



1. GOVT ALERT IN SERVICE DELIVERY

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Sukkur State Minister and Chairperson of Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) Marvi Memon has said that present government believes in service delivery instead of false claims. The incumbent government is playing an effective and vibrant role for provision of maximum facilities and basic rights to the masses. Speaking to the notables, BISP beneficiaries and civil society of Sukkur regarding feed bank for new survey 2016 here on Tuesday, she said that it is just because of the sincere efforts of Prime Minister

Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and Finance Minister Senator Ishaq Dar that economy is registering massive growth.

She said that if someone oblivious of the contributions of Prime Minister, he would face resistance from all of us. Chairperson BISP is on a beneficiary outreach campaign just ahead of the launch of pilot phase of National SocioEconomic Registry (NSER) update. She would visit Jacobabad, Nasirabad, Qila Saifullah and Quetta this week highlighting the components of resurvey for NSER update. While explaining the salient features of the resurvey to the community, she stated that discrepancies of previous survey would be removed in the new survey. Currently, Pakistan ranks 5th in terms of targeting the poor and soon the country would lead the world after creating best National Socio Economic Registry.

Chairperson BISP reiterated that in the pilot phase, resurvey would be initiated by middle of this year in fifteen districts and Mirpur (AJK), Charsadda, Lakki Marwat, Haripur (KPK), Chakwal, Layyah, Faisalabad, Bahawalpur (Punjab), Jacobabad, Sukkar, Thatta (Sindh), Gilgit (Gilgit Baltistan), Qila Saifullah, Kech, Nasirabad (Balochistan) and Mohammad Agency (FATA). After completion of the pilot phase, national roll out of resurvey will be started in January 2017. She urged the women to borrow from the Prime Minister's Loan Scheme in order to financially empower themselves. APP

(Frontier Post, Patriot, Dunya, Jahan Pakistan, Naibaat, Khabrain, Ausaf, Jinnah and Pakistan also carried the story and picture)



2. HEALTH SECTOR NEEDS A MAJOR BOOST

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IN a much needed extension of the free of cost treatment facility to the poor, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, on Monday, launched National Health Programme (NHP) in four districts of Balochistan, which would benefit about seventy-six thousand families. Under-privileged people of Quetta, Kech, Loralai and Lasbela will benefit from the Government-funded programme.

Given the poor state of health cover, the programme should have been initiated in all areas of the country to ensure that no poor family is left at the mercy of circumstances as far as treatment of major diseases is concerned. However, as the programme was conceptualised and funded by the Federal Government, the Provinces other than the Punjab did not show the required level of cooperation to make it meaningful for unlucky segments of their population merely because of political considerations. Collaboration of the Provinces was a must in view of the fact that health sector stands devolved to the Provinces under 18th Constitutional amendment but this should in no way be a hurdle in reaching out to the deserving people for provision of medical facilities to them. Balochistan is a backward Province and therefore, launching of the programme in its four districts is a welcome beginning and hopefully it would be expanded further to include other areas of the Province as well. We would also expect PPP Government

in Sindh and that of PTI in KP to shun obstructionist attitude and help Federal Government provide medical facilities to their people as well. The programme has immense relevance to the poor as everyone knows the state of affairs in the public sector where either health facilities are lacking or the quality of the service is poor because of mismanagement and absence of a comprehensive monitoring and vigilance mechanism. It would not be an exaggeration to say that the masses have been left to the mercy of the private sector, which, no doubt, has a pivotal role in improving access and quality of the health cover, but most of the private institutions are being run merely on commercial consideration and they are just fleecing the general public. Government employees enjoy health facilities including treatment during hospitalisation and it is appreciable that the Prime Minister has enlisted quality health institutions under the NHP to provide treatment facilities to the families registered under the programme. *However, the criteria presently applied for registration (inclusion of name in BISP beneficiaries, which itself is deficient) is not realistic and highly flawed and therefore, needs to be reviewed on priority basis.*

3. 10,000 POOR LIBERIAN HOUSEHOLDS TO BENEFIT FROM CASH TRANSFERS

Published in Global News Network – Liberia

The World Bank Board of Executive Directors has approved a new financing agreement of US\$10 million International Development Association (IDA) credit to provide income



support to extremely poor and food insecure households in Liberia. This agreement will also establish key building blocks of a basic national safety net delivery system of Liberia.

According to a World Bank press release from Washington, the Liberia Social Safety Nets Project (LSSNP) will directly benefit 10,000 extremely poor and food insecure households in four of Liberia's most food insecure counties: Bomi, Maryland, Grand Kru and River Gee. Also, the LSSNP will indirectly benefit all households that will be captured in the Social Registry, who would be potential beneficiaries of other safety net programs.



World Bank Liberia Country Manager Inguna Dobraja says: "The Social Safety Nets Project focuses on delivering cash transfers to the poorest households in Liberia and providing accompanying measures to support their food security." Madam Dobraja added: "the project will place emphasis on addressing vulnerability and reducing poverty in the targeted project areas." The project would carry out cash transfers, and also implement accompanying measures promoting the growing of quick and high yielding nutritious food through home gardening. Additionally, it will provide support for increasing awareness on improved

nutrition among targeted households as a means of reducing vulnerability. Liberia has a high degree of malnutrition among children and the lack of dietary diversity in the most food insecure and chronically poor households. These accompanying measures will encourage beneficiary households to improve consumption and invest in the human development of their families, particularly young children, as well as pregnant women and lactating mothers.

The LSSNP will also provide support for further developing Liberia's long term systems building in the larger social protection sector. It will contribute to increased efficiency and accountability in the delivery of social services through the creation of a national Social Registry that seeks to collect information on all poor households in Liberia.

"The Liberia Social Safety Nets Project marks a significant step forward in the support to long-term recovery and resilience building for communities affected by shocks in the Liberia," said Suleiman Namara, Task Team Leader. "The systems developed under this project will help make social protection interventions better targeted, more accessible, as well as strengthen coordination of service delivery."

The project will be implemented by the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection in collaboration with the ministries of Health and Agriculture. Further support will be provided by Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services, and Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission.



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The World Bank's International Development Association (IDA), established in 1960, helps the world's poorest countries by providing grants and low to zero-interest loans for projects and programs that boost economic growth, reduce poverty, and improve poor people's lives. IDA is one of the largest sources of assistance for the world's 77 poorest countries, 39 of which are in Africa. Resources from IDA bring positive change to the 1.3 billion people who live in IDA countries. Since 1960, IDA has supported development work in 112 countries. Annual commitments have averaged about \$19 billion over the last three years, with about 50 percent going to Africa.

<http://gnnliberia.com/2016/05/03/10000-poor-liberian-households-benefit-cash-transfers/>