

PRESS RELEASE

Date: 7th July, 2014

**WASEELA-E-ROZGAR REMAINING PAYMENTS TO BE MADE IN THE FIRST
QUARTER OF FISCAL YEAR**

Islamabad () The Waseela-e-Rozgar (WeR) program of Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) was launched in September 2011 and vocational training started in February 2012. Initially, there was a target of imparting vocational training to 70,000 beneficiaries. However, as of this date, 57,817 beneficiaries have been provided training under WeR. So far, Rs 799 million have been paid to the service providers and 368 million rupees are pending, which means that around 70% of the dues of WeR have been cleared. BISP is exercising utmost vigilance and care in clearing the last tranche to the service providers as it wants to ensure maximum transparency and proper utilization of public funds.

Accordingly, on the basis of a decision by BISP Management Board, BISP has initiated a tracer study to evaluate the performance of training provider which includes verification of the institute, attendance of trainees and quality of training etc, to validate the trainings imparted to beneficiaries. The tracer study, once completed, would be helpful in processing the claims of the service providers. BISP management is doing its best efforts to finalize the payment but it cannot violate the instructions of the BISP Management Board.

A meeting with the training providers was held on 15th May, 2014, by the BISP management, in which training providers were briefed about the changes to be

included in the design document. They were also apprised of the decision of the BISP Management Board regarding tracer study and they agreed to the payment after completion of tracer study. The study is ongoing and the payments claims of service providers will be processed accordingly, on the completion study. The exercise of tracer study is expected to be completed by the end of first quarter of current fiscal year. Thereafter, due claims would be processed for payments.

The current management is planning to hold a meeting with the service providers soon, to listen to the grievances of training providers, sharing with them the stance of BISP, and to assure the payment of the genuine claims.

It is also clarified that WeR Program of BISP has not been suspended due to non-payment to previous training providers and participants. WeR has been suspended because of changes being made in the design documents. The new design of the Program would include a study of economic opportunities, needs assessment and beneficiary profiling. As a result, the training imparted to the beneficiaries or their nominees would take into account the employability factor after completion of training. Other important elements, like social mobilization, career counseling and third party validations have been included in the design as well. Previously, all these elements were missing from WeR Program. BISP management is determined to re-launch the skills development and vocational training program, with comprehensive design which will facilitate the BISP beneficiaries in earning their livelihood.
