



## Social Welfare and Special Education

The most outstanding job accomplished by the Ministry of Social Welfare and Special Education (MoSW&SE) during 2009-2010 has been the ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities adopted by the U.N. General Assembly on December 13, 2006 during its 61st session along with an optional protocol. The Federal Cabinet approved the signing of the U.N. convention at its meetings on July 16 and September 27, 2008. By signing these conventions, Pakistan has become a member of this international forum that helps persons with disabilities to understand and evaluate their rights that the convention casts upon member states as an obligation towards special people.

Another significant feature of MoSW&SE's performance is that its National Council has drafted a National Commission on the Rights of Children Bill, 2009, with the objective of supervising, coordinating and effectively monitoring the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and reporting progress to the U.N. Committee on the Rights of the Child. The council has also prepared the Child Protection (Criminal Laws Amendment) Bill, 2009, to implement recommendations of the U.N. Committee on the Rights of the Child, in addition to providing deterrence against child abuse and exploitation.

The Directorate-General of MoSW&SE developed 24 community development projects and established centers in rural areas and slums of Islamabad, Gilgit-Baltistan, FATA and other parts of the country with the purpose of delivering services like maternal and child health, vocational training, nursery education, recreation and adult literacy. 61,832 persons belonging to poor strata of society benefited from these programs. The directorate also launched a program of imparting basic education to domestic child laborers in collaboration with

an NGO, Idara Taleem-o-Aagahi, to bring domestic child labor under control and provide non-formal educational facilities to such children.

The MoSW&SE also organized trainings for NGOs in 40 districts in database management all over the country, and brought the NGOs database under a network in all districts.

A Helen Keller Friendship Community Centre was established with the support of American Information Resource Centre (AIRC) of the U.S. Embassy for general public at the National Library and Resource Centre, Islamabad.

The MoSW&SE has increased its development allocation from Rs.348 million to Rs.2 billion for 2009-2010 on a number of initiatives that it intends to take in its future programs, such as the establishment of at least one integrated special education center for the disabled in all district headquarters. Similarly, each district headquarter will introduce at least one inclusive education at one normal school.

Financial benefits under the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) will be extended to special people with disabilities. Teachers imparting special education will be trained under a project. Awareness about disabilities and special persons is scheduled to be launched under a campaign in the electronic media on the rights of persons with disabilities. Extending micro-credit facility to disabled people and other vulnerable groups is also part of the future strategy. Steps are also being taken to introduce easy access for persons with disabilities in future building by providing them wheelchair access on sidewalks and reservation of parking space for them.

Under MoSW&SE, the Trust of Voluntary Organization disbursed in 2008-2009 an

amount of about Rs.31 million for 55 projects that will benefit 187,269 persons, including children and women, in remote areas.

The box below shows the sectoral distribution of projects, funds and number of beneficiaries.

each year, preferably for poverty reduction projects at grassroots level throughout the country with focus on far-flung rural areas.

The National Commission for Child Welfare and Development established a Child

Sector	Number of Projects	Funds (in Rs.)	Number of Beneficiaries
Primary Health Care (PHC)	05	3,516,689	36,265
Poverty Alleviation (PA)	12	6,736,628	42,746
Safe Drinking Water (SDW)	37	19,681,484	107,918
Rehabilitation of the Disabled	1	999,500	340
<b>Total</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>30,934,301</b>	<b>187,269</b>

The National Council of Social Welfare, established in 1956 under MoSW&SE, has played a pioneering role in fostering promotion and development of NGOs and their humanitarian services throughout the country. It has also significantly contributed in addressing social problems prevailing in our society, and has been instrumental in inculcating the spirit of self-help and self-reliance among the people.

A draft bill on the National Council for Social Development Act, 2009 for granting a statutory status to this council and make it a vibrant organization relevant to present day requirements of the social welfare system, has been prepared and circulated among Provincial Governments for their comments. Upon soliciting comments, the bill will be modified and sent to the cabinet for approval. It will later be tabled in the National Assembly for adoption.

The NCSW provides grants to hundreds of NGOs through its provincial counterparts

Protection Centre in Turbat, Balochistan, during 2008-2009 for providing protection to vulnerable children.

The National Council for Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons organized meetings of its Medical Assessment Board chaired by eminent orthopedic surgeon for the provision of Disability Certificates and Rehabilitative and Assistive aids. About 89 meetings were held till November 2009 and the board issued Disability Certificates to 7,175 persons.

On the initiative of MoSW&SE, the Ministry of Health approved free medical treatment to the disabled and their family members in the Federal Government Hospital and dispensaries in Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Lahore, and Karachi. The Governments of Sindh, Balochistan, Gilgit-Baltistan, and Azad Jammu & Kashmir also provided free medical treatment to persons with disabilities and their families.

**Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal: Enhancing Public Charity**

Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal (PBM), an autonomous body set up through 1991 Act works under the umbrella of Ministry of Social Welfare and Special Education, is significantly contributing toward poverty alleviation through its various services. Focusing on poorest of the poor, it is providing assistance to the destitute, widows, orphans, invalids, and other needy persons as per eligibility criteria approved by Bait-ul-Mal Board. Currently, PBM is serving 70,000 deserving beneficiaries throughout the country with an annual budget of Rs.1 billion.

Under its scheme of Pakistan Sweet Homes, PBM is establishing orphanages at divisional level. Forty orphanage centres will be established having accommodation of 100 children each. As pilot, 16 homes have been established in the following districts:

Punjab	Sindh	Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa	Balochistan	ICT/AJK/Gilgit-Baltistan
Rawalpindi	Larkana	Mardan	Quetta	Islamabad
Multan	Nawabshah	Abbottabad		Muzaffarabad
Bahawalpur	Mirpurkha	Mansehra		Gilgit
Lahore				
Faisalabad				
Rahim Yar Khan				

The PBM's Child Support Program (CSP) is aimed to promote primary school education and reduce dropout ratio by providing additional resources to ultra poor families for sending their children to school. Beneficiaries are given incentives in the form of cash transfers on quarterly basis (Rs.300 per month for one child; Rs.600 per month for two or more children). An amount of Rs.57.29 million has been disbursed to around 12,000 households beneficiaries having 35,700 children.

**CSP Scale-up Districts (2008-2009)**

Sr.No.	District
1	Bhakkar
2	Tharparkar
3	Kohistan
4	Ghanchey (ICT)
5	Kharan (Balochistan)
6	Rawalpindi (Punjab)
7	Nawabshah (Sindh)
8	Quetta (Balochistan)
9	Multan (Punjab)
10	Muzaffarabad (AJK)
11	Abbottabad (Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa)



March 2009 - President Asif Ali Zardari addressing the gathering after distribution of cheques for the marriages of poor girls at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

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Through PBM's Individual Financial Assistance (IFA), the poor, widows, destitute women, orphans and disabled persons are supported through general assistance, education, medical treatment and rehabilitation.

### IFA Disbursement 2009-2010

No.	PROVINCES	IFA GENERAL		IFA MEDICAL		IFA EDUCATION		REHABILITATION		TOTAL Bene. Rs. (m)
		No.	Rs. (m)	No.	Rs. (m)	No.	Rs.(m)	No.	Rs. (m)	
1	PUNJAB	13655	148.589	7631	487.933	2627	61.157	-	-	23913 697.679
2	SINDH	3040	32.642	862	67.810	149	1.951	-	-	4051 102.403
3	KHYBER - PAKHTUNKHWA & FATA	2073	21.938	1431	124.892	530	9.931	-	-	4034 156.761
4	BALUCHISTAN	1408	8.450	156	9.478	52	0.619	-	-	1616 18.547
5	ICT, AJK & GILGIT-BALTISTAN	2010	25.626	1748	104.191	373	6.540	-	-	4131 136.357
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>22186</b>	<b>237.245</b>	<b>11828</b>	<b>794.305</b>	<b>3731</b>	<b>80.197</b>	-	-	<b>37745 1111.747</b>

As provided in the PBM Act 1991 (Amended)-Chapter-II, Clause-3(4), the organization is working for provision of assistance to needy persons, either in the shape of amount or kind. Most patients and their attendants, who come from far flung areas for treatment in government hospitals, belong to poor families. These helpless attendants are in need of basic necessities like food etc. The PBM has, therefore, decided to launch a Langar Project for the poor attendants of patients in 200 designated hospitals throughout Pakistan, at least one in every district. PBM will provide food in the evenings at hospitals with a budget of Rs.3 million for every hospital. Langar has started in the following districts on pilot basis:

Provincial/Regional Headquarters						
	PUNJAB	SINDH	KHYBER - PAKHTUNKHWA	BALUCHISTAN	ICT & AJK	GILGIT- BALTISTAN
1	Rawalpindi	Larkana	Abbottabad	Quetta	Islamabad	Gilgit
2	Bahawalpur	Mirpur khas	Mansehra		Muzaffarabad	Skardu
3	Lahore	Nawab shah	Mardan			
4	Faisalabad		Peshawar			
5	Multan					

The PBM's Civil Society Wing is aimed to provide institutional rehabilitation of the poorest through public-private partnership. It provides grant-in-aid to registered NGOs for their projects focused on poverty alleviation. Rs.581.562 million were disbursed for 932 projects from 1992 to December 2009 to various NGOs.