



Statement on behalf of the International League Against Epilepsy (ILAE)

The International League Against Epilepsy (ILAE) promotes evidence-based treatment for people with epilepsy through 129 national chapters that cover 160 different countries and territories.

Since the unanimous adoption of the 2022-2031 Intersectoral Global Action Plan on Epilepsy and Other Neurological Disorders during the 75th World Health Assembly in May last year, ILAE has been working to address the unacceptably high treatment, inclusion and research gaps faced by people with epilepsy throughout the world.

ILAE has completed a global baseline survey to establish, for epilepsy care and treatment, how far our chapter members believe each country is away from achieving the targets laid out in the Intersectoral Global Action Plan. The results show that much work and effective collaboration will be needed if the commitments to improving lives of people with epilepsy made during the 75th World Health Assembly are to be realized by 2031. Our survey shows that in 2023:

- Fewer than 50 countries globally have national plans that include epilepsy.
- Globally only one in five people with epilepsy have access to affordable anti-seizure medicines and even in well resources countries epilepsy services in most countries do not reach everyone who needs care.
- Virtually no country routinely collects the type of data needed to understand the needs of people with epilepsy, to support effective service planning or to provide basic information such as the incidence and prevalence of epilepsy needed for research.

Untreated epilepsy kills – the mortality rate for someone with untreated epilepsy is three times that of the general population.

Untreated epilepsy disables – epilepsy is responsible for the global loss of over 13 million disability adjusted life years every year.

Untreated epilepsy is extremely costly – it is estimated that worldwide over 650 billion US dollars are lost each year due to lack of adequate treatment for epilepsy.

Through its global network of over 26,000 epilepsy professionals, ILAE can provide support to national health authorities with:

- Gathering information on the health and economic burden of epilepsy
- Developing effective patient-centered models of care
- Improving knowledge through education and training
- Advancing research into epilepsy
- Using expanded epilepsy service to strengthen care for other neurological disorders

ILAE looks forward to working with member states and WHO on the Intersectoral Global Action Plan on Epilepsy and Other Neurological Disorders to achieve a world where no person's life is limited by epilepsy.