

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

PM launches health plan for disabled



August 17, 2019 – Islamabad: ISLAMABAD: In line with his vision of universal health coverage, Prime Minister Imran Khan launched Sehat Sahulat Programme for persons with disabilities and their families in Pakistan and said his government’s vision was based on the principles of lifting the conditions of the downtrodden and weaker segments of society.

“I have seen that whenever a poor person gets sick, his entire household is destroyed as most people don’t have the money to pay for the cost of treatment,” said Mr Khan at the launching ceremony of ‘Sehat Insaf Cards’ organised at the PM Office. “We have to make Pakistan an Islamic welfare state that is based on Riyasat-e-Madina. I keep repeating this because I want everyone to know what it was. It was a modern state with humanity and justice as its founding principles.”

Special Assistant to the PM on Health Dr. Zafar Mirza said that it was the first-ever initiative aimed at the empowerment, mainstreaming and well-being of the persons with disabilities by the government. “Through health cards, disabled individuals and their registered families will also be provided with similar benefits, which are being provided to other families,” he said. He continued that this joint collaboration between the Ministry of National Health

Services and Ehsaas Programme would be an example for all other public sector initiatives to work together and synergize their efforts to benefit the people.

Dr. Mirza said the programme would be a major step towards poverty alleviation, as expensive treatment for all major diseases was covered in it. This would protect vulnerable families from economic shocks, he added. He said through this social health protection initiative all persons with disabilities and their families would be provided with free-of-cost health insurance to secure indoor health care services worth Rs.720,000 from empanelled hospitals through a very transparent and computerised mechanism.

Special Assistant to the PM on Social Protection and Poverty Alleviation, Dr Sania Nishtar, announced 5 of the priority goals of Ehsaas, which are part of the Ehsaas Strategy. These include: Safety net for at least 10 million families, Livelihood opportunities for 5 million individuals (50% women); financial access to healthcare through Insaf card for 10 million families; scholarships and education incentives for more than 5 million students (more than 50% girls); and through the Kifalat program, financial inclusion and access to mobile phones for 6 million women and 500 digital hubs for them to access internet. These goals will be explained in the Ehsaas strategy, which will be released soon.

Dr. Sania also elaborated on the other disability related policies in the Ehsaas framework. She said that “under the Ehsaas framework, 1% quota is being allocated for disabled government employees in government accommodation; 2% quota will be reserved for the disabled in Naya Pakistan housing scheme; special instructions have been given by the Prime Minister to strictly implement the 2% percent disabled quota in all govt jobs. Furthermore, to give greater salience to disability in public policy, the Ministry of Planning and Development Reforms has issued the directives that no PC-1 shall be approved, until it is disability friendly. In addition, legislation in line with UNCPR is tabled by the Ministry of Human Rights at Parliament.”