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**US Government Appreciates BISP, Urges the Need to Extend Programme's Operations; BISP Data and Experiences should be shared for various Social Sector Projects; Says Mr. Richard A. Albright US Coordinator for Economic and Development Assistance**

**BISP is a Complete Socio-Economic Package; Provinces taken on board regarding Waseela-e-Taleem (Right to Education) Programme; Says Madame Farzana Raja**

Islamabad ( ): Foreign Donors along with the US Government through USAID has continuously supported Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) due to its transparency and advanced systems employed in its operations. There is a need to extend the social protection net and operations of BISP in the coming future. This was said by Mr. Richard A. Albright, US Coordinator for Economic and Development Assistance and Craig P. Kim, US Special Assistant for Economic and Development Assistance during their meeting with Federal Minister and Chairperson BISP Madame Farzana Raja here in BISP Secretariat.



**ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister and Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Madame Farzana Raja talking to Mr. Richard A. Albright, US Coordinator for Economic and Development Assistance and Craig P. Kim, US Special Assistant for Economic and Development Assistance, in a meeting held here at BISP Secretariat. (Dated: November 7, 2012)**

Mr. Richard A. Albright further said that by virtue of nationwide poverty census, BISP has collected comprehensive data of millions of families in Pakistan. This data should be shared with provincial governments, NGO and INGOs so that various social sector projects could be launched in the country. US Embassy delegation appreciated Waseela-e-Taleem (Right to Education) Programme launched by BISP, terming it a vital Programme in education sector of

the country. The delegation ensured Madame Farzana Raja of continuous US support in various projects being introduced.

Chairperson BISP while thanking US Government and USAID for their support to BISP said that it is a transparent Programme which is playing major role for the socio-economic uplift of the millions of deprived Pakistanis. Madame Farzana Raja said that BISP is one-window operation providing complete socio-economic package under one roof. By virtue of the programmes like Waseela-e-Taleem, Waseela-e-Haq (provision of micro loans of Rs. 300,000 for business) and Waseela-a-Rozgar (Demand driven vocational and technical training) BISP is empowering children and youth to become useful and self-reliant citizens of Pakistan.

Madame Farzana Raja said that Waseela-e-Taleem Programme is launched to provide free basic quality education to 3 million non-school going children of BISP beneficiary families according to MDGs of the new Millennium. She said that US Secretary General Ban Ki Moon, US Secretary of the State MS. Hillary Clinton and UN's Special Envoy on Education Mr. Gordon Brown have lauded BISP's various initiatives and termed it a revolutionary Programme in social sector of the world.

Madame Farzana Raja said that BISP has developed Data Sharing Protocols through which BISP Poverty Survey Data is being shared with provincial governments. She said that for Waseela-e-Taleem, all the provinces have been taken on board as the provision of education is collective responsibility of all stakeholders. She said that there is a need to build capacity of educational facilities, teachers and development of infrastructure and monitoring mechanism for the success of this initiative. For this she is ready to work with the provincial governments so that education can be promoted throughout Pakistan, she added.