



Vital Lifelines: A Look at **Blood Transfusion Services**

at Indus Hospital & Health Network



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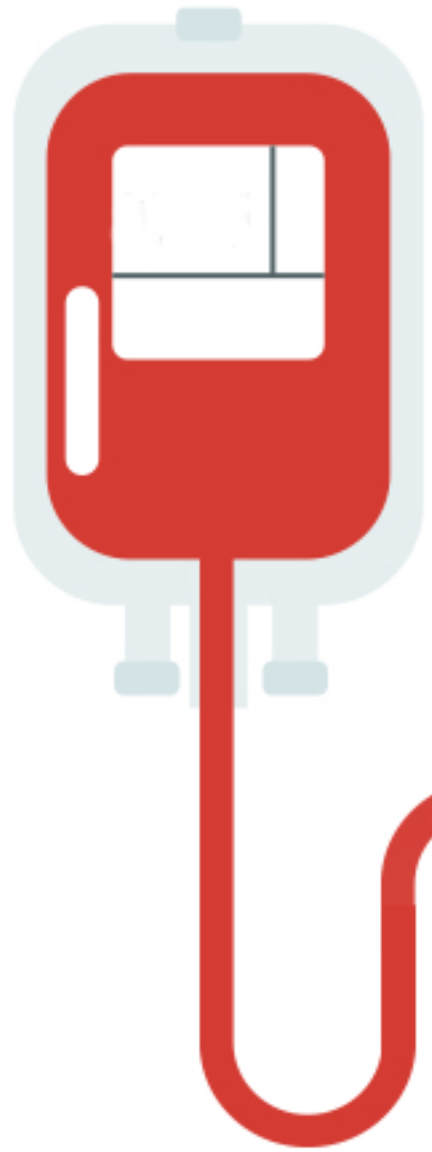
IHHN: Transforming Blood Transfusion

Pakistan faced a critical shortage of safe blood before the 1980s, with the majority of blood donations coming from unregulated, often unsafe sources, such as professional donors and drug addicts. The lack of a voluntary donation system and widespread misconceptions about blood donation underscored the urgent need for a regulated, safe blood collection network.

Dr. Abdul Bari Khan, the Founding President of the Indus Hospital & Health Network (IHHN), was part of the team that established Pakistan's first voluntary blood bank in 1982. His early involvement laid the groundwork for IHHN's eventual development of its own blood transfusion services. In 2013, IHHN established The Indus Hospital Blood Center (TIHBC), providing life-saving blood transfusions at no cost to those in need, while ensuring safe and reliable blood collection.

Since its inception, IHHN has prioritized voluntary blood donation and has built a network of four regional blood centers across Pakistan, ensuring access to free, high-quality blood services. In 2023, IHBC achieved AABB accreditation, making it the first blood center in South Asia to meet international standards in blood banking.

IHHN's vision is to promote voluntary blood donation across the country and provide free-of-cost, safe blood transfusion services to those in need. By fostering a culture of altruism and advancing blood collection standards, IHHN is revolutionizing blood donation and ensuring equitable healthcare access throughout Pakistan.



Pre-1981

Perception of Blood Donation

- Voluntary blood donation was virtually non-existent in Pakistan.
- Blood was primarily sourced from donations by drug addicts, occurring as often as twice a week.

- Dr. Abdul Bari Khan was appointed project director.
- Blood bank struggled to procure donations, averaging only two units of blood per day.

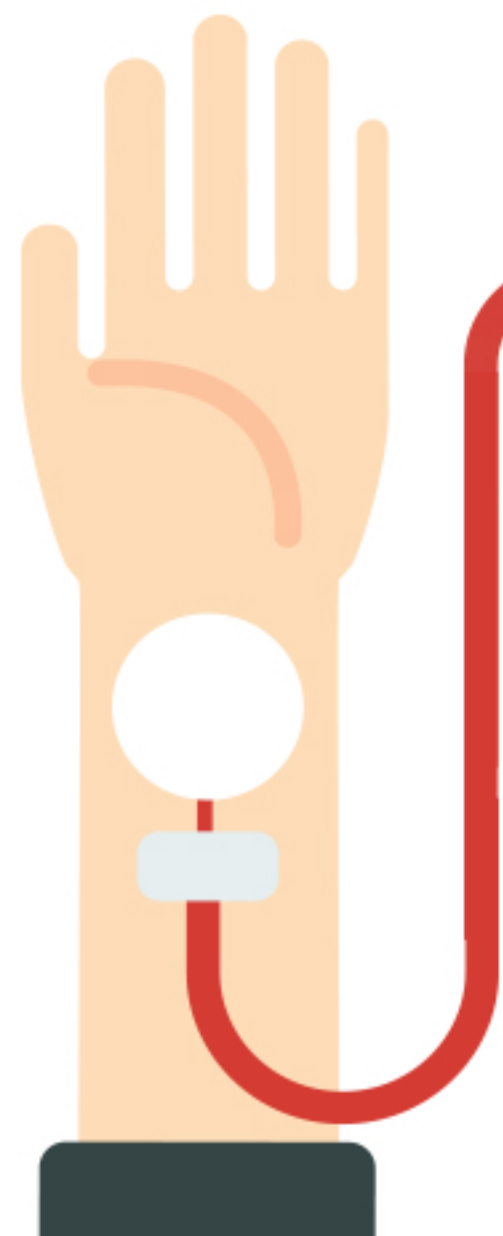
Establishment of the First Voluntary Blood Bank in Karachi

1982

1987

Impact of Bohri Bazaar Twin Blasts in Karachi

- **72 killed and 250 injured** in an unprecedented terrorist attack.
- The tragic event prompted a unified response from Karachi's community, where individuals started contributing blood to aid the injured.



- TIHBC becomes the first blood center in South Asia to attain AABB accreditation, setting a new benchmark in the region by being recognized for meeting American standards in blood banking.

2013

Establishment of The Indus Hospital Blood Center (TIHBC)

- IHHN inaugurated with a 150-bed facility in Korangi, Karachi with a mission to provide free healthcare to all Pakistanis, regardless of financial means.

Indus Hospital Blood Center Karachi Achieves AABB Accreditation

2023

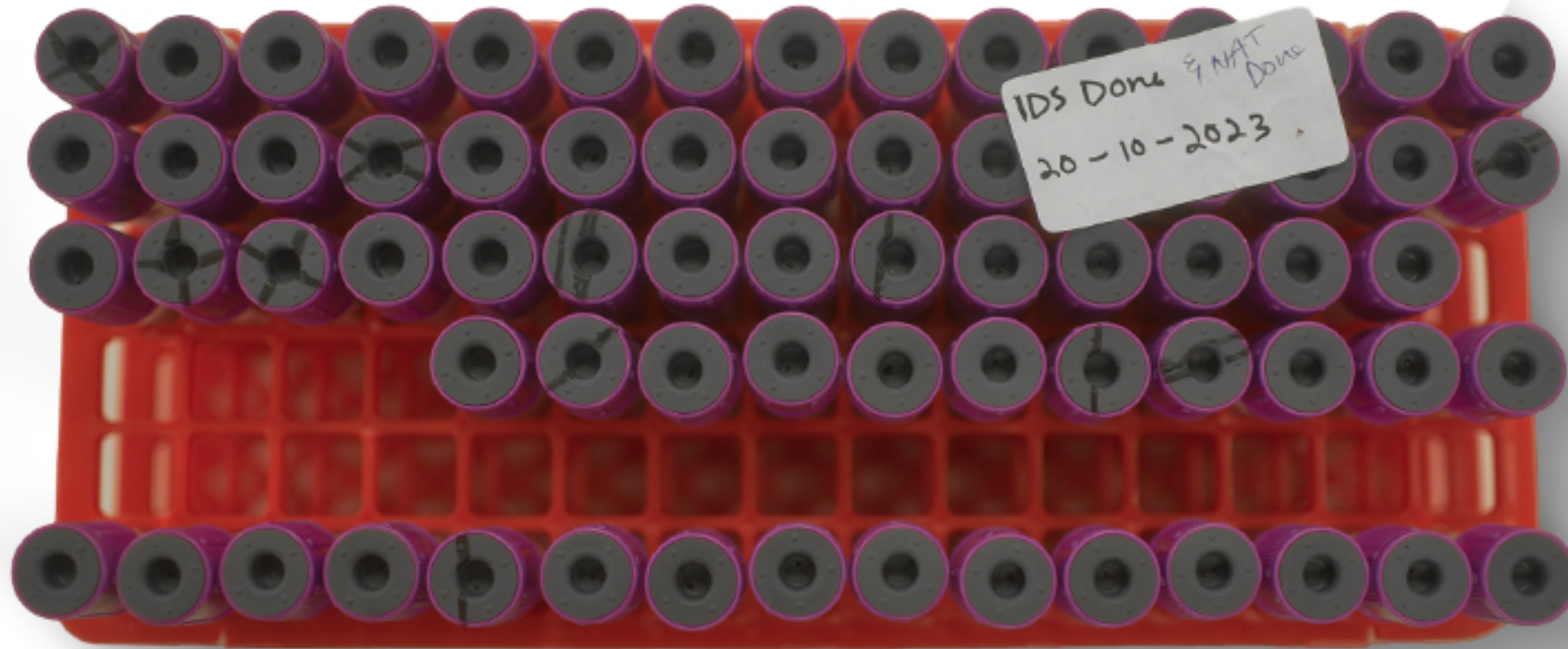
- IHHN expanded its services by establishing 4 regional blood centers all over Pakistan.
- There was a focus on promoting voluntary blood donation and elevating transfusion standards.

Foundation of Indus Hospital & Health Network (IHHN)

2007

Blood Transfusion Services (BTS)

Since its inception in October 2013, the IHHN Blood Center (IHHN-BC) in Karachi has been a hub of voluntary donor mobilization, beginning full operations in January 2014. Expanding its reach, IHHN-BTS has been efficiently managing the Regional Blood Centers and Hospital Blood Banks in Punjab since 2017 and in Sindh since 2018 through a Public-Private Partnership. Today, it plays a crucial role in supporting healthcare services across these regions, catering to a combined capacity of 7,825 beds.



4 Regional Blood Centers (RBCs)

17 Hospital Blood Banks (HBBs)

across Sindh and Punjab

Total Blood Donor Collection

12,007
units in 2014

203,915
units in 2023

Blood Transfusion

3,227,978

Blood Components Transfused to Patients in 2014 - 2023

Plasmapheresis at IHHN-BTS Karachi in 2022-23

Plasmapheresis is a process that removes blood plasma, separates it from the cells, and returns the cells to the bloodstream. It treats various blood, neurologic, and autoimmune disorders, as well as blood cancers, by removing harmful antibodies.



72
patients



376
procedures



6,053
units of FFP

Accreditations



AABB Accreditation

In September 2023, IHHN-BC became the first Blood Center in South Asia to achieve AABB (Association for Advancement in Blood and Biotherapies) accreditation. This is vital for ensuring the highest standards of quality, safety, and compliance in blood centers, enhancing credibility and patient trust.



ISO 15189 Accreditation

IHHN-BC was ISO 15189 accredited in February 2022, followed by RBC Jamshoro, HBB Hyderabad, HBB Thatta and HBB Badin; being the first public sector hospitals in Pakistan to achieve ISO 15189 accreditation.

Blood Collection

Voluntary Non Remunerated Blood Donors (VNRBD) and Blood Drives

IHHN-BTS pioneered voluntary blood donations across urban and rural areas, driven by dedicated Voluntary Blood Donor Mobilization Teams (BDMT). The teams fulfill its mission of mobilizing the nation towards 100% voluntary blood donations.

Prior to IHHN-BTS, there were 100% replacement donors in public sector hospitals, who only donated blood when it was required by their family members. After Karachi, VNRBD collection was initiated in Bahawalpur, Multan and Jamshoro RBCs.





Training and Learning

Training

IHHN-BTS is the only training site for technologists and medical staff funded by the German Development Bank (KfW). More than **1,300** personnel have been trained till date across Pakistan.

Associate Degree in Transfusion Medicine (AD-BTM)

IHHN-BTS, in affiliation with the National University of Medical Sciences (NUMS), Rawalpindi, initiated the first specialized technical blood banking degree, i.e. Associate Degree in Blood Transfusion Medicine (AD-BTM). This is a 2-year program launched in March 2021 in Karachi, Jamshoro, Multan and Bahawalpur and acts as a capacity building step at the grassroots level.



Tahira's Journey to Healing

In the heart of Sindh's farmlands, Tahira's joyous spirit illuminated her family's world. But at three years old, her life took an unexpected turn. A seasonal flu swept through her family, leaving Tahira battling an illness that refused to yield. Weeks passed, marked by nosebleeds, fatigue, and a persistent cough, as her family's worry deepened with each fleeting blood transfusion.

Hailing from Sukkur, Sindh, Tahira's family, weathered by the 2022 floods, faced a new challenge. After exhausting local medical options, they sought hope in the bustling city of Nawabshah, only to receive devastating news: Tahira's condition demanded urgent care beyond their reach.

With resolve forged in desperation, they turned to Indus Hospital & Health Network (IHHN) in Karachi. In the unfamiliar city, Tahira's need eclipsed their fear—the journey promised more than urban anonymity; it held the promise of life itself.



At IHHN, Tahira was diagnosed with blood cancer, igniting an eight-month battle led by her devoted grandmother and supportive uncle. The hospital's corridors, witnesses to countless struggles, became their sanctuary. Tahira, her name a testament to purity, embodied resilience, her innocence undimmed by illness.

Seven months on, Tahira's fight endures, buoyed by IHHN's unwavering care. Essential to her journey were the blood transfusion services provided by IHHN, which sustained her through treatment. Despite the upheaval from rural life to urban chaos, her family found solace in the hospital's compassion. Not a single rupee was demanded; only the highest standard of care was given.

Tahira's journey transcends illness; it embodies a child's resilience, the strength of family, and the refuge IHHN offers amidst life's storms. Her laughter, once stifled by sickness, now joins the chorus of recovered children—a whisper of the brighter, healthier future IHHN paints.





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