

**March 23, 2010**

## **BISP, PPAF collaborating to bring relief to PWDs: Farzana Raja**

The Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) and Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF) are working together to alleviate the sufferings of the physically disabled in the country, said Federal Minister/Chairperson BISP Farzana Raja on Wednesday.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister/Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme Ms. Farzana Raja addressing the closing ceremony of Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund Earthquake Disability Project.

Speaking at the closing ceremony of PPAF Earthquake Disability Project Farzana Raja praised PPAF's efforts for persons with disabilities (PWDs). She said it is commendable that instead of giving financial aid or money, PPAF was providing PWDs with assistive devices, skill training and attendant-ship training. She said BISP and PPAF are partners in alleviating sufferings of the marginalized and disadvantaged people. PPAF has been chosen by BISP to assist it in

implementation of its various programmes designed for the vulnerable and marginalized segments of the society.

Farzana Raja said BISP was conducting a nationwide Poverty Survey with the help of the World Bank and as an indicative of its commitment to the needs of special people BISP has incorporated special provisions for identification of families with special persons in this survey. She said the nationwide Poverty Survey will start in May and it will first be completed in Baluchistan by June 2010. In addition to this, she said, BISP was also working on improving healthcare access to its beneficiaries through introduction of Health Insurance with a Rs.25,000/year. Farzana Raja said the Health Insurance would be of special significance for the families having special needs. She said BISP is also devising a comprehensive skill development/vocational training plan, under which one member of beneficiary family will receive free technical training to enabling them to contribute to the family's income. BISP would look for opportunities to incorporate PWDs into this programme, said Farzana Raja.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister/Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme Ms. Farzana Raja presents a shield to a participant at the closing ceremony of Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund Earthquake Disability Project.

Deploring the hardships, neglect and abuse faced by PWDs in underdeveloped societies, Farzana Raja said BISP, PPAF and other organizations working for the poor and vulnerable must fight these abhorrent traditions and should ensure adequate

care, protection and support for PWDs. BISP and PPAF will continue striving for a better future for PWDs through collaborative partnerships between non-government organizations and the community.

Farzana Raja said she was pleased to know that PPAF is undertaking interventions for income enhancement of poor persons with disabilities. She appreciated the launching of a special microfinance programme for PWDs. She expressed hope that both BISP and PPAF will go a long way together for achievement of noble common objectives.