

LEGCO PANEL ON WELFARE SERVICES

Community Investment and Inclusion Fund – Progress Report as at 15 December 2003

Purpose

This paper informs Members of the up-to-date position of the Community Investment and Inclusion Fund (CIIF).

Background

2. In the 2001 Policy Address, the Chief Executive announced the setting up of the \$300 million CIIF to encourage mutual concern and aid, promote community participation, and support cross-sectoral programmes.

3. The main **purpose** of the CIIF is to provide the resources and a vehicle to promote community participation in supporting individuals and families, especially vulnerable groups. This will serve to reinforce the message that HK is a caring community and help to build up a sense of community spirit and enhance social cohesion and inclusion.

4. The **objectives** of the CIIF are to –

- (a) Promote community participation, mutual concern, support and assistance, and social inclusion provided through strengthened community networks. This will in turn help reinforce the sense of belonging in the community, enhance the social networks of individuals and families, broaden the support base available to assist them to resolve their problems and address common concerns; and

- (b) Encourage and facilitate co-operation between organizations of different nature (such as NGOs and the private sector), as well as cross-sectoral collaboration (such as that between welfare agencies and educational organizations), in social networking and community support projects.

5. The **means** to accomplish these goals include encouraging bottom-up solutions that seek to promote the development of social capital (see paragraph 6 below) and supporting local or territory-wide community-initiated projects (e.g. mobilizing community resources to promote self-help and mutual-help; promoting the integration and inclusion of social groups, particularly the disadvantaged; and encouraging volunteerism and philanthropy). This would ultimately promote joined-up efforts between community groups, corporate bodies or professional groups and the Government, to contribute to the social well-being.

6. This initiative corresponds to the vital role played by **social capital** in addressing social issues, a trend that is developing and actively encouraged in many countries. Social capital, according to the World Bank, refers to the institutions, relationships and norms that shape the quality and quantity of a society's social interactions. Social capital plays an important role in building a stronger community and enhancing social cohesion, which is the development of a community of shared values, shared challenges and equal opportunities based on trust, hope and reciprocity among all its members.

7. To sum up, **the CIIF is a fund with a difference**. It is not meant for meeting shortfall in, duplicating nor substituting funding for services. Instead, it seeks to bring about paradigm shifts in terms of mindset changes, under a new approach, so that people can better support themselves through capacity building, and each other through mutual help and networking. The details on how the CIIF differs from other Funds are set out in Annex A.

Progress

8. Funding support of \$300 million was obtained by February 2002, with an allocation of \$100 million from the General Revenue approved by the Finance Committee and a one-off grant of \$200 million from the Lotteries Fund approved by the Chief Executive.

9. The CIIF Committee was set up by April 2002. The Committee, chaired by a non-official and comprising 15 non-official members and 3 ex-officio members, advises the Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food (SHWF) on the most appropriate and effective means to facilitate the development of social capital in Hong Kong; handle applications, including assessment, approval, monitoring and evaluation of funded projects; and on all matters related to the administration of the Fund. The Committee is serviced by the CIIF Secretariat, a small set-up supported through resources re-deployed within HWFB.

10. The CIIF was launched in August 2002. On promotion, considerable efforts have been made to promote the new concept, with a view to making it take root locally. On projects, decisions for the first and second batches have been announced by January and August 2003 respectively, and applications received for the third batch (1.9.03 to 15.11.03) are being processed. An Inaugural CIIF Sharing Forum was held on 9.10.03 to mark the CIIF's first anniversary.

(a) Promotion

11. Three major rounds of promotion exercises, which tied in with the three batches, were completed by November 2003. The promotion exercises focused on explaining the fundamental concepts behind the CIIF and the difference between the CIIF and other Funds; and providing practical guidance on drawing up project proposals to align with the CIIF's objectives and requirements. In total, over 32 briefings were held, involving around 2,715 participants from around 1,772 groups / organizations. Some of our projects were covered on RTHK Newsrama programmes and CRHK's programmes.

(b) Projects

12. For the three batches, over 460 applications seeking funding support for over \$600 million have been received.

13. For the first two batches, a net total of 31 projects (with a few being combined projects following discussion with the applicants) were selected, involving total funding support of \$23.1 million. Applicant organizations range from welfare NGOs, community NGOs, residents' groups, women's groups and religious organizations etc. Annex B sets out the breakdown by applicant organization types and districts. Annex C indicates the geographical distribution of the projects selected to date.

14. Each approved project is unique; this notwithstanding, three clusters of approved projects have emerged -

- (a) Building up networks, resources and capabilities within specific communities;
- (b) Building up capacity of individuals or groups in marginalized or adverse circumstances; and
- (c) Experimenting with different service delivery models, new entry points and approaches to engage with specific groups, bridging and linking groups from different social strata and backgrounds.

Annex D sets out the full list of the approved projects grouped by clusters; and Annex E provides a brief description of the nature of these projects.

(c) Inaugural CIIF Sharing Forum

15. On its anniversary, an Inaugural CIIF Sharing Forum was held on 9.10.03, with a theme of "Building Networks and Partnership – the first year of the CIIF". Transfer of knowledge and experience was facilitated through presenting best practices with "show-case" projects from the two batches. Opportunities to broaden local perspectives were provided through exchange of views with overseas speakers. This was attended by over 350 participants from NGOs, residents' groups, community

organizations, CIIF partners, corporate sponsors, academics, civic leaders and bureaux/departments.

Way Forward

16. Continuous efforts along the following directions will be pursued –

- (a) Promote and permeate the social capital concepts in the community: The CIIF Committee has been impressing upon applicant organizations the need to propose projects which align with the objectives of the CIIF and place emphasis on expected outcome. They should **not** see the CIIF as a funding source to meet shortfall in funding for services, duplicate nor substitute funding for services;
- (b) Develop the culture to build up and transfer knowledge and experience: Apart from planning seminars, site visits and annual sharing forums by the CIIF Committee and the CIIF Secretariat, we have been encouraging successful applicant organizations to help promote the concepts to other potential applicant organizations so as to generate a snowball effect;
- (c) Strengthen the research front: We have been encouraging local academics to undertake, amongst themselves or in collaboration with us, research and evaluation on the concepts and practices promulgated by the CIIF;
- (d) Build up our links with overseas and international bodies: For example, the speaker from the Asian Development Bank at the Inaugural CIIF Sharing Forum considers the CIIF a unique pioneer initiative in developing social capital, against the context of the Asian region undergoing social and economic transformation; and
- (e) Future development of the CIIF: As the CIIF has been set up as a three-year fund, we need to assess in due course whether to extend the CIIF beyond the initial three-year period.

17. Consideration is also being given by the CIIF Committee to commission some district-wide pilot projects and replicate some models with proven success for territory-wide implementation.

Presentation

18. Members are invited to note this paper.

Health, Welfare and Food Bureau
December 2003

Annex A

The Community CIIF – a fund with a difference

- 1) **There are several key elements of the CIIF –**
 - The target of support is the “**community**”
 - The concept behind the funding approach is one of “**social investment**”
 - “**Social inclusion**” as the end result, through various means like “mutual help”

- 2) The CIIF is not meant for meeting shortfall in, duplicating nor substituting funding for services. Instead, it seeks to bring about **paradigm shifts** in terms of mindset changes, under a new approach, so that people can better support themselves through capacity building, and each other through mutual help and networking.

- 3) The CIIF places considerable emphasis on the **means** to achieve **sustainable** end results. The means promoted by the CIIF include:
 - Encourage community-initiated solutions through a bottom-up approach
 - Build capacity - instead of focusing on delivering conventional social services, the projects are expected to focus on building the capacities of individuals, recognizing that there is potential in everyone to be a giver and contributor instead of being passive recipient of services; and often the best ways of helping oneself is through helping others.
 - Promote community participation to reinforce a sense of belonging in the community, and ownership of project results
 - Encourage strategies to connect the givers with the receivers, with emphasis more on giving (e.g. through volunteerism and philanthropy) than receiving.
 - Promote social inclusion through strengthened networks across social groups for mutual concern and aid
 - Provide seed money - funding support from the CIIF is in the form of seed money, for up to 3 years to encourage factoring in sustainability in the longer term as part of the project design.
 - Encourage active cross-organizational and cross-sectoral

collaboration, including joint-up efforts between the community, business and governmental sectors. Collaboration itself is a form of social capital, and projects with cross-sector collaboration are more likely to be sustainable.

4) Increase understanding about **sustainability** - applicants who are concerned about sustainability tend to be concerned about the financial aspect. The CIIF Committee has broader interpretations about sustainability:

- At the project level, sustainability refers to self-financing for the operation of the project as well as maintaining the project results such as the networks, relations and values established through the project. The project itself might not continue in its current form upon expiry of the CIIF funding, but the new approach and new thinking will continue.
- At the service-wide level, if the project results are worth continuing, other institutions might carry on with it, e.g. the mentor-mentee project with non-engaged youth might be followed-up by schools or youth centres (i.e. the successful concept may then take root within mainstream services and changing mainstream approaches)
- At the macro-level, there is the sustainability of the values and ideals of the CIIF. The project itself might or might not continue, but it would be more important for the spirit and objectives of the Fund to be carried on. The project's ability to spread the CIIF philosophies across the community to create a shared vision is considered crucial for its sustainability.

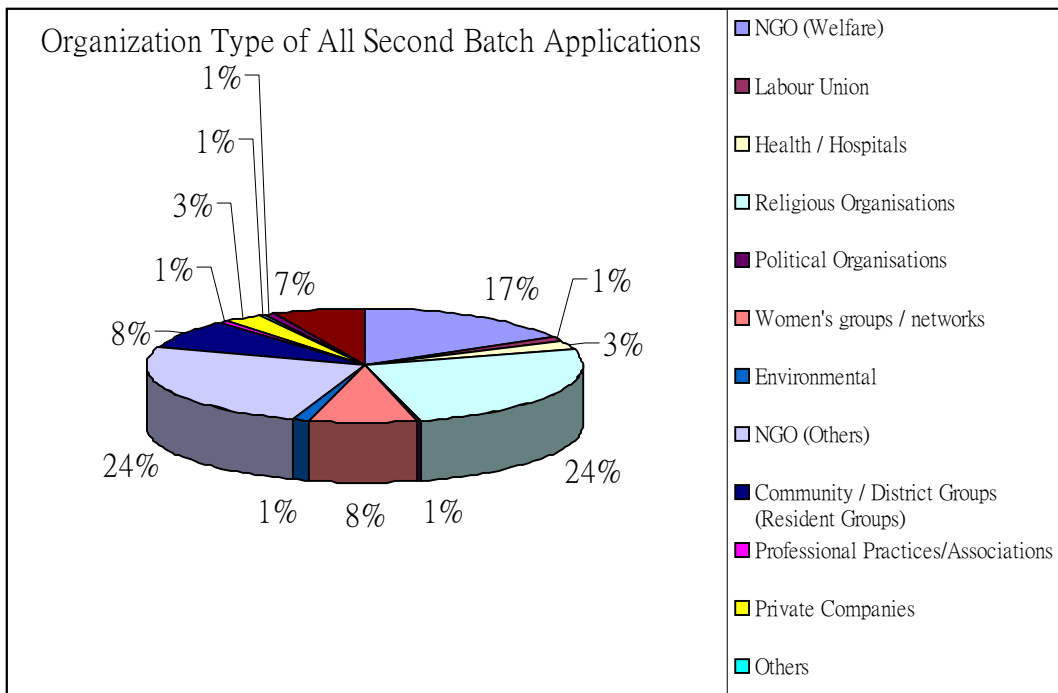
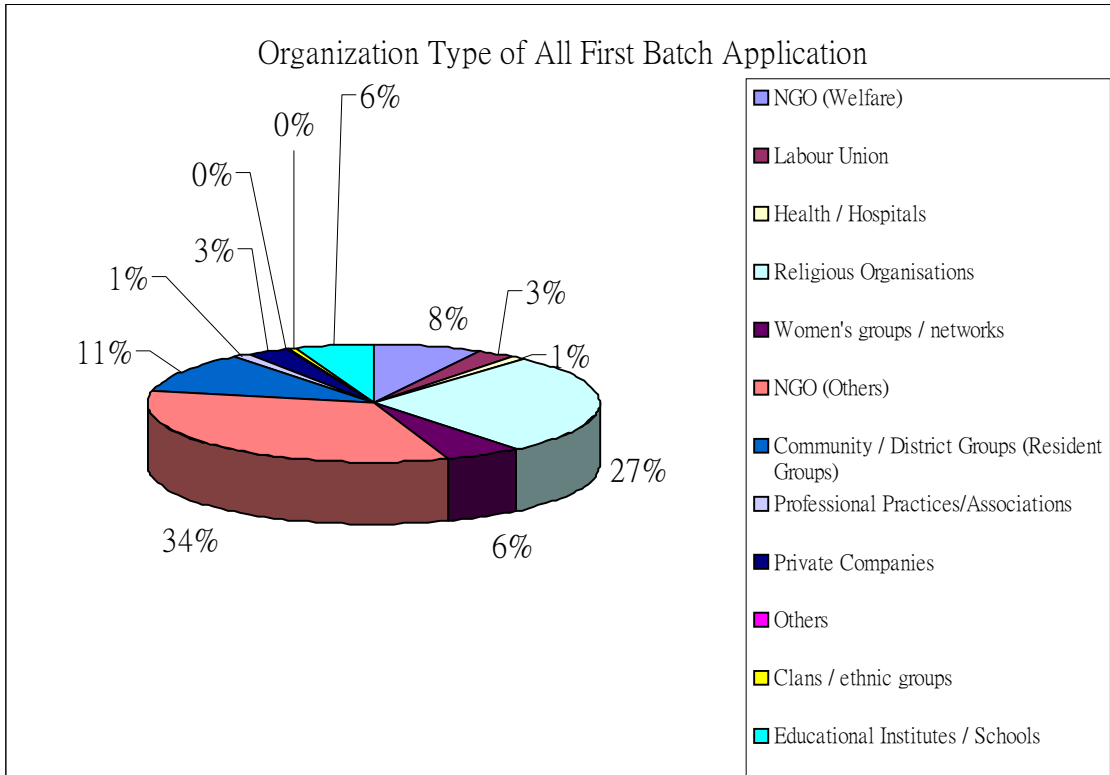
5) **An enabling and interactive approach :**

- Assistance to applicants through CIIF Partners – as a number of applicants needed help, around 50 CIIF Partners were recruited from various professional bodies and corporate societies to volunteer professional / mentoring advice to applicants on a request basis.
- Intensive dialogue with project applicants - The CIIF has engaged the participating agencies in various group and individual sessions to refocus project objectives and strategies away from simply delivering conventional services.

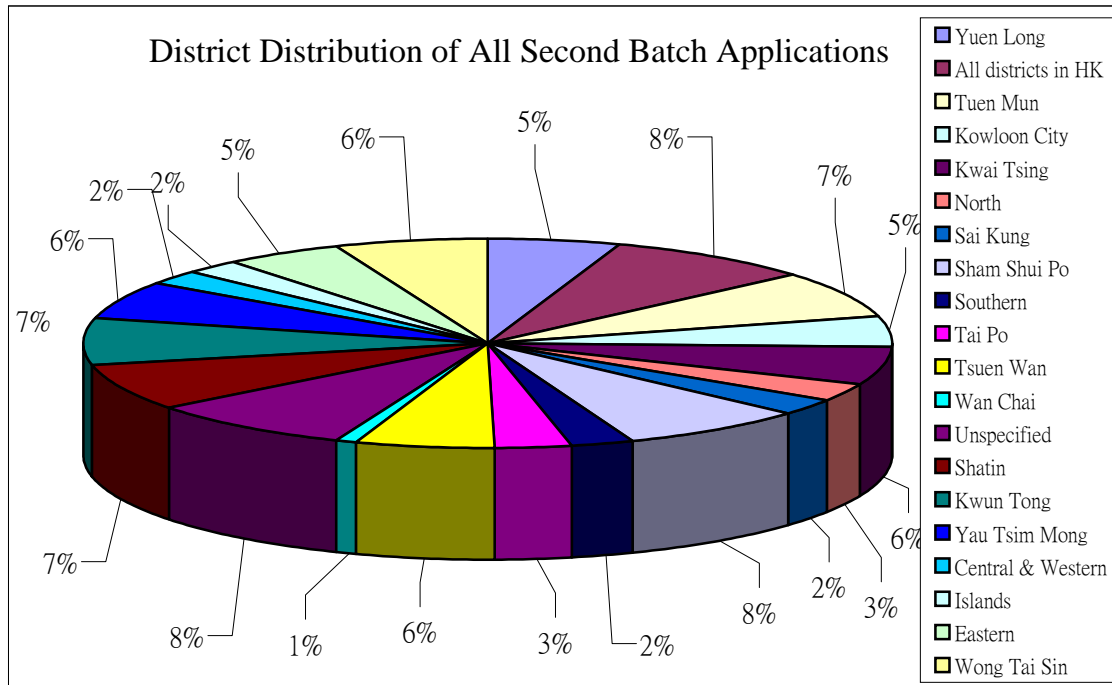
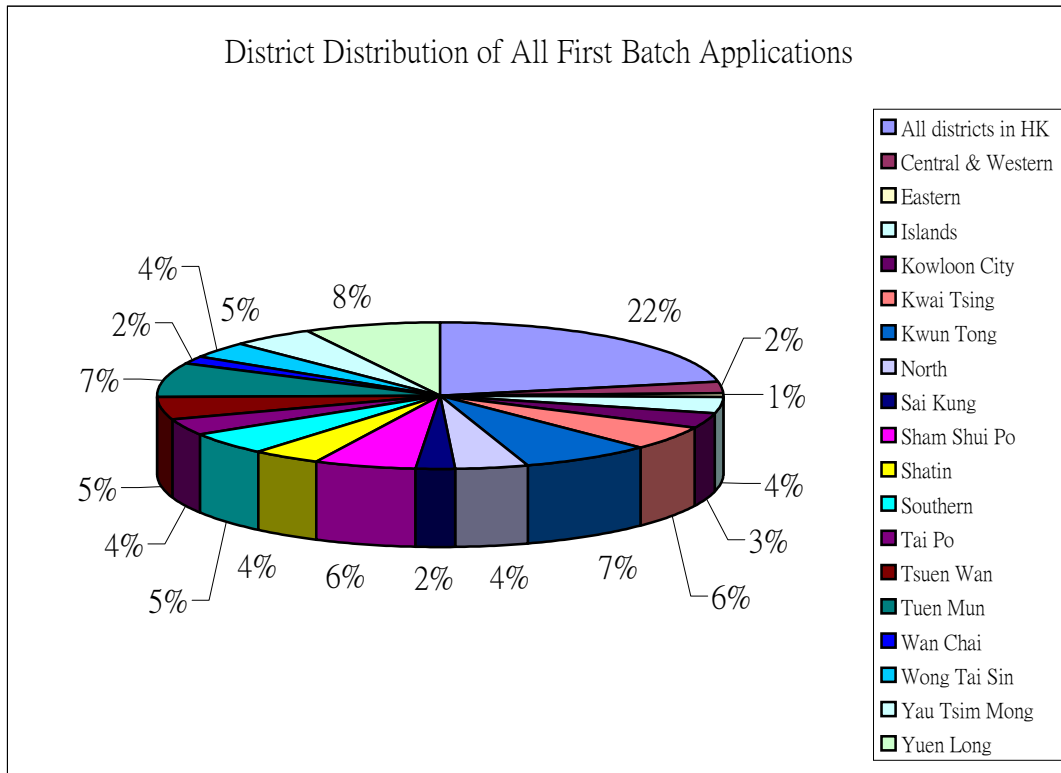
- ❑ Ensure continued focus on the project objectives during the implementation phase through site visits by the Committee Members and the Secretariat.
- ❑ Experience sharing is encouraged amongst the participating agencies through seminars and fora, regional and international networking.

Annex B

Charts on the breakdown by applicant organization types



Charts on the breakdown by districts



Map on Project Distributions (15.12.03)



Annex D**List of approved projects of the Community Investment and Inclusion Fund (to 15.12.03)****31 Projects for the First and Second Batches**

Category	Project No.	Project Name	Applicant Organization	Approved Amount
Network and resource building within specific communities as the base.	0069-01	Collaborating People in Tsuen Wan Rural Areas	The Yuen Yuen Institute	750,910 3 years
	0079-01	Sunny Community Program	Hong Kong Outlying Islands Women's Assoc., Jockey Club Women's Integrated Service Centre	1,045,800 3 years
	0100 / 0101-01	Caring Estates in Southern District	HK Southern District Women's Assoc.Ltd. and Aberdeen Kaifong Welfare Assoc. Social Service Centre	2,042,800 3 years
	0113-01	Community Care & Networking Programme for "Po Tin" Residents	Urban Peacemaker Evangelistic Fellowship	1,005,300 3 years
	0138-01	Community Alliance Project in Kwun Tong	Youth Kwun Tong	253,232 1 yr for review
	0002-02	Community Integration on Lamma Island	Hans Andersen Club Limited	1,513,000 3 years
	0056-02	Multi-ethnic Social Cohesion Project in Yuen Long	YL Town Hall Management Committee Ltd.	1,998,000 3 years
	0132-02	Our Home in the Water village - Tai O Community Networks	Tai O Resident's Concerned Group	250,000 1 yr for review

	0142-02	Community Network in Shatin	Shatin Women's Association Limited	300,000 1 yr for review
	0151-02	"Neighbourhood Cohesion and Mutual Help Network Project" in Lee On Estate	Ma On Shan Lee On Estate Residents' Association	300,000 3 years
Capacity building of specific marginalized, bridging and linking of groups from different social strata and background	0013-01	Mutual Help and Social Cohesion Project involving Ex-work Injured Workers	The Hong Kong Workers' Health Centre Ltd.	338,180 1 yr for review
	0015-01	Helping Others - Self Growing Project	Christian Concern for the Homeless Assoc.	579,600 3 years
	0091-01	It's All Because of You: Community Cohesion Project	Richmond Fellowship of Hong Kong	209,160 1 year
	0127-01	Cross Generational Community Integration Programme	SAGE Eastern District Multi-service Centre for the Elderly	264,600 1 year
	0133 / 0134-01	Retired Senior Volunteers' Association - Community Mutual Help Network Project	St James' Settlement	954,740 3 years
	0025-02	Empowerment Programme for Women in Tsing Yi	Hong Kong Women Christian Council	400,000 1 year for review
	0051-02	Project SASA -- South Asians Support Alliance	Hong Kong Christian Service	1,500,000 3 years
	0128-02	Forging a Better Tomorrow - A Self-help and Mutual-help Project for Multi-Ethnic	Sheng Kung Hui Lady MacLehose Centre	737,200 3 years

		Vulnerable Groups		
	0155-02	Support Programmes for SA Ethnic Minorities and Low-income Families	Yong Men's Christian Association of H.K.	1,248,800 3 years
	0097-01	Simple Home Repair Employment Scheme	Lok Kwan Social Service Ltd	574,936 2 years
	0140-01	Networking Home Fitting Workers for Better Community Cohesion	St. James' Settlement	333,700 3 years
Experiment with different service delivery models; new entry points and approaches to engage with specific groups	0017-01	Support for Caring Parents Project	Ching Fai Women Association	205,305 1 yr for review
	0023-01	Project to Promote Family Cohesion & More Colourful Family Life	Pok Oi Hospital Madam Chu Kok King Child Care Centre	189,630 2 years
	0070-01	Healthy Mothers - to-be' - A Women and Community Networking Project	Kwun Tong Methodist Social Service Grassroots Occupational Service Unit Healthy Mothers- to-be' Club	232,040 2 years
	0092-01	Space of Dream - Youth Employment Project in the North District	The Evangelical Lutheran Church of HK, North District Integrated Youth Service Centre	1,107,700 3 years
	0151-01	Family Service Ambassador Scheme, Caritas Family Service	Caritas - Hong Kong Family Service	599,700 3 years
	0078-02	PARACLETE - Care-and-Comfort Angel Promotion Project PARACLETE	S.K.H. Holy Carpenter Church Multi-service Centre For The Elderly	1,800,000 3 years

0090-02	The Journey of Birth-Prenatal & Postnatal Emotion Support and Community Network Project	The Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong	250,000 2 years
0106-02	Self and Mutual-help Resources Network	Self-help Development Centre	500,000 3 years
0116-02	Play in the Public Park	Playright Children's Play Association	250,000 1 yr for review
0157-02	Project RAGE - Responsible Action, Genuine Encounter	The University of HK - Department of Social Work & Social Administration and Department of Social Work, Chinese University of HK.	1,398,490 3 years

A Total of 31 Projects

23,132,823

Annex E

Brief description of the 3 clusters of projects selected to date

Each of the projects is unique, and they can be roughly categorized into three clusters, e.g.

- 1) Building up networks, resources and capabilities within specific communities – e.g.
 - The Caring Estate Project in Island South is different in that it is jointly implemented by an NGO with professional service experience and a Women's group with strong grass root connections. The project has been operating for 9 months and has already gained support from over 20 local resident groups and over 20 local businesses and built up a residents' volunteer team made up people of all ages.
 - The majority of local church and service organizations and the estate management have been mobilized into collaboration with the Grantee to engage the rather disconnected residents in implementing the Community Cohesion Project in Po Tin, one of the largest interim housing estates.
 - The Sunny Community Project in Tung Chung is based on a "co-operative" model, building on the contribution and commitment of a core volunteer team of 20 women and their families who previously felt isolated and unsupported within this new community.
 - A special feature of the Tsuen Wan Rural Network is mobilizing the involvement and resources of their village and community leaders.
 - The Community Alliance Project in Kwun Tong is special in that it is designed and implemented by a community group formed by young people to serve the wider community involving new immigrant and local groups.

- 2) Building up the capacity of various groups in marginalized or adverse circumstances – This cluster of projects serves to demonstrate that everyone has the potential to contribute, e.g.

- ❑ Ex-homeless people are actually the core support team in the “Helping Oneself to Help Others Project” for other homeless. Instead of continuing in a “helpless” or marginalized state, the ex-homeless people have become volunteer visitors and some have become team leaders joining with “ordinary” volunteers to offer help to other homeless instead.
 - ❑ A group of middle-aged unemployed women without formal qualifications or work experience have been empowered to turn their child rearing skills into paid jobs, helping other young mothers, earning a living, acquiring organizational skills on the job to develop a work-co-operative, while also helping to raise community awareness on addressing post-natal depression.
- 3) Experimenting with different service delivery models, new entry points and approaches to engage with specific groups, bridging and linking groups from different social strata and background, e.g.
- ❑ The “Colourful” Neighbourhood project in Tin Shui Wai involve new arrivals, not as service recipients but as volunteer helpers to local projects and teachers to some community learning programmes and interest classes.
 - ❑ Retirees are getting themselves organized and changing mindsets about their own ability and other older people’s ability to contribute to promote the community well being. The retirees are being formed into an association, helping to organize street level neighbourhood support networks for other elders.
 - ❑ Ex-family service users are becoming family ambassadors, using their own successful coping experience to assist other families in need.
 - ❑ Instead of a formal education or vocational training approach, the NT North mentoring project involves matching non-engaged youths with individual volunteer mentors who do not just transfer their skills but their life experience.