

# PERSPECTIVES FROM A STUDENT RUN NON-PROFIT IN AN LOW AND MIDDLE INCOME COUNTRY



BASED IN PAKISTAN, FALAH IS STUDENT-RUN NON PROFIT THAT FOCUSES ON GIVING BACK TO THE SOCIETY. FALAH COLLECTS FUNDS FROM COMMUNITY AND GIVES BACK BY PROVIDING FREE PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS.

## AFFILIATIONS

We're affiliated with Aga Khan University but we are an independent organization.

## PRESENTER

Wahab Fazal

## BACKGROUND

FALAH IS A REGISTERED STUDENT LED NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION OPERATING SOLELY WITHIN AKU. IT WAS INITIATED IN 1993 BY A GROUP OF MBBS STUDENTS, WITH THE SINGULAR PURPOSE OF CONTRIBUTING TOWARDS PATIENT WELFARE AND MAKING A POSITIVE DIFFERENCE IN THEIR LIVES.

### FUND RAISING:

Falah collects its funds by holding fun events including funfairs, bonfires, and Bake sales. Besides this, Falah tackles individual cases as well, people with chronic diseases

### BLOOD BANK:

We have a directory with all the major blood groups of all University employees, students and outside people as well who are requested to donate blood for individual cases that are brought in.

### POST COVID PERSPECTIVE:

Out of the pocket payment and insufficient funds are a well recognized barrier to healthcare (1). Economic impact of medication non adherence has been well documented (2) .

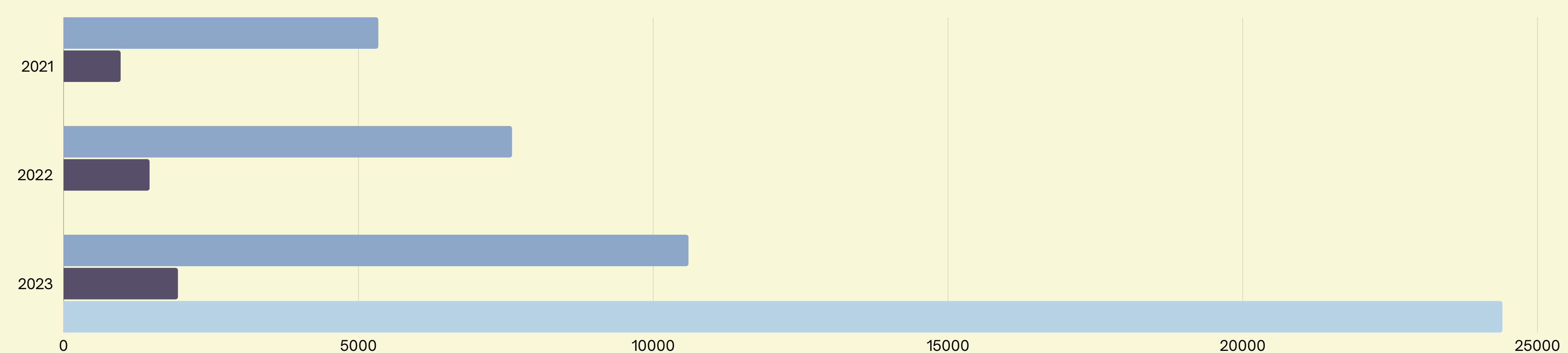
As Pakistan has gone through Economic turmoil over the past 3 years post Covid where the conversion rate has almost tripled. Our offices have seen a marked increase in the amount of patients that have been presenting to us needing help. Besides, the overall change in the patient presenting to our clinics has also shifted from long standing NCDs to more simple conditions like Fever and cough requiring fever medications. Consequently, overall need for funds has also steadily increased due to more demand and increasing prices of the medications.

Due to scarcity of resources, it is becoming more and more difficult to help all the patients in need. Therefore, in these changing times. We can only help the patients with a fraction of the actual prescription cost as we are getting a bigger patient load.



One of our esteemed faculty members donating to bloodline.

## FALAH EXPENSES OVER THE YEARS



## ANALYSIS

As noticed here, the number of patients presenting to the office has increased greatly over the course of the past 3 years. Along with it, the expenses required to help these patients with their medications has increased drastically owing to the precipitous increase in medicine costs over the course of just 1 year. These figures clearly illustrate that Falah's present resources cannot meet the demands of the ever increasing patient population particularly with the increasing expense for medicines.

## CONCLUSION

These figures are just a small representation of actual need for subsidized medications and healthcare in the country. The increasing cost of medicine have rendered a student-run organization in a difficult position. Therefore, Falah and the students need to rethink their approach towards raising funds for this new challenge that faces us. Falah has been in the landscape for almost 30 years now and it will continue to do so.



Falah office

1. Wahlster, Philip, et al. "Barriers to Access and Use of High Cost Medicines: A Review." Health Policy and Technology.
2. Cutler, Rachelle Louise, et al. "Economic Impact of Medication Non-Adherence by Disease Groups: A Systematic Review." BMJ Open, vol. 8,