

**GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN**  
**BENAZIR INCOME SUPPORT PROGRAMME**

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**OCTOBER 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

**PUNJAB GOVERNOR HOUSE OPENS ITS DOORS TO BISP BENEFICIARIES**

Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) is playing a key role for the socio-economic uplift of the poorest of the poor. The program has brought a positive change in the lives of its beneficiaries making them financially inclusive and empowered. This was stated by Governor Punjab Muhammad Rafique Rajwana while speaking at first plenary conference “Governor House opens its doors to BISP beneficiaries”. Minister of State and Chairperson BISP MNA Marvi Memon, Secretary BISP Yasmeen Masood, politicians, NGOs representatives, journalists and BISP beneficiaries attended the event.

BISP progress report 2014-2016 was launched by the President of Pakistan yesterday and it will be presented in the Parliament soon. The report would also be presented to all other governors in plenary conferences scheduled during coming weeks.

Speaking at the occasion, Chairperson BISP said that BISP is premier social safety net that provides quarterly stipends to over 5.3 million families. These cash transfers complement sustainable development goals in line with Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's vision of eradicating extreme poverty and women empowerment.

Chairperson BISP added that women define the future of a nation and she is proud of her beneficiaries who overcame the difficulties of life with courage and are trying to perform well in their lives despite social and financial constraints.

The Governor distributed appreciation certificates among eighteen beneficiaries from the districts across Punjab for their struggle against poverty. On the occasion, these beneficiaries stated that besides helping them financially, BISP has been pivotal in empowering them socially and economically.

Secretary BISP Yasmeen Masood highlighted that 2.05 million households of Punjab receive BISP stipend on quarterly basis. Waseela-e-Taleem (WeT) initiative is going successfully in seven districts across Punjab that has registered 442,804 children in schools. Pilot phase of new poverty survey to update National Socio-Economic Registry (NSER) has been started in Bahawalpur where desk approach is being adopted. Door to

door survey would be conducted in other pilot districts of Layyah, Chakwal and Faisalabad. The pilot phase will be completed by March 2017.