

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

**Dr. Sania Nishtar's Dialogue with Youth from Merged Districts**



August 2, 2019 – Peshawar: The Prime Minister's Special Assistant for Social Protection and Poverty Alleviation/Chairperson BISP, Dr. Sania Nishtar held an engaging dialogue with youth from the newly merged districts of North Waziristan, South Waziristan and Khyber to discuss development issues and poverty alleviation, and youth's participation in these efforts, at the Human Resource Center of Sarhad Rural Support Programme in Peshawar.

Over 350 youth from three districts who are undergoing six months vocational trainings at the center participated in the dialogue. The dialogue was part of SRSP's efforts to bring policy makers and citizens together to identify common economic problems that people face at grassroots level and find ways and means of addressing them by the State and its partners. The vocational training is funded by USAID and is funded through UNDP.

The youth from the three districts explained that easy loans would help them set up enterprises and benefit from the training opportunity that has been provided to them. They said that the training was a wonderful opportunity to learn new skills in sectors of the economy where there was demand for them.

They also pointed out issues in service delivery faced in the education and drinking water sector which needed to be addressed in an innovative way keeping in view the remoteness of the region. The Minister apprised them about the different social protection and poverty programmes under the umbrella of Ehsaas Programme which the government had initiated. She said that the people in the newly merged districts would soon start benefitting from these programmes. The Minister had the opportunity to go to different learning laboratories at the training center where vocational training is being provided in different fields. These trainings are certified by the City and Guild London.

Dr. Nishtar said that Ehsaas would like to learn from the grass root experience of the Rural Support Programmes and she would be organizing a session for this purpose very soon. She remarked that the test of any policy was in implementation and organizations operating in these remote regions can bring invaluable experience in bridging the gap between policy and implementation.