Government of Pakistan Benazir Income Support Programme

Press Release

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Marvi: Southern Punjab to be a continued focus for BISP

MNA Marvi Memon, Minister of State/Chairperson BISP visited Lahore to take stock of the current activities of the Programme all over the province and to explore the possibilities of collaboration with the Provincial Government. She called on the Chief Minister Punjab, Mian Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif. The Chief Minister Punjab, shared that the Punjab Social Protection Authority has been established and the Province is keen to work with BISP on joint initiatives. The key areas of joint collaboration were identified as Education and Health. Chairperson assured the chief minister that Southern Punjab would be a key focus area for clearing the pending demand for cards especially in the next 100 day plan of BISP.



The Chairperson, BISP visited Tehsil Office BISP, Saddar Lahore, Ms. Sahrish Altaf, Assistant Director, gave a presentation about the operations of Tehsil Office and how the problems of beneficiaries were being addressed. Ms. Memon personally interviewed a large number of beneficiaries to understand their constraints firsthand and instructed the Office to put forward meaningful proposals for the facilitation of poor and vulnerable beneficiaries. She demanded that the beneficiaries be treated with utmost respect and dignity and be given seamless services between banks, NADRA and BISP.

In the Regional Office Punjab, Ms. Marvi Memon held high profile meetings with representatives of the Government of the Punjab including Rana MashhoodAhmad Khan, Minister for Education; Khawja SalmanRafique, Special Assistant to Chief Minister on Healthand Dr. Ayesha Ghaus Pasha, Chairperson, Punjab Social Protection Authority.

The following officials also attended the meeting: Engr. Qamar ul Islam Raja, Chairman, Punjab Education Fund, Mr. Salman Mufti, Special Secretary, Health Department, Ms. AnilaSulman, Managing Director, Punjab Education Foundation, Mr. Izhar Ahmad Sheikh, Managing Director, Punjab Health Foundation, Mr. Kamran Shams, CEO, Punjab Education Endowment Fund, Dr ZahidPervez Director General Health, Ahmad Ali Kamboh, Additional Secretary, Education Department & Colonel Hamid, General Manager, TEVTA, Punjab.

Following areas were discussed in detail: provincial inputs for the potential updation of the National Socio Economic Registry (NSER), sharing lessons of experiences in Health Insurance Schemes and expansion and fine tuning of Waseela-e-Taleem Programme with PEF and PEEF. Both sides agreed on forming working groups which would explore areas of cooperation and provide concrete recommendations. The parties reiterated to remove the overlap in Federal and Provincial Social Protection Programmes.

In the end the Director General BISP, Punjab Ms. Sarah Saeed briefed the Chairperson on the ongoing field activities of BISP; recommendations were discussed in order to streamline the processes and to facilitate the beneficiaries in the best possible way especially in terms of hassle free service delivery mechanism for unconditional cash transfers.