

Dated: Sep 22, 2011

## **International Community must expedite flood relief efforts in Pakistan: Farzana Raja**

**Says BISP released 2.14 Billion for its flood affected beneficiaries in Sindh;**

## **USAID to continue supporting flood affectees of Sindh, Says Mission Director USAID**

Islamabad ( ): Recent floods in Sindh have caused colossal destruction across the province and international community must expedite the efforts to help Pakistan overcome the devastation. This was said by Madame Farzana Raja, Federal Minister and Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) while talking to Mr. Andrew Sisson, Mission Director USAID in Pakistan who visited BISP Secretariat on Thursday. Secretary BISP Mr. Sher Khan was also present on the occasion.



**ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister and Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Madame Farzana Raja talking to Mr. Andrew Sysson, Mission Director USAID, here in BISP Secretariat. (Dated: September 22, 2011)**

Madame Farzana Raja told Mission Director USAID that more than 1 millions BISP beneficiaries in Sindh are adversely affected by floods as their miseries have increased manifold. She said that BISP has released an amount of Rs 2.14 Billion for BISP flood affectees in Sindh.

Madame Farzana Raja added that the Government of Pakistan is taking every step possible to help the flood affectees but considering the magnitude of the catastrophe, the help of international community and aid agencies like USAID is vital for relief and rehabilitation of millions across the Sindh province.

USAID Mission Director Mr. Andrew Sisson echoed the words of Madame Farzana Raja and said that the dire situation in Sindh requires immediate response especially health and shelter issues of the affectees must be addressed on emergency basis. He said that USAID is doing everything possible on immediate basis. He assured Madame Farzana Raja of continuous support for the flood affectees of Sindh.

During the meeting, Madame Farzana Raja while emphasizing on the need for unconventional thinking approach said that the international community should delink conditionalities with social sector support for developing countries. She said the support to the poor and needy people should not be affected by the differences among the governments. Madame Farzana Raja said that BISP is acting as a bridge between international community and the poor people of Pakistan, which is creating goodwill amongst the people of the country.

Chairperson also proposed for employing the individuals trained through Vocational and Technical Training component of BISP in USAID funded big infrastructure projects in Pakistan and abroad.

During the meeting, she also presented the details about various measures of BISP aiming to improve the socio-economic conditions of the poor and destitute segments of society.

USAID Mission Director lauded the efforts of BISP for brining in positive socio-economic changes in the lives of millions of underprivileged families and highlighted the possibilities of future cooperation of USAID in this regard.