’ public health systems. To address this, ROW Foundation grants supplies of lab-tested levetiracetam and lamotrigine, ensuring these modern ASMs are shipped on a consistent schedule.



Effective Epilepsy Diagnosis

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While epilepsy can be treated through medical history alone, the electro-encephalogram (EEG) is an important tool for locating the area of the brain where seizures originate. Test results guide epilepsy treatment, including medication selection and evaluation of a patient for epilepsy surgery.

EEG testing is typically performed in clinical settings, with short-term monitoring to diagnose epilepsy and long-term video monitoring to evaluate surgical candidates.



Hospital EEG services are typically concentrated in urban centers at medical facilities with resources to support equipment and staff. In outlying areas and low-resource urban settings, mobile equipment and telemedicine services can fill the diagnostic void.

To reach the undiagnosed with epilepsy in areas like these, we began a partnership with the UK charity TeleEEG in 2020. Their telemedicine model provides portable equipment, staff training, and ongoing EEG interpretation through a network of volunteer neurology professionals.



After the first grant to Armenia, ROW Foundation funded 6 additional EEG workstations to hospitals in Georgia, India, Kenya, and Uganda.

To date, ROW has funded 5 telemedicine clinics in the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Sierra Leone, and South Sudan.

Expansion of ROW's Global Footprint 2015-2025

TRAINING

- 2,390 clinicians from 68 LMICs trained
- More than 100 epilepsy trained CHWs in 4 countries

DIAGNOSIS

- 7 EEG workstations to hospitals in 5 countries
- 5 EEG telemedicine clinics deployed in 4 countries
- Affordable EEG testing for 7,848 patients

TREATMENT

- 254,700 patient prescription months of ASMs granted in 30 countries
- ASM grants totaling \$28.6 million
- Includes over \$15 million in emergency humanitarian aid



**95 direct partnerships
in 41 countries!**

Our reach extends further through globally focused initiatives like online trainings and relief agency ASM distribution, improving epilepsy care in about 70 of the world's 139 LMICs.

Our Support for Training Health Care Workers

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Epilepsy knowledge gap among HCPs:

- ➔ There are few practicing neurologists in LMICs.
- ➔ General physicians and nurses receive little or no training in epilepsy care.
- ➔ Many health care workers do not recognize epilepsy as a medical condition.

To improve epilepsy diagnosis and treatment across low-resource regions, we support the Epilepsy Assessment and Management Course (EAMC) by Pretola Global Health & Consulting annually. This online course, and Pretola's seminar on SUDEP (Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy), have delivered professional education to more than 2,000 clinicians globally.

ROW has also supported specialized EEG technician training through our partners TeleEEG, Global Organization for Health Education, and Clinica Integral Chile.



*A note on epilepsy research in LMIC

The body of epilepsy research in LMIC is very small compared to high-income countries. One component of the EAMC is an opportunity for clinician involvement in collecting local data and contributing to published research, improving the epilepsy knowledge base. ROW also supplies ASMs to research projects in Malawi, Nigeria, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia, studying key topics like child nutrition in epilepsy and ASM use in pregnancy.

ANNALS OF CHILD NEUROLOGY

Bridging the Gap in Epilepsy Care for Refugees in Nakivale Settlement, Uganda

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Original article

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Community Health Worker training in epilepsy

Community Health Workers (CHWs) are trusted community members who support health in their local community. They reach remote areas and the poorest communities with access to health advice, physician care, clinics, and hospitals. ROW supports epilepsy training for CHWs to:

- ✓ Provide communities with accurate information about epilepsy
- ✓ Find untreated patients (often hidden from the community to avoid stigma)
- ✓ Refer patients for treatment, deliver ASM refills, make follow-up visits to monitor ongoing needs

■ ROW has supported CHW epilepsy training in India, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, and Zambia



Promoting Community-Based Epilepsy Education

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Fear, misunderstanding, and stigma have surrounded epilepsy for centuries. Stigma keeps people with epilepsy hidden and delays medical treatment.

Many people are subject to human rights violations, including denial of:

- ✗ An education
- ✗ An opportunity to earn a livelihood
- ✗ An opportunity to marry and have a family
- ✗ People with epilepsy are also frequently victims of physical and sexual abuse

ROW supports epilepsy awareness campaigns that teach that:

- ✓ Epilepsy is a treatable medical condition – it is not witchcraft, demon possession, or a curse.
- ✓ Epilepsy is not contagious.
- ✓ Epilepsy first-aid is simple.
- ✓ Reducing stigma is everyone's responsibility.

Reaching communities with epilepsy awareness and anti-stigma messaging depends upon dedicated advocates and trained CHWs who understand local social conditions and culture. Our support for initiatives that narrow public knowledge gaps have reached thousands in diverse urban and rural communities of India, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Uganda, and Zambia.

Ongoing grant partnerships with local **Rotary clubs**, **The Rotary Foundation**, and **BAND Foundation** have catalyzed anti-stigma education programs that are challenging myths and misconceptions in many communities.

WATCH:

Change in Zambia: Education Transforms a Community's Response to Epilepsy



"When knowledge is limited, stigma and discrimination take root, shaping harmful beliefs that carry real consequences for individuals, families, and entire communities. Our work with ROW Foundation is grounded in this reality. Each trained volunteer, each story shared, and each person reached represents a step toward a community where epilepsy is understood, not feared, and where those living with it are fully included and supported."

- Nina Mago, Founder | Purple Bench Initiative Uganda

Epilepsy is *global*.

10 YEARS OF GLOBAL IMPACT

Our response in highest-need contexts

Economic inequities and world events impact the global epilepsy community in a myriad of ways. We intentionally support people with epilepsy in communities with the most pressing needs through activities such as:

- ✓ Deploying trained CHWs and/or providing ASMs to rural & peri-urban areas where care access is limited: Guinea, Haiti, India, Kenya, Malawi, Tanzania, and Zambia
- ✓ Providing Syrian and Congolese refugees with ASMs
- ✓ Supporting livelihoods initiatives in DR Congo and Uganda during the COVID pandemic
- ✓ Multi-year ASM support to Venezuelans affected by economic and health systems collapse
- ✓ Emergency ASM supplies to Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria
- ✓ Emergency and ongoing ASM supplies for patients affected by armed conflicts in Ukraine and the Karabakh region.



Our focus on Africa

Epilepsy affects an estimated 25 million Africans.¹ Some sub-Saharan regions experience treatment gaps above 90%.² With such overwhelming need, ROW Foundation has developed partnerships with hospitals, clinics, medical associations, and advocacy groups in 18 African countries. Additionally, hundreds of doctors, nurses, EEG technologists, and CHWs across the continent have attended ROW-sponsored training events.

“Epilepsy remains a significant public health concern in Africa. One in 50 children in Africa are suffering from this preventable and treatable medical condition.”

- Biset, Abebaw, Gebeyehu, et al. BMC Public Health 24, 771 (2024)

Children with Epilepsy

Only half of the world’s children with epilepsy receive treatment for their seizures. Untreated epilepsy in children can cause permanent damage to their developing brains, so intervention at a young age is critical to prevent serious, lifelong challenges.



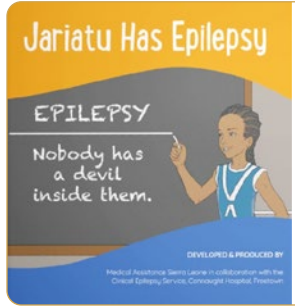
Our pediatric initiatives span all ROW program areas.

CHW training for pediatric epilepsy in India, Rwanda, Sierra Leone and Zambia

Pediatric epilepsy training course for 49 clinicians from Zambia and Zimbabwe

Diagnostic equipment and telehealth services for pediatric clinics in Armenia, India, Sierra Leone, and Uganda

Ongoing ASM grants to pediatric clinics in Armenia, DR Congo, El Salvador, Guinea, Haiti, Uganda and Zambia



ROW funding has supported school awareness campaigns in India, Sierra Leone, Uganda, and Zambia.



Epilepsy is *personal*.

10 YEARS OF GLOBAL IMPACT

Meet Sandrine, a student from Cameroon. For years, her uncontrolled seizures noticeably affected daily life and her ability to do well in school. Sandrine receives medication we grant to **Cameroon Baptist Convention Health Services - Nkwen Health Centre** in Bamenda.

After years of living with uncontrolled seizures, I finally found a treatment that feels like a miracle: lamotrigine. It's hard to put into words how life changes when seizures are no longer a daily burden. Since starting lamotrigine, for over a year now, I haven't experienced a single seizure. The days of waking up worrying about the next episode, are gone. Instead, I'm waking up refreshed, focused, and ready to live fully. I went back to school, studied and I passed my GCE O/L exams.

Receiving lamotrigine has been a priceless gift for my family. My parents no longer have to choose between buying medication and meeting our basic needs. The relief of not having to worry about treatment cost has lifted a weight we didn't realize we were carrying.

Thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for the medication, and for thinking about people with epilepsy in Cameroon.

Sandrine's experience represents what countless others encounter around the world. Epilepsy is more than seizures, with significant impact on educational and employment opportunities, financial health, and social acceptance in the community.

Improving epilepsy care matters.



Amanda

Lisa Brown knows firsthand just how complex and challenging epilepsy can be. Her daughter Amanda struggled with the condition throughout her young life before passing away suddenly from epilepsy. Years later, Lisa connected with ROW Foundation out of her desire to assist others, especially children, affected by epilepsy in global regions where few resources exist.

In 2018, we proposed an annual award in Amanda's memory to recognize organizations and individuals making meaningful improvements in the lives of people with epilepsy in their communities. The award is presented with a \$5000 grant to further their work, jointly funded by Lisa's family and ROW Foundation.

We're grateful for Lisa's personal dedication in supporting the cause of global epilepsy. She has traveled to Africa for site visits, represented ROW at the 2025 African Epilepsy Congress, and currently serves on the board of ROW Global Health.

Amanda Award Winners

- 2019** Guiding Light Orphans - Jolly Lux, Uganda
- 2020** Purple Bench Initiative - Nina Mago, Uganda
- 2021** EAARA|NEDA - Dr. Mundih Njohjam, Cameroon
- 2022** UTH Neurology Research - Dr. Kafula Lisa Nkole, Dr. Nfwama Kawatu, Zambia
- 2023** Pretola Global Health - Tolu Olaniyan, Global
- 2024** Healey International Relief Foundation - Adama Michael, Sierra Leone
- 2025** Kiserem Epilepsy Foundation - Fred Kiserem, Kenya



Partner with us!

Change the life of someone with epilepsy

Your partnership provides essential funding to mobilize medication, epilepsy education, and diagnostic support to those who desperately need it.



Donate Today!

Only \$10/month supports one person with a steady supply of medication...and hope!

Multiple ways to give:

(scan QR for more details):

- ✓ Securely online at www.rowglobal.org/donate
- ✓ Through your Donor-Advised Fund (DAF)
- ✓ Company-matched giving programs
- ✓ Gifts of stock

Give your time and professional skills

▶ Contact us to discuss how you can get involved and make a difference: info@rowglobal.org

HELP US CLOSE THE TREATMENT AND KNOWLEDGE GAPS

Together we can provide medication to those around the world who desperately need it. Together we can battle stigma by educating communities with the truth about epilepsy.

With a proper understanding of epilepsy and access to medication...



Kids can realize their potential and pursue their dreams



Adults can earn a living and support their families



People with epilepsy can live with hope instead of fear

10
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Transparency
2026

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Support us with confidence!
ROW Global Health and ROW
Foundation have earned a **Platinum
Seal of Transparency** with Candid.

