

Government of Pakistan
Benazir Income Support Programme
NAB building, Attaturk Avenue
Sector G-5/2, Islamabad

20th July, 2010

Press Release of Meeting with Mr. Jean Maurice Ripert

A meeting between the UN delegation headed by Secretary General's Special Envoy to Pakistan Mr. Jean Maurice Ripert and Ms. Farzana Raja Federal Minister/ Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme took place in Chairperson's office on 20th July, 2010. Ms. Farzana Raja thanked Mr. Ripert for his visit and apprised him of the philosophy, methodology and current status of the various running and planned initiatives, including Cash Grant, Emergency Relief Package, Waseela-e-Haq (Interest Free Returnable Financial Assistance), Waseela-e-Sehet (Health/Accident Insurance), and Waseela-e-Rozgar (Vocational Training Programme), started by the BISP for the well being of the marginalized sections of the society. Mr. Ripert very much appreciated the efforts made by BISP for improving the conditions of the under-privileged in Pakistan and termed them as the physical implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) set by the United Nations.

Delegation was deeply impressed by the technological tools, like Benazir Smart Card, employed by the BISP for ensuring a transparent and smooth functioning of its operation. Delegation displayed keen interest in the Health Insurance and Vocational Training as part of BISP's Graduation Strategy. For successful implementation of Vocational Training Programme, Mr. Ripert promised for arranging meetings of BISP personnel with the various UN program managers to work out areas of cooperation between the two. Appreciating BISP's efforts in supporting bomb blast and target killing victims under its Emergency Relief Package, Mr. Ripert discussed the possibility of collaboration between the UNDP and BISP. Presently, UNDP is conducting an assessment for the physical and psychological rehabilitation of the victims of 'War on Terror' in the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He further suggested that BISP and UNDP could start the similar initiatives in the other provinces of Pakistan.