

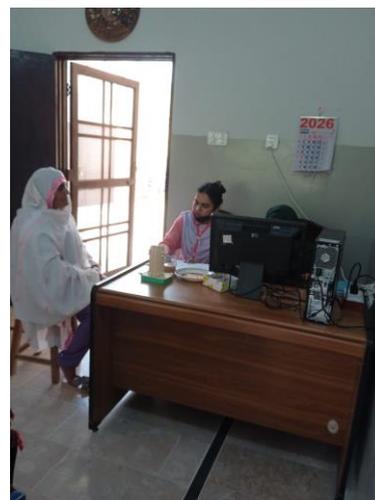
Healing at the Edge of the City: Inside the Amna Shamima Foundation's Life-Saving Medical Camp

In the dense, overlapping alleys of Haji Ghulam Zakarya Goth, where the "Katchi" (informal) and "Pacci" (formalized) abadis meet, the struggle for survival is often measured in the distance to the nearest doctor. For many residents, specialized healthcare is a luxury sidelined by the immediate costs of rent, water, and fuel. However, today, the Amna Shamima Foundation (ASF) and Health and Nutrition Development Society (HANDS) bridged that gap, transforming a local space into a frontline medical sanctuary for the settlement's most vulnerable: its women and children.

High-Density Care in the Heart of the Goth

The medical camp, characterized by its efficiency and empathetic outreach, provided a critical health intervention for a community historically underserved by the city's formal infrastructure. By the end of the day, the medical team had examined a total of 38 patients; 22 patients in the Outpatient Department (OPD), focusing on the acute and chronic ailments that plague high-density urban informal settlements.

The camp functioned as more than just a consultation site; it was a mobile diagnostic hub. Recognizing that "treatment without diagnosis is a shot in the dark," ASF-HANDS provided ultrasound scans for 10 patients, offering a rare opportunity for internal screenings that would otherwise cost thousands of rupees in private city hospitals. Furthermore, one patient required urgent stabilization and was administered an intravenous (IV) drip on-site, a vital intervention in preventing further complications.



Beyond the Stethoscope: The Power of Diagnostics

The true depth of today's intervention lay in the laboratory. While general check-ups are common, ASF's commitment to "integrated healthcare" meant providing high-end diagnostic testing. Lab tests were performed for 12 patients, covering a comprehensive spectrum of indicators:

- **Complete Blood Count (CBC):** To identify underlying infections and widespread anemia.
- **HCV (Hepatitis C):** A critical screening in areas where water quality and sterilization practices are often compromised.
- **LFT (Liver Function Tests) and Creatinine:** Monitoring the vital organs of women who are often exposed to environmental toxins and indoor air pollution from cooking fuels.
- **Blood Grouping:** Essential data for emergency preparedness in a community where medical records are virtually non-existent.

Addressing the Gendered Health Gap

The demographics of today's camp tell a story of intentionality. Every single patient was either a woman or a child. In the sociological context of the Goth, women are the "domestic managers" of

health, yet they are often the last to seek care for themselves due to financial constraints and cultural barriers.

By bringing female doctors and specialized equipment like ultrasound machines directly into the neighborhood, ASF-HANDS dismantled the barriers of mobility and cost. For the mothers of the Goth, this camp wasn't just a medical appointment; it was a rare moment where their well-being was centered and prioritized.

The Ripple Effect of Wellness

The data gathered today at Haji Ghulam Zakarya Goth serves a dual purpose. Beyond the immediate relief provided to the 38 families, the results of the CBC, LFT, and HCV tests provide the ASF-HANDS with a "Health Map" of the area. This data will feed into the broader research on the intersection of housing conditions and health outcomes.

As the camp packed up this evening, the impact was visible in the quiet relief of a mother walking home with her test results in hand. ASF-HANDS has once again proven that "informal survival" can be transformed into "equitable development" when healthcare is treated not as a commodity, but as a fundamental human right.



Why Your Support is the Pulse of this Mission

Running a camp that provides free ultrasounds and comprehensive lab panels is a resource-intensive endeavor. Today's success was made possible by donors who understand that a CBC test or an ultrasound scan is often the only thing standing between a manageable condition and a family tragedy.

Health and Nutrition Development Society and Amna Shamima Foundation remains committed to these "Katchi" and "Pacci" abadis, ensuring that the women and children of the Goth are never left to suffer in the shadows of the city's skyscrapers.