

Background information of the Child Development Fund

To reduce inter-generational poverty, the Government accepted the recommendation of the former Commission on Poverty and set up the \$300 million CDF in April 2008 for promoting the longer-term development of children aged between 10 and 16 from a disadvantaged background through collaboration of the family, the private sector, the community and the Government.

CDF projects have three key components, namely personal development plans, mentorship programme and targeted savings. These components can help enhance the children's ability in managing resources and planning for their own future.

Each participating child will be assigned a personal mentor who is a volunteer. The child will also participate in training programmes provided by the operating NGOs, which cover topics such as self-awareness, personal development and financial management, etc. and seek to assist him in developing and implementing his personal development plan. The Government has set aside \$15,000 for each participating child for the provision of relevant training programmes.

The participating children will also take part in a two-year targeted savings programme. With the support of the business sector as well as individual donors, the operating NGOs will provide matching contribution for the targeted savings accumulated by the participating children. In addition, the Government will provide a special financial incentive of \$3,000 for each participating child when he has completed his two-year savings programme.

The first batch of seven CDF pioneer projects, which will last for three years, was rolled out by six operating NGOS in December 2008 in seven regions/districts, benefiting a total of 750 children. We estimate that eventually at least 13 600 children will benefit from the CDF.

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