

Government of Pakistan
Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Division
Press Release

Sania Nishtar visits many Ehsaas projects in Multan and Rajanpur over the weekend



September 12, 2020: As disbursements of Ehsaas Emergency Cash draw close to the conclusion throughout the country by September 15, 2020, SAPM Dr. Sania Nishtar visited Ehsaas Emergency Cash distribution point at Aligarh Model School and College in Multan to gain insights from the field. In the campsite, biometrically enabled payments were being made to eligible beneficiaries through several booths operated by authorized retail agents of our partnering bank. Dr. Nishtar spoke to several beneficiaries who had come to withdraw emergency cash, listened to their problems and issued instructions to Ehsaas team to facilitate easy payments at the earliest.

Although regular payments are closing on Sep 15 but supplementary arrangements to facilitate payments to families of dead beneficiaries and those confronted with biometric issues will continue serving till Sep 30, 2020. Relatives of the deceased and beneficiaries facing biometric verification issues will be able to receive their due payments up to 15 days after the closing date. To-date, Ehsaas has distributed emergency cash worth Rs. 178.512 billion among 14.767 million deserving families whose livelihoods were affected by COVID-19 induced restrictions. This amount has been disbursed among the labour class.

Explaining the mechanism for payment to families of deceased, Dr. Nishtar shared, “Families of deceased beneficiaries are required to write an application in my name and despatch it along with death registration certificate issued by NADRA and CNIC details of their dead family member, and CNIC details of eligible family member straight to Ehsaas offices in Islamabad at F-Block, Pakistan Secretariat. Payments to these families will commence soon.” Outlining solution to biometric issues, she said, “Lists of those who have suffered from

biometric failures are being collated and staggered regularly and personalised messages are being sent to individuals in phases outlining the date of payment, bank branch and address from which to collect money.”

Dr. Nishtar then highlighted the unique scale and depth of Ehsaas and stated, “Those who could not apply for Ehsaas Emergency Cash would be able to benefit from other Ehsaas programs as per the rule-based procedures through Ehsaas self-registration drive. Registration desks will be opened soon countrywide in a phased manner.” Continuing she said, “Although Ehsaas Emergency Cash is closing on Sep 30, 2020 but there are many other social protection and poverty alleviation programs running nationwide under Ehsaas including Kafaalat, Langars, undergraduate scholarships, Amdan, interest free loans and many others for the deserving.”

The SAPM began the day in Multan at 8 am today. Followed by a meeting with Ehsaas regional and provincial teams of Punjab, she went straight to campsite of Ehsaas Emergency Cash. Later, Dr. Nishtar visited the Ehsaas Langar adjacent to the main bus terminal of Multan that is in its final stages of construction to open next week. The district government of Multan collaborated with Ehsaas to provide the site for Langar. The Langar when ready, will serve cooked food twice daily to 1,000 labourers. Dr. Nishtar thanked the district administration of Multan for their cooperation in providing the space for Ehsaas Langar and payment arrangements for Ehsaas Emergency Cash recipients.

Yesterday, Dr. Nishtar had visited Ehsaas Nashonuma centre at Tehsil Headquarters Hospital Jampur in district Rajanpur to review the quality of service delivery. She also inspected the android based Ehsaas socio-economic survey demonstration with a local household in Jampur at their doorstep.