

**Government of Pakistan
Benazir Income Support Programme**

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BISP HOSTS CROSS LEARNING ACTIVITY FOR NIGERIA SOCIAL PROTECTION TEAM
NIGERIAN SOCIAL SAFETY NET PROGRAM MAY BENEFIT FROM THE EXEMPLARY EXPERIENCE
OF BISP: MARVI MEMON

Islamabad: BISP is one of the leading Social Safety Net (SSN) Programs in the world and Nigerian SSN Program may benefit from the exemplary experience of BISP. This was stated by Minister of State and Chairperson BISP, MNA Marvi Memon, at BISP Secretariat, in her welcome remarks during the opening session of the five days study visit of the Nigerian Social Protection Team to BISP.



Islamabad: Minister of State and Chairperson BISP, MNA Marvi Memon addressing the Nigerian Social Protection Team at BISP Secretariat. (Dated: October 12, 2015)

Headed by Mr. Andrew David Adejo, a 25 members delegation of Nigeria Social Protection Team, including representatives from World Bank, is on a visit to study the major elements of social protection system of BISP. The primary objective of the visit is to ensure that the Nigerian SSN Program builds on its existing knowledge and practice, based on the experience of BISP. The focus areas of BISP, for learning purposes, during the visit are: Targeting, identification and registry of the poor and vulnerable; Payment system and procedure; Management Information System; Monitoring and Impact Evaluation Process; and Coordination and Reporting mechanism.

The Nigerian delegation visit to BISP has been arranged by World Bank Social Protection Task Team in Nigeria to establish an effective and efficient social protection system. It will assist the Nigerian government in setting up and strengthening of the building blocks of the social protection platform in Nigeria. BISP is an internationally acclaimed program whose operational practices are of international standards. The successful journey of BISP has attracted various developing countries to follow its systems and mechanisms; Cambodian and Bangladeshi delegations have also visited BISP for the same purpose in recent past.

In this connection, BISP has arranged meetings of the delegation with BISP officials, a series of presentations on the policies, mechanisms and initiatives of the organization, field visit including distribution of debit cards to beneficiaries and interaction with beneficiaries and meeting with National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA). These activities will expose the Nigerian Social Protection Team to the experience and practices of BISP, helping them to refine and reform current social protection programs and policy in their country.

During her address, Chairperson BISP shared her thoughts on the importance of National Socio-economic Registry (NSER) and its significance for being inclusive and national in character for a successful social safety net program. She also highlighted the value of the biometric payment mechanism for safe transfer of money to the beneficiaries and reducing the middleman culture. She added that the graduation strategies, necessary to pull out the beneficiaries from poverty, can be developed in cooperation with other organizations as a social safety net program focuses on the basic sustenance of the beneficiaries. In the end, Chairperson BISP said that the

vision of this organization is to give dignity, empowerment and meaning to the lives of beneficiaries.