

**Legislative Council Panel on Welfare Services
Follow-up of the Meeting of 12 January 2015**

Supplementary Information regarding the Child Development Fund

At the meeting of the Panel on Welfare Services held on 12 January 2015, Members discussed the paper “Progress and Enhancement Measures of Child Development Fund Projects” and requested the Administration to provide (a) the ratio of Child Development Fund (CDF)’s target participants to the number of children in poverty; and (b) detailed information on the training programmes and activities organised by CDF operators. The requested information is set out in paragraphs 2 to 7 below.

(a) The number of CDF’s target participants and children in poverty

2. According to the statistics for the fourth quarter of 2014, 186 400 children aged between 10 and 16 may be eligible to join CDF projects.¹

3. According to the latest poverty statistics which are for 2013, after considering government recurrent cash intervention, there were 87 600 children aged between 10 and 16 living under the poverty line in 2013.

(b) Training programmes and activities organised by CDF operators

4. Throughout the 3-year CDF project period, CDF operators will organise various training programmes/activities for the participants, their parents/guardians and mentors.

5. To help CDF participants learn how to plan for their future and build up non-financial assets which are essential for their long-term development, various training sessions would be provided to them. The more common subjects being covered are self-awareness, financial management, social network building, interpersonal and communication skills, problem-solving skills, and career/life planning.

6. To help parents/guardians better understand their children and guide them complete their CDF projects, training programmes on the subjects of family relation, understanding the youth, communication skills, financial management and career/life planning are provided to parents/guardians.

¹ This refers to the number of persons aged 10-16 in domestic households (excluding foreign domestic helpers) with monthly household income less than or equal to 75% of median monthly household income (MMDHI) of the corresponding household size obtained from the General Household Survey in Q4 2014. Children of the same age group living in families receiving Comprehensive Social Security Assistance or full grant under the student finance schemes administered by the Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency may also join CDF projects, and the income limit of these schemes are generally below 75% of MMDHI.

7. Mentors play a key role in enhancing the life experience and broadening the horizon of CDF participants. They are provided with suitable training programmes covering communication skills, understanding the youth, emotional support skills, life coaching, etc.