

**Government of Pakistan**  
**Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Division**  
**Press Release**

## **Improving Learning Outcomes and Investing in Girls & Women Crucial to Pakistan's Sustained Growth**



December 11, 2019- Islamabad: A national 100-day action program to support girls' education and women's economic empowerment launched today at Quaid-i-Azam University, supported by the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Human Rights, and the World Bank Group.

The 'Girls Learn, Women Earn' (GLWE) initiative launched today in Islamabad with an evidence for policy-making conference in Islamabad. Sessions focused on challenges and opportunities in eliminating Learning Poverty and increasing women's economic empowerment. The initiative highlights statistics that show that 55% of Pakistan's 22.5 million out-of-school children are girls and only 26% of women are active in the country's labor force. The 100-day campaign calls for awareness, advocacy and action on a national scale to address this.

*"Girls and women are central to Pakistan's long-term aspirations to become a prosperous country when it turns 100,"* said Illango Patchamuthu, World Bank Country Director for Pakistan. *"The World Bank is committed to supporting all stakeholders to prioritize actions for girls to excel in education and women to thrive in the workplace."*

The 'Girls Learn, Women Earn' conference concluded with a roundtable discussion on women's participation in the labor force, led by Dr. Sania Nishtar, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister and Chairperson of the BISP. During her keynote address, Dr. Nishtar highlighted the multiple policies under the Ehsaas programme which are driving women's fuller participation in both the economy and society. She highlighted, "Kifalat is the new digital and financial inclusion policy for poor women under the Ehsaas framework. In addition to stipends, eligible women will now get bank accounts and will have access to mobile phones."

The session focused on enabling women as a crucial aspect of inclusive growth, and on ways to provide more women with the education, skills, opportunities and environments to become contributing members of the economy.