

Government of Pakistan
Benazir Income Support Programme

PRESS RELEASE

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BISP releases Rs. 84 million to 19 thousand beneficiaries of WeT

Islamabad () Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) has released first payment of Rs. 84.114 million to eighteen thousand six hundred and sixty two beneficiaries of Waseela-e-Taleem (WeT) initiative.

The pilot phase of WeT initiative of BISP was started in October 2012, in five districts, with the objective of increasing and retaining enrollments of five to twelve years old children of BISP's beneficiaries for primary education. The beneficiaries of BISP were asked to send their children, within the permissible age limit, to schools in return for additional monthly cash benefit of Rs. 200 per child, up to three children per family. This conditional cash grant is to be released on quarterly basis to the WeT beneficiaries, in addition to the quarterly cash grant of Rs. 3600 per beneficiary.

The initiative was launched in five pilot districts in the country, i.e. Mirpur, Skardu, Malakand Protected Area, Noshki and Karachi South. Thirty-two thousand nine hundred and eighty three children of BISP beneficiaries were verified for their school enrollments and the payment is being released accordingly.

Due to some technical reasons of funds flow and ground verification to ascertain the transparency, there was an unfortunate delay in the release of payments to WeT beneficiaries in the five districts. The payment being released now includes all due arrears of beneficiaries since the start of the initiative. BISP now commits that all future payments will be released on time. BISP has a rigorous grievance redressal system with all Tehsil officers acting as face of the Programme at grass root levels and a toll free number 0800-27677, on which complaints can be registered directly with the headquarters.

The current government has committed to strengthen and expand the various initiatives under BISP. Therefore WeT pilot phase has been extended to 27 additional districts from all provinces and regions of Pakistan. 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.