

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

**Prime Minister’s COVID Relief Fund sets a precedent: transparent expenditure trail of 4.8 billion revealed**

November 16, 2020 – Islamabad: The Prime Minister chaired a meeting of the Policy Committee overseeing the Prime Minister’s COVID Relief Fund, today to review fund utilization details. The fund was established in March 2020 to raise funds for COVID 19 affectees.

The fund received generous donations from within Pakistan and overseas. 4.8 Billion accumulated in the fund of which 1.08 was donated by international donors and 3.8 billion was contributed domestically.

Earlier this year, the Prime Minister had publicly announced two policies with respect to this fund, committing that these funds would be disbursed through Ehsaas Emergency Cash to assist COVID 19 job loss affectees. Secondly, a “matching funds policy” was announced which stipulated that for every rupee donated into the fund, Rs. 4 would be matched by the Government. To fulfill this promise, Rs. 19.55 Billion have been matched by the Government— in total 24.43 billion. This amount has supported 2 million families, each of which received Rs. 12,000 each as Ehsaas Emergency cash through this funding stream (out of the total of 15 million who received Ehsaas Emergency cash).

There has been little transparency and trackability in the use of donor funds in the past. However, the PM COVID Relief Fund has set a new precedent, in terms of transparency and trackability of donated funds. “Pakistanis are the most giving nation. Their generosity is legendary. I want to give them the confidence that we are fully transparent with the use of all donor funds we receive”, said the Prime Minister.

The Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Division is the administrator of the fund. To ensure robust governance and oversight of the fund, the Prime Minister established a Policy Committee to oversee appropriate usage of the proceeds including means of identification of the beneficiaries and the parameters of their selection. The policy committee was also meant to decide about the means of disbursement and to take any appropriate decisions for collection of donations, maintenance and administration of the fund and related matters.

Speaking to the press after the meeting, Dr. Sania Nishtar, said “we feel honored that the Prime Minister entrusted Ehsaas to utilize these funds. We are humbled by the trust and faith in the Ehsaas Emergency Cash system” she said, further adding “The existing principles and process that were deployed for Ehsaas Emergency Cash were fully applied to the use of the Prime Minister’s COVID 19 donor funds as well. It was critical to uphold transparency, rule-based controls, and deployment of data analytics for the selection of beneficiaries. The system of identification was fully apolitical and free from human interference. Payments were done after

biometric verification and tehsil level data was made public with regards to the number of beneficiaries and real time bank disbursement and withdrawal details were made public. A detailed report will be released shortly” she said.