



FOREST
WOMEN



**TAKING CARE OF LIFE,
PRESERVING THE FOREST**





PROVIDING DIGNITY AND HEALTHCARE TO INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES SINCE 2003



WHO ARE WE

- ▶ Expedicionários da Saúde (EDS) is a Brazilian nonprofit health organization established in 2003 by a group of **volunteer doctors**.
- ▶ With over two decades of experience, we have acquired the necessary expertise to provide **free access to surgical healthcare for indigenous people** residing in geographically isolated areas of the **Amazon Forest**.
- ▶ To date, EDS has conducted 54 Humanitarian Expeditions across the Amazonian Forest, performing nearly **10,000 SURGERIES, 71,000 CONSULTATIONS, 128,000 MEDICAL EXAMS AND PROCEDURES, AND DONATED 6,900 EYEGLASSES.**

OUR DIFFERENTIAL

- ▶ We have designed a **Mobile Hospital Model**, a modern and adaptable structure developed by **volunteer engineers** equipped to withstand the challenging conditions of the Amazon Forest.
- ▶ It comprises portable tents that accommodate five surgical rooms, clinical spaces, examination rooms, and outpatient facilities. These tents can be transported and assembled in numerous locations within the Amazon, whether by river, air, or land.
- ▶ These facilities are equipped with modern and safe equipment, **meeting the same high standards** available in major **Brazilian hospitals**.

HOW DO WE OPERATE

- ▶ Our operations are sustained through **donations** from the private sector, individuals, and international foundations. We undergo annual audits conducted by **EY (Ernst & Young)**.
- ▶ Our extraordinary **volunteer health team**, composed of approximately 300 members, including doctors, registered nurses, and a dedicated technical crew responsible for logistics and support.
- ▶ We maintain a close relationship with **indigenous organizations**, receiving their strong institutional backing. Additionally, we are endorsed by the Ministries of Health and Indigenous Peoples.



WHY SHOULD YOU DONATE



Caring for the health of indigenous people living in geographically isolated areas of the Amazon is essential for the survival of the planet.

GLOBAL CLIMATE IMPACT

The Amazon Biome plays a crucial role in global climate regulation. With **115.8 million hectares** of indigenous lands in Brazil, representing 23% of the Amazonian territory, the **guardians of the forest** play a vital role in its protection, directly contributing to the **preservation** of this critical ecosystem. The Amazon Rainforest acts as a natural water pump, absorbing, storing, and releasing water through plant transpiration. This process helps regulate regional and distant rainfall patterns across the globe.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

The **demarcation** of indigenous territories has proven to be one of the most effective strategies for forest preservation. Analysis of deforestation trends reveals that forest loss is much higher in the areas surrounding **indigenous lands** as compared to the areas inside them (ISA, 2023). Indigenous lands alone are responsible for **safeguarding 20.3% of the forests** in Brazil, and the Amazon region holds 98% of these territories. Notably, the highest forest coverage preservation has been observed in the indigenous territories, with a minimal 1.2% loss of forest coverage until 2022 (ISA, 2023).

CARBON STORAGE

According to data from the national census from IBGE (2022), there are **1,693,535 indigenous people in Brazil**, with **867,100** of them residing in the Brazilian Legal Amazon region. An estimated **12.9 billion tons** of carbon are stored within the 115.8 million hectares of indigenous territories in the Amazon (Saatchi, 2007). In other words, it's possible to assert that, on average, each individual contributes to the **protection of 14,877 tons of carbon** in the soil, thus making a substantial contribution to global climate change mitigation.

Climate change affects the health of people worldwide, whether through resource scarcity, the increase in climate-related diseases, or natural disasters. Therefore, donating to this cause is a significant action, not only for the preservation of the Amazon Forest but also for the well-being of indigenous communities that safeguard this treasured land. Believe it or not, global health is intricately linked to taking care of indigenous peoples.





FOREST WOMEN



The **Forest Women (FW)** program began in 2012 out of a concern among Expedicionários da Saúde (EDS) volunteer doctors that indigenous women who had been diagnosed with lesions that could become cervical cancer didn't have access to proper treatment. A research conducted at the University of Campinas by EDS volunteer doctor, Dr. Iria R. Novais, showed that indigenous women have 3 to 4 times more risk to develop lesions that can lead to cervical cancer as compared to non-indigenous women.

In this sense, a new expedition model was launched by EDS in 2016 with the aim of treating these lesions mainly through a procedure called conization through High-Frequency Surgery (CAF), which removes the altered area from the uterus that can lead to cervical cancer. This procedure offers low risk for the indigenous

women, considering its high efficiency to preserve the uterine function, and that it can be performed on an outpatient basis. Other procedures such as cauterization, surgeries to remove breast lumps, and other minor surgeries are also carried out during these expeditions.

Indigenous women would be required to endure extended waiting periods, potentially spanning several months or even years, to access proper treatment if EDS were unable to provide these local services. One of our main differentials is the set-up of a Mobile Laboratory in the middle of the forest. With the presence of an anatomopathologist and cytotechnologist professionals, this allows sample analyzes to be carried out at site level, with immediate results, thus enabling a faster and more appropriate definition of procedures and therefore increasing the chances of success in any treatment.





TEAM INVOLVED

To implement the Forest Women expedition, EDS mobilizes 23 professionals, including:

10 medical doctors

(5 gynecologists medical doctors, 2 pathologists, 1 emergency clinic doctor, 1 sonographer, 1 anesthetist)

4 registered nurses

2 laboratory technician

1 information technology technician

2 logistical support

2 general service support

2 coordinators

EXPECTED RESULTS

BENEFITS 200 PEOPLE AND 1,000 PEOPLE INDIRECTLY (CONSIDERING 5 PEOPLE PER FAMILY).

This includes: **200 medical consultations, 100 surgeries, 500 exams and procedures.**

BUDGET TO FUND THIS EXPEDITION

(On average, EDS implements
2 Forest Women expeditions per year)

1 EXPEDITION
US\$ **167,509.97**

2 EXPEDITIONS
US\$ **335,019.94**

3 EXPEDITIONS
US\$ **502,529.92**

Expense Item	Unitary Value (US\$)	Quantity	Observation	Total (US\$)	%
Purchase of Airline Tickets Volunteer Team + EDS (23 people)	1,584.16	23	Volunteer Team + EDS	36,435.64	24%
Lodging for Volunteer Team + EDS (23 people)	59.41	23	Volunteer Team + EDS	1,366.34	1%
Food for Volunteer Team + EDS (23 people)	158.42	23	Volunteer Team + EDS	3,643.56	2%
Food for Indigenous Patients (450 people)	79.21	450	Indigenous patients	35,643.56	23%
EDS team ground travel (vehicle rental + fuel + taxi/uber + van rental)	118.81	12	Daily land travel cost	1,425.74	1%
Fuel for generator	79.21	10	Daily generator fuel cost	792.08	1%
Cargo transport - land movement (70 volumes)	198.02	3	3 round-trip transfers - land	594.06	0%
Cargo transport - river transport (70 volumes)	1,188.12	1	1 round trip transfer - river	1,188.12	1%
Cargo transport - air travel (70 volumes)	13,861.39	1	1 round trip transfer - air	13,861.39	9%
Provision of Local Services (labor for 10 days)	356.44	5	Hired professionals	1,782.18	1%
Expenses for supplies and medicines	11,881.19	1	Purchase of 1 batch of supplies and medicines	11,881.19	8%
Purchase of EDS team uniform	5.94	100	T-shirts	594.06	0%
Expenses for adapting local infrastructure (hydraulic network, electrical network, solar panel, biodigester, roof replacement)	5,940.59	1	Cost of infrastructure adjustments	5,940.59	4%
Graphic design and IT expenses	990.10	1	Production of banners and brochures	990.10	1%
EDS technical team cost (team of 15 people)	2,409.55	15	EDS technical team allocated in the project	36,143.18	24%
Subtotal (US\$)				152,281.79	
Reserve Fund (10%)				15,228.18	
Total Cost (US\$)				167,509.97	



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