“How to End Hunger by Community Engagement?”
– Report Back Session on “Study visit to U.S.A. on Food Assistance

Policy advocacy to end hunger: implications to Hong Kong

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Content

1) Poverty Situation in Hong Kong
2) Policy Advocacy to end hunger in U.S. - survey on Food Insecurity
3) Discussion - Roles of food assistance in poverty alleviation
Poverty Situation in Hong Kong (1)

The Poverty Line set at 50% of median household income. Post-intervention – recurrent cash refers to the household income after tax, including recurrent cash benefits received.

In 2013,

Poverty population

972,000

Poverty rate

14.5%

(Post-intervention recurrent cash)

### Poverty Situation in Hong Kong (2)

*Selected socio-economic characteristics of districts with higher-than-overall poverty rates, 2013*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Elderly poverty rate</th>
<th>Child poverty rate</th>
<th>Share of non-CSSA working poor-persons</th>
<th>Share of non-CSSA unemployed poor persons</th>
<th>Share of CSSA household-holds</th>
<th>Share of single-parent household-holds</th>
<th>Share of new-arrival household-holds</th>
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<tr>
<td>Overall</td>
<td>30.5%</td>
<td>18.6%</td>
<td>4.7%</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
<td>8.0%</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: HKSAR Govt (2014) Hong Kong Poverty Situation Report 2013*
Poverty Situation in Hong Kong (3)
Need for Food Assistance – food burden

Low expenditure groups had to spend greater portion of their total expenditure on food, when compared to other expenditure groups.

Source: Census and Statistics Department, HKSAR government
Analysis: HKCSS
Poverty Situation in Hong Kong (4)
Low expenditure households: Squeezing food expenditure

1-person Households: Household Expenditure Patterns by Expenditure Groups, 2009/2010

Food expenditure: “first rise and then drop”

Source: Census and Statistics Department, HKSAR government  Analysis: HKCSS
The food expenditure of the lowest 5% expenditure group of 1-person household was at extremely low level.

Example:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenditure group</th>
<th>All HHDs $HKD</th>
<th>Lowest 5% $HKD</th>
<th>5-10% $HKD</th>
<th>10-15% $HKD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Food Expenditure</td>
<td>2,967 (22.4%)</td>
<td>$873 (42.8%)</td>
<td>$1,497 (49.6%)</td>
<td>$1,680 (47.3%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Average monthly expenditure on food (per person) of public assistance recipients: $HKD 1161

Source: Census and Statistics Department, HKSAR government
Analysis: HKCSS
Poverty Situation in Hong Kong (6)
households in private housing were more deprived

1-person household
Lowest 50% expenditure group
Monthly Household Expenditure of households
(2009/2010) ($HKD)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>living in private housing</th>
<th>living in public housing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Food expenditure (% to total)</td>
<td>1,786 (24.4%)</td>
<td>1,987 (45.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing expenditure (% to total)</td>
<td>3,849 (52.6%)</td>
<td>856 (19.5%)</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Source: Census and Statistics Department, HKSAR government  Analysis: HKCSS
The goal is to **End Hunger**.

The work is to strengthening the community to serve those most in need.
Who are the most in need? – People in Food Insecurity

**Food security**
- all people in a household having enough food for an active healthy life at all times.

**Food Insecurity**
In 2012,
- more than 1 in 7 US households (18 million, or 15 percent) experienced food insecurity at some time during the year.
- experienced limited or uncertain access to adequate food, including reduced quality, variety, or desirability of diet.
- about 7 million of these households had members who went hungry or skipped meals, an indication of very low food security.

Source: Atlanta Community Food Bank & Feeding America
8 Impossible Choices
People Who Can't Afford Food Make Every Day
- The Huffington Post (Oct 23, 2014)

① Feel Hungry or Fill up on Cheap Fatty Foods

② Go to the Doctor or Fill the Fridge

① Enjoy a Meal or Water it Down to Make it Last

② Eat Food That’s Expired or Nothing at All
8 Impossible Choices
People Who Can't Afford Food Make Every Day
- The Huffington Post (Oct 23, 2014)

5. Pay Utility Bills or Put Food on the Table

6. Pay for Housing or Ease Hunger Pang

7. Get an Education or Eat

8. Pay for Transportation or Some Food
Choosing between **Food** and other necessities

**Figure 14.** Client Households Reporting Frequency of Choosing between Food and Other Necessities in the Past 12 Months
On health and food nutrition,

- 86% of households report purchasing inexpensive, unhealthy food because they could not afford healthier options.
- 73% of households report having to choose between paying for food and paying for medicine or medical care.
- 40% of households include a member with diabetes.
At local level,

62% more food stamp recipients in Georgia over the past 3 years. (GA DHR 2012)

16.7% of the people living in ACFB’s service area in metro Atlanta and north Georgia are food insecure. (Feeding America, 2013)

One out of every 10 senior citizens in Georgia lives in poverty. (U.S. Census Bureau, 2013)

More than 1 in every 4 Georgia children are food insecure — 28.1%. That’s over 700,000 children under age 18. (Feeding America, 2014)
At federal level,

Monitoring the countries food insecurity rate
Get people connected to the safety net

1. Identify and monitor the food insecurity situation

Community food banks and food assistance programs

2. Connect those in need with the safety net
Connect to federal food and nutrition assistance programs

6 in 10 (59 percent) food-insecure households participate in 1 or more of the 3 largest federal food and nutrition assistance programs:

- the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP);
- the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC);
- National School Lunch Program (NSLP).
Table 5. Agencies Providing Services Related to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Subtypes of Services Offered

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of SNAP service</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agencies that provide any SNAP-related services</td>
<td>45.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Application assistance</td>
<td>30.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education about the program</td>
<td>38.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recertification for the program</td>
<td>21.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Screening for eligibility</td>
<td>31.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agencies that do not provide any SNAP-related services</td>
<td>54.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total weighted agencies</td>
<td>454</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weighted nonreporting agencies</td>
<td>2</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Data Source: Hunger in America 2014 Agency Survey, Q10.

Notes: Because the survey allowed respondents to mark all SNAP services they provide, percentages do not sum to the total percentage that provide any SNAP services. All data are weighted.
Provide assistance for those not included in the safety net

- Federal nutrition assistance programs do not reach everyone at risk of hunger in the United States.
- An estimated 27 percent of the food-insecure population in 2012 had household incomes above the standard eligibility thresholds for federal nutrition assistance programs.
- For these individuals and families, charitable food assistance may be the only available source of support.
Provide (more than food) other support to families in need

Educate elected officials on the impact of food insecurity in their communities and identify and advance policy solutions to put struggling families on the road to healthy, hunger-free lives.

Our public policy goals are based on our values and mission. Together, we are working to ensure that:

- No child is at risk of hunger.
- People can get help during hard times.
- Food banks are well stocked to help those in need.
- Families have a solid foundation by having access to nutritious food.
Provide support that are “more than food”

With donors,

- Individual food banks also independently solicit food and financial donations from a variety of sources, including, but not limited to, regional manufacturers, retailers, and businesses.

With other charity groups,

- Each food bank works with a network of partner agencies to support local hunger relief programs by distributing food, helping clients access federal nutrition programs, and raising awareness about the scope of hunger within its service areas.
- Partner agencies may also offer additional services, such as the distribution of donated clothing or furniture, job-training or literacy programs, or nutrition education.
The roles of community food banks and food assistance programs

1. Identify and monitor the food insecurity situation
2. Connect those in need with federal programs
3. Provide assistance for those not included in the safety net
4. Provide (more than food) other support to families in need

Community food banks and food assistance programs

The goal is to End Hunger.
Discussion: Role & functions performed by food assistance

- End hunger and poverty alleviation
- Support to those in the gaps of the present safety net
- From providing emergency support to promoting capacity building of clients
- Promoting mutual help in community and building community support network

➔ Strengthening the community to serve the families in need

◆ By 2013: 63 food programs with 512 food distribution points in operation.

Website: Food Assistance Service in Hong Kong
Different roles of food assistance programs?

Food
- Collecting donations in cash or food from businesses and individuals
- Dealing with food
  - safety
  - quantity (sustainability)
  - nutrition
- Establish distributing points and network

Intermediates
- Identify people in need
  - evaluating needs
  - provide assistance via different services

Service users
- Needs more than food
Discussion: Role & functions performed by food assistance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Function Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Poverty Alleviation</td>
<td>Providing emergency support / relieving the hardship and difficulties they faced because of present policy and service gaps.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty Reduction</td>
<td>Enhancing the capacity of individuals including their social and economic participation e.g. in form of building up their social capital.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prevention</td>
<td>Building up and strengthen the mutual support platform to enhance community capacity to solve problems in districts e.g. asset based community building.</td>
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</table>
Discussion: Role & functions performed by food assistance

the Food Chain:

Food

Food Sourcing & Delivery
Research
Information & IT Support
Information & Education

Effective Food program in operation
Innovation
Volunteers’ mobilization

etc…
Thank you!