

**Prime Minister's office  
Press release**

**Prime Minister launches web-portal for COVID 19 livelihood-loss-affectees  
PM's COVID 19 fund to be channeled towards Ehsaas Emergency Cash Transfers**



May 2, 2020 -Islamabad: The Prime Minister today launched a web-portal soliciting applications from those who have lost their livelihoods as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and has announced to commit the Prime Minister's COVID 19 Relief fund to those who will qualify for assistance. On March 31, the Prime Minister's COVID 19 Relief fund was announced and to-date, Rs. 3 billion have been mobilized. The pledges continue to be realized.

While opening the portal the PM said, "There has been little transparency and trackability in the use of donor funds in the past. Pakistanis are the most giving nation. Their generosity is legendary. I want to give them the confidence that we will be fully transparent with the use of all donor funds we receive." Adding further, he said, "I have made the decision that my COVID-19 fund will be used to give emergency cash to labourers and others that have lost their livelihoods as a result of the COVID 19 crisis. I am opening a web-portal today so that we can begin receiving applications. Deserving individuals can register on the web-portal where their credentials will be checked. Those who will qualify for assistance will get Emergency Cash of Rs. 12,000."

Prime Minister then continued, “We have brought a transparent system. For every rupee donated to the fund, the government will give four times that to the needy. Through this fund, we are trying to reach out as many needy people as possible.”

The Prime Minister has made the Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Division the administrator of the fund. To ensure robust governance and oversight of the fund, a policy council is being set up.

Speaking to the media after the opening of the portal, Dr. Sania Nishtar stated, “Pakistan is the first developing country, which has given immediate relief to its citizens affected by Coronavirus pandemic. We feel honored that the Prime Minister has entrusted Ehsaas to utilize these funds. We are humbled by the trust and faith in the Ehsaas Emergency Cash system”.

Explaining process of registration with the web portal under Ehsaas Emergency Cash program, she said, “This new phase of the program is focused on providing relief to labour class, who have lost their jobs due to ongoing lockdown amid coronavirus emergency.” Adding further, Dr. Nishtar reiterated, “The existing principles and process that has been deployed for Ehsaas Emergency Cash will be fully applied to the use of the Prime Minister’s COVID-19 donor funds as well. For us, it is critical to uphold transparency, rule-based controls, and deployment of data analytics for the selection of beneficiaries. The system of identification will be fully apolitical and free from human interference. Payments will be done after biometric verification and tehsil level data will be made public with regards to the number of beneficiaries and real time bank disbursement and withdrawal details will be made public.”

For applications, the web-portal can be accessed at: <https://ehsaaslabour.nadra.gov.pk/ehsaas/>