



扶貧委員會高峰會

Commission on Poverty Summit

2013

扶貧委員會高峰會(高峰會)匯聚來自民間、商界及政府的專業知識、經驗及力量，為處理香港的貧窮問題集思廣益。

扶貧委員會(委員會)在二零一二年十二月重設後，隨即展開工作。委員會及轄下六個專責小組檢視各項現行措施，找出可即時予以改善的地方，並探討長遠的政策事宜。委員會和專責小組在過去十個月，與持份者進行了約30次探訪或會面。

首屆高峰會將公布首次正式為香港制訂貧窮線的細節，有助引導未來的扶貧工作及提供一個政策評估工具。在高峰會上，我們也會檢視委員會及六個專責小組的工作進度，並定出下年度的工作重點。

扶貧委員會 — 攜手合作 紓解貧窮

制訂貧窮線是扶貧委員會過去十個月的首要工作。委員會同意採用相對貧窮的概念，並以每月住戶收入中位數的一半作為劃定貧窮線的基準。貧窮線不但有助了解香港的貧窮情況，亦能提供數據以協助制訂政策及評估政府政策介入的成效。

委員會亦正在探討在職貧窮的問題。委員十分認同自力更生必須通過就業，因此正考慮如何加強支援一些沒有領取社會福利的在職貧窮家庭，特別是育有學齡兒童及青少年的家庭。

社會保障和退休保障專責小組

社會保障和退休保障專責小組除協助委員會制訂貧窮線外，也檢視了綜合社會保障援助(綜援)計劃的幾個方面和現有受助人的類別。專責小組堅信，應鼓勵有工作能力的綜援受助人“從受助走向自助”。因此，小組成員支持在關愛基金下推出試驗計劃，向約2 000名領取綜援的健全失業人士提供工作誘因，協助他們透過就業達致自力更生。

專責小組已委託由周永新教授領導的顧問團隊，研究現時的三根支柱退休保障制度是否足夠，並提出前瞻性建議。專責小組正檢視政府就傷殘津貼進行的檢討工作。小組成員認為，除了確保有需要人士能夠受惠外，任何有關傷殘津貼計劃的改動必須建基於一套貫徹一致、平等客觀和可持續的申請資格和評估制度之上。

教育、就業和培訓專責小組

教育、就業和培訓專責小組認為解決跨代貧窮的關鍵在於確保人人都有接受優質教育的機會。小組成員檢視過現行為清貧學生提供的資助後，同意透過關愛基金及早提供支援，在二零一三/一四學年將學校書簿津貼計劃下的定額學習開支津貼提高一倍，並為副學位以下程度課程的學生設立發還學費機制。這些措施可令超過356 000名學生受惠。

年輕人須有從事優質工作的機會，才能夠向上流動。專責小組曾探討如何吸引年輕人投身具前景的職業技能行業，同時紓緩這些行業人手短缺的情況。就此，專責小組正研究推行一項由政府、職業訓練局和商界三方協作，並結合職業訓練、就業輔導和在職支援的試驗計劃。

特別需要社羣專責小組

特別需要社羣專責小組深信教育和就業是達致社會共融的途徑。小組成員正考慮如何透過職業訓練提升殘疾人士的就業能力，並探討如何加強支援公開就業的殘疾人士，包括支持《有能者·聘之約章》及共融機構嘉許

計劃以推動各界聘用殘疾人士。此外，專責小組正研究協助少數族裔兒童在本地學校更有效地學習中文，研究涵蓋及早介入服務、調適課程和水平測試工具、學校及家長支援，以及教師培訓等範疇。

為協助單親家長在工作與家庭之間取得平衡，專責小組正考慮如何優化鄰里支援照顧幼兒服務。至於從內地來港的新移民，專責小組會研究現有的培訓機構能否滿足他們的培訓/再培訓需要。

社會參與專責小組

商界、專業團體及其他界別一直積極配合政府在扶貧方面的工作。為整合這些來自民間的扶貧力量，社會參與專責小組與香港社會服務聯會合作推出以清貧青少年為目標羣組的“明日之星”計劃，透過三個項目，協助青少年順利由學校過渡到職場，鼓勵他們計劃未來，並獎勵自強不息的學生。

專責小組現正籌備明年年初開展的全港宣傳活動，活動為期六個月，旨在推廣互助關愛精神，動員來自不同界別的個人及機構，各盡所能協助社會上有需要的人士。專責小組亦計劃設立網站，分享由商界及專業界別，以及社福界舉辦的扶貧活動的資訊。

關愛基金專責小組

關愛基金在二零一一年年初成立，至今已通過落實24個援助項目，其中六個由重設的扶貧委員會審批。總承擔額超過29億元，令二十多萬人受惠。秉承關愛基金為有需要人士提供及時和針對性援助的宗旨，關愛基金專責小組建議修訂部分現有項目的資格準則，以期令更多有需要的人士受惠。到目前為止，三個基金項目已恆常化，即由政府納入常規項目持續推行。因應政府的資源情況，其他已證明具顯著扶貧效果或能切合目標受惠群組需要的項目亦會恆常化。

今年六月，經立法會財務委員會的批准後，政府向關愛基金額外注資150億元，以加強推動扶貧工作，並強化

基金補漏拾遺的功能。關愛基金專責小組會繼續與其他專責小組合作，擬訂更多支援弱勢社羣和基層家庭的項目。其中一項研究中的試行項目是護老者津貼。

社會創新及創業發展基金專責小組

首屆扶貧委員會高峰會將宣布推出社會創新及創業發展基金(社創基金)，透過提供5億元種子基金，鼓勵創業人士以創新方式解決社會問題。社創基金專責小組已在今年年中完成市場意向調查，接觸二千多名持份者，除加深他們對社創基金的基本了解外，也就如何通過中介機構推動社會創新蒐集他們的意見。社創基金專責小組會根據調查所得，着手籌備在今年第四季以公開邀請方式招聘首批中介機構。

此外，社創基金正探討推行旗艦計劃，提供平台以加強和統籌為貧困人士提供食物援助服務。小組成員也正考慮委聘顧問，研究進一步落實社創基金的各項目標。推廣社創基金的專設網站現已投入運作，可供公眾瀏覽。

下一步工作

貧窮是個深層次問題，需要時間及持續努力才得以根本解決。過去十個月，我們在扶貧工作取得了一些實際及具意義的進展，但接下來仍有相當多的工作。扶貧委員會及專責小組會根據貧窮線的分析及在今次高峰會收集所得的意見，重新考慮和訂出未來各項工作的緩急次序。我們會繼續推動政府和社會各界羣策羣力，做好扶貧工作。

如有興趣參閱有關香港貧窮情況的技術報告、關愛基金項目小冊子，以及扶貧委員會及其專責小組的成員和職責，請瀏覽扶貧委員會網頁，網址為www.povertyrelief.gov.hk。

2013年9月



The Commission on Poverty Summit (Summit) brings together expertise, experience and energy from community groups, business sector and Government to tackle poverty in Hong Kong.

After its reinstatement in December 2012, the Commission on Poverty (Commission) swiftly sprang into action. Wasting no time, the Commission and its six Task Forces have reviewed existing measures, identified areas where immediate improvements can be made and studied longer term policy issues. In the past ten months, the Commission and its Task Force conducted some 30 visits or meetings with stakeholders.

This inaugural Summit will release details of the poverty line, set officially for the first time in Hong Kong. This will help guide poverty alleviation work and provide a policy evaluation tool. In the Summit, we will also review the work of the Commission and its six Task Forces to date and identify further work priorities for the coming year.

Commission on Poverty – Working together to tackle poverty

The poverty line has topped the Commission's agenda in the past ten months. Adopting the concept of relative poverty and pitching it at half of the monthly median household income, the poverty line helps everyone understand Hong Kong's poverty situation, facilitate evidence-based policy making and measure the effectiveness of policy interventions.

The Commission is also studying the issue of the working poor. Sharing a strong consensus on achieving self-reliance through employment, the Commission is considering how best to strengthen support for working poor families not on welfare, particularly those families with school-aged children and youth.

Social Security and Retirement Protection Task Force (SSRPTF)

Apart from supporting the Commission in formulating the poverty line, the SSRPTF has reviewed certain aspects of the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme and the profile of existing recipients. The SSRPTF firmly believes that for CSSA recipients who can work, we should promote the policy of "From Welfare to Self-reliance". Members support launching a pilot project under the Community Care Fund (CCF) to provide incentives to some 2 000 able-bodied unemployed persons on CSSA to springboard to employment and achieve self-reliance.

The SSRPTF has also commissioned a consultancy study led by Professor Nelson Chow to assess the adequacy of the existing three pillar system for retirement protection and map out proposals for the future. The SSRPTF is monitoring the Government's review on the Disability Allowance (DA). Members consider that while ensuring those in need can enjoy the benefit, any changes to the DA scheme have to be supported by an eligibility and assessment system that is consistent, equitable, objective and sustainable.

Education, Employment and Training Task Force (EETTF)

The EETTF considers that equal opportunity to quality education is the key to tackling the risk of inter-generational poverty. After reviewing existing financial assistance for needy students, members have agreed to provide early assistance by tapping the CCF to double the flat rate grant under the School Textbook Assistance Scheme and reimburse course fees for below sub-degree programmes in the 2013/14 academic year to benefit over 356 000 students.

Young people need quality jobs for upward mobility. The EETTF has considered how to attract young people to join

promising vocational trades while relieving the manpower shortage in these trades. A pilot programme integrating vocational education, job placement and employment support under the tripartite partnership of the Government, the Vocational Training Council and the business sector is being explored.

Special Needs Groups Task Force (SNGTF)

The SNGTF strongly believes in achieving social integration through education and employment. Members are considering how to increase the employability of persons with disabilities through vocational training services and strengthen support services for persons with disabilities in open employment. In particular, the SNGTF has supported the Talent-Wise Employment Charter and Inclusive Organisations Recognition Scheme to mobilise different sectors to further promote the employment of persons with disabilities. The SNGTF is also studying how to help ethnic minority children to learn Chinese more effectively at local schools. Early intervention, adapted curriculum and standard assessment tools, school and parental support as well as teacher training are areas being considered.

To help single parents balance work and family, the SNGTF is considering ways to enhance the Neighbourhood Support Child Care Project. For new arrivals from the Mainland, the SNGTF will consider whether their training/retraining needs are adequately met by existing training bodies.

Societal Engagement Task Force (SETF)

The business, professional and other sectors have been complementing Government's efforts in poverty alleviation. To consolidate these non-governmental efforts, the SETF in co-operation with the Hong Kong Council of Social Service has formulated the "Future Stars" programme. Targeted at young people from disadvantaged backgrounds, "Future

Stars" comprises three initiatives to help smooth young people's transition from school to work, encourage them to plan for their future and reward those students who have displayed resilience and ability.

The SETF will launch a six-month territory-wide publicity campaign early next year to promote the spirit of mutual help and care and mobilise different sectors (individuals and corporates) to help the needy through their own means. As part of the campaign, the SETF will launch a portal for sharing information about poverty alleviation activities organised by business and professional sectors as well as welfare bodies.

Community Care Fund Task Force (CCFTF)

Since its establishment in early 2011, the CCF has endorsed for implementation a total of 24 assistance programmes, six of which were approved by the reinstated Commission. Total commitments exceed \$2.9 billion and these programmes are benefitting over 200 000 people. In line with its mission to offer targeted assistance in a timely manner, the CCFTF has proposed revisions to the eligibility criteria of some existing programmes to benefit more in need. To date, three programmes have been regularised, that is, to be provided on an ongoing basis by Government. Subject to the Government's resource availability, some other programmes which are proven to have effective poverty alleviation impact or are meeting the needs of the target beneficiaries will be regularised.

In June this year, with the approval of Finance Committee of the Legislative Council, the Government injected an additional \$15 billion into the CCF to strengthen poverty alleviation efforts and enhance the CCF's capacity to plug the gaps in the existing system. The CCFTF will continue to draw up more programmes in collaboration with other Task Forces to further assist the underprivileged and low-income families. One area being looked into is a pilot scheme of providing allowance to carers of the elderly.

Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Fund Task Force (SIEDFTF)

The Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Fund (SIE Fund) will be launched at the inaugural Summit with seed money of \$500 million to encourage entrepreneurs to resolve social problems through an innovative approach. The SIEDFTF completed a Market Sounding Exercise (MSE) in mid-2013, during which more than 2 000 stakeholders were approached, to promote general awareness of the SIE Fund and solicit views on how to drive social innovation through the use of intermediaries. Based on the MSE findings, the SIEDFTF is preparing an open invitation exercise in the last quarter of 2013 for the first tranche of intermediaries.

The SIE Fund is exploring a flagship project to provide a platform to strengthen and co-ordinate food assistance services to disadvantaged groups. Members are also considering research to be commissioned to further the objectives of the SIE Fund. A dedicated website has been launched to promote the SIE Fund.

Next Steps

Poverty is a deep-rooted problem that takes time and ongoing effort to combat. We have made some practical and meaningful progress over the past ten months. But there is still much more to do. Based on the poverty line analyses and views received during the inaugural Summit, the Commission and its Task Forces will revisit and firm up priorities in the years ahead. We will continue to make concerted efforts across the Government and community to help ensure more significant progress is made.

For details of the technical report on Hong Kong's poverty situation, the booklet on CCF programmes as well as the composition and functions of the Commission and its Task Forces, please visit our dedicated website www.povertyrelief.gov.hk.

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