

Government of Pakistan  
Benazir Income Support Programme  
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**PRESS RELEASE**

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**CANADIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER ASSURES JOINT VENTURES FOR  
BISP BENEFICIARIES**

Islamabad ( ) While focusing on its core mandate of unconditional cash transfer, BISP is looking forward to collaborate with other national and international organizations so that BISP beneficiaries may graduate out of extreme poverty. This was stated by Minister of State and Chairperson BISP, MNA Marvi Memon, in her introductory remarks, during a meeting with High Commissioner of Canada to Pakistan Ms. Heather Cruden here at BISP Secretariat. Secretary BISP, Mr. Muhammad Saleem Ahmed Ranjha also attended the meeting.



**ISLAMABAD: Minister of State and Chairperson BISP, MNA Marvi Memon meeting with High Commissioner of Canada to Pakistan Ms. Heather Cruden at BISP Secretariat. (Dated: September 9, 2015)**

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the various areas of mutual cooperation between Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development and BISP. The meeting focused on concluding a way forward for the benefit of the poor beneficiaries of BISP.

In the beginning, Chairperson BISP and Secretary BISP gave a detailed overview of the organization, its budget and its beneficiaries. Different initiatives taken by BISP management in coordination with various public and private organizations were also highlighted. The discussion focused on the necessary ways and means through which BISP beneficiaries can be pulled out of poverty. Chairperson BISP said that BISP can facilitate the organizations in sorting out the target population for their projects through its district-wise poverty data base.

The Canadian High Commissioner appreciated the efforts and the vision of BISP management and assured that the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development will coordinate with BISP in every possible way. She said that we are involved in various development and support projects in Pakistan with the help of ILO, UNICEF, WFP and other organizations of UN and we can use the platform of BISP for coordinating our efforts. She stated that the current projects are related to immunization, nutrition, mother and child care, education of children, child labour, emergency relief operations, women economic and political empowerment.

The projects being run in Pakistan by Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development are health and protection for displaced persons in North Waziristan and Peshawar valley, financial literacy and business development services for women, community infrastructure improvement, promoting employment for women and rebuilding sustainable communities-school reconstruction.

During the meeting, deliberations were made on the modalities of the coordination between the two organizations so that proper linkages could be established for materializing the discussed way forward. It was also discussed that BISP Beneficiary Committees (BBCs) can be utilized for undertaking joint projects on immunization, nutrition, children education, financial literacy and economic empowerment of women. The purpose of BBCs is to provide a forum to BISP beneficiaries for discussing their issues and difficulties. This forum is also used for mobilization purposes. Currently, around 40 thousands BBCs are functional in different districts of the country. BISP data base also came under discussion for the purpose of targeting the beneficiary women and their families who are proven poor in the country identified by scientific methods.

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