

Government of Pakistan
Benazir Income Support Programme

PRESS RELEASE

15th JULY, 2013

DFID EXPRESSES SATISFACTION OVER PERFORMANCE OF BISP

Islamabad: (.....) Ms. Judith Herbertson, Acting Head of Department for International Development of the UK Government (DfID) in Pakistan, and Mr. Alexis Ferrand, Group Head, Economic Growth Group called on Chairman Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) M. Enver Baig at BISP Secretariat today. Mr. Shabbir Ahmed, Secretary BISP and concerned officials were also present during the meeting.



ISLAMABAD: Mr. Shabbir Ahmed, Secretary BISP presenting BISP's memento to Ms. Judith Herbertson, Acting Head of Department for International Development of the UK Government (DfID) at BISP Secretariat. Chairman Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) M. Enver Baig also present on the occasion. (Dated: July 15, 2014)

The Chairman BISP while thanking the continuing support of British government informed the DfID delegation that Waseela-e-Taleem (WeT) (access to education) initiative launched with DfID's support has been successfully tested in 5 districts and the present government has fine-tuned the design and implementation arrangements and expanding it to 27 additional districts in all provinces of Pakistan. Under the Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT), BISP has released first payment of Rs. 84.114 million to eighteen thousand six hundred and sixty two beneficiaries of WeT initiative in May, 2014.

Mr. Baig on the occasion apprised the members of the delegation that BISP is committed towards its target to enroll one million children in schools. BISP has already signed Memorandum of Understanding with all the provincial and regional education departments for their cooperation and support in achieving the common objective of maximizing the enrollments for primary education and attainment of Pakistan's Millennium Development Goals commitment.

During the meeting, Chairman BISP discussed important aspects of the organization with the Acting Country Head of DfID. He said that the Prime Minister of Pakistan Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif is aspiring to take BISP a step further in providing relief to the impoverished and vulnerable segments of our society. He added that through vocational training and job placements, BISP beneficiaries will be graduating out of the Programme by earning a sustainable livelihood. In this regard, BISP has already signed MoUs with Chambers of Commerce & Industry of Peshawar, Korangi Association of Trade & Industries (KATI) Karachi, SITE Karachi, Daewoo Pakistan Bus Service and MCR which is the franchise of international food chains of Pizza Hut, Burger King and TGIF for Pakistani territory for providing job opportunities to BISP beneficiaries. KATI and SITE collectively have approximately 800 industries and are employing a workforce of 1.3 million approximately. Ms. Herbertson lauded the Chairman's efforts to economically empower the poor in the country.

Chairman BISP said that he is honored to receive this task from Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, to expand the coverage of BISP and expedite investment in human capital, starting with promotion of education amongst the most vulnerable beneficiaries of the Programme. He further added that the Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has a strong commitment to poverty alleviation through delivering targeted programmes to the poor as provided in the PML-N manifesto and the decision to continue further development and consolidation of "social protection system"

developed under the programme by increasing its allocation in the current financial year budget to Rs 1500/- per month is a strong testimony of this commitment.

Ms. Judith Herbertson expressed satisfaction over the performance of BISP and said that DfID is committed to improve education provision in Pakistan and looks forward to work closely with BISP to help enrolment of millions of children especially females in primary schools.
