

Press Release

**BALOCHISTAN SEEKS PITB ASSISTANCE FOR HEALTH SECTOR**

Lahore, July 11, 2018

The Balochistan's caretaker Minister for health Faiz Kakar sought enhanced assistance from the Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB) for the automation of health sector by replicating Punjab's Hospital Information Management System (HIMS). It was expressed by the Provincial Minister accompanied by Special Secretary Health Balochistan Javed Aktar Mahmood during a meeting with the Chairman PITB, Dr. Umar Saif here today.

Earlier Faiz Kakar met the Punjab Chief Minister Dr. Hasan Askari and expressed keen interest in the digitization of Punjab's health sector and sought help to improve the various functioning of the health sector in Balochistan.

Dr. Umar Saif briefed the visiting Minister regarding PITB's Information Communication Technology (ICT) based initiatives that have revolutionized the health landscape in the Punjab, focusing on HIMS and e-Vaccs Programs that were also replicated in KP. PITB would assist in automating hospitals in Balochistan using Punjab's HIMS and would further extend support for vaccination monitoring, which has already resulted in improving vaccinator attendance in Balochistan from 23 % to 61 % in 10 months, he added.

Giving an overview of e-Vaccs project Dr. Saif informed that in Balochistan 377 vaccinators have already registered 17,772 new children through apps provided by PITB while total vaccines administered in Balochistan were 183,675. In the Punjab the 3,799 vaccinators administered 47,723,144 vaccines and registered 6,782,949 children while the coverage area in the Punjab stood at 97 %, Balochistan 58 % and Khyber Pakhtun Khwa 73 %, he stated.

In Punjab Health department initiatives like Hospital Information Management System, Automation of Drug Testing Laboratories, monitoring of attendance of Doctors, Monitoring of Pharmacies and availability of Medicines, Centralized Procurement of Medicines have brought encouraging results. World health organization (WHO) conducted a survey in Pakistan on Polio vaccination and Punjab turned out to be most progressive province in propagating the cause.