

# The New York Times

## *Fazle Abed, Founder of a Leading Relief Agency, Dies at 83*

Mr. Abed gave up a job as a senior executive at a multinational company to start BRAC after he saw his native land, Bangladesh, devastated by war.



Fazle Hasan Abed, the founder of the relief agency BRAC, in 2010. He won a number of awards for his humanitarian work. Credit...Munir Uz Zaman/Agence France-Presse — Getty Images



**By Shalini Venugopal Bhagat**

Jan. 1, 2020

Fazle Abed, who started a temporary relief effort for refugees in Bangladesh that became one of the largest nongovernmental organizations in the world, died on Dec. 20 in a hospital in Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh. He was 83.

His daughter, Tamara Abed, said the cause was complications of glioblastoma, a type of brain cancer.

Mr. Abed founded what was originally known as the Bangladesh Rehabilitation Assistance Committee in 1972, and is now known simply as BRAC, to help refugees returning to their homeland after the Bangladesh Liberation War of 1971.

Today it has around 90,000 employees in 11 countries and aids more than 100 million people in gaining access to health care, education and microfinancing to start businesses.