

services of the foundation. Its
headquarters are in Karachi, Pakistan.

Edhi Foundation



Founded

1951^[1]

Founder

Abdul Sattar Edhi

Focus

Emergency Services,
Orphans,
Handicapped
Persons, Shelters,
Education,
Healthcare,
International
Community Centers,
Blood & Drug Bank,
Air Ambulance

	Services, Marine And Coastal Service
Location	<u>Karachi, Sindh, Pakistan</u>
Area served	Social Welfare, Humanitarianism
Method	Donations and Grants
Key people	<u>Abdul Sattar Edhi</u> , co-founder and co-chair <u>Bilquis Edhi</u> Faisal Edhi
Website	<u>edhi.org</u>

The Edhi Foundation provides 24-hour emergency assistance across the nation of Pakistan and abroad. The Foundation

provides, among many other services, shelter for the destitute, free hospitals and medical care, drug rehabilitation services, and national and international relief efforts. Its main focuses are Emergency Services, Orphans, Handicapped Persons, Shelters, Education, Healthcare, International Community Centers, Blood & Drug Bank, air ambulance services, Marine And Coastal Services.

History

In 1951 Abdul Sattar Edhi bought a small shop in Mithadar area of Karachi and opened a free dispensary. From that small

beginning Edhi has built up the Edhi Foundation. Edhi established his first welfare center in 1957 and then the Edhi Trust.^[5] What started as one man operating from a single room in Karachi is now the Edhi Foundation. The foundation has over 300 centers across the country, in big cities, small towns and remote rural areas, providing medical aid, family planning and emergency assistance. They own air ambulances, providing quick access to far-flung areas.

In Karachi alone, the Edhi Foundation runs 8 hospitals providing free medical care, eye hospitals, diabetic centres, surgical

units, a 4- bed cancer hospital and mobile dispensaries. In addition to these the Foundation also manages two blood banks in Karachi. As with other Edhi services, employed professionals and volunteers run these. The foundation has a Legal aid department, which provides free services and has secured the release of countless innocent prisoners.

Commissioned doctors visit jails on a regular basis and also supply food and other essentials to the inmates. There are 15 " Apna Ghar" ["Our Home"] homes for the destitute children, runaways, and psychotics.

On 25 June 2013, Edhi's kidneys failed; it was announced that he would be on dialysis for the rest of his life unless he found a kidney donor. Edhi died on 8 July 2016 at the age of 88 due to kidney failure after having been placed on a ventilator. His last wishes included the request that his organs were to be donated but due to his ill health, only his corneas were suitable. He was laid to rest at the Edhi Village Karachi.

The foundation also has an education scheme, which apart from teaching reading and writing covers various vocational activities such as driving,

pharmacy and para-medical training. The emphasis is on self-sufficiency. The Edhi Foundation has branches in several countries where they provide relief to refugees in the United States, UK, Canada, Japan, and Bangladesh. In 1991 the Foundation provided aid to victims of the Gulf war and earthquake victims in Iran and Egypt. The organization has held the Guinness record for world's "largest volunteer ambulance organization" since 1997.^[6] In 2016, after the death of Abdul Sattar Edhi, the state bank of Pakistan urged bank CEOs to donate to the foundation.^[7]

Services

The Edhi Foundation provides a number of services, emergency and non-emergency, to the general public. In addition to emergency medical services and private ambulance services, the organization also renders aid to women and children in need, assists with missing persons cases, and helps in covering burial and graveyard costs of unclaimed and unidentified bodies during times of disaster and tragedy.^[8]

Ambulance Services

...

As of March 2016, the Edhi Foundation owns over 1,800 private ambulance vans stationed in areas across Pakistan.^[8] The ambulance dispatchers in Karachi, one of the busiest cities in Pakistan, have reported up to 6,000 calls a day, with the average response time for each incident falling within 10 minutes.^[9] It was also an Edhi ambulance which responded to and picked up the body of the American journalist, Daniel Pearl, when he was killed in 2002.^[9]

The organization also owns two private jets and one helicopter to assist in moving victims from hard-to-reach locations,

especially during the event of a natural disaster.^[10] In addition to land and air assistance, Edhi Foundation also hosts 28 rescue boats to aid during floods and in cases of shipwrecks and disaster along the Arabian Ocean coast.^[11]

Hospital Services

...

The organization runs several private outpatient hospitals located in Pakistan. Additional medical facilities include a diabetic center, a nurse training center, immunization centers, and blood banks, including emergency banks during times of natural disasters or tragedies.^[7]

Childcare Services

...

Bilquis Edhi, co-head of the Edhi Foundation, is responsible for overseeing children's and women's services within the organization. Services she heads currently for children include the *jhoola* project, a child adoption center, and an abandoned children's welfare center. *Jhoola* is the Urdu word for "cradle",^[12] and refers to a baby hatch for abandoned children. Most of the Edhi emergency centers have a *jhoola* located outside the venue for mothers to leave their infants, regardless of the current situation they may be in.^[13] These children are taken into custody and

are taken care of, often being adopted by pre-screened families.

International Services

The Edhi Foundation has reached out to international communities and assisted with the setup of several offices overseas which assist with donations, fundraising, and especially financially aiding Pakistanis who have to be flown overseas for urgent medical attention. In addition to providing their regular services, the overseas foundation offices often help with community needs as necessary. In 2005, the Edhi Foundation provided \$100,000 in

aid to relief efforts following Hurricane Katrina.^[9]

In March 2020, the organization donated US\$200,000 to the Iranian government to help it combat the Coronavirus epidemic plaguing the country.^[14]

See also

- List of Non-governmental organisations based in Karachi

References

1. "Edhi" . *Archived from the original on 24 February 2015. Retrieved 24 February 2015.*

2. *"About Edhi Foundation" . edhi.org.
Archived from the original on 25 June 2014. Retrieved 24 February 2015.*
3. *"Major Features of Edhi Foundation" .
Archived from the original on 24 February 2015. Retrieved 24 February 2015. [start quote] Edhi Foundation ... modifies the catchphrase "Live and Let Live" by "Live and Help Live", which means Edhi guides others ... [stop quote]*
4. *Julie McCarthy (28 July 2009).
"Pakistan Philanthropist Cares For Karachi's Forgotten" . NPR. Retrieved 21 August 2014.*

5. *Boone, Jon (1 April 2015). " 'They call him an infidel': Pakistan's humble founder of a charity empire" . The Guardian. ISSN 0261-3077 . Retrieved 28 March 2016.*
6. *Craig Glenday, ed. (2010). Guinness World Records 2010 . Bantam Books. p. 237 . ISBN 9780553593372. "largest volunteer ambulance."*
7. *"STB urges banks to contribute in pitch for Edhi Foundation" . tribune.com.pk. Retrieved 28 May 2016.*
8. *"Ambulance Service" . edhi.org. Archived from the original on 5 April 2016. Retrieved 2016-05-07.*

9. *Magnier, Mark (4 October 2011). "In troubled Pakistan, a humanitarian light shines through" . Los Angeles Times. ISSN 0458-3035 . Retrieved 28 March 2016.*
10. *User, Super. "Air Ambulance Service" . edhi.org. Archived from the original on 20 March 2016. Retrieved 2016-03-28.*
11. *User, Super. "Marine Service" . edhi.org. Archived from the original on 20 March 2016. Retrieved 2016-03-28.*
12. *"Cradle Urdu Meanings: بچے کا جھولا - Bachay Ka Jhola - English to Urdu*

Dictionary" . www.hamariweb.com.

Retrieved 28 March 2016.

13. *User, Super. "Jhoolas (Baby Cradles)" . edhi.org. Archived from the original on 20 March 2016. Retrieved 2016-03-28.*

14. *Rizvi, Raza. "Edhi Foundation Donates \$200,000 to Iran" . Retrieved 11 March 2020.*

External links

- [Official website](#)

Retrieved from

["https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?)

[title=Edhi_Foundation&oldid=951354160"](#)

Last edited 3 days ago by Creffett

Content is available under CC BY-SA 3.0 unless otherwise noted.