

FAQs

1. Why does AKU need donations?

Your donations help AKU provide quality healthcare and education to people from financially challenged/low income backgrounds. Your donations have been used to support over 2.9 million patient visits, structural projects and thousands of deserving students with limited means. The Patient Welfare Programme and Student Financial Assistance Programme is supported largely by the Hospital's own revenues, however the number of patients, students and projects that need assistance is growing every day. This is where your donations fill the gap and extend access to those who need it most.

2. Why is the cost of treatment at AKUH high?

AKUH invests in the latest technology and highly trained specialist staff. This ensures that the best quality care is provided to patients. In order to facilitate people who cannot afford treatment at AKUH, a patient welfare programme has been established since inception of AKUH. Patients are eligible for welfare after a meticulous financial assessment process. AKUH's welfare programme is happy to have disbursed over Rs 11.86 billion to support more than 2.9 million patient visits.

3. What is the difference between the Patient Welfare Programme and The Patients' Behbud Society for AKUH (PBS)?

The Patient Welfare Programme has been operating since the opening of the hospital and has supported over 2.9 million patient visits. The programme provides financial assistance to patients who cannot afford their treatment.

PBS is an independent, charitable society responsible for collecting and disbursing *zakat*. This *zakat* is used to help *mustehiq* patients access high quality medical treatment at the Aga Khan University Hospital (AKUH), its clinics and medical centres. *Zakat* is a **component** of the *overall efforts* of the Hospital to provide welfare to needy patients.

Whereas welfare is disbursed through the Patient Welfare Programme to patients regardless of their religious background, race or creed, *zakat* is disbursed by PBS only to *mustehiq* patients.

4. How is *zakat* utilised by PBS?

The Patients' Behbud Society for AKUH (PBS) received Shariah Certification in 2016 and adheres to a meticulous process of identifying the most deserving patients who are eligible for *zakat*. Your *zakat* donations are used for the sole treatment of the patients, with no amount allocated to administrative expenses. Patients who receive financial support receive the same level of care as all other patients and their financial arrangement is kept confidential.