



#### "Epilepsy? Fear not, help is at Hand!"

Kenya Association for the Welfare of People with Epilepsy

The Mirage, Tower 2, Mezzanine One (M1), Suite 13, Chiromo Road,

P.O Box 60790-00200, Nairobi, Kenya.

Tel:+254722594268, Email:info@kawe-kenya.org, Web:www.kawe-kenya.org,

#### Fb:www.facebook.com/EpilepsyKenya/

### Who We Are

KAWE was established in Nairobi in 1982 by Mrs. Caroline Pickering to address the problem of epilepsy in Kenya. She became interested in the condition after her daughter developed epilepsy at the age of twelve and it was quite apparent to her that there was very little knowledge about the extent of the problem of epilepsy in Kenya; social support for people with epilepsy was inadequate and there was a lack of appropriate medical care.

From an organisation with an initial staffing of one person in 1982, KAWE has grown into a national entity governed by a voluntary Board of 6 directors, two of them parents of children with epilepsy.

The directors have different professions and backgrounds.

The Chairman, Dr Osman Miyanji, is a respected child neurologist with vast knowledge in epilepsy management.

He was also one of the founding directors in 1982 and he started the first KAWE epilepsy clinic. The Board Secretary is Mr. Maurice K'Anjejo, formerly the Corporate Affairs Manager at Total Kenya.

The Board Finance Director is Mr. Paul Anthony Spence a UK Chartered Accountant who is a former Chairman of the Audit Committee of the Central Bank of Kenya (CBK).

The other 3 Board members are Mr. Lawrence Rweria who works at CBK and is a parent of a child with epilepsy, Mr. Samuel Mwaniki, an Advocate of the High Court of Kenya and Mrs Diana Kuria a senior executive with Price Waterhouse Coopers.

# **Our Vision**

People with epilepsy living their lives to full potential

# **Our Mission**

To facilitate improved quality of life for people with epilepsy

# **Our Philosophy and Core Values**

At KAWE we believe that people with epilepsy have a right to quality care, inclusion and equal opportunities. We strive to replace ignorance and fear about epilepsy with understanding and care. We are committed to ensuring that no person's life will be limited by epilepsy. We do all this by providing information and advice about epilepsy, facilitating access to quality healthcare, as well as opportunities and voice to people with epilepsy. KAWE is guided by the following ideals that shape how we create value and relate with key stakeholders, including standards for our operations, practice and performance.

- 1. Compassion: We are passionate about enhancing the wellbeing of persons with epilepsy.
- Commitment: We are dedicated to the success of our clients and their families, employees and stakeholders, through value creation, support and care.
- 3. Teamwork: We believe in subordinating the personal prominence to the efficiency of the whole.
- Integrity: We uphold public trust by adhering to moral and ethical principles as well as maintaining open and prudent administration of, and accountability for, all resources entrusted to us.
- 5. Excellence: By embracing excellence, we consistently challenge ourselves to execute flawlessly and to deliver the highest quality to our clients.

## **Our Capacity and How We Work**

1. KAWE is a not for profit organisation that was registered by the NGOs Co-ordination Board in 1994 and maintains good standing submitting annual returns as required. KAWE has a strong organisational structure

supported by various documented policies and procedures including the KAWE constitution, a five year strategic plan that is reviewed periodically, the Personnel and Finance policies among others. KAWE is transparent in its undertakings, handling finances in a compliant way making sure all our donations are put into good use.

2. Over the past 36 years KAWE has implemented a comprehensive integrated epilepsy management program impacting the lives of over 50,000 people with epilepsy besides their caregivers and families.

The KAWE Model of care has been internationally acclaimed. KAWE collaborates with local and international partners in executing its mandate and is the Kenya chapter of International Bureau for Epilepsy (IBE).

3. Access to quality affordable epilepsy management services continues to be a public health challenge. According to the Global Campaign Against Epilepsy over 90% of people living with epilepsy (PWE) in resource poor countries do not receive appropriate treatment for their condition, a phenomenon that is called the 'epilepsy treatment gap' and is defined as the percentage of people with active epilepsy not on treatment or on inadequate treatment. Local researchers have estimated the treatment gap in Kenya at 60 to 80%. KAWE regards the reduction of the treatment gap as its prime goal.

# KAWE Achievements

- KAWE is recognised by the Ministry of Health (MOH) for its work and Epilepsy was listed in the MOH morbidity sheet in 2009.
- KAWE was actively involved in the preparation of the National Guidelines for the Management of Epilepsy which the MOH launched in 2014 and the revision in 2016 for the second edition.
- The MOH identifies medical personnel from government health facilities for training by KAWE.
- KAWE's "Manual for Medical and **Clinical Officers**" was adopted for Anglophone Africa by the Global Epilepsy -Campaign Against WHO/IBE/ILAE
- KAWE's film entitled "IT'S NOT MY CHOICE" was presented a Gold Award in New Delhi in 1989.
- KAWE has helped public and private health facilities across the country to initiate epilepsy services. As a result KAWE has a network of 32 affiliate clinics.
- KAWE has trained over 1600 medical personnel and 3200 Community Health Workers and millions have been reached through media.
- KAWE has facilitated formation of 14 Community Based Organisations (CBOs) to support people with epilepsy around the country.

**KAWE Programs and Goals** 

# Health Care Goal:

KAWE AFFILIATE CLINICS IN OPERATION



By 2020 we aim to support 80 epilepsy clinics. As part of the objective of reducing the huge treatment gap, KAWE'S health care program aims to empower more primary health care workers to adequately manage epilepsy and to increase the number of clinics where they provide services. Currently we have 3 KAWE run and 32 affiliated epilepsy clinics countywide. Nurses. Clinical Officers, Public Health Officers and Physio/Occupational therapists are the main cadres targeted to attend epilepsy management workshops. The purpose of the sessions is:

- To disseminate the Kenya National Guide lines for the Management of Epilepsy.
- To enable participants to be better able to screen, diagnose, design and implement appropriate treatment plans for people with epilepsy.

## Knowledge Management Goal:

By 2020 we aim to have facilitated training for 750 Community Health Volunteers and implemented a communications plan to raise public epilepsy awareness by 20%. KAWE has demonstrated that epilepsy treatment is affordable. The challenge lies in making the public aware of this, and ensuring that primary health care workers have sufficient knowledge of the affordable, appropriate care of epilepsy patients. KAWE conducts Community Health Volunteers (CHVs) workshops.

The objectives of the sessions are:

- To equip the participants with proper knowledge and information on epilepsy to debunk myths and misconceptions.
- To share tools on how to disseminate the same message to the members of the wider community.
- To draw a plan of action that will assist them in sensitizing and mobilizing their respective communities. This includes awareness creation, identifying suspected cases of epilepsy, referring for treatment, counselling and conducting home visits to ensure proper drug compliance.



KAWE Staff Member, Judy Kariuki Conducting a Medical Training

# Influencing Goal:

Ever expanding partnership with county departments and other organisations.

KAWE aims to assist county health services to establish and/or maintain a network of health facilities that:

- offer epilepsy services for ease of referral thus reducing the distance and cost of travel for patients and carers.
- standardize epilepsy health care practices across the country.
- support patients to access quality affordable Anti Epilepsy drugs.

### Institutional Development Goal:

To strengthen KAWE's resource base in order that it may deliver cutting edge intergrated health education and care services for people with epilepsy such that they are effective and sustainable.

KAWE invests in Board and staff capacity building to continuously improve organisation performance and diversify resource base for sustainability of program activities.