

**Government of Pakistan
Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Division
Press Release**

President Appreciates BISP initiatives being executed under Ehsaas Programme



August 28, 2019: President Arif Alvi has lauded the Ehsaas programme and its components including National Socioeconomic Registry, Tahafuz and Kifalat during his visit to BISP Headquarters. He stated that these initiatives have been holistically designed and are fully aligned with the agenda for change through poverty alleviation as envisaged by the government.

President was given a detailed briefing on the programme and its components. President was apprised of different interventions being made for the benefit of BISP beneficiaries. It was informed that the payment mechanism for BISP beneficiaries has been significantly transformed over the years and the approach of BVS based payments has been adopted in 90% areas in coordination with banks, NADRA and telecom companies.

Chairperson BISP and Minister for Social Protection and Poverty Alleviation, Dr. Sania Nishtar briefed the President about the overall Ehsaas programme, its policies and strategy design. She stated that the Ehsaas programme has 115 policy pillars which will be executed through a multidimensional approach. It was further shared that a total of 28 agencies are

involved in its implementation. The President was also briefed on Ehsaas Governance and Integrity Policy.

Appreciating the just and apolitical approach followed by 'Ehsaas' programme and BISP in executing their programmes, President Dr. Arif Alvi said that provision of social security net to the economically distressed and unprivileged strata of society was the primary responsibility of the State. The President emphasized the need for effective coordination with the private organizations working in the area of social welfare of the masses to broaden the outreach of these programmes.

Appreciating the work of National Socio-economic Registry for keeping latest database, he said that collection and digitalization of data was of paramount significance for the success and effective implementation of these programmes. He underscored the need for using modern technology like Smart phone applications and mobile wallets to ensure transparency in the payment process. He added Waseela-eTaleem programme need further vigour to improve girl enrolment in schools.

Speaking on the BISP's programme on nutrition, the President said that public awareness campaigns through various medium must be launched to address the issues of malnutrition and stunting. The President further appreciated the BISP graduation programme and hoped that it would transform the recipients into income earning individual through skill development that would eventually lift them out of poverty.