

Commission on Poverty (CoP)

Task Force on District-based Approach - Updates

PURPOSE

At the last meeting of the Task Force on District-based Approach (the Task Force) on 15 March 2006, Members were briefed on the progress in providing additional funds to support district-based approach to poverty alleviation, and agreed to commission a baseline study to examine the best-practices and supportive framework in promoting poverty alleviation work in a sustainable manner at district level. This paper updates Members on the progress of the two initiatives.

“Enhancing Self-Reliance Through District Partnership Programme”

2. Based on the principles and criteria endorsed by the Task Force at the meeting on 21 January 2006, the Home Affairs Department (HAD) has developed a set of detailed funding guidelines which cover the objectives and selection criteria of the fund, the financial arrangements and the monitoring mechanism for successful applications. A presentation on the programme will be made at the meeting. The guidelines will be tabled at the meeting for Members’ reference.

Study on District-based Support for the Disadvantaged

3. A background note which sets out the research objectives, targets and methods is at *Annex* for Members’ reference.

The CoP Task Force on District-based Approach

"From Poverty Alleviation to Community Resiliency" – Study on District-based Support for the Disadvantaged

1. Background

At the meeting on 15 March 2006, the CoP Task Force on District-based Approach (The Task Force) discussed the report of “From Welfare to Self-reliance” District Study on Employment Assistance¹ and confirmed that the strengthening of district networking and co-ordination could effectively provide the necessary employment support services to the unemployed. In this connection, the Task Force agreed to engage an independent researcher to conduct another study entitled "From Poverty Alleviation to Community Resiliency" - Study on District-based Support for the Disadvantaged in three pilot districts, namely Sham Shui Po, Yuen Long and Kwun Tong. The main objectives of the Study are to collect information on the best practices of implementation and co-ordination of poverty alleviation work at district level in order to facilitate the Task Force to set directions for the district-based approach in alleviating poverty.

2. Objectives of the Study

The main objectives of the study are to collect information on the best practices of implementation and co-ordination of poverty alleviation work at district level, including :

- 2.1 The setting of priorities in poverty alleviation work at district level;
- 2.2 The different modes of services of poverty alleviation work at district level;
- 2.3 The mechanism of co-ordination between policy makers and service providers at district level and its operation.

¹ “From Welfare to Self-reliance” District Study on Employment Assistance’ was conducted in the three pilot districts, namely Sham Shui Po, Yuen Long (including Tin Tsui Wai) and Kwun Tong. The full text of the study is available at the website <http://www.cop.gov.hk/b5/news.htm>.

3. Study Samples

The Study will mainly be conducted in the three pilot districts, namely Sham Shui Po, Yuen Long and Kwun Tong. In order to draw a holistic picture of how to promote poverty alleviation work at the district level, the main target groups of the survey will be the relevant policy makers and service providers, including district officials, District Council members, district leaders, representatives from various organisations, and the staff of non-governmental organisations.

4. Methodology

The Study will adopt a qualitative and quantitative approach. Reference has been drawn to the previous poverty alleviation work in the three pilot districts, and their progress reports submitted to the Task Force in March. We are now planning to conduct from June to September 2006 a qualitative study for the next phase, and to study in depth the district poverty alleviation work through focus group discussions. The focus group discussions will include three main areas: [1] key priorities of district poverty alleviation; [2] mode of implementing poverty alleviation work at the district level; and [3] co-ordination mechanism for implementing district poverty alleviation work and its operation. After that, we will first review the preliminary findings of the Study, and conduct research work for the subsequent phases so as to collect further views from the relevant policy makers and service providers on district support for the disadvantaged.