

## Message from the Advisor on Health, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

**Ihtisham Ali**

Provincial Ministry of Health, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan

*Cite this message as: Ali I. Message from the Advisor on Health, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Ann Pak Inst Med Sci. 2024;20(Suppl. 2):802. doi: 10.48036/apims.v20iSuppl.2.1277.*

It is my privilege to convey warm greetings from the Health Department, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to all attendees of the 5th Annual Conference of BBMT-Pakistan. This event exemplifies the spirit of collaboration and innovation that lies at the heart of our shared efforts to advance transfusion medicine.

In recent years, Pakistan has made significant strides in enhancing blood safety. Notably, the collaboration between the German government and Pakistan has led to the establishment of 15 regional blood centres and the upgrading of 84 hospital blood banks nationwide. This partnership has been instrumental in transforming our blood transfusion services, ensuring that safe blood is available to those in need.

At Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, we recognize the indispensable role that safe blood transfusion services play in our healthcare system. Our policy, aligned with the National Health Vision (2016–2025), emphasizes access to quality healthcare for all, with blood safety as a cornerstone. We are proud of the strides we have made, transitioning from a fragmented system to a more centralized, efficient, and sustainable framework. Out of the 15 regional blood centres, we, in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa established Regional Blood Centres (RBCs) in Peshawar, Swat, D.I. Khan, and Abbottabad that stands as a testament to our commitment to ensuring a reliable and high-quality blood

supply. We are committed to building upon these advancements. Our focus is on implementing standardized protocols, enhancing the training of healthcare professionals, and promoting voluntary blood donations. We continue to champion voluntary blood donation and innovative practices. The Regional Blood Centre in Peshawar, with its exemplary community engagement programmes, research output, and international recognition by ISBT and WHO, serves as a model for the rest of the country. The Peshawar RBC's transition to annual reports and quarterly newsletters reflects our commitment to timely communication and transparency in our operations.

I take this opportunity to applaud the exceptional work of BBMT-Pakistan bringing together brilliant minds from across the globe, offers a unique platform to share insights, discuss challenges, and identify solutions in transfusion medicine and the management of thalassaemia.

I extend my deepest gratitude to all the participants, speakers, and organizers for their dedication to improving healthcare outcomes. This conference is an opportunity to strengthen partnerships, exchange knowledge, and work together towards a future where safe blood transfusion services and thalassaemia management become a reality for all.

Regards,

**Ihtisham Ali**

Advisor to Chief Minister on Health  
Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa