



FOOD-CO
SAVE & SHARE 惜食共享



Executive Summary of Baseline Study

1. Background

In 2016, the SIE Fund has engaged St. James' Settlement (SJS) as the intermediary to launch its first Food Support Flagship Project (Flagship Project), FOOD-CO, in capacity building to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of food support services in Hong Kong. SJS is responsible for designing, building and operating an inclusive platform for the food support service sector to coordinate information sharing on the demand and supply of food items and related services. The platform covers best practices sharing among stakeholders and public awareness-raising work about food support services in Hong Kong. The platform has launched as a pilot in three districts starting in May 2017 and will be extended to cover all 18 districts in Hong Kong by mid-2019.

One of the major scope of works of FOOD-CO is to conduct social impact assessment in form of a benchmark survey on baseline assessment for examining the current situation of the food support services in Hong Kong. Policy 21 Ltd was commissioned to conduct the Survey.

2. Objectives of the baseline study

The key objectives of the Survey are as follows:

- (a) to examine the current situation of the food support services; and
- (b) to collect views from the service recipients; and
- (c) to identify any geographical gaps and unmet demand of services.

3. Operation definition

Different service points are currently running different food support services. The operation definition of these services in this Survey are as follows:

- (a) *Hot meal service*
 - (i) to provide hot meals (hereafter “hot meals”); or
 - (ii) to distribute edible food surplus collected from food donors (“edible food surplus”); or
 - (iii) to distribute food coupons which the service users can redeem meals in restaurants or canteen (“food coupons”)

to the service recipients during the period from April to July 2016.

(b) *Food bank*

- (i) to distribute food items, usually dry food (such as rice, bread, noodle, food cans and groceries), non-perishable food packs, food coupons (e.g. for purchase of food at supermarkets or market stalls) to the service recipients during the period from April to July 2016.

(c) *Discount market and bulk purchase services*

- (i) to offer food items (and other necessities) at discounted prices to the service recipients; or
- (ii) to organise a group of service recipients to purchase the food items (and other necessities) directly from wholesalers or manufacturers in bulk quantities at a lower price during the period from April to July 2016.

(d) *Food recovery services*

- (i) to provide meals to service recipients; or
- (ii) to re-distribute food packs to service recipients; or
- (iii) to distribute the collected food to other service points during the period from April to July 2016.

4. Method of Collection

- (a) The coverage of the Survey was all the service points providing food support services and their service recipients.
- (b) Noting that the list of service points providing food support services is not readily available, desktop research was conducted to thoroughly examine the government official statistics, annual reports of NGOs, and the information available online so as to compile a comprehensive list of service points.
- (c) Full enumeration is adopted for collecting statistics and views from the service points.

5. Enumeration Result

(a) The Survey was conducted during the period from 17 October 2016 to 25 January 2017

Table 5.1 Enumeration results of service points

	Number
Identification stage	
Total number of service points in the list	535
Invalid service points [(i) + (ii)]	54
(i) Closed	38
(ii) Duplicated	16
Interview stage	
Total number of service points identified after the fieldwork	481
Successful case [(a)+(b)]	306
(a) Enumerated and the service points provided direct food support services	161
(b) Enumerated but the service points did not provide direct food support services	145
(i) Did not provide any food support services currently and the previous food support projects were completed	43
(ii) For assessment and referral of service recipients	54
(iii) Provided venues for food support services only	1
(iv) Provided storage for food support services only	1
(v) Never provided the food support services	46
Unsuccessful case [(c)+(d)]	175
(c) No reply	96
(d) Refusal	79
Response Rate [(a)+(b)]/481	63.6%

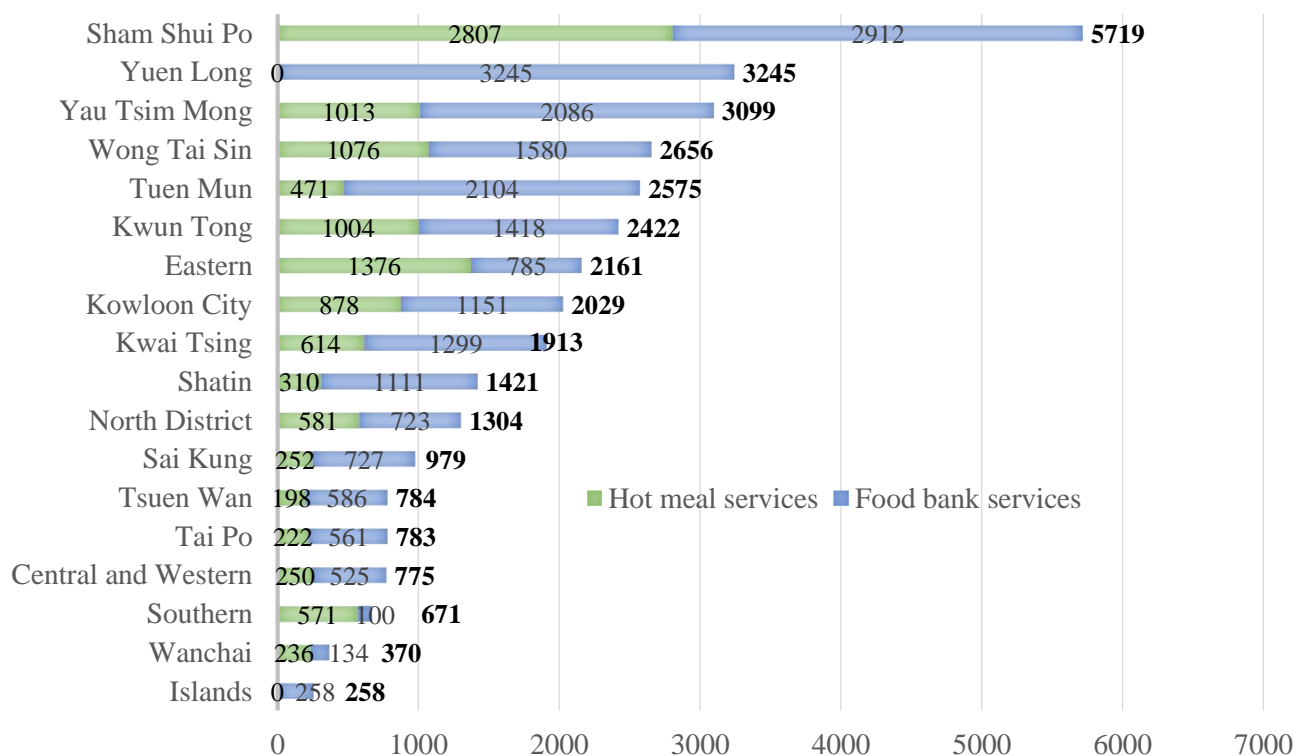
(b) Current capacity of the food support services

Table 5.2 Current capacity of food support services (daily)

	Hot meal services (meals)	Food bank services (meals)	Discount market and bulk purchase services (times of purchase)
Total number of meals served	11,859	21,305	483
The peak number of meals	15,591	23,954	-
The maximum capacity of	16,054	26,760	-
Total number of beneficiaries	7,083	7,742	362

(c) Daily supply of hot meal and food bank service by districts

Chart 5.3 Daily supply of hot meals and food bank services by districts



(d) Service gap

Table 5.4 Poverty rates and daily supply of food support services by districts

