Friends of
INDUS HOSPITAL
QUALITY CARE - FREE OF COST

Cochlear Implant Report 2025

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Introduction & Need Assessment

Hearing loss is a major global health challenge. Around 360 million people worldwide, including 32 million children, live with disabling hearing loss.

The impact of untreated hearing loss is profound, affecting speech and language development, social interaction, academic performance, employability, and long-term mental health. For children, the consequences are particularly severe: without early identification and intervention, hearing loss can lead to lifelong communication barriers and socio-economic disadvantages.

Pakistan shows higher-than-global rates of childhood and early-onset hearing loss. Regional studies report:

13 per 1,000 newborns
with congenital early hearing loss

Up to 7.9%
hearing impairment in school aged children

Overall,
14.5 million Pakistanis
live with some degree of hearing loss

Access to cochlear implants remains limited, with few centers, high costs, and scarce long-term speech therapy services. As a result, many eligible children are never diagnosed or treated during their critical window for language development.

Cochlear Implants Explained

For children with severe or profound hearing loss who do not benefit from hearing aids, a cochlear implant offers the only effective pathway to hearing. Unlike hearing aids that amplify sound, cochlear implants bypass damaged parts of the ear and directly stimulate the auditory nerve.
Prior to surgery, candidates undergo a structured pathway of audiology evaluations, speech and language assessments, and psychological screening. After implantation, ongoing rehabilitation is critical, as children must learn, often for the first time, how to interpret sound meaningfully. This continuity of care makes cochlear implantation not just a surgery, but a long-term developmental journey.

Treatment Cost

Rs 3,800,000
(3.8 million/ 38 lacs)

$ 13,496.65
(13,500 dollars)

IHHN's Cochlear Implant & Rehabilitation Program

To offer psychological counseling to families of CI patients

To nurture and preserve lifelong, dedicated relationship with CI patients

To provide career and educational support to CI patients

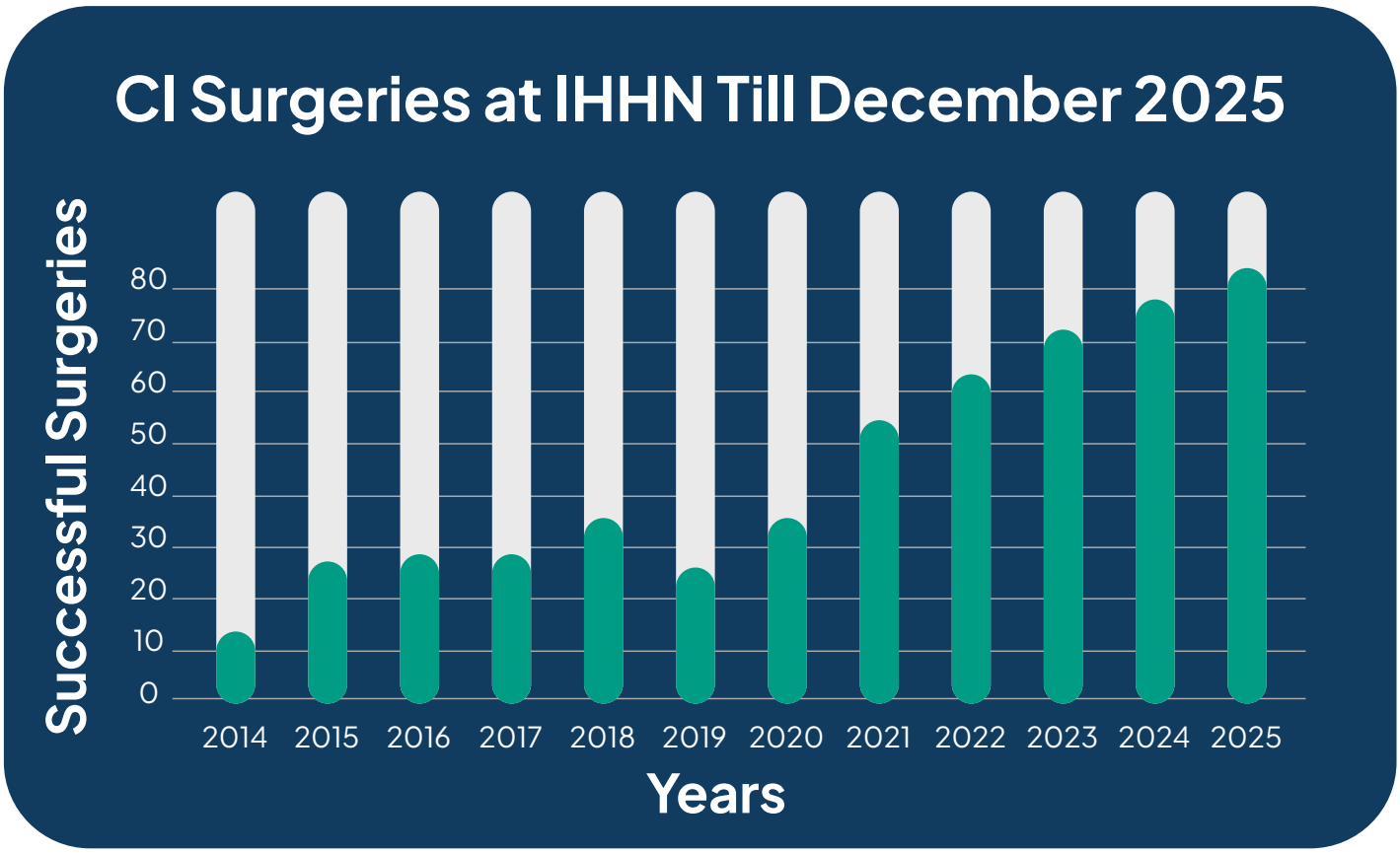
To provide those with severe to profound hearing loss with functional hearing

To expand IHHN's CI program activities across the network

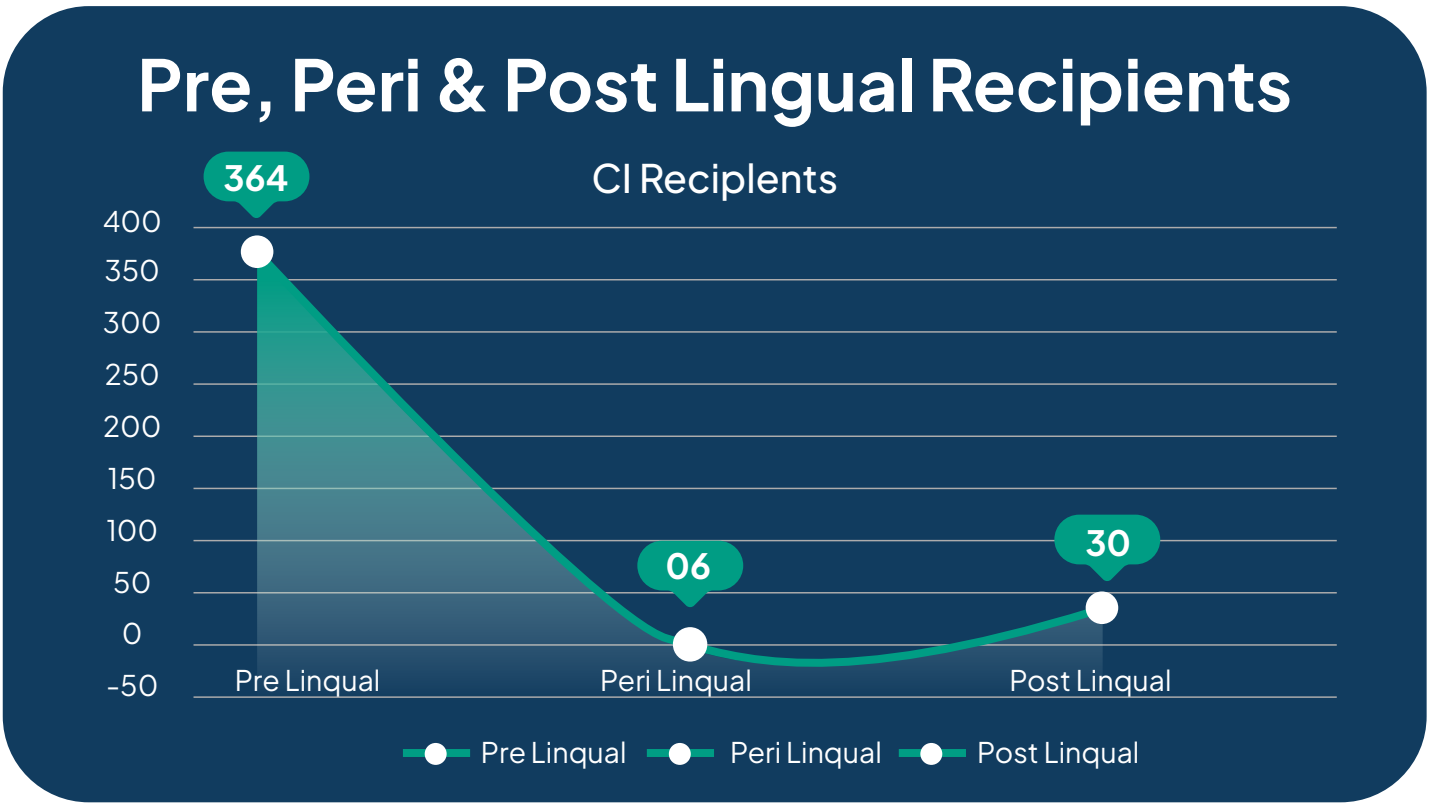
To form a CI community that feels empowered & supports members

Core Objectives

Program Progression

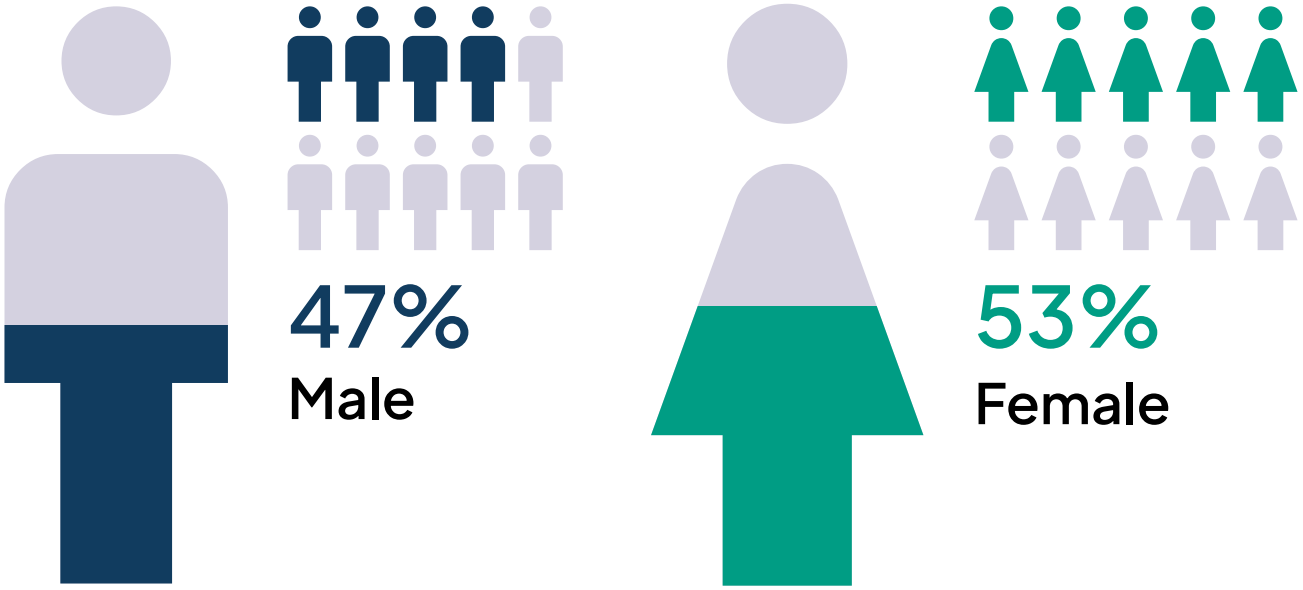


Patient Analysis



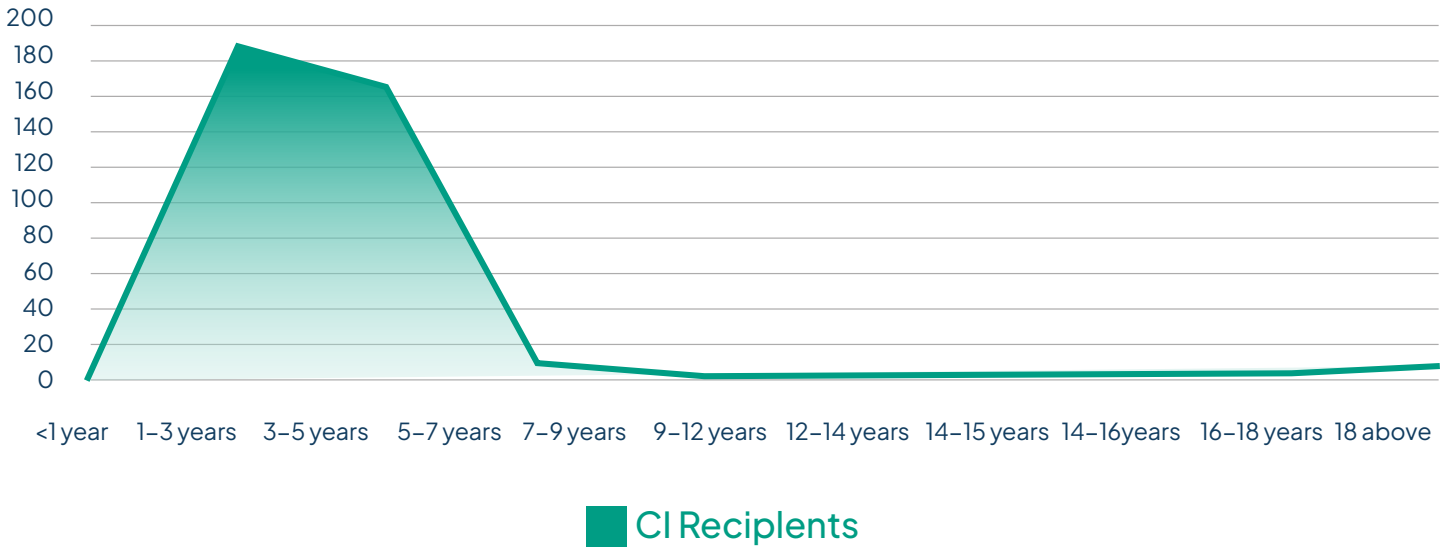
The data shows that cochlear implants at IHHN are overwhelmingly provided to pre-lingual children, with 364 recipients, reflecting early detection of congenital hearing loss. Peri-lingual cases remain minimal at 6, while post-lingual recipients account for 30 implants. This distribution highlights IHHN's focus on early intervention to support optimal speech and language development.

Gender Distribution

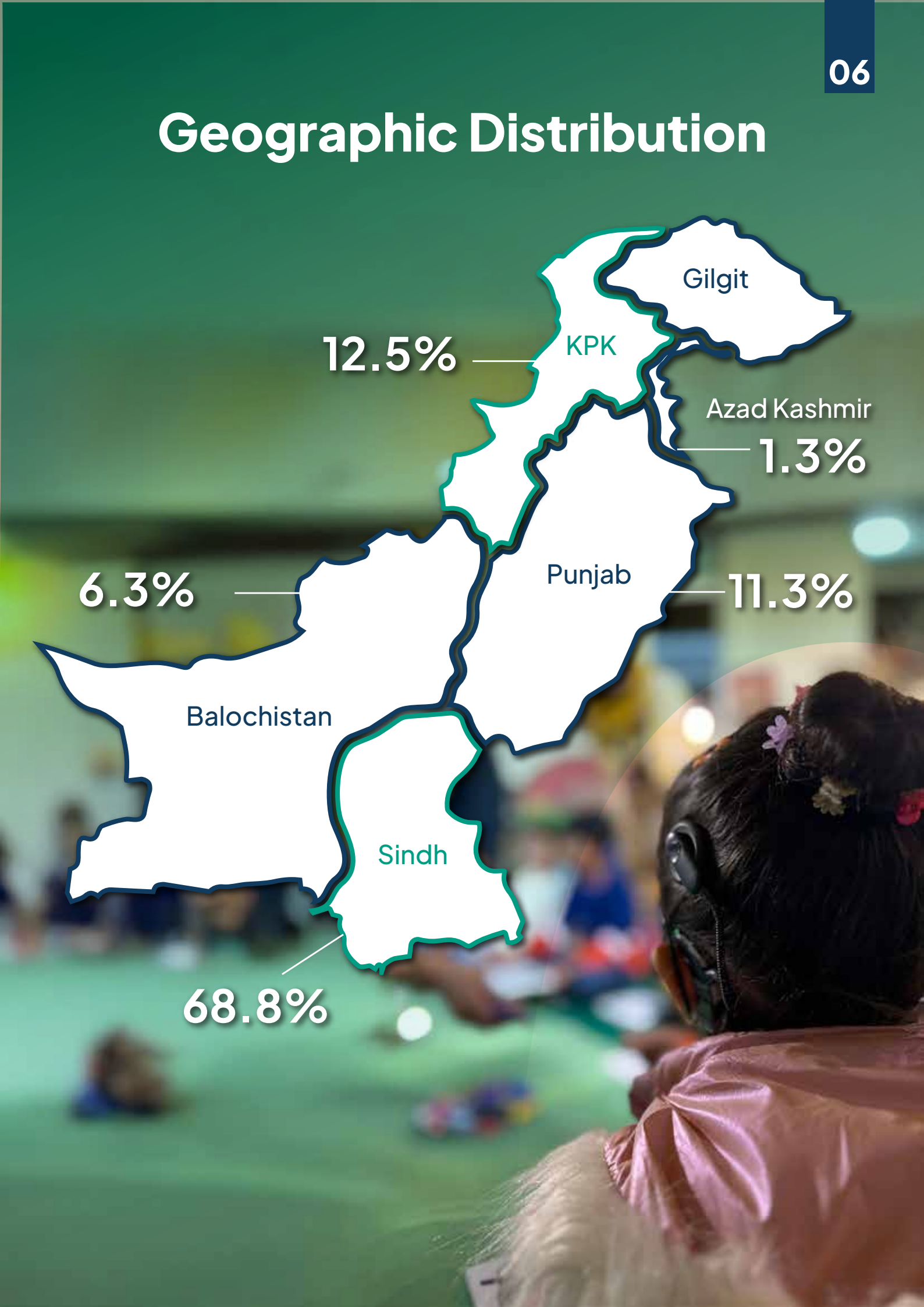


Age Distribution

CI Reciplents



Geographic Distribution



Impact

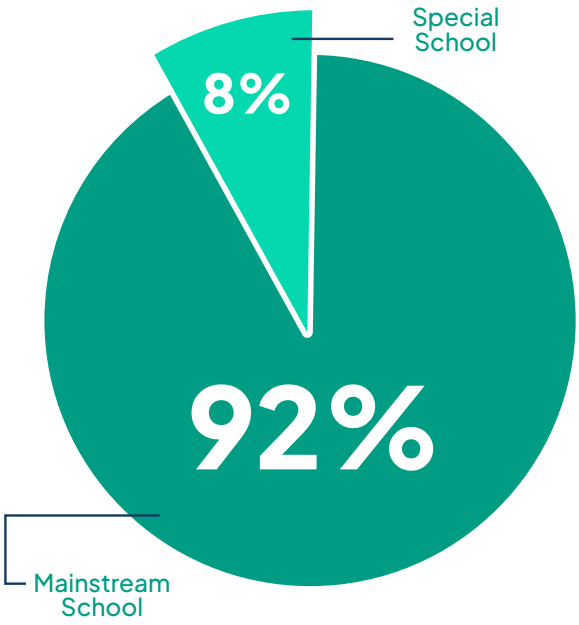
400+
Successful Cochlear Implant Surgeries (As of 2025)

201 patients completed their **3 year treatment** at IHHN (As of 2025)

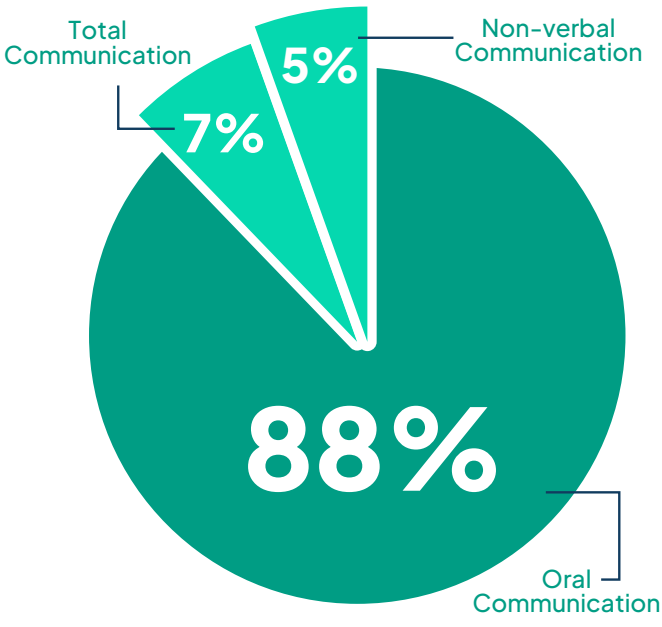
2025

Speech Therapy Sessions	Psychological / Behavior Sessions	Audiology Sessions
2,871	1,680	3,071

Mainstream School



Communication Style



Patients who completed their 3 year journey with IHHN after their cochlear implant surgeries, had a remarkable assimilation into mainstream schools, and were able to communicate effectively.

Vision for 2030

Collaborate with Government:

Partner with governmental bodies to implement the Universal Newborn Hearing Screening program nationwide, adhering to the globally recognized 1-3-6 protocol (screening by 1 month, diagnosis by 3 months, and intervention by 6 months)

Establish a Center of Excellence:

Develop a "Cochlear Implant and Rehabilitation Program-Center of Excellence (CIRP-CE)" in South Asia, serving as a benchmark institution for innovation, treatment, and rehabilitation in the field of hearing loss

Inclusive Rehabilitation Services:

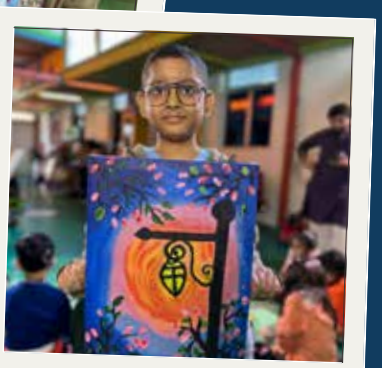
Ensure that all individuals with profound hearing loss, including those with neurodivergent conditions such as Autism or Down Syndrome, receive access to cochlear implant surgeries and comprehensive rehabilitation services

Professional Capacity Building:

Strengthen the professional ecosystem by offering mentorship programs to surgeons, speech therapists, audiologists, and psychologists, enabling them to deliver high-quality care and foster innovation in the field

Expand Outreach Initiatives:

Establish extensive outreach programs to enhance access to quality care, particularly for underserved populations, ensuring equitable distribution of resources and services.



A Creative Engagement Session For Cochlear Implant Patients

On Friday, 19th October, an event was held to celebrate the success of IHHN's Cochlear Implant Program, during which ten cochlear implant patients who had completed their treatment under the program were invited. The event focused on engagement and creativity, with patients participating in art activities such as painting canvases and money boxes, while also interacting and communicating with speech therapists. The event was organized by Miss Anam Madhani, a practicing Speech-Language Therapist (SLT), and concluded with closing remarks by Dr. Asif Ali Arain, Cochlear Implant Surgeon at IHHN, marking a meaningful celebration of the patients' progress and achievements.

Patient Success Story:

Hafsa

Hafsa Bilal was just nine months old when her parents learned she had a profound hearing loss. Her mother, Areesha Bilal, recalls that they were guided by others to The Indus Hospital & Health Network, where children are not only diagnosed but treated with care and empathy.

"At first, Hafsa was fitted with hearing aids so she could get used to having something on her ears," Areesha shares. "This was followed by speech therapy, which continued for three years. The journey starts with simple babbling, and slowly, the child begins to speak."

Under the dedicated care of Dr Anam and through a collaborative approach involving therapists, parents, and teachers, Hafsa made steady progress. **"This program works because everyone is involved and constantly supporting the child's improvement. Today, seeing Hafsa respond and communicate feels like a miracle we once thought was impossible."**

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