



Healing Hearts Changing Lives

Progress Report on
PAEDIATRIC CANCER INITIATIVES

*FY 2022-23





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Childhood Cancer Incidence in Pakistan

Childhood cancer in Pakistan represents a significant health challenge, much like in many other developing countries. The incidence of pediatric cancers is rising, with leukemia being the most common, followed by lymphomas and solid tumors. A combination of factors, including limited awareness, late diagnosis, and inadequate healthcare infrastructure, often results in delayed or interrupted treatments. Financial constraints further exacerbate the issue, as many families struggle to afford the prolonged treatment and associated costs.

Every year
10,000
children are expected
to get diagnosed with
cancer in Pakistan



45%
of these kids are
unable to access
treatment



70%
of the ones who get
treatment are unable
to continue treatment



Pakistan's childhood
cancer survival rate
is **35%** compared
to **80%** in the Global
North



Indus Hospital & Health Network's Intervention



Clinical Services

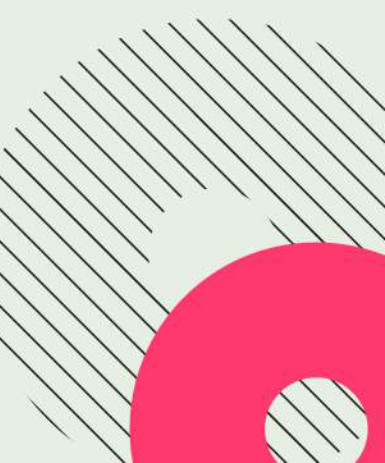


Psychosocial Care

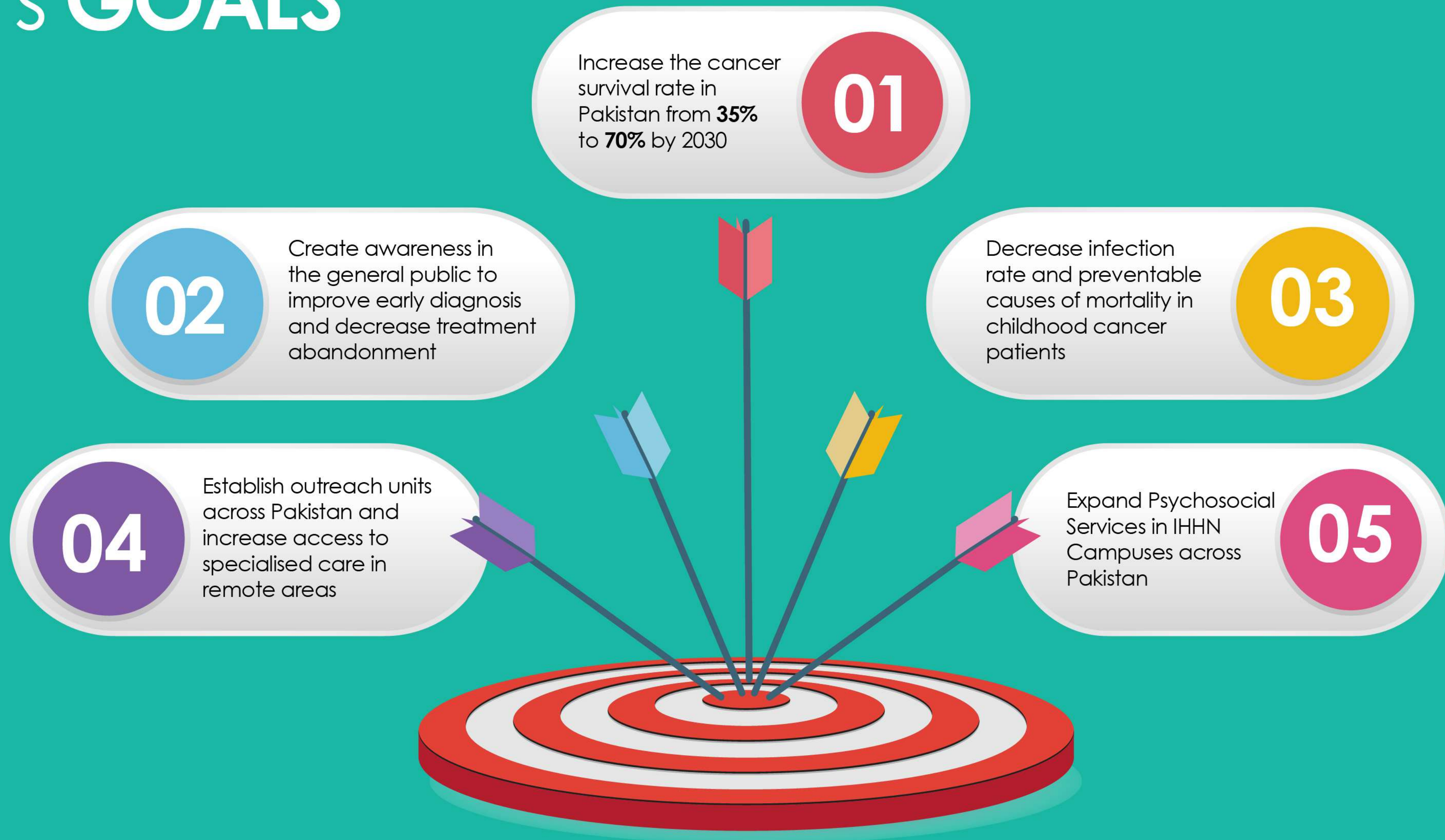


Community Outreach

Founded in 2007, Indus Hospital & Health Network (IHHN) was established with a 150-bed facility committed to delivering free healthcare. By 2014, IHHN's dedication to transforming Pakistan's healthcare led to the creation of the Department of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology, ensuring holistic, cost-free cancer treatment for children. With childhood cancer care being either unaffordable or inaccessible, IHHN aims to ensure children across Pakistan are not deprived of care. IHHN's expansive Pediatric cancer unit provides specialized medical treatment. Simultaneously, outreach efforts have expanded care across Pakistan, bolstering local hospitals with training and tele-oncology clinics. Complementing these is our firm emphasis on psychosocial care, ensuring the all-around well-being of our patients and their families.



IHHN's GOALS



Beating Childhood Cancer

The Impact of Your Generosity

Helps IHHN Achieve its Sustainable Development Goals

01

NO POVERTY



Financial protection from catastrophic illnesses like cancer reduces poverty incidence.

03

GOOD HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING



Providing free-of-cost quality treatment to childhood cancer patients enables achievement of health-related targets.

04

QUALITY EDUCATION



Pediatric school for children with cancer to continue education while being treated ensures no child is left behind.

10

GENDER EQUALITY



IHHN treats patients with equality regardless of age, gender, race, financial status, and ethnicity.

Clinical Services

IHHN's multifaceted clinical services exemplify its dedication to offering cutting-edge, compassionate care, and relentless pursuit of excellence in combating childhood cancers.

1,273

Patients registered

2,168

In-patient admissions
and discharges

24,792

OPD visits

20,595

Day-care chemo-
therapy sessions

4,548

Outpatient procedures

11,140

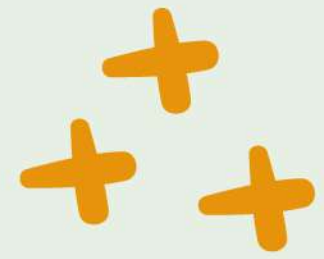
Patient consultations in
the paediatric oncology ER

12,000+

children treated for cancer
and blood diseases

**till date*





Outpatient Day Care

Day care treatments are those which are carried out in less than 24 hours and don't require the patient to be admitted as inpatient. OPD treatments include:



In-Patient Ward

Inpatient care requires a hospital stay. It includes:



Collaborations & Research

Collaborations

The Department of Pediatric Oncology holds multidisciplinary meetings with international organizations in the field of childhood brain tumors, retinoblastoma and sarcomas. The department regularly participates in 8 national and international tumor boards of all common cancers to ensure quality of care and compliance with latest treatment protocols.

Research

Driven by an unwavering commitment to knowledge and international collaboration, IHHN continues to elevate standards in cancer care and research. In 2022-2023 alone, IHHN faculty contributed 19 research publications and presented key findings at international platforms like SIOP 2022 in Barcelona and the upcoming SIOP 2023 in Ottawa. Faculty received the High Performance Award at the POEM conference in Muscat, and also secured a scholarship from St Jude Global. Furthermore, IHHN has enriched its research capacity by hosting workshops with esteemed institutions like St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and entering collaborations with global stakeholders. As a testament to its pivotal role, IHHN leads national protocol trials for six prevalent childhood cancers across Pakistan.

SickKids[®]



Community Outreach

Expanding Access & Care

With an overwhelming increase in patient load due to lack of accessible and affordable childhood cancer care in Pakistan, IHHN strives to extend its outreach beyond its capacities, focusing on Interior Sindh and Balochistan. Its **Tele-Oncology** initiative provides virtual clinics to our outreach centres by experienced faculty of IHHN, ensuring dissemination of knowledge to equip them with the tools to cater to cancer patients. The initiative is in line with the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG 2030) to increase timely diagnosis and improve outcomes of childhood cancer patients.



Expanding Our Outreach Network ----->



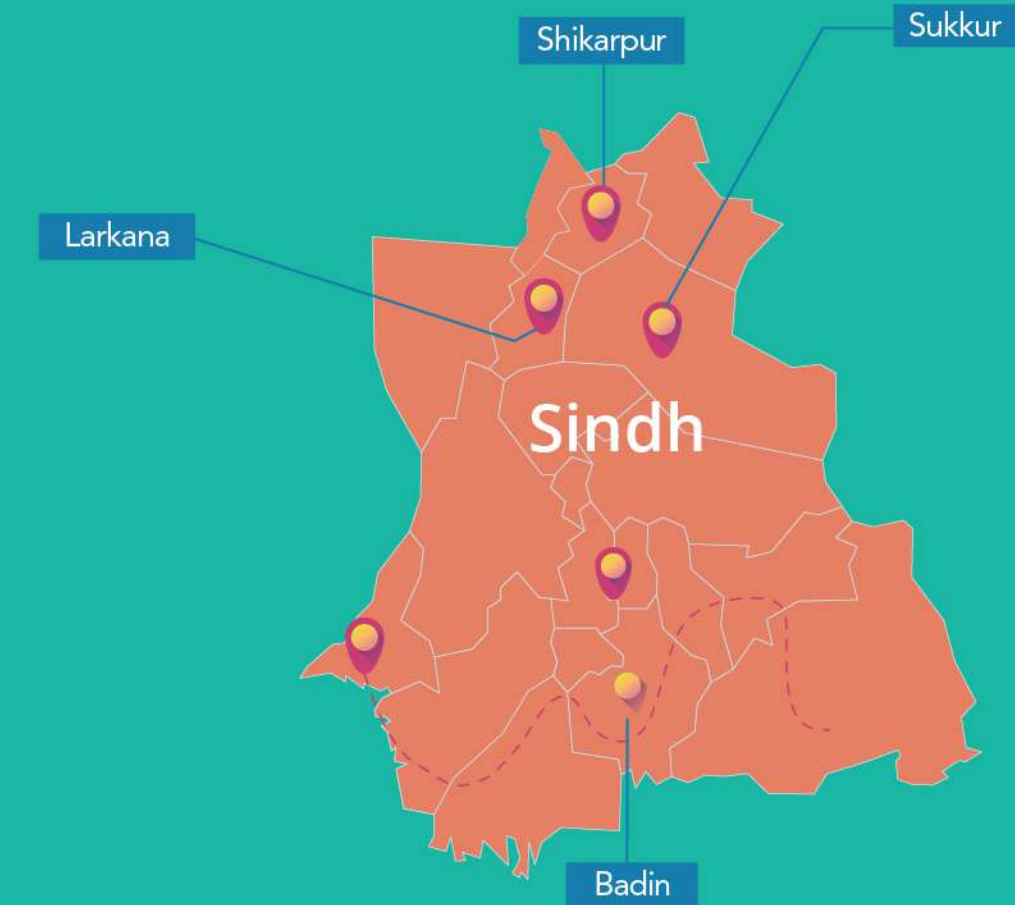
Tele-Oncology Efforts

With our advanced Tele-Oncology system led by an Outreach Oncologist, we conduct daily virtual and monthly in-person clinics, expanding crucial healthcare access throughout Pakistan and promoting health equality.



Afghanistan Expansion

We've extended our services to major Afghan cities, providing continuous treatment and diagnostics amidst conflict areas, underscoring our dedication to universal healthcare.



Sindh Outreach Units

Our new units in Badin, Shikarpur, Sukkur, and Larkana make specialized care accessible in distant regions of Sindh, reducing geographical health disparities and ensuring quality care for all.



Psychosocial Care

Childhood cancer profoundly affects both the patient and their family beyond the physical ailment. At IHHN's Psychosocial Department, the focus extends beyond medical care. Through mental health counseling, art and play-based therapies, they address the emotional and psychological needs of these young patients. Psychosocial department provides essential support with services like grief counseling and bereavement care. IHHN believes in healing not just the body, but also the heart and mind of those touched by cancer, both patients and their loved ones.



Stars of Indus (In-house School)

"Indus k Sitaray" is a heartfelt initiative by IHHN designed to ensure that children affected by cancer, as well as their siblings, don't miss out on their education. Recognizing that consistent learning plays a crucial role in normalcy and development, this in-house school allows these young stars to continue their educational journey uninterrupted during treatment, providing them with a sense of purpose, routine, and hope amidst challenging times.

200+
little Graduates!
*till date



Events

The Psychosocial Department at IHHN regularly curates uplifting events for patients and their families. With monthly and annual activities ranging from festive Eid bazaars and outdoor excursions to celebrity visits and therapeutic drum circles, they prioritize holistic well-being and joy, ensuring everyone feels cherished and supported.



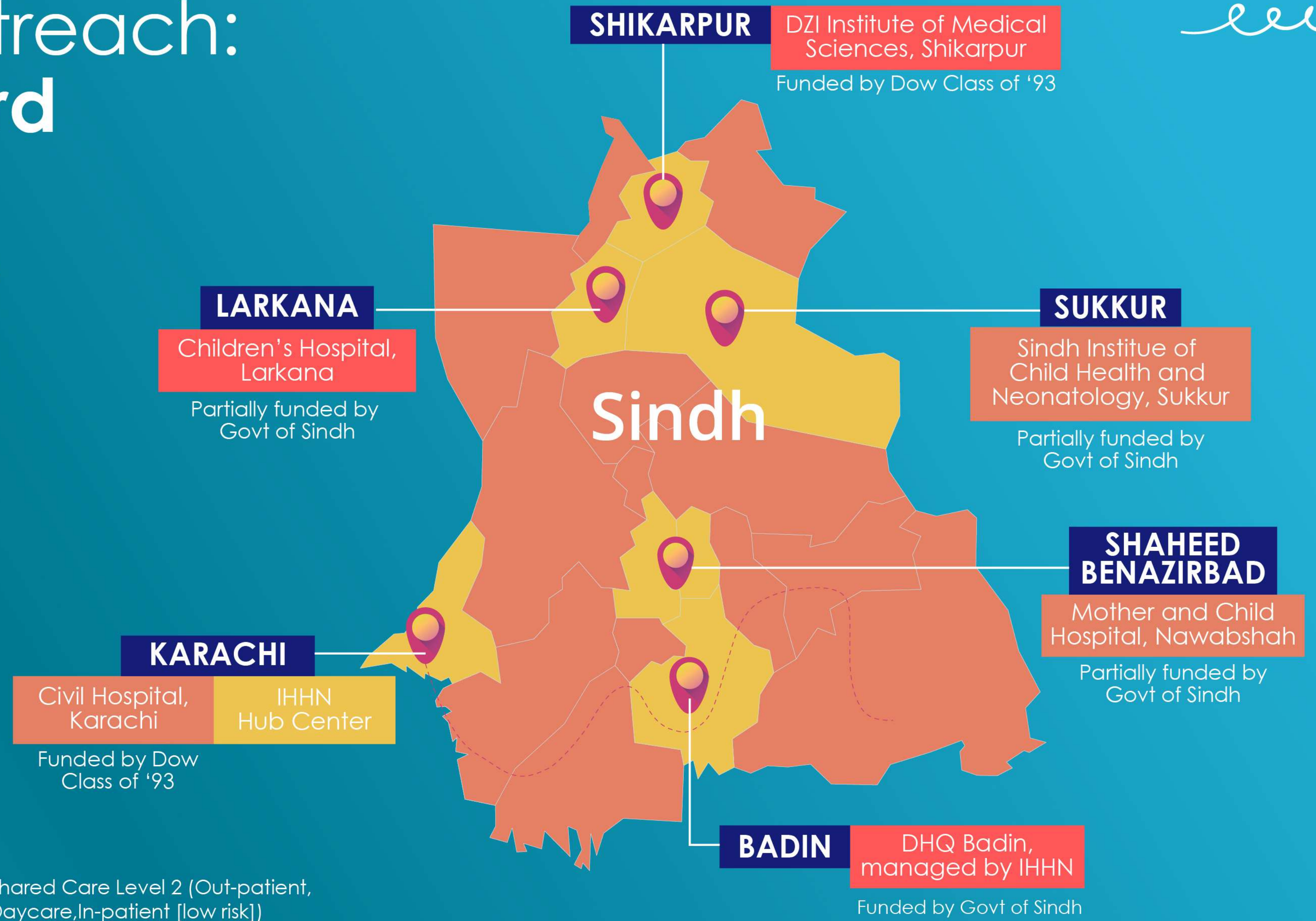
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Expanding Outreach: Moving Forward



Initiating outreach units in Badin, Shikarpur, Sukkur, and Larkana in the province of Sindh allows us to bring specialized care closer to those in remote locations. These units are milestones in our journey to mitigate geographical healthcare disparities, ensuring accessibility to quality medical services for everyone, and imprinting a lasting impact in underserved areas.





Unyielding Hope:

Little Ali's Journey to Recovery

In a far-flung area of Balochistan, Ali*, the 2 year old son of a coal mine worker spends his days running through the streets of a small village in Duki. He is the youngest of 6 children living in a two room house, still partly damaged from the 2022 floods. His father works from early morning until late night, bringing back food on some days and empty pockets on others. Ali suddenly gets very sick with high fever and fatigue, an illness refusing to improve even after weeks of medicines from a small local clinic. The father then leaves his work, borrows money from a friend and takes Ali on a 4 hour journey to Quetta. He desperately goes from doctor to doctor, one advises TB treatment, another says it's typhoid and another insists it's a viral infection. He watches his son get weaker by the day, eventually unable to move. Almost two months after getting sick, Ali reaches Sheikh Zayed hospital in Quetta, Balochistan, where they are told Indus Hospital may be their best bet.

On his first day at Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Hospital, Quetta, Ali is diagnosed with blood cancer and although this news was like an arrow to his father's heart, they were relieved to finally have a diagnosis. However, treatment for this advanced disease was difficult and not easily available, they were referred to Karachi, a strange and intimidating city far away. Ali's father took a loan from another relative, sent some to his family and took the bus to Karachi.

Two months from that fateful day, he rocks Ali in his arms. His eyes full of tears and his voice shaking with emotion, he calls this hospital a blessing, a sigh of relief to the underprivileged having to undergo cancer treatment. He lives in hospital residence, is provided with food and gets free transport to the hospital for check-ups. He worries about his family and hopes he can continue advance treatment in Quetta, where his wife can take care of Ali while he returns to work. He claims he has never seen a hospital like this before and says as long as he has breath left in his body he will pray that Indus Hospital can continue its incredible work.

**Patient's name has been changed to protect privacy*



INDUS

DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

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