

Oxfam Hong Kong (OHK) has been working to alleviate poverty in Hong Kong for more than 20 years. We have adopted a sustainable and holistic approach, or what we call a ‘one programme approach’, to achieve our goals in poverty alleviation. Some of the elements in this approach include:

Development programmes

We offer tools to those in need to improve their lives and livelihoods, in particular families with children that live in subdivided flats, elderly people, the working poor, women, and ethnic minorities.

Policy research and advocacy

We conduct research to analyse and gain an in-depth understanding of the root causes of poverty, and lobby the government and different parts of society to advocate for pro-poor policies.

Public education

We encourage the community to learn about local and international poverty issues, develop empathy and adopt innovative methods to fight against poverty.



HOW OHK WORKS

- 1 We apply our international and local experience to our poverty alleviation work and adopt a rights-based approach.
- 2 We partner with different groups across society to fight poverty by funding their initiatives.
- 3 We collect and analyse data to gain a comprehensive understanding of the reality of poverty in Hong Kong.



DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

Families with Children in Subdivided Flats

In recent years, subdivided flats have seemed to become synonymous with poverty in Hong Kong. With cramped living spaces that often lack the basics and growing problems caused by climate change, children living in these flats are facing issues that are detrimental to their growth.

Our Work

- Offer meal kits and nutrition knowledge for low-income groups during COVID
- Offer academic support and mini storage spaces for families that live in subdivided flats so children have more space to learn at home



Elderly People

According to the Hong Kong Poverty Situation Report 2019 released by the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, one in three elderly people lives in poverty. OHK has been and will continue advocating for improved healthcare and retirement protection for this population.

Our Work

- Urge the government to increase the provision of community primary medical services and provide retirement protection
- Support elderly people who live alone by providing nutritious food and health education



Women From Low-Income Households

Many women from low-income households experience difficulty finding work because they are often responsible for taking care of their family members. And with the lack of support and resources within the community, they experience immense pressure.

Our Work

- Organise community bazaars to improve women's incomes
- Empower neighbours to become caregivers and supporters through Concerning Home Care Service Alliance's 'service matching' scheme



Ethnic Minorities

Many ethnic minority students find it difficult to learn Chinese. This often leaves them with less access to the educational opportunities compared to their Chinese-speaking counterparts. This can limit their career options to non-technical, low-paying and unstable work, and fuel intergenerational poverty.

Our Work

- Implement 'Start from the Beginning – Chinese Supporting Scheme for Non-Chinese Speaking Students in Kindergarten'; support one-third of all kindergartens that admit non-Chinese speaking children
- Provide employment assistance, including vocational training and job matching



POLICY RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY

Hong Kong Poverty Report

We at OHK regularly release a report that looks at poverty in Hong Kong based on our research and analysis. We also form policy asks that take reference from our experience of alleviating poverty around the world.

Key Reports:

- Hong Kong Poverty Report: COVID-19's Effects on Unemployment and the Poor
- Hong Kong Poverty Report
- Hong Kong Inequality Report



Working Poverty

Employment does not guarantee the eradication of poverty. Earning minimum wage causes problems because it is not enough to meet a worker's basic needs. This in turn has left many in working poverty.



Policy asks:

- Urge the government to offer long-term unemployment assistance to provide a safety net for families facing unemployment
- Better protect outsourced government workers, especially the health and safety of street cleaners during COVID-19

Corporate Social Responsibility

OHK is committed to enhancing the quality of listed companies' environmental, social and governance (ESG) disclosures, and calls on all companies to act responsibly towards workers, consumers, communities and the environment.

Key Reports:

- Hang Seng Index Constituents Corporate Social Responsibility Transparency Survey



Living Wage

Seeing the shortfalls of the minimum wage, OHK published the first research report on living wage in Hong Kong in 2018, and proposed a living wage level that could meet the daily needs of families. Hong Kong is the only region in Asia that promotes a living wage.

OHK is committed to encouraging employers to join the living wage movement. By signing and implementing the Living Wage Charter, employers are accredited and they agree to pay their employees a living wage, which ensures employees and their family members' basic needs are met.

We actively participate in the global living wage movement, take reference from other countries, and learn from others by listening to their experiences.



Climate Change



Extreme weather affects all, but it is particularly detrimental to the poorest who are least equipped to cope with it. It has affected many people in Hong Kong too, like low-income workers (especially those who work outdoors), those who live in subdivided flats, and street sleepers. We at OHK have been advocating for policies that fight against climate change and poverty since 2007.

We have also been raising awareness about climate change and poverty. In 2021, OHK published two research reports: 'Impacts of extreme heat on street cleaners' and 'Impacts of extreme weather on subdivided flat residents'. In these reports, we urged the government to enhance low-income citizens' ability to adapt to climate change.

Our Work

- Analyse the impact of climate change on low-income groups and propose solutions to the government
- Raise awareness among students about climate change's effects on the poor, and encourage climate action to support the poorest

