

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

Punjab Cabinet welcomes Ehsaas Programme to forge the Federal -Punjab partnership



September 11, 2019 - Lahore: Chief Minister Punjab, Sardar Usman Buzdar chaired the Punjab Cabinet meeting today in Lahore. Dr. Sania Nishtar Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Poverty Alleviation and Social Protection was invited to brief the Punjab Cabinet about the Federal Government's Ehsaas program. This is the third provincial briefing on Ehsaas, following briefings in Sindh and Balochistan in the last ten days.

All Provincial Ministers of Punjab, the Advisors to the Chief Minister Punjab, the Chief Secretary Cabinet Punjab, the Principal Secretary to Chief Minister Punjab, the Secretaries from the Government of Punjab Finance Department, Information and Culture and Law Department, Chairman Planning and Development Board Punjab, the Senior Member Board of Revenue Punjab and Inspector General of Punjab Police were also present at the occasion together with Federal Secretary Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Division.

Dr. Nishtar emphasized the commitment of the Prime Minister of Pakistan towards welfare of the disadvantaged, and reiterated that Ehsaas is one of the important vehicles through which this would be achieved.

The Cabinet expressed keen interest to strengthen existing collaboration between Federal Ehsaas and Punjab. The active Ehsaas-Punjab partnership during the phase of development of the Ehsaas

framework as part of the Poverty Alleviation Coordination Council meetings in January-March 2019 was highly appreciated by Dr. Nishtar.

Talking about provincial synergies under Ehsaas, Dr. Nishtar acknowledged that Ehsaas has joined hands with the Government of Punjab and Government of KP for the pooling of resources in the National Poverty Graduation initiative, which was launched by the Prime Minister on July 5, 2019 (42 Billion PKR project reaching out to 16.8 million individuals in 4 years). She said that similar collaboration will extend to other initiatives of Ehsaas—Kifalat, Tahafuz, National Socio-economic Survey 2019, One Window Ehsaas and other myriad programmes.

She said that in future the federal government will not charge the provincial government any fee for accessing federal socio economic data and that she had already taken a policy decision in that regard from which Punjab has benefited. The cluster wise current status of the New National Socio-economic registry survey was also shared in detail with all present. Dr Nishtar said that every effort was being made to ensure the integrity and impartiality of the survey.

She said that all the federal Ehsaas interventions would help provinces. For example, One Window Ehsaas would be accessible throughout the country and the Solution Innovation Challenge Policy through which Ehsaas envisages linking with the private sector to develop solutions at scale is also expected to have national relevance.

Later, Dr. Nishtar concluded on the need for provinces to implement the Ehsaas Governance and Integrity Policy, which she stressed was the bedrock on which Ehsaas stands and which according to her was the single most important factor in guaranteeing the success of the program.

Chief Minister Punjab greatly lauded the scale, multisectoral character, breadth and depth, process of formulation of Ehsaas and the Ehsaas Governance and Integrity Policy and showed keen interest in forging deeper collaboration.