

Resilient Care, Profound Impact

IHHN's Excellence in
Childhood Cancer Care



Table of Contents

- 
- 01** The Crisis of Childhood Cancer in Pakistan
 - 03** Towards a Healthier Tomorrow: IHHN's Childhood Cancer Initiative
 - 05** By the Numbers: A Snapshot of Our Impact
 - 06** Clinical Services at IHHN
 - 07** Paediatric Psychosocial Department
 - 09** Indus Ke Sitaray: In-house School
 - 11** Outreach Efforts
 - 12** Indus Paediatric Oncology Shared Care Project
 - 13** Events
 - 15** Husnain's Story



The Crisis of Childhood Cancer in Pakistan



Childhood cancer poses a critical health challenge in Pakistan, with approximately **10,000 - 12,000** new cases reported annually. Despite the increasing burden, several factors contribute to the alarmingly low survival rates, which currently stand at **20 - 30%**, compared to **80%** in more developed nations. The root of the problem lies in the scarcity of specialised centres for diagnosis and treatment, particularly in rural areas, leaving many children without access to timely medical care.

A lack of trained healthcare professionals further compounds the issue, as does the widespread lack of awareness, often leading to delayed diagnoses when treatment is less effective. Additionally, for many families, the high cost of cancer care is simply unaffordable, forcing them to abandon or delay treatment, resulting in lower survival rates and devastating outcomes.



**Limited Access to
Specialised Cancer
Treatment Centres**



**Shortage of Skilled
Healthcare
Professionals**



**Insufficient Public
Awareness of
Childhood Cancer**



**Treatment Made
Unaffordable by
High Costs**

Towards a Healthier Tomorrow: IHHN's Childhood Cancer Initiative

In response to this urgent need, the Indus Hospital & Health Network (IHHN) has established a robust system aimed at tackling childhood cancer through its Paediatric Hematology/Oncology (PHO) Department, headquartered at the Korangi Campus in Karachi. As one of South Asia's largest and most advanced paediatric oncology units, the department offers comprehensive, free-of-cost care that includes both curative and palliative treatments. To address the challenges of access, IHHN has also launched outreach programmes and partnerships to reach underserved areas, making cancer care more accessible nationwide.





Looking forward, IHHN is dedicated to raising the childhood cancer survival rate in Pakistan to **70% by 2030**. This ambitious goal will be achieved through a combination of expanded treatment centres, enhanced training for healthcare professionals, and public awareness campaigns aimed at promoting early diagnosis. Through these efforts, IHHN hopes to transform the landscape of childhood cancer care in Pakistan, ensuring that no child is left behind in the fight against cancer.

By the Numbers: A Snapshot of Our Impact



14,000+

Children Treated
To Date



1,200+

New Paediatric
Cases Received



85-Bed

Facility at
Korangi Campus

Inpatient Admissions*

2,995+ children were admitted as inpatients during this period, receiving intensive care tailored to their specific needs.

Outpatient Visits*

The department managed **27,610+ outpatient** visits, ensuring continuous monitoring and treatment for children undergoing cancer therapy.

Procedures Conducted*

A total of **4,760+ critical procedures**, including chemotherapy sessions and bone marrow biopsies, were performed.

Paediatric Oncology ER Visits*

The emergency room catered to **10,970+ visits**, highlighting the high demand for urgent cancer-related care.

Tele-clinic Consultations**

350 tele-clinic consultations were provided, allowing remote access for expert oncology care.

*Reporting Period (July 2023 - June 2024)

**Reporting Period (January 2023 - June 2024)

Clinical Services at IHHN



The Paediatric Hematology/Oncology (PHO) Department at IHHN is a beacon of hope for families facing the devastating reality of childhood cancer. The department is meticulously organised into four key sections, each dedicated to different aspects of paediatric oncology care.

Day Care Area

Over **150** chemotherapy sessions, blood transfusions, and other essential procedures performed daily.

Inpatient Ward

Providing critical care services for children with complex cancer cases.

Consulting Clinics

Specialised care tailored to different types of childhood cancers.

Outreach Programme

Focused on improving patient outcomes and expanding access to cancer care across Pakistan.

Paediatric Psychosocial Department

The Paediatric Psychosocial Department at Indus Hospital & Health Network (IHHN) plays a vital role in supporting children battling cancer and their families. Beyond medical treatment, the emotional and psychological well-being of young patients is paramount to their overall recovery. The department offers comprehensive counselling, emotional support, and therapy to help children cope with the stress, fear, and trauma of cancer. For families, the team provides guidance and strength during what can be an overwhelming journey, offering tools to navigate the emotional toll of the illness.





By addressing both the mental and emotional health of patients and their families, IHHN's Paediatric Psychosocial Department ensures holistic care, promoting resilience, hope, and healing throughout the treatment process.



**Psychological
Care**



**Child Life
Services**



**Social
Services**



Outreach



**End-of-Life
Care**



**Research &
Trainings**



Indus Ke Sitaray: In-house School



Indus Ke Sitaray (Stars of Indus), IHHN's in-house school, provides a lifeline for young cancer patients and their siblings whose education is often disrupted by the demands of treatment. Recognising that cancer affects the entire family, the school allows both patients and their siblings to continue their studies in a supportive environment. It ensures that the journey through illness doesn't prevent children from pursuing their education.

Moreover, for children from underserved backgrounds who never had the opportunity to attend school, Indus Ke Sitary offers a fresh start, giving them a chance to begin their educational journey while receiving life-saving care. This initiative not only preserves a sense of normalcy but also fosters hope for a brighter future.



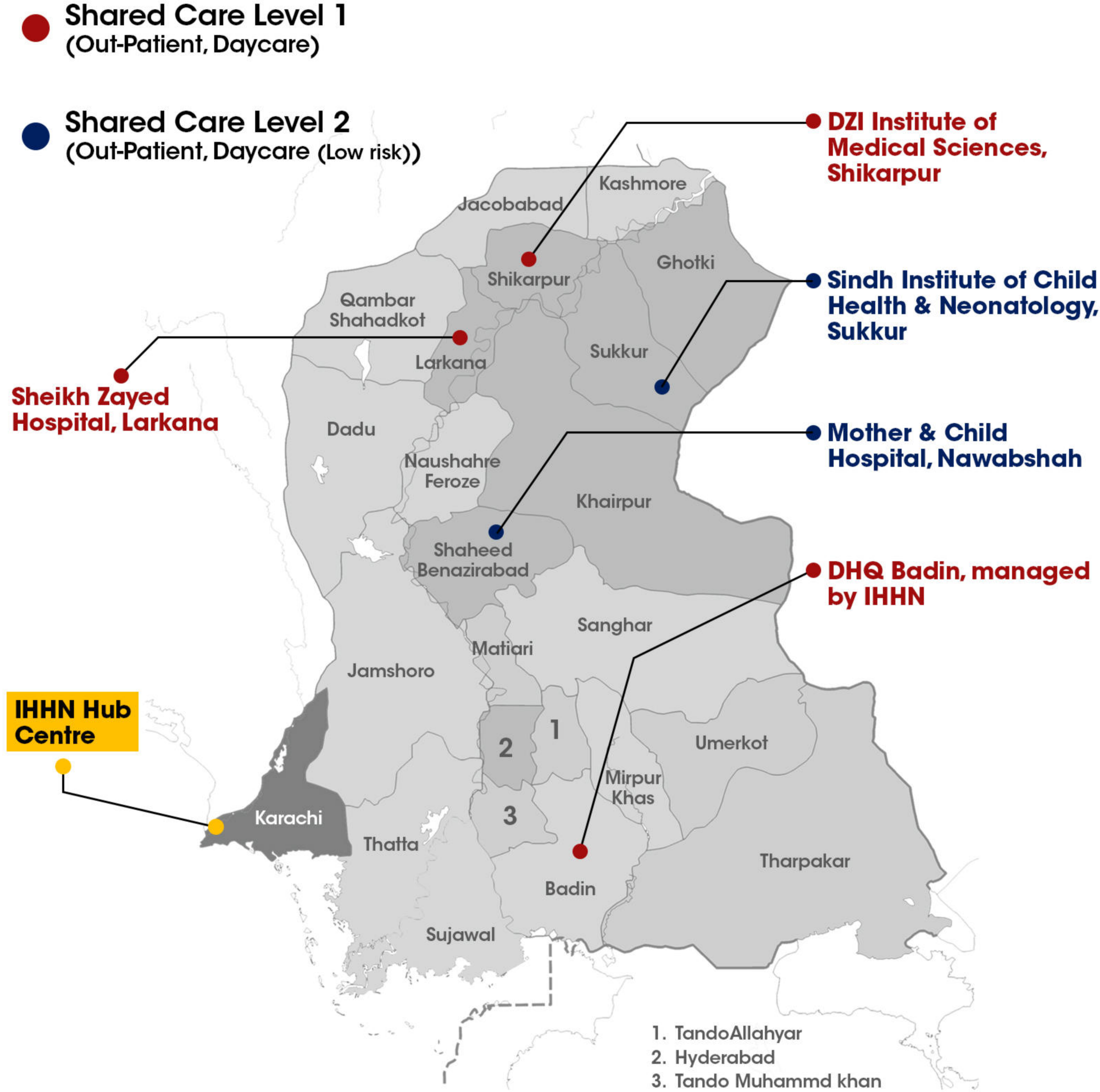
Outreach Efforts

In response to the increasing demand for paediatric oncology services, IHHN has significantly expanded its outreach efforts. The My Child Matters (MCM) initiative, supported by the Sanofi Espoir Foundation, is a major outreach programme aimed at establishing shared care networks across Sindh. This programme allows children in remote areas to receive care closer to home, reducing the need for long and often unaffordable travel to major cities.



Additionally, the outreach office has implemented Tele-Oncology services, providing virtual consultations and support to local hospitals in underserved areas. This ensures that even in the most remote regions, children have access to expert care. Monthly meetings with shared care centres help troubleshoot issues and ensure that the highest standards of care are maintained.

Indus Paediatric Oncology Shared Care Project



Events

IHHN's Paediatric Psychosocial Department is dedicated to ensuring that childhood cancer patients not only receive top-quality medical care but also experience moments of joy and emotional well-being during their difficult journey. Through a variety of uplifting activities, the department creates a positive, engaging environment that helps children cope with the challenges of their illness. From drum circles that resonate with energy and excitement, to Eid Bazaars filled with festive joy, and special performances and creative activities, the children are given the chance to laugh, play, and be kids again. These events provide a crucial emotional outlet, offering them moments of happiness and hope as they continue their brave fight against cancer.





Husnain's Story

Husnain's battle with cancer began with a swelling in his leg, which he initially dismissed as a minor injury from playing cricket. But as the pain intensified and spread, his parents grew increasingly concerned. After exhausting their savings on tests, they received devastating news—Husnain had cancer, and it had already spread to the tissues surrounding his leg.

Transferred to Indus Hospital & Health Network (IHHN) in Karachi for treatment, Husnain's world turned upside down when doctors had to amputate his leg to stop the spread of the cancer. The physical pain and emotional toll of the treatment left him feeling broken. "When I lost my leg, I thought my life was over," he recalled. But the compassionate doctors and nurses at IHHN gave him hope when he had none, supporting him through every difficult moment.

With the help of IHHN's physical rehabilitation programme, Husnain was fitted with a prosthetic leg and slowly regained his strength and independence. Today, he is cancer-free and full of gratitude for the care and kindness that helped him reclaim his life.





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