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## Executive Summary

### Introduction

- ES.1 The *Hong Kong Poverty Situation Report 2013*, which discusses and analyses in detail the overall poverty situation of Hong Kong in 2013 using the poverty line framework as endorsed by the Commission on Poverty (CoP), has been released in November 2014. Most of the statistics in the Report are sourced from the General Household Survey (GHS) regularly conducted by the Census and Statistics Department (C&SD). However, as the survey does not regularly collect household data regarding persons with disabilities, the detailed analysis of their poverty situation is not available in the Report.
- ES.2 C&SD carried out a “Special Topic Enquiry on Persons with Disabilities” (“the STE” hereafter) via GHS in 2013 to collect data on persons with disabilities residing in domestic households in Hong Kong for the year of 2013. We have combined such data with the poverty line framework as endorsed by CoP to conduct an analysis on the poverty situation of persons with disabilities, the detailed findings of which will be presented in this Report<sup>i</sup>.
- ES.3 In the STE, persons with disabilities included those with restriction of or those who lacked the ability to perform an activity in the manner or within the range considered normal for a human being. Specifically, persons with disabilities are defined as those who (i) had perceived themselves as having one or more of the following four physical disabilities which had lasted, or were likely to last, for a period of six months or more at the time of enumeration:
- restriction in body movement;
  - seeing difficulty;
  - hearing difficulty; and
  - speech difficulty;
- or (ii) had been diagnosed by qualified health personnel as having one or more of the following four mental disabilities:
- mental illness / mood disorder;
  - autism;

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i Unless otherwise stated, all statistics in this Report pertaining to persons with disabilities cover only those living in domestic households, whereas institutionalised persons with disabilities and those residing in collective households are excluded.

- specific learning difficulties; and
- attention deficit / hyperactivity disorder.

The STE also covered intellectual disability besides the eight conditions stated above. However, given that the estimates pertaining to persons with intellectual disability in the survey are considered to be subject to a certain degree of under-estimation, the analysis of persons with disabilities in this Report does not include persons with intellectual disability unless otherwise specified. For technical details and limitations of the STE, please refer to **Appendix 1**.

ES.4 The STE in 2013 was the third survey conducted by C&SD after the two rounds conducted in 2000 and 2006/07 and the definition of disability adopted in the current STE is largely the same as that in the 2006/07 round. In adopting such definition, C&SD has made reference to similar overseas statistical surveys designated to collect data on persons with disabilities, as well as the types of disability covered by the “Hong Kong Rehabilitation Programme Plan” and the “Central Registry for Rehabilitation”, and making appropriate adjustments in accordance with local situation. It should be noted that having taken into account the degree of difficulties encountered by survey respondents in giving response, and the operational difficulties in defining each type of disability in technical terms in a household survey, more common and easily distinguishable types of disability (restriction in body movement, seeing difficulty, hearing difficulty and speech difficulty) are defined based on the perceptions of the respondents and might not be certified by medical means<sup>ii</sup>. Indeed, conceivably, conducting such verification during enumeration would be difficult. As such, it should be noted that the definition of persons with disabilities in question is more lenient when compared to the existing eligibility criteria of Disability Allowance (DA) (i.e. applicants must be assessed by a doctor of the Department of Health or Hospital Authority (or under very exceptional circumstances by a registered doctor of a private hospital) as “severely disabled and as a result need substantial help from others to cope with daily life”), and hence the two definitions should be differentiated. Therefore, statistics on persons with disabilities furnished in this Report cannot be directly compared to the administrative records.

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ii Overseas statistical surveys designated to collect data on persons with disabilities are also generally based on the information provided by respondents according to their perceptions, in defining whether they are persons with disabilities, and their type and severity of disability, such as the United States, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and the European Union. The methodology adopted by these surveys is similar to that of the STE of C&SD.

## Overall Situation of Persons with Disabilities in 2013

- ES.5 In 2013, according to the definition of disability adopted in the STE, there were a total of 499 400 persons with disabilities residing in domestic households in Hong Kong, accounting for 7.4% of the population, with some 55% being female and nearly 60% being elders aged 65 and above. The prevalence rate of disability generally rose with age and that for females was also higher than males. For elders aged 65 and above, the prevalence rate of disability, at 31.6%, was comparable to those in developed economies such as Canada and the United States. Statistics indicate that disability has a close relationship with age: those types under the definition of disability (i) in paragraph 3 above (such as restriction in body movement and seeing difficulty), are more likely to be found amongst elders; whereas children account for a higher proportion for persons with types under the definition of disability (ii) (such as autism and specific learning difficulties).
- ES.6 Furthermore, an analysis by economic activity status reveals that among working-age persons (aged 18 to 64) and elders; both with disabilities, the proportions of being economically active were 39.1% and 2.1% respectively, both far lower than the corresponding figures in the overall population (72.8% and 7.9% respectively). This reflects that the capabilities to work of those with disabilities and their participation in labour market might have been hampered by their disabilities. For those working-age persons with disabilities who participate in the labour market, their unemployment rate (6.7%) was also notably higher than that of the same age group (3.7%), reflecting their heavier financial burden as a result of the greater challenges at work. It is noted however, that a higher-than-overall unemployment rate among persons with disabilities is a common phenomenon in other economies. Also the situation in Hong Kong has significantly improved as compared to 2006/07 when the unemployment rate for working-age persons with disabilities was 11.1% vis-à-vis 4.3% for the overall population in the same age group.
- ES.7 Nonetheless, nearly 80% of persons with disabilities are covered by the social security system and such proportion is visibly higher than the corresponding figure (16.7%) in the overall population. Specifically, 79.1% (395 200 persons) of persons with disabilities were receiving various social security allowances, including some 20% (92 100 persons) on Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA), higher than the 6.1% (409 300 persons) of the overall population in Hong Kong. Analysed by age, nearly 95% (278 300 persons) of elders with disabilities were covered by the

social security system<sup>iii</sup>. Among the remaining some 5% (17 100 persons), only very few (some 600 persons) reported to have financial needs<sup>iv</sup>. The proportions of children (aged below 18) and working-age persons with disabilities (48.8% or 11 800 persons; and 58.4% or 105 100 persons respectively) receiving CSSA or Social Security Allowance (SSA) both far exceeded those of the overall population in the same age groups (10.0% or 101 300 persons; and 5.9% or 279 900 persons respectively).

### Poverty Situation of Persons with Disabilities in 2013

ES.8 The poverty rates of persons with disabilities in Hong Kong were notably higher than the overall levels both before and after policy intervention. This phenomenon is not unique to Hong Kong but is also prevalent in many developed economies overseas. In 2013, the key poverty indicators for those with disabilities (number of poor households with persons with disabilities, poor population with disabilities, and their corresponding poverty rates) in Hong Kong were as follows:

- Before policy intervention: 190 000 households, 226 200 persons, 45.3%;
- After policy intervention: 120 300 households, 147 400 persons, 29.5%.

Nonetheless, it should be noted that the definition of persons with disabilities in the STE, which covered those with restriction of or those who lacked the ability to perform an activity in the manner or within the range considered normal for a human being, is more lenient when compared to the existing eligibility criteria of DA. The type of physical disability is defined based on the perceptions of the respondents and may not be certified by medical means (for the details of the definition of persons with disabilities and the major limitations of the corresponding statistics in the Report, please refer to Section 1.II and **Appendix 1**). It should be pointed out that amongst the poor persons with disabilities after recurrent cash intervention in 2013, some 30% reported that they had no difficulty in daily living. These persons whom some people may not regard as persons with disabilities have been included in the poverty statistics of this Report.

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iii Depending on the eligibility of elderly persons with disabilities, one of the following types of allowances are available to them, including (i) Normal DA with a monthly payment of \$1,510 (regardless of age and non-means tested); or (ii) Higher DA with a monthly payment of \$3,020 (regardless of age and non-means tested); or (iii) Old Age Allowance with a monthly payment of \$1,180 (for elders aged 70 and above and non-means tested); or (iv) Old Age Living Allowance with a monthly payment of \$2,285 (for elders aged 65 and above and means tested).

iv For instance, they reported that they had financial needs but did not pass the income and assets tests / they had financial needs but were not willing to apply.

- ES.9 The Government's recurrent cash items lifted 78 800 persons with disabilities out of poverty, reducing their respective poverty rate and poor population by 15.8 percentage points and 34.9%. Both reductions are estimated to be larger than the overall poverty reduction, reflecting the effectiveness of the Government's recurrent cash policies in alleviating the financial burden of persons with disabilities.
- ES.10 Among the existing recurrent cash benefits more commonly received by persons with disabilities, except CSSA which determines and distributes allowance on a household basis, other benefits including DA, Old Age Living Allowance (OALA) and Old Age Allowance (OAA) are all individual-based or couple-based (applicable only to OALA), whereas poverty alleviation impact is computed on the basis of the entire household.
- ES.11 The analysis by socio-economic group shows that poor persons with disabilities were concentrated in elderly, CSSA and economically inactive households. The poverty rates of persons with disabilities in single-parent and new-arrival households were still high even after policy intervention, reaching 48.4% and 42.4% in 2013, involving 6 100 and 6 000 poor persons with disabilities respectively. Furthermore, analysed by type of housing, more than half of the poor persons with disabilities resided in public rental housing, while the poverty rate of their counterparts in temporary housing was high at 44.3%, despite their smallest number in absolute terms. A further analysis by district reaffirms the close relationship between the age factor and the poverty situation of persons with disabilities. Specifically, in the eight districts with higher-than-overall poverty rates of persons with disabilities, the poverty rates of their elderly counterparts also exceeded the relevant territory-wide level, and the overall elderly poverty rates in six of these districts were also higher than the corresponding territory-wide figure.

### **Analysis on the Poor Population with Disabilities by Age**

- ES.12 Further analysis on the poor population with disabilities (and the corresponding poverty rates) by age after policy intervention in 2013:
- Children aged below 18: 5 000 persons (poverty rate at 20.5%, slightly higher than the overall figure of the same age group of 18.6%);
  - Persons aged 18 to 64: 40 300 persons (poverty rate at 22.4%, more than double the overall figure of the same age group of 10.5%); and
  - Elders aged 65 and above: 102 100 persons (poverty rate at 34.6%, slightly higher than the overall figure of the same age group of 30.5%).

Elders aged 65 and above

- ES.13 For poor elders with disabilities, their general forms and causes of poverty would inevitably be similar to that of poor elders, both mostly economically inactive. Elders, no matter with disabilities or not, in general are more likely to be economically inactive, in lack of employment income and hence have a higher poverty rate. It is difficult to differentiate and determine whether the elders exit the labour market upon retirement, or their inability to work is a result of their disabilities. As stated in paragraph 8 above, the definition of persons with disabilities in the STE is relatively lenient. Indeed, in 2013, after recurrent cash intervention, about one-third of the 102 100 poor elders with disabilities reported that they had no difficulty in daily living. Also, among those poor elders with disabilities not on CSSA, nearly half reported to have no financial needs.
- ES.14 In addition to DA, the range of government financial assistance to the elderly persons with disabilities is substantially the same as that for elderly people, including CSSA, OALA and OAA. For those poor elderly persons with disabilities not on CSSA but with financial needs, many were already enjoying various social security schemes, including OALA (51.6%), OAA (29.9%) and DA (15.0%). For those working elderly persons with disabilities, they might, like other working persons, apply for the Work Incentive Transport Subsidy (WITS) Scheme<sup>v</sup> if they were eligible.
- ES.15 Apart from financial assistance, a series of measures have been taken to promote active ageing<sup>vi</sup>. It is also our policy objective to provide community support to elderly persons, including the elderly persons with disabilities, thus enabling them to live at home. As for those elderly persons, including those with disabilities, who cannot live independently and those who cannot be adequately cared for by their families, we provide them with appropriate residential care services. Details of the programmes and services regarding community support and residential care are set out in

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v The Work Incentive Transport Subsidy (WITS) Scheme was implemented in October 2011 to help relieve the burden of work-related travelling expenses on low-income earners and promote sustained employment. Employed persons meeting the income and asset limits and other eligibility criteria for WITS, whether they are with or without disabilities, may apply for full-rate subsidy of \$600 per month (if working at least 72 hours per month) or half-rate subsidy of \$300 per month (if working less than 72 hours but at least 36 hours per month). Up to end-November 2014, the number of WITS beneficiaries totalled at 84 266 persons of whom 2 616 (3.1%) were aged 65 and above. There is no breakdown on the number of WITS beneficiaries with disabilities.

vi The Government aims to encourage elderly persons to lead a more fulfilled life in their golden years and harness their wealth of experience, knowledge and expertise through continued learnings, volunteer service and participation in social and economic activities. A series of projects launched include the Elderly Academy Scheme, the Opportunities for the Elderly Project, the Neighbourhood Active-Ageing Project and the Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities.

paragraphs 17 to 19 of **Appendix 3**.

### Children aged below 18

- ES.16 Children with disabilities living in poverty is relatively small in number (5 000 persons). However, some 20% of them (900 persons) reported to face a lot of difficulties in daily living and might require special care and extra support of the Government. Currently, eligible children with disabilities could benefit from DA or CSSA, and the Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities<sup>vii</sup>.
- ES.17 Apart from providing financial assistance to those families with children with disabilities, the Government strives to provide children, from birth to six years old, with disabilities or at risk of becoming disabled with early intervention to enhance their physical, psychological and social developments, thereby improving their opportunities for participating in ordinary schools and daily life activities and helping their families meet their special needs. To this end, we provide them with a wide range of pre-school rehabilitation and other supporting services as set out in paragraphs 5 to 7 of **Appendix 3**.
- ES.18 For those students with special educational needs studying in secondary and primary schools, the Government provides additional resources, professional support and teacher training for the schools to assist them in catering for the needs of the students and help the students develop their potential. Please refer to paragraphs 8 to 14 of **Appendix 3** for details of special education.

### Persons aged 18 to 64

- ES.19 Analysis shows that working-age (aged 18 to 64) non-elderly persons with disabilities living in poverty also had a low proportion of being economically active, and the level of difficulties they faced in daily living was also considerably high. By focusing on this particular age group, the causes of poverty for these persons with disabilities can be analysed and summarised into three main points:
- (i) working capabilities being hampered due to disabilities and hence inability to participate in the labour market;
  - (ii) employment difficulties faced by persons with disabilities even though they are willing to work, such as higher risk of unemployment,

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vii The Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities now covers elderly people aged 65 and above, CSSA recipients aged below 65 with 100% disabilities, and recipients of DA aged below 65. Beneficiaries can travel on the general MTR lines, franchised buses and ferries any time at a concessionary fare of \$2 per trip.

difficulties in maintaining a stable stream of employment income given their limitations on working hours as affected by their health conditions, relatively lower educational attainment and skill level; and

- (iii) carers living with persons with disabilities having difficulties in taking up full-time work as they need to take care of the daily living of their family members with disabilities, thereby affecting the income of the entire household.

ES.20 The Government fully recognises that most persons with disabilities will be able to undertake some kind of productive work. Some of them, depending on the severity and the nature of the disabilities, may not be suitable to enter into the open market, while others may need assistance to prepare them for entry into the open market and for sustaining their employment. As such, the Government does not only provide employment services to persons with disabilities, but also render assistance to their employers, provide incentive to them and implement encouragement measures to facilitate employment among persons with disabilities. On the other hand, eligible working persons, with or without disabilities, may benefit from the WITS Scheme and some of them may also benefit from the Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities<sup>viii</sup>. Details of the initiatives to facilitate employment among persons with disabilities are set out in paragraph 20 of **Appendix 3**.

ES.21 The Government is keenly conscious that family members / carers have been facing pressure in taking care of persons with disabilities. It is our strategic development directions to empower persons with disabilities and their carers to become valuable social capital. Towards this direction, we provide a range of training and support services<sup>ix</sup> for carers of persons with disabilities with a view to enhancing their ability and relieving their stress in taking care of their family members with disabilities. Details of the community support services in place are in paragraph 17 of **Appendix 3**.

## Policy Implications

ES.22 The Government attaches great importance to poverty alleviation, in

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viii Please refer to footnote vii for the coverage of the Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities.

ix Various support for carers of persons with disabilities include training in District Support Centres for Persons with Disabilities to strengthen their caring capacity and relieve their stress; Parents / Relatives Resource Centres which provide a focal point for carers to share experience and seek mutual support with assistance from staff; Integrated Community Centres for Mental Wellness which also provide services for families / carers; and occasional child care services which relieve carers from taking care of the persons with disabilities thus enabling the carers to attend to their personal business or needs on a temporary basis; etc.



particular on how to better cater for the needs of the underprivileged. Through the STE in 2013, and coupled with the poverty line data, C&SD has compiled estimates on the poverty situation of the persons with disabilities. The comprehensive analysis of their socio-economic characteristics as furnished in this Report reveals that:

- On the basis of the definition of “disability” used in the STE, nearly 70% (102 100 persons) of poor persons with disabilities were elders aged 65 and above. The socio-economic characteristics of the former are therefore remarkably close to those of poor elders, e.g. most of them are economically inactive and in lack of employment income, thereby facing a higher poverty risk.
- Whilst the number of poor children with disabilities (5 000 persons) is relatively small and their poverty rate (20.5%) is similar to the corresponding level of the overall population (18.6%), some one-fifth (900 persons) of them reported to face a lot of difficulties in daily living and might require special attention and additional support of the Government.
- There were 40 300 working-age (aged 18 to 64) persons with disabilities in poverty in 2013. Statistics indicate that they are more prone to poverty as compared to their counterparts in the same age group. Even after recurrent cash intervention, their poverty rate (22.4%) was still more than double that of the overall population of the same age group (10.5%).

ES.23 Further analysis reveals the higher poverty risks faced by working-age persons with disabilities:

- Persons with disabilities unable to work: in 2013, there were 6 900 economically inactive poor persons with disabilities, aged 18 to 64 and not receiving CSSA or DA, around one-quarter (1 800 persons) of whom reported to have financial needs.
- Employment difficulties faced by persons with disabilities: for the economically active persons with disabilities aged 18 to 64 who are in poverty, the unemployment rate was high at 10.9% (700 persons), and about 30% (1 900 persons) could only take up part-time work.
- Carers of persons with disabilities having difficulties in taking up full-time work: working-age carers, being charged with the responsibilities of taking care of their family members with disabilities, may fail to fully participate in the labour market even though they are capable of working.

- ES.24 The Government will continue to provide appropriate and targeted support measures to the persons with disabilities with different needs.
- ES.25 For the poor elderly persons with disabilities, the Government will continue to provide financial assistance as appropriate. Indeed, most of them (95.0% or 97 000 persons) were already benefiting from CSSA, OALA, OAA or DA. We would also continue to promote active ageing and to provide long-term care services.
- ES.26 As for the children with disabilities, the Government would, apart from helping those living in families with financial need, seek to increase the number of pre-school rehabilitation service places, and continue to provide suitable training / education for them through consolidating the existing measures and experimenting new ones.
- ES.27 Regarding the working-age persons with disabilities, the Government reaffirms its objective to assist persons with disabilities to find appropriate jobs on the basis of their abilities rather than disabilities, while promoting an inclusive society which duly recognises the rights, capabilities and contributions of persons with disabilities. Apart from continuing to provide vocational training and employment support to empower persons with disabilities (while also recognising that some of them may not be suitable for working full-time), we will continue to adopt positive encouragement measures to enhance job opportunities for persons with disabilities, such as giving due recognition to good employers, sharing good practices among employers, creating more job opportunities through social enterprises, promoting the support of employment of persons with disabilities in the public and private sectors, as well as providing incentive and assistance to employers, etc. We will also continue to promote awareness of the rights and capabilities of the persons with disabilities in the community.
- ES.28 The Government will continue to provide carers of the persons with disabilities with support to meet their needs such as counselling, training and respite services, etc. The Government is aware that there have been requests for offering an allowance to these carers from low-income families. In June 2014, the Government rolled out the Pilot Scheme on Living Allowance for Carers of the Elderly Persons from Low Income Families under the Community Care Fund. During its implementation, the Government will conduct an evaluation to assess its implications and effectiveness. The Government will closely monitor the development and evaluation, including, whether corresponding initiative is applicable to persons with severe disabilities.

ES.29 The Government will consider conducting a thematic survey for persons with disabilities at an appropriate time, so as to continuously monitor their poverty situation.

## 1 Introduction

### 1.I Background

1.1 The *Hong Kong Poverty Situation Report 2013*, which discusses and analyses in detail the overall poverty situation of Hong Kong in 2013 using the poverty line framework as endorsed by the Commission on Poverty (CoP), has been released in November 2014. Most of the statistics in the Report are sourced from the General Household Survey (GHS) regularly conducted by the Census and Statistics Department (C&SD). However, as the survey does not regularly collect household data regarding persons with disabilities, the detailed analysis of their poverty situation is not available in the Report.

1.2 C&SD carried out a “Special Topic Enquiry on Persons with Disabilities” (“the STE” hereafter) via GHS in 2013 to collect data on persons with disabilities residing in domestic households in Hong Kong for the year of 2013. We have combined such data with the poverty line framework as endorsed by CoP to conduct an analysis on the poverty situation of persons with disabilities, the detailed findings of which will be presented in this Report<sup>1</sup>.

### 1.II Definition of Persons with Disabilities

1.3 In the STE, persons with disabilities included those with restriction of or those who lacked the ability to perform an activity in the manner or within the range considered normal for a human being. Specifically, persons with disabilities are defined as those who (i) had perceived themselves as having one or more of the following four physical disabilities which had lasted, or were likely to last, for a period of six months or more at the time of enumeration:

- restriction in body movement;
- seeing difficulty;
- hearing difficulty; and
- speech difficulty;

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1 Unless otherwise stated, all statistics in this Report pertaining to persons with disabilities cover only those living in domestic households, whereas institutionalised persons with disabilities and those residing in collective households are excluded.

or (ii) had been diagnosed by qualified health personnel<sup>2</sup> as having one or more of the following four mental disabilities:

- mental illness / mood disorder;
- autism;
- specific learning difficulties; and
- attention deficit / hyperactivity disorder.

The STE also covered intellectual disability besides the eight conditions stated above. However, given that the estimates pertaining to persons with intellectual disability in the survey are considered to be subject to a certain degree of under-estimation, the analysis of persons with disabilities in this Report does not include persons with intellectual disability unless otherwise specified. For technical details and limitations of the STE, please refer to **Appendix 1**.

- 1.4 The STE in 2013 was the third survey conducted by C&SD after the two rounds conducted in 2000 and 2006/07, and the definition of disability adopted in the current STE is largely the same as that in the 2006/07 round. In adopting such definition, C&SD has made reference to similar overseas statistical surveys designated to collect data on persons with disabilities, as well as the types of disability covered by the “Hong Kong Rehabilitation Programme Plan” and the “Central Registry for Rehabilitation” (CRR)<sup>3</sup>, and making appropriate adjustments in accordance with local situation. It should be noted that the above definition of disability adopted is different from that of the CRR. In the STE, having taken into account the degree of difficulties encountered by survey respondents in giving response, and the operational difficulties in defining each type of disability in technical terms in a household survey, more common and easily distinguishable types of disability (restriction in body movement, seeing difficulty, hearing difficulty and speech difficulty) are defined based on the perceptions of the respondents and might not be certified by medical means<sup>4</sup>. Indeed, conceivably, conducting such verification during enumeration would be

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2 Including practitioners of Western medicine and Chinese medicine.

3 The CRR under the Labour and Welfare Bureau issues registration cards to eligible persons with disabilities. The purpose of the card is to enable the cardholder to produce, when necessary, as a documentary proof of his / her disability status to facilitate the provision of prompt and appropriate assistance to them. Thus, CRR maintains basic demographic records voluntarily provided by persons with disabilities during registration.

4 Overseas statistical surveys designated to collect data on persons with disabilities are also generally based on the information provided by respondents according to their perceptions, in defining whether they are persons with disabilities, and their type and severity of disability, such as the United States, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the European Union. The methodology adopted by these surveys is similar to that of the STE of C&SD.

difficult. Therefore, statistics on persons with disabilities furnished in this Report cannot be directly compared to the administrative records of CRR.

- 1.5 Another point that must be borne in mind is that, the definition of persons with disabilities in question is more lenient when compared to the existing eligibility criteria of Disability Allowance (DA) (i.e. applicants must be assessed by a doctor of the Department of Health or Hospital Authority (HA) (or under very exceptional circumstances by a registered doctor of a private hospital) as “severely disabled and as a result need substantial help from others to cope with daily life”), and hence the two definitions should not be mixed up<sup>5</sup>. Please refer to **Appendix 1** for a more detailed description of the technical details and other points to note when interpreting the statistics on persons with disabilities in this Report.
- 1.6 The data and statistics collected from the STE facilitate our in-depth understanding of the overall situation and socio-economic characteristics of the persons with disabilities in Hong Kong. On the other hand, by applying the poverty line framework as endorsed by CoP, the poverty situation of persons with disabilities in 2013 could also be identified and quantified for further analysis on their forms and causes of poverty. Details of the poverty line framework and the overall poverty situation of Hong Kong in 2013 are presented in the next section.

### **1.III Definition of Poverty**

- 1.7 Having considered the stage of economic development of Hong Kong, the three primary functions (i.e. to analyse the poverty situation, to assist policy formulation and to assess policy effectiveness) and the five guiding principles (i.e. ready measurability, international comparability, regular data availability, cost-effectiveness, and amenability to compilation and interpretation) of setting the poverty line, and with due reference to local and international experience, CoP adopted the concept of “relative poverty” and setting the poverty line at 50% of the median monthly household income before policy intervention (i.e. before taxation and social welfare transfer).

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5 The objective of DA is to provide a monthly allowance to the Hong Kong residents with severe disabilities to meet special needs arising from disability. In general, persons can apply for normal DA if he / she is assessed by a doctor of the Department of Health or the HA (or under very exceptional circumstances by a registered doctor of a private hospital) as with severe disabilities, as a result needing substantial help from others to cope with daily life, and such condition will persist for at least six months. As for Higher DA, in addition to meeting the eligibility criteria for Normal DA above, he / she must be certified by the doctors to be in need of constant attendance from others in his / her daily life; and he / she is not receiving care in residential institutions subsidised by the Government, or all public hospitals and institutions under HA, or boarding in special schools under the Education Bureau.

1.8 One primary function of the poverty line is to assess the effectiveness of poverty alleviation policies. To avoid distortion by the Government’s policy measures, the poverty line thresholds are anchored to household income before policy intervention, so as to reveal the most genuine situation of a household. Under the poverty line framework, domestic households with monthly income below the poverty line threshold of the corresponding household size would be defined as “poor households”, and people residing therein as “poor population”. **Table 1.1** presents the poverty line thresholds for 2013. For the framework and technical details of the poverty line, please refer to the *Hong Kong Poverty Situation Report 2013*.

**Table 1.1: Poverty line thresholds by household size, 2013**

(\$, per month)	Poverty line
<b>1-person</b>	3,500
<b>2-person</b>	8,300
<b>3-person</b>	12,500
<b>4-person</b>	15,400
<b>5-person</b>	16,000
<b>6-person and above</b>	17,100

Source: General Household Survey, Census and Statistics Department.

1.9 The report shows that in 2013, there were 554 900 poor households **before policy intervention**, the size of poor population was 1 336 200 persons and the poverty rate was 19.9%. The numbers fell to 384 800 households, 972 200 persons and 14.5% respectively **after recurrent cash policy intervention**<sup>6</sup>. As regards the poverty gap<sup>7</sup>, the annual total poverty gap and monthly average poverty gap were \$15.0 billion and \$3,300 respectively **after policy intervention**<sup>8</sup>, with the former being reduced by more than half or \$15.6 billion<sup>9</sup> when compared with the figure **before policy intervention** (\$30.6 billion per year and \$4,600 per month).

6 Recurrent cash policies include such items as Work Incentive Transport Subsidy (WITS) Scheme, Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme, Old Age Living Allowance (OALA), Old Age Allowance (OAA) and DA.

7 Unlike poverty incidence and poverty rate which measure the “extent” of poverty, poverty gap aims at estimating the “depth” of poverty, i.e. the amount of money theoretically required to pull the poor households back to the level of poverty line. This poverty indicator, which is commonly used internationally, can provide a useful reference for monitoring poverty and formulating relevant policies.

8 Unless otherwise specified, after policy intervention refers to after recurrent cash policy intervention.

9 It is worth noting that the total amount of expenditure on the benefits is usually higher than the reduction in total poverty gap comparing before and after policy intervention, since non-poor households could also benefit from a considerable number of policy items.

## **1.IV Report Structure**

1.10 The remaining three chapters cover the following:

- **Chapter 2** analyses the overall situation of persons with disabilities in Hong Kong in 2013.
- **Chapter 3** provides an in-depth analysis of persons with disabilities in poverty in 2013, with a view to understanding their forms and possible causes of poverty.
- **Chapter 4** concludes with policy implications based on the report findings.

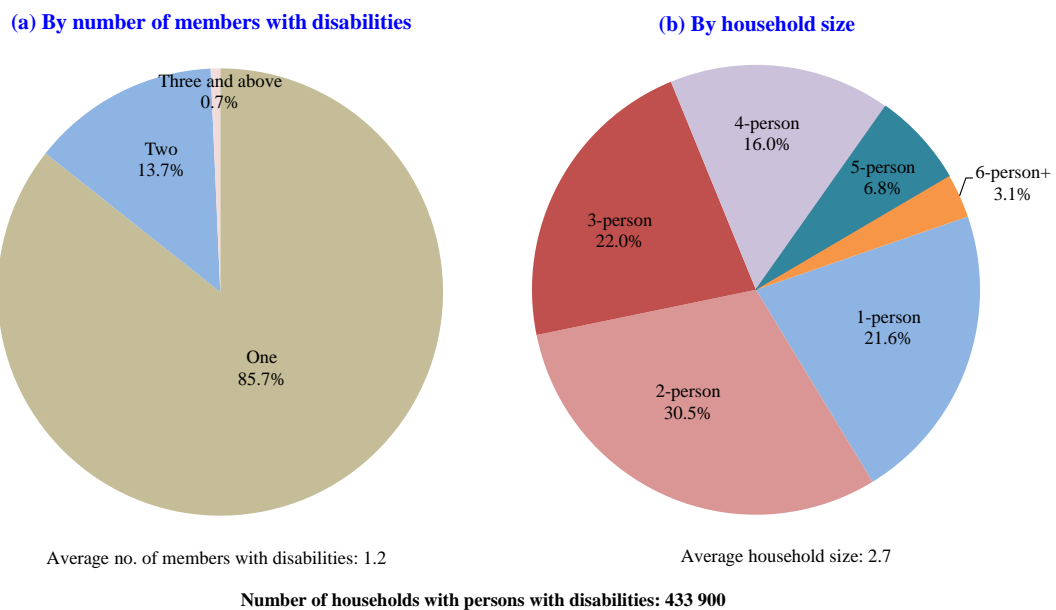


## 2 Overall Situation of Persons with Disabilities in 2013

2.1 To set the scene for the detailed poverty analysis of persons with disabilities in **Chapter 3**, this Chapter will provide an overall description of these persons in Hong Kong, based on the statistics collected by C&SD from the STE in 2013. Relevant key statistics are tabulated in detail in **Appendix 2**.

### 2.I Households with Members with Disabilities<sup>10</sup>

**Figure 2.1: Households with persons with disabilities by number of members with disabilities and household size, 2013**



Sources: General Household Survey; and Special Topic Enquiry on Persons with Disabilities, Census and Statistics Department.

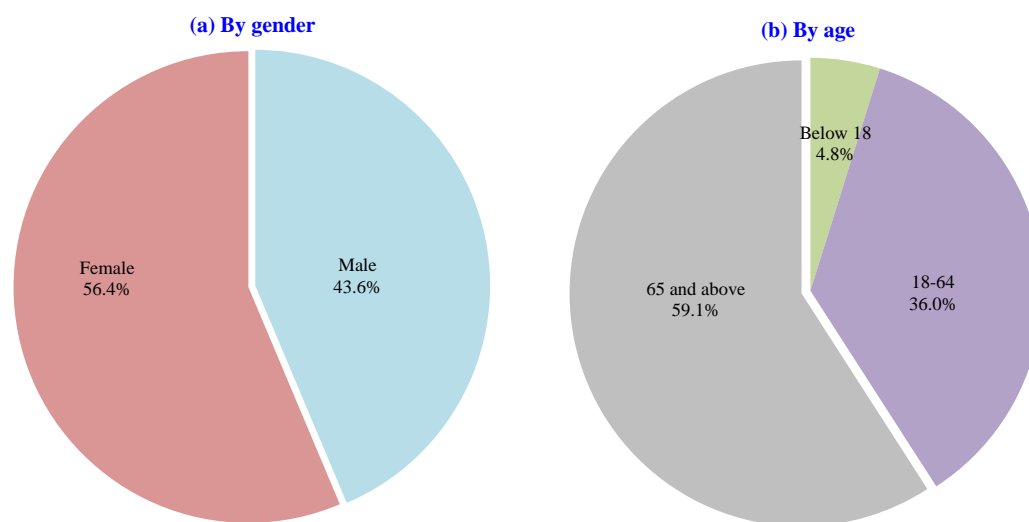
2.2 In 2013, according to the definition of disability adopted in the STE, 433 900 or 18.1% of 2 401 900 domestic households in Hong Kong had members with disabilities, among which more than 85% housed one such member, 13.7% housed two such members and the proportion of having three and more was less than 1% (**Figure 2.1(a)**). Most of these 433 900 households were composed of three persons and less (**Figure 2.1(b)**). Specifically, 93 600 (21.6%) were singleton households; 132 300 (30.5%) were 2-person, mostly consisted of person with disabilities living with another member as a couple. The number of 3-person households amounted to 95 600 (22.0%), and the most common relationship between persons with disabilities and other household members was parents and children.

2.3 Analysing the persons with disabilities residing in these households, the total number amounted to 499 400 in 2013, with the proportion of females

<sup>10</sup> A household with persons with disabilities refers to a household with at least one member satisfying the definition of persons with disabilities in **Section 1.II**. Not all members had to be persons with disabilities in this household group.

slightly above half (**Figure 2.2(a)**). Analysed by age, nearly 60% of them were elders aged 65 and above, with a median age of 78; while 4.8% were children aged below 18; and the remaining 36.0% were those aged 18 to 64 (**Figure 2.2(b)**). This generally reflects the dominance of elders amongst persons with disabilities.

**Figure 2.2: Persons with disabilities by gender and age, 2013**



Number of persons with disabilities: 499 400

Sources: General Household Survey; and Special Topic Enquiry on Persons with Disabilities, Census and Statistics Department.

**Table 2.1: Persons with disabilities by selected type of disability, 2013**

	With single disability		With multiple disabilities		Total	
	('000)	(%)	('000)	(%)	('000)	(%)
<b>Physical disabilities**</b>	258.5	76.6	154.8	95.6	413.4	82.8
Restriction in body movement	135.0	40.0	119.2	73.6	254.1	50.9
Seeing difficulty	64.4	19.1	88.2	54.5	152.6	30.6
Hearing difficulty	55.6	16.5	81.6	50.4	137.3	27.5
Speech difficulty	3.6	1.1	21.0	12.9	24.6	4.9
<b>Mental disabilities**</b>	78.8	23.4	51.4	31.7	130.2	26.1
Mental illness / mood disorder	66.4	19.7	42.9	26.5	109.3	21.9
Autism	2.5	0.8	6.6	4.1	9.2	1.8
Specific learning difficulties	5.7	1.7	9.5	5.9	15.3	3.1
Attention deficit / hyperactivity disorder	4.2	1.2	7.4	4.6	11.6	2.3
<b>All persons with disabilities**</b>	<b>337.4</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>162.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>499.4</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Note: (\*\*) Persons with more than one selected type of disability were counted in the respective types of disability and hence the overall number of persons with disabilities is smaller than the sum of the number of persons with individual types of disability.

Sources: General Household Survey; and Special Topic Enquiry on Persons with Disabilities, Census and Statistics Department.

2.4 Persons with disabilities may have more than one type of disability. Specifically, whilst nearly 70% were only with one type of disability, some 30% were with multiple disabilities. Among those with single disability, restriction in body movement was the most common type of disability, which accounted for some 40% of the total, followed by mental illness / mood disorder and seeing difficulty (**Table 2.1**).

2.5 Further categorising the eight selected types of disability in **Table 2.1** into “physical disabilities” and “mental disabilities” and analysing the two broad groups by age, over 95% of the elders with disabilities were with physical disabilities, while 83.0% of the children with disabilities suffer from mental disabilities (**Table 2.2**).

**Table 2.2: Persons with disabilities by age, selected type of disability and level of difficulty in daily living, 2013**

	Aged below 18		Aged 18 to 64		Aged 65 and above		Total	
	('000)	(%)	('000)	(%)	('000)	(%)	('000)	(%)
<b>By type of disability</b>								
<b>Physical disabilities**</b>	8.4	34.9	119.5	66.4	285.5	96.7	<b>413.4</b>	<b>82.8</b>
Restriction in body movement	1.3	5.5	59.2	32.9	193.6	65.5	254.1	50.9
Seeing difficulty	1.8	7.5	37.3	20.8	113.5	38.4	152.6	30.6
Hearing difficulty	2.0	8.3	34.5	19.2	100.8	34.1	137.3	27.5
Speech difficulty	4.8	19.7	11.5	6.4	8.3	2.8	24.6	4.9
<b>Mental disabilities**</b>	20.1	83.0	75.8	42.2	34.3	11.6	<b>130.2</b>	<b>26.1</b>
Mental illness / mood disorder	4.9	20.4	70.3	39.1	34.1	11.5	109.3	21.9
Autism	5.8	23.8	3.3	1.9	§	§	9.2	1.8
Specific learning difficulties	9.9	41.2	5.1	2.9	§	§	15.3	3.1
Attention deficit / hyperactivity disorder	9.3	38.4	2.1	1.2	§	§	11.6	2.3
<b>By level of difficulty in daily living~</b>								
<b>A lot of difficulties</b>	2.9	12.1	24.8	13.8	41.2	14.0	<b>69.0</b>	<b>13.8</b>
<b>Some difficulties</b>	10.4	43.1	95.3	53.0	150.1	50.8	<b>255.8</b>	<b>51.2</b>
<b>No difficulty</b>	10.8	44.8	59.7	33.2	104.0	35.2	<b>174.5</b>	<b>35.0</b>
<b>All persons with disabilities**</b>	<b>24.2</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>179.9</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>295.3</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>499.4</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Notes: (\*\*) Persons with more than one selected type of disability were counted in the respective types of disability and hence the overall number of persons with disabilities is smaller than the sum of the number of persons with individual types of disability.

(~) A person might have more than one selected type of disability and hence whether he / she had difficulties in daily living might not be owing to one and only one type of disability.

(§) Not released due to large sampling errors.

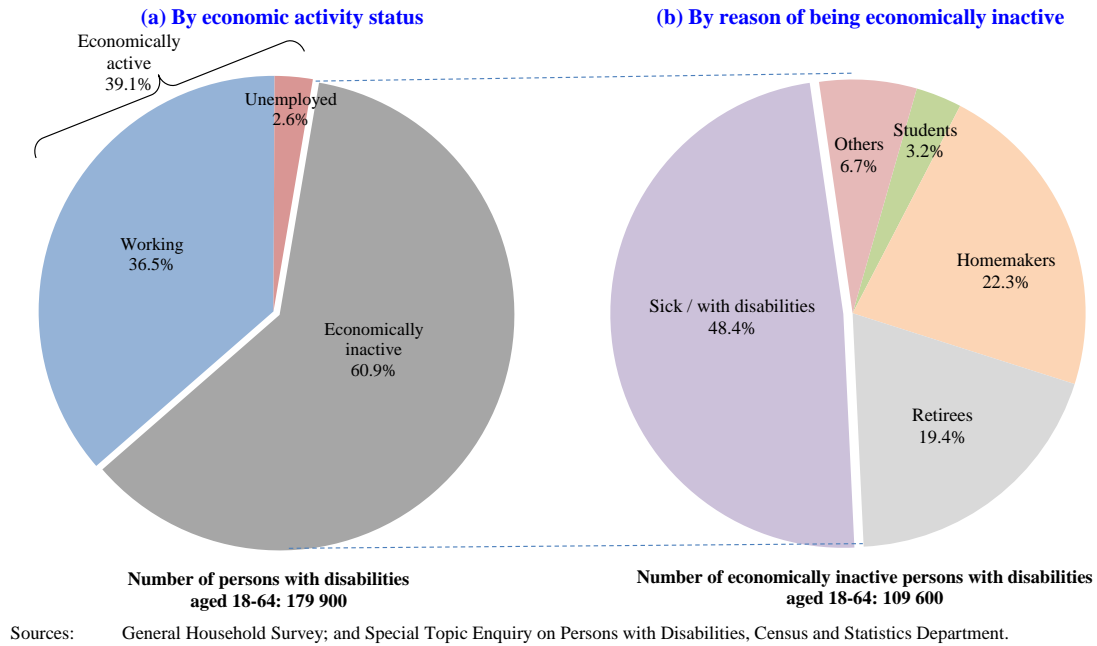
Sources: General Household Survey; and Special Topic Enquiry on Persons with Disabilities, Census and Statistics Department.

- 2.6 It is worth pointing out that despite the notable differences in these persons' disabilities, the variations in difficulties in daily living faced by them across the three age groups were less apparent. Among the elders and working-age persons aged 18 to 64, both with disabilities, around half reported to have some difficulties in daily living due to their disabilities; while about 15% reported to have a lot of difficulties and the remaining 35% reported to have no difficulty. As for the children with disabilities, the level of difficulty in daily living was lower (**Table 2.2**).
- 2.7 Disabilities would likely affect the capability to work of persons with disabilities and hence their participation in the labour market. A breakdown by economic activity status reveals that only 39.1% of the 179 900 working-age persons with disabilities were economically active (**Figure 2.3(a)**), much lower than the 72.8% of the overall population within the same age group. Also, the unemployment rate of these economically active persons with disabilities aged 18 to 64 was 6.7%, higher than the corresponding figure (3.7%) of the overall population in the same age group. It is noted however, that a higher than overall unemployment rate among persons with disabilities is a common phenomenon in other economies<sup>11</sup>. Also, the situation in Hong Kong has significantly improved as compared to 2006/07 when the unemployment rate for working-age persons with disabilities was 11.1% vis-à-vis the 4.3% for the overall population in the same age group. Further analysis shows that among those being economically inactive, nearly half were due to sickness / disability (**Figure 2.3(b)**). Only 2.1% of the elders with disabilities were economically active, significantly lower than the 7.9% of all elders.

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11 According to a study conducted by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the average unemployment rate of working-age people aged 20 to 64 with disabilities in 27 OECD economies was 13.7% in the mid-2000s, twice as high as that of the working-age able-bodied (6.7%). For details, please refer to OECD (2009), "Sickness, Disability and Work: Keeping on Track in the Economic Downturn", retrieved from <http://www.oecd.org/employment/emp/42699911.pdf>.

Figure 2.3: Persons with disabilities aged 18-64 by economic activity status, 2013



## 2.II Prevalence Rate of Disability

2.8 As the number of persons with disabilities by individual characteristic (e.g. gender, age, etc.) will be affected by the corresponding size of total population, the prevalence rate of disability (i.e. the share of persons with disabilities in corresponding total population) should be used to more objectively analyse the situation of these persons. In 2013, the overall prevalence rate of disability in Hong Kong was 7.4%, that for females was slightly higher, at 8.1%. Analysed by age, the prevalence rates of disability generally rose with age, with that for children aged below 18, persons aged 18 to 64 at 2.4% and 3.8% respectively. The elderly prevalence rate of disability was much higher at 31.6%<sup>12</sup>, with that for elders aged 85 and above reaching 64.0% (Figure 2.4).

2.9 It should be noted that children aged below 18 had a higher prevalence rate than those aged 18 to 34, likely attributable to a higher proportion of younger children with mental disabilities including autism, specific learning difficulties and attention deficit / hyperactivity disorder.

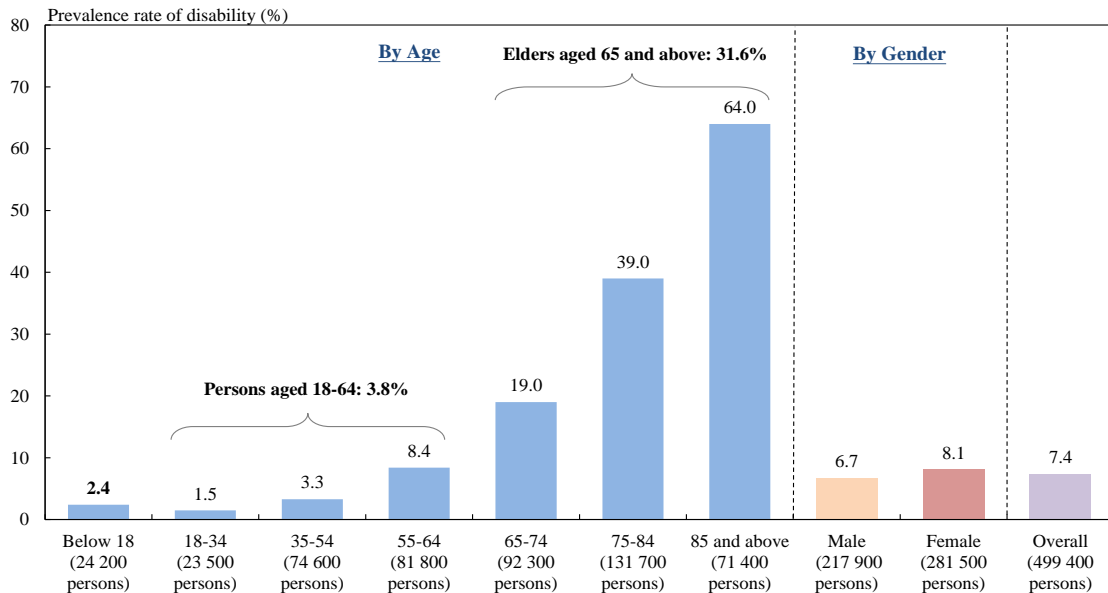
2.10 By making reference to a research report<sup>13</sup> on the global situation of persons with disabilities published by the World Health Organization and the World Bank in 2011, women and older persons usually have higher prevalence

12 The rate was comparable to those in developed economies such as Canada and the United States.

13 For details, please refer to World Health Organization (2011), "World report on disability". Retrieved from [http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2011/9789240685215\\_eng.pdf?ua=1](http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2011/9789240685215_eng.pdf?ua=1).

rates of disability regardless of national incomes. The situation in Hong Kong is found to be similar to the international experience.

**Figure 2.4: Prevalence rate of disability\*\* by age and gender, 2013**



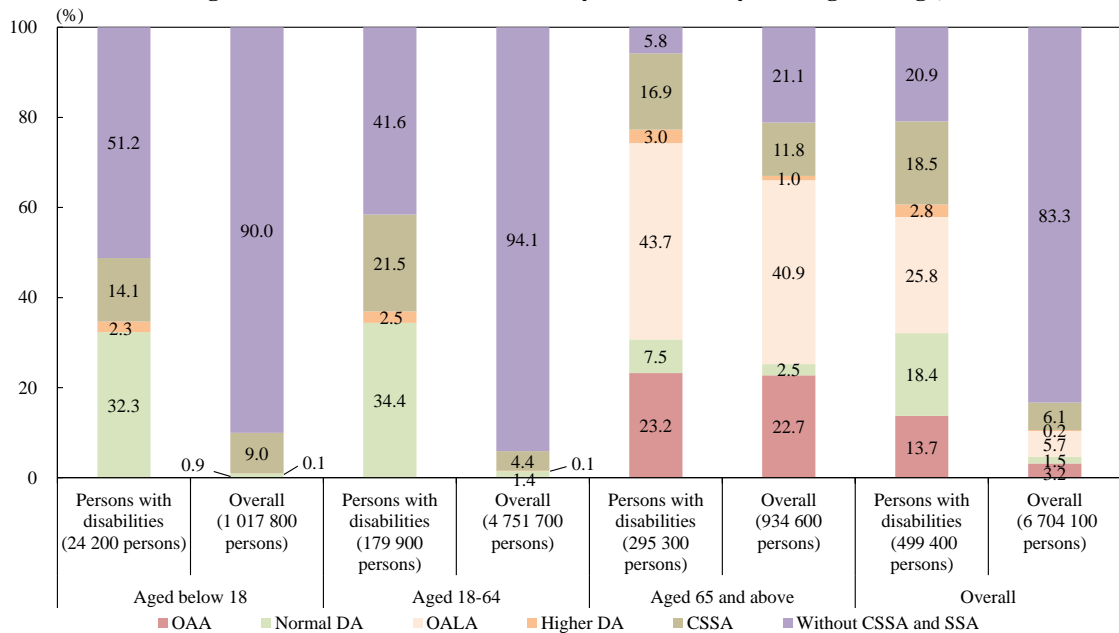
Note: (\*\*) Refers to the share of persons with disabilities in the corresponding population residing in domestic households. For example, 6.7% of all males in domestic households in Hong Kong were classified as persons with disabilities.  
Sources: General Household Survey; and Special Topic Enquiry on Persons with Disabilities, Census and Statistics Department.

### 2.III Social Security Coverage of Persons with Disabilities

2.11 In 2013, among the 499 400 persons with disabilities, almost 80% (395 200 persons) were receiving various social security allowances, including around one-fifth (92 100 persons) receiving Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA)<sup>14</sup>, higher than the overall level of 6.1% (409 300 persons). Another one-fifth were receiving DA, among whom some 10% were Higher DA recipients, and the rest being Normal DA recipients (Figure 2.5).

<sup>14</sup> Disabled CSSA recipients can receive special grants and standard rates higher than able-bodied recipients to meet their living needs. Free medical services under public hospitals or clinics in Hong Kong will be provided to all CSSA recipients.

Figure 2.5: Persons with disabilities by social security coverage and age, 2013



Note: ( ) Figures in parentheses denote the corresponding total number of persons.  
Sources: General Household Survey; and Special Topic Enquiry on Persons with Disabilities, Census and Statistics Department.

2.12 It should be noted that the number of DA recipients was actually higher before 2013. However, upon the full implementation of Old Age Living Allowance (OALA) since 2013, it is estimated that around 23 800 persons have switched from Normal DA to OALA<sup>15</sup> according to the administrative records of the Social Welfare Department (SWD). Therefore, the take-up rate for CSSA and DA would have increased from some two-fifths (39.6%) to 44.4% after taking into consideration these beneficiaries. As already discussed in paragraph 1.4, the STE may identify a person as one with disabilities according to the subjective answers provided by the respondents, and given that the definition is much more lenient than the existing eligibility criteria for DA which requires formal medical assessment tests, not all persons with disabilities as defined in this survey were with severe disabilities and eligible for DA.

2.13 A further analysis by age shows that most of the elders with disabilities have been covered by the social security system, with approximately 95% (278 300 persons) either on CSSA or Social Security Allowance (SSA) Scheme (i.e. OALA, Old Age Allowance (OAA) or DA)<sup>16</sup>. This was higher than the corresponding proportion among overall elders (78.9%). Among

15 Such figure is crudely approximated by the difference in number of active Normal DA cases between end-December 2012 and end-December 2013.

16 There are different types of allowances available to elderly persons with disabilities provided that the respective eligibility requirements are met, i.e. (i) Normal DA with a monthly payment of \$1,510 (regardless of age and non-means tested); (ii) Higher DA with a monthly payment of \$3,020 (regardless of age and non-means tested); (iii) OAA with a monthly payment of \$1,180 (for elders aged 70 and above and non-means tested); and (iv) OALA with a monthly payment of \$2,285 (for elders aged 65 and above and means tested).

the remaining 5% (17 100 persons) of elders with disabilities, only very few (some 600 persons) reported to have financial needs<sup>17</sup>. Nearly 60% (105 100 persons) and 50% (11 800 persons) of the working-age persons and children with disabilities respectively were receiving CSSA or SSA (a majority of them were Normal DA recipients), and these respective proportions were also significantly higher than the corresponding territory-wide figures for the corresponding age groups (5.9% or 279 900 persons; and 10.0% or 101 300 persons respectively) (**Figure 2.5**).

## **2.IV Key Observations**

2.14 In 2013, according to the definition of disability adopted in the STE, there were a total of 499 400 persons with disabilities residing in domestic households in Hong Kong, accounting for 7.4% of the population, with some 55% being female and nearly 60% being elders aged 65 and above. The prevalence rate of disability generally rose with age and that for females was also higher than males. For elders aged 65 and above, the prevalence rate of disability, at 31.6%, was comparable to those in developed economies such as Canada and the United States. Statistics indicate that disability has a close relationship with age: those types under the definition of disability (i) in paragraph 1.3 (such as restriction in body movement and seeing difficulty), are more likely to be found amongst elders, whereas children account for a higher proportion for persons with types under the definition of disability (ii) (such as autism and specific learning difficulties).

2.15 Furthermore, an analysis by economic activity status reveals that among working-age persons (aged 18 to 64) and elders, both with disabilities, the proportions of being economically active were 39.1% and 2.1% respectively, both far lower than the corresponding figures in the overall population (72.8% and 7.9% respectively). This reflects that the capabilities to work of those with disabilities and their participation in the labour market might have been hampered by their disabilities. For those working-age persons with disabilities who participate in the labour market, their unemployment rate (6.7%) was also notably higher than that of the same age group (3.7%), reflecting their heavier financial burden as a result of the greater challenges at work. It is noted however, that a higher-than-overall unemployment rate among persons with disabilities is a common phenomenon in other economies. Also, the situation in Hong Kong has significantly improved as compared to 2006/07 when the unemployment rate for working-age persons with disabilities was 11.1% vis-à-vis 4.3% for the overall population in the same age group.

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17 For instance, they reported that they had financial needs but did not pass the income and assets tests / they had financial needs but were not willing to apply.



2.16 Nonetheless, nearly 80% of persons with disabilities are covered by the social security system and such proportion is visibly higher than the corresponding figure (16.7%) in the overall population. Specifically, 79.1% (395 200 persons) of persons with disabilities were receiving various social security allowances, including some 20% (92 100 persons) of persons with disabilities were on CSSA, higher than the 6.1% (409 300 persons) of the overall population in Hong Kong. Analysed by age, nearly 95% (278 300 persons) of elders with disabilities were covered by the social security system. Among the remaining some 5% (17 100 persons), only very few (some 600 persons) reported to have financial needs. The proportions of children (aged below 18) and working-age persons with disabilities (48.8% or 11 800 persons; and 58.4% or 105 100 persons respectively) receiving CSSA or SSA both far exceeded those of the overall population in the same age groups (10.0% or 101 300 persons; and 5.9% or 279 900 persons respectively).

### 3 Poverty Situation of Persons with Disabilities in 2013

3.1 As discussed in the previous Chapter, since most persons with disabilities are elders, a fairly high proportion of them are economically inactive. Apart from the age factor, the relatively impaired physical / mental conditions of those with disabilities would also affect their labour force participation rate (LFPR) even if they are willing to work. As pointed out in the *Hong Kong Poverty Situation Report 2013*, employment is the best route out of poverty. Given the lack of employment income, it is inevitable for this disadvantaged group to face a higher poverty risk.

3.2 By making reference to the analytical framework endorsed by CoP, this Chapter attempts to analyse the poverty situation of persons with disabilities and examine the nexus between disability and poverty, based on the 2013 poverty statistics.

#### 3.I Poverty Indicators

3.3 **Before policy intervention**, the number of poor households with persons with disabilities amounted to 190 000 in 2013, with 406 400 poor persons living therein, among whom 226 200 were persons with disabilities. This represents a poverty rate<sup>18</sup> of 45.3% for those with disabilities, far higher than the territory-wide poverty rate of 19.9%. **After recurrent cash policy intervention**, there were 120 300 poor households with members with disabilities in Hong Kong, involving 277 300 poor persons, among whom 147 400 were persons with disabilities. The corresponding poverty rate was 29.5% for these with disabilities, also higher than the territory-wide figure of 14.5% (**Table 3.1**).

3.4 Nonetheless, it should be noted that the definition of persons with disabilities in the STE, which covered those with restriction of or those who lacked the ability to perform an activity in the manner or within the range considered normal for a human being, is more lenient when compared to the existing eligibility criteria of DA. The type of physical disability is defined based on the perceptions of the respondents and may not be certified by medical means (for the details of the definition of persons with disabilities and the major limitations of the corresponding statistics in the Report, please refer to Section 1.II and **Appendix 1**). It should be pointed out that amongst the poor persons with disabilities after recurrent cash intervention in 2013, some

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18 “Poverty rate of persons with disabilities” refers to the percentage share of persons with disabilities residing in poor households (poor persons with disabilities) in total persons with disabilities in Hong Kong, which is different from the poverty rate of households with persons with disabilities (which includes able-bodied members during estimation).

30% reported that they had no difficulty in daily living. These persons whom some people may not regard as persons with disabilities have been included in the poverty statistics of this Report.

**Table 3.1: Key poverty indicators of persons with disabilities, 2013**

Households with persons with disabilities	Before policy intervention	After policy intervention	Poverty alleviation impact (reduction)
Poor households ('000)	190.0	120.3	69.7
Poor population ('000)	406.4	277.3	129.1
Poor population with disabilities ('000)	226.2	147.4	78.8
Poverty rate of persons with disabilities	45.3%	29.5%	15.8 % points
Total poverty gap (\$ Bn, per annum)	11.46	4.24	7.22
Average poverty gap (\$, per month)	5,000	2,900	2,100

Sources: General Household Survey; and Special Topic Enquiry on Persons with Disabilities, Census and Statistics Department.

3.5 This phenomenon is not uncommon compared to the situation of those with disabilities overseas. According to a research<sup>19</sup> conducted by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the poverty rates of persons with disabilities in many foreign developed economies including, among others, the United States, Australia and the United Kingdom are visibly higher than the respective poverty rates of the able-bodied. Whilst the poverty rates for those with disabilities were similar to those of able-bodied after taxation and social transfers in certain economies, it should be noted that these economies generally devote more resources on welfare programmes for the persons with disabilities (**Table 3.2**).

19 For details, please refer to OECD (2009), "Sickness, Disability and Work: Keeping on Track in the Economic Downturn", retrieved from <http://www.oecd.org/employment/emp/42699911.pdf>

**Table 3.2: Poverty rates<sup>^</sup> of persons with disabilities and the able-bodied aged 20 to 64 of selected overseas economies in mid-2000s<sup>\*</sup>**

	Poverty rate of persons with disabilities (a)	Poverty rate of the able-bodied (b)	Ratio (a) / (b)	Share of public spending on disability welfare programmes in GDP <sup>#</sup>
<b>The United States</b>	47.6%	24.0%	2.0	0.7%
<b>Australia</b>	44.7%	16.6%	2.7	1.3%
<b>The United Kingdom</b>	23.6%	11.6%	2.0	1.8%
<b>OECD</b>	22.1%	14.1%	1.6	1.2%
<b>Italy</b>	21.2%	15.4%	1.4	0.8%
<b>Germany</b>	20.7%	11.1%	1.9	0.9%
<b>Iceland</b>	16.4%	15.8%	1.0	2.2%
<b>Netherlands</b>	11.5%	11.0%	1.0	2.4%
<b>Norway</b>	10.8%	11.4%	0.9	2.6%
<b>Sweden</b>	10.4%	12.2%	0.9	2.5%

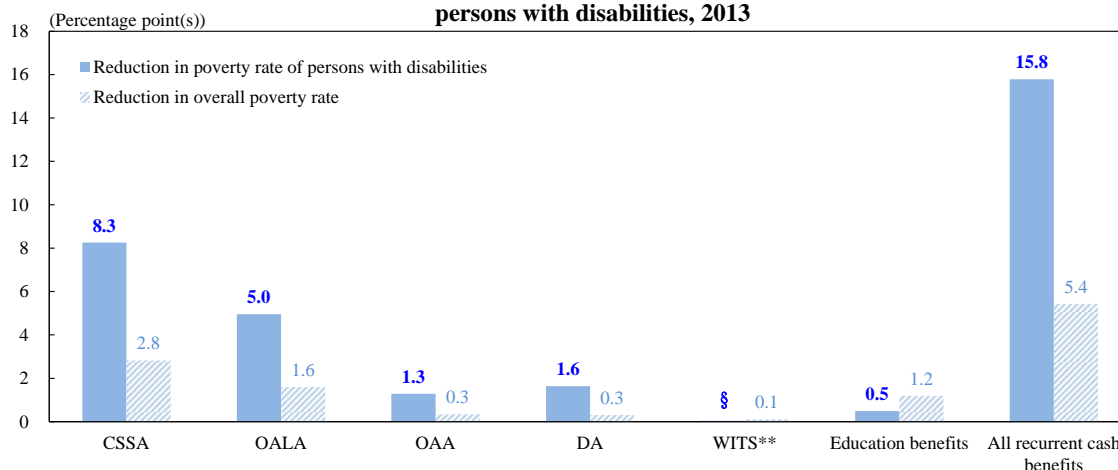
Notes: (\*) Due to data limitations, figures for different economies refer to different time periods.  
(^) The poverty line threshold is 60% of the equivalised median household income after taxation and social transfers.  
(#) GDP refers to Gross Domestic Product. 2005 figures.  
Source: OECD (2009), "Sickness, Disability and Work: Keeping on Track in the Economic Downturn".

3.6 Comparing the two sets of poverty figures before and after policy intervention gives the policy effectiveness of recurrent cash items in alleviating the poverty situation of persons with disabilities. Specifically, in 2013, the Government's recurrent cash items successfully lifted 78 800 persons with disabilities out of poverty and reduced the corresponding poverty rate by 15.8 percentage points. This was almost three times the overall poverty rate reduction (5.4 percentage points). It should also be pointed out that the average monthly poverty gap of the poor households with members with disabilities after policy intervention was \$2,900, lower than the overall figure (i.e. \$3,300) (**Table 3.1**). This reflects that the financial burden of those with disabilities can be alleviated somewhat by the Government's recurrent cash benefits.

3.7 Further analysed by selected recurrent cash item, CSSA is found to be the most effective in poverty alleviation, lifting 41 200 persons with disabilities, in 38 900 households out of poverty. The reduction in the corresponding poverty rate is estimated to be 8.3 percentage points. It was followed by OALA which reduced the number of poor persons with disabilities by 24 800 persons (or their respective poverty rate by 5.0 percentage points) in 2013 (**Figure 3.1**). The findings coincide with the relatively higher ratios of

both CSSA recipients and elders in persons with disabilities.

**Figure 3.1: Effectiveness of selected recurrent cash benefits in alleviating poverty of persons with disabilities, 2013**



Poverty reduction ('000)	CSSA	OALA	OAA	DA	WITS	Education benefits	All recurrent cash benefits
Households with persons with disabilities	39 (101)	21 (49)	5 (11)	7 (8)	§ (3)	2 (21)	70 (170)
Persons with disabilities	41 (191)	25 (107)	6 (23)	8 (21)	§ (8)	2 (80)	79 (364)

Notes: ( ) Figures in parentheses refer to the corresponding overall households or population lifted out of poverty.  
(§) Not released due to large sampling errors.  
(\*\*) WITS refers to the Work Incentive Transport Subsidy Scheme.

Sources: General Household Survey; and Special Topic Enquiry on Persons with Disabilities, Census and Statistics Department.

3.8 DA also lifted 8 200 persons with disabilities out of poverty, reducing the corresponding poverty rate by 1.6 percentage points (**Figure 3.1**). In 2013, 30 600 poor persons with disabilities (before policy intervention) were receiving DA, about 20% of whom were receiving Higher DA. It should be noted that DA is a non-means-tested<sup>20</sup> allowance provided for those with severe disabilities, with special needs arising from disability, on an individual basis. It is thus understandable that its poverty alleviation effect should not be as pronounced as mean-tested items targeted at the grassroots (especially CSSA, which determines and distributes allowance on a household basis).

3.9 The Government understands that persons with disabilities and their households would face certain difficulties in daily life. However, it must be pointed out that not all such difficulties could be tackled through material support. Whilst cash allowance would be useful in relieving the burden of these persons / their families with financial needs, in-kind support such as daily caring, medical services and employment assistance could be more important for them to fully cope with their different needs. The Government has all along been attaching great importance to promoting the well-being of persons with disabilities (irrespective of their financial status), consistent

20 Nonetheless, during the discussion on the details of the poverty line framework, CoP was of the view that DA by nature has always been an important policy to assist the disadvantaged. It should thus also be considered as a recurrent cash benefit.

with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (the Convention), which has been applicable to the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region since August 2008. One fundamental value of the Convention is to “promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities, and to promote respect for their inherent dignity”. To underline our commitment under the Convention and address the distinctive needs of persons with different type and level of disabilities, we implement multi-pronged initiatives to meet their needs. These include pre-school rehabilitation services, community support services, residential care services, vocational rehabilitation and training and employment services, etc. However, as in-kind assistance for persons with disabilities is generally offered based on the type and level of disabilities (instead of financial status) and is generally non-means-tested<sup>21</sup>, it is not included in the current poverty line framework<sup>22</sup>.

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21 Families in financial difficulty may apply for different service subsidies or fee waiver.

22 **Box 3.1** briefly analyses the poverty situation of persons with disabilities after taking into account non-recurrent cash and in-kind benefits. The non-means-tested in-kind assistance for persons with disabilities is however not reflected in that analysis.

### Box 3.1

#### Poverty Situation after Taking into Account Non-recurrent Cash and In-kind Benefits

While the core analytical framework of assessing policy effectiveness in poverty alleviation only covers recurrent cash benefits, the Government has also devoted a considerable amount of resources to provide many non-recurrent cash benefits (including one-off measures)<sup>23</sup> and means-tested in-kind benefits<sup>24</sup>. This box article furnishes the poverty situation of persons with disabilities in 2013 after taking into account non-recurrent cash measures and in-kind benefits as supplementary reference.

**Table 3.3: Key poverty statistics of persons with disabilities taking into account non-recurrent cash and in-kind benefits, 2013**

Households with persons with disabilities	Before policy intervention	After policy intervention		
		Recurrent cash	Recurrent + non-recurrent cash	Recurrent cash + in-kind
Poor households ('000)	190.0	120.3 [69.7]	101.0 [89.0]	77.6 [112.4]
Poor population ('000)	406.4	277.3 [129.1]	238.6 [167.8]	176.3 [230.1]
Poor population with disabilities ('000)	226.2	147.4 [78.8]	124.9 [101.2]	95.4 [130.8]
Poverty rate of persons with disabilities	45.3%	29.5% [15.8 % pts.]	25.0% [20.3 % pts.]	19.1% [26.2 % pts.]

Note: [ ] Figures in square brackets are the reduction in poverty statistics compared with the corresponding figures before policy intervention.

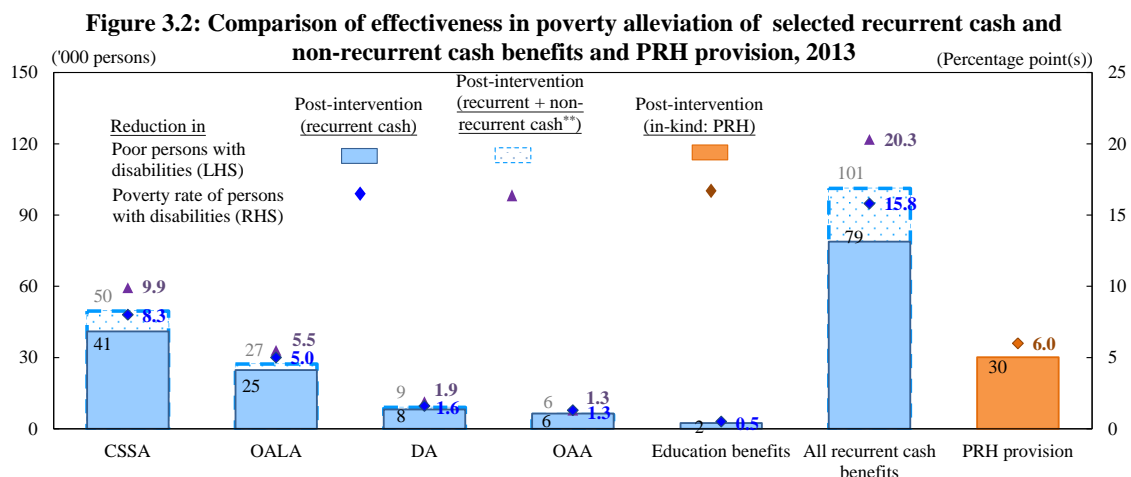
Sources: General Household Survey; and Special Topic Enquiry on Persons with Disabilities, Census and Statistics Department.

23 For the coverage and estimation methodology of non-recurrent cash measures and the overall poverty situation after taking into account these measures, please refer to **Box 2.1** and **Appendix 3** of the *Hong Kong Poverty Situation Report 2013*. According to the poverty line framework, non-recurrent cash measures include some assistance programmes funded by the Community Care Fund (CCF) (e.g. School Lunch Subsidy and One-off Living Subsidy for Low-income Households Not Living in Public Housing and Not Receiving CSSA, etc.), subject to data availability. However, as the number of beneficiaries of some CCF programmes (e.g. Special Subsidy to Persons with Severe Physical Disabilities for Renting Respiratory Support Medical Equipment and Elderly Dental Assistance Programme) is relatively small, relevant statistics cannot support the estimation of their poverty alleviation impact and hence not included in non-recurrent cash measures. In-kind services for persons with disabilities are provided based on the type and level of disabilities (instead of financial status). Hence, they are non-means-tested and not reflected in the analysis of this Box article.

24 Among these in-kind benefits, the provision of public rental housing (PRH) is of particular importance. For the estimation methodology of PRH provision and overall poverty alleviation of in-kind benefits, please refer to **Box 2.2** and **Appendix 4** of the *Hong Kong Poverty Situation Report 2013*.

**Box 3.1 (Cont'd)**

2. After policy intervention (recurrent + non-recurrent cash), there were 101 000 poor households with members with disabilities with 238 600 persons residing therein in 2013, among whom 124 900 were persons with disabilities, representing a poverty rate of 25.0%, which was further lower than the corresponding figure after recurrent cash intervention by 4.5 percentage points. On the other hand, after policy intervention (recurrent cash + in-kind), the above poverty indicators of persons with disabilities respectively fell to 77 600 households and 176 300 persons (among whom 95 400 were persons with disabilities). The corresponding poverty rate was 19.1%, visibly lower than that before policy intervention by 26.2 percentage points (**Table 3.3**). These statistics show that after taking into account the non-recurrent cash and in-kind items, poverty indicators of those with disabilities in 2013 recorded further improvements.



Reduction in poor households with persons with disabilities ('000)	CSSA	OALA	DA	OAA	Education benefits	All recurrent cash benefits	PRH provision
<b>Post-intervention</b>							
- Recurrent cash	39	21	7	5	2	70	-
- Recurrent + non-recurrent cash	46	23	7	5	2	89	-
- In-kind: PRH	-	-	-	-	-	-	26

Notes: (\*\*\*) Illustrating the additional poverty alleviation impact (reductions in poor persons with disabilities and poverty rates) of the corresponding non-recurrent measures, such as the provision of extra one-month allowances for recipients of CSSA, OAA, OALA and DA.

Sources: General Household Survey; and Special Topic Enquiry on Persons with Disabilities, Census and Statistics Department.

3. Analysed by selected non-recurrent cash item, the additional one-month allowance of CSSA and OALA payment respectively lifted an additional 8 300 and 2 500 persons with disabilities out of poverty, reducing the corresponding poverty rates by 1.6 and 0.5 percentage point(s) respectively (**Figure 3.2**). This is consistent with the observation that the majority of persons with disabilities are elders and CSSA recipients.

4. Equally worth noting is the pronounced poverty alleviation impact of public rental housing (PRH) provision on persons with disabilities, lifting 30 200 persons with disabilities out of poverty, representing a 6.0-percentage-point reduction in the corresponding poverty rate. As an individual policy item, its poverty alleviation



**Box 3.1 (Cont'd)**

impact on persons with disabilities was second to CSSA and was larger than OALA (**Figure 3.2**). This may be attributed to the fact that most poor persons with disabilities reside in PRH. In fact in 2013, before policy intervention, nearly 60% of these poor persons (59.1%) lived in PRH, higher than the corresponding proportion in the overall poor population (53.0%).

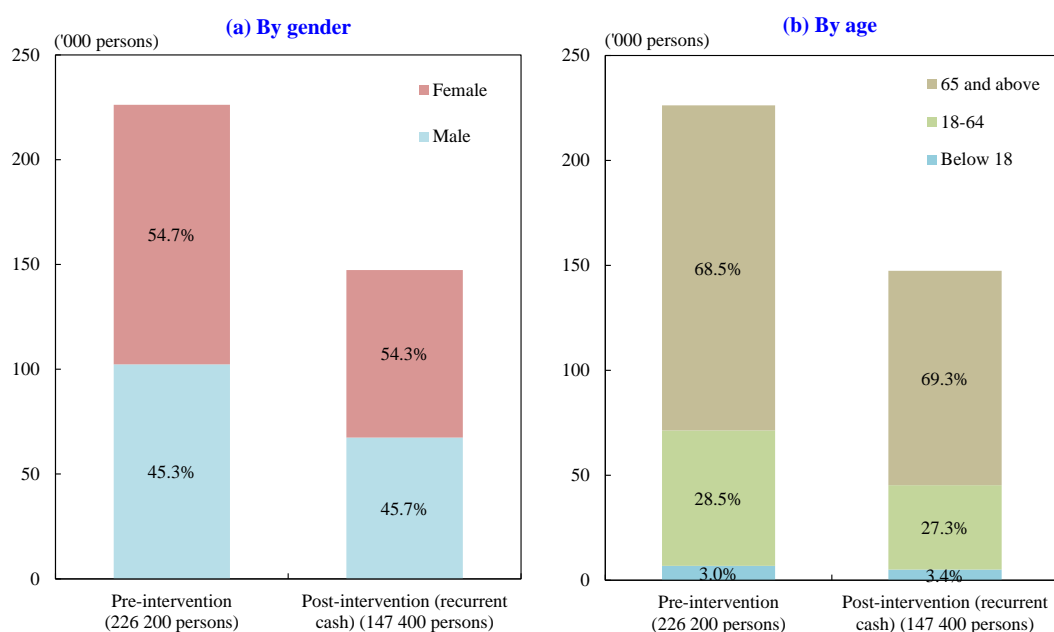
5. In a nutshell, besides recurrent cash policies, other non-recurrent or in-kind policies have also alleviated the hardship of persons with disabilities, especially for PRH, as a large proportion of poor persons with disabilities reside in PRH. Whilst the provision of PRH is not an actual cash subsidy, it still involves a large amount of public resources and is capable of improving the living standards of these poor persons.

## 3.II Poverty Situation of Persons with Disabilities by Age Group

3.10 In 2013, there were a total of 226 200 persons with disabilities living in the poor households before policy intervention, and the figure fell to 147 400 after policy intervention. Both before and after policy intervention, females and elders aged 65 and above accounted for the majority of poor persons with disabilities, at some 55% and 70% respectively (**Figure 3.3**).

3.11 It should be pointed out that the definition of persons with disabilities in the STE is relatively lenient, the type of physical disability is defined based on the perceptions of the respondents and may not be certified by medical means. As such, this caveat should be borne in mind in interpreting these statistics on poor elders with disabilities. Indeed, in 2013, after policy intervention, about one-third of the poor elders with disabilities reported that they had no difficulty in daily living. These persons whom some people may not regard as persons with disabilities have been included in the poor elders with disabilities (102 100 persons) in this Report.

Figure 3.3: Poor persons with disabilities by gender and age, 2013



Note: ( ) Figures in parentheses denote the corresponding total number of poor persons with disabilities.

Sources: General Household Survey; and Special Topic Enquiry on Persons with Disabilities, Census and Statistics Department.

3.12 A further analysis by the three age groups after policy intervention yields the following observations (**Table 3.4**):

### Children with disabilities aged below 18

- **A slightly higher poverty rate than that of children as a whole:** it was estimated that 5 000 children with disabilities were living below the poverty line, representing a poverty rate of 20.5%. This was slightly higher than that of children in overall terms (18.6%).

Analysed by type of disability, some 80% of these poor children were suffering from mental disabilities, among whom 2 800 persons (57.0%) were with specific learning difficulties or attention deficit / hyperactivity disorder. A further breakdown by level of difficulty in daily living reveals that some 20% (600 persons) reported to face a lot of difficulties.

- **A higher coverage of social security:** more than half of the 5 000 poor children with disabilities resided in households receiving CSSA, and another one-quarter were DA recipients. According to the respondents<sup>25</sup>, about one-fifth (900 persons) of poor children with disabilities were facing a lot of difficulties in daily living, higher than the corresponding proportion in all persons with disabilities. The statistics indicate that they warrant no less attention and care as compared to their counterparts of other ages.

#### Persons with disabilities aged 18 to 64

- **A much higher poverty rate than the overall average for working-age population:** the poverty rate for persons with disabilities aged 18 to 64 was 22.4%, more than double that of the overall working-age population (10.5%). The proportion of those with physical disabilities was some 60%, in between those of children and elders with disabilities and in poverty.
- **Less economically active:** persons with disabilities aged 18 to 64 living in poverty had a much lower LFPR (16.2%) than the overall poor population of the same age group (42.3%). They also had a higher unemployment rate (10.9%) and proportion of part-timers (28.8%) in the labour force. **Section 3.VI** provides a detailed analysis of the forms and causes of poverty for persons with disabilities of this age group.
- **More with financial needs:** amongst the persons with disabilities aged 18 to 64 living in poverty, respectively 47.9% and 27.6% were receiving CSSA and DA, similar to the corresponding proportions for poor children with disabilities (aged below 18). However, among those not receiving CSSA, nearly 30% (28.9%) reported to have financial needs, visibly higher than the corresponding figure for all poor persons in the same age group (13.1%).

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25 In the STE, other family members could answer on behalf of the respondent if he / she is a child aged below 12.

### Elders with disabilities aged 65 and above

- **A slightly higher poverty rate than the overall elderly poverty rate:** the poverty rate for elders with disabilities was 34.6%. Whilst this is found to be the highest among the three age groups, it was only slightly above the overall elderly poverty rate (30.5%). Similar to the overall elders with disabilities, most poor elders with disabilities suffered from physical disabilities. It should be pointed out that when analysed by level of difficulty in daily living, only 14.4% of the poor elders with disabilities reported a lot of difficulties, the lowest across all age groups. Further analysis shows that the severity of disability varies among these poor elders. For example, approximately two-thirds of those with restriction in body movement reported that they do not require a wheelchair but sometimes / always require other specialised tool to move around, and some 15% even reported that they do not require a wheelchair or other specialised tool<sup>26</sup>.
- **Distinctly lower proportion being economically active:** specifically, the LFPR of poor elders with disabilities was only 1.2%. But based on the current dataset, it is difficult to distinguish and analyse whether the extent of participation in the labour market is being hampered by their disabilities, or whether they simply exit from the workforce upon retirement given the old age.
- **Relatively fewer with financial needs:** among the poor elders with disabilities, some one-quarter were on CSSA. Such ratio was the lowest across all the three age groups. An analysis focusing on those not receiving CSSA reveals that nearly half reported to have no financial needs. For those with financial needs, many were already enjoying various various social security schemes, including OALA (51.6%), OAA (29.9%) and DA (15.0%). For those working elderly persons with disabilities, they might, like other working persons, apply for the Work Incentive Transport Subsidy (WITS)<sup>27</sup> Scheme if they were eligible.

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26 Moreover, among elders aged 65 and above with disabilities in poverty with seeing and hearing difficulties, some three-quarters (75.6%) and two-thirds (67.0%) respectively reported that that they do not require a specialised visual aid and hearing aid.

27 The WITS Scheme was implemented in October 2011 to help relieve the burden of work-related travelling expenses on low-income earners and promote sustained employment. Employed persons meeting the income and asset limits and other eligibility criteria for WITS, whether they are with or without disabilities, may apply for full-rate subsidy of \$600 per month (if working at least 72 hours per month) or half-rate subsidy of \$300 per month (if working less than 72 hours but at least 36 hours per month). Up to end-November 2014, the number of WITS beneficiaries totalled at 84 266 persons of whom 2 616 (3.1%) were aged 65 and above. There is no breakdown on the number of WITS beneficiaries with disabilities.

**Table 3.4: Poor persons with disabilities by age, selected type of disability and level of difficulty in daily living, 2013**

	Aged under 18		Aged 18 to 64		Aged 65 and above		Total	
	('000)	(%)	('000)	(%)	('000)	(%)	('000)	(%)
<b>By type of disability</b>								
<b>Physical disabilities**</b>	1.9	38.4	24.3	60.3	99.1	97.0	125.2	85.0
Restriction in body movement	§	§	14.5	36.1	67.1	65.8	81.8	55.5
Seeing difficulty	0.3	5.6	6.3	15.7	41.7	40.8	48.2	32.7
Hearing difficulty	0.6	11.4	5.2	13.0	35.6	34.9	41.4	28.1
Speech difficulty	1.1	22.8	3.1	7.7	2.4	2.3	6.6	4.5
<b>Mental disabilities**</b>	4.1	81.9	19.9	49.5	11.1	10.9	35.1	23.8
Mental illness / mood disorder	1.3	26.6	18.6	46.1	11.0	10.8	30.9	21.0
Autism	1.0	20.1	0.7	1.8	§	§	1.7	1.2
Specific learning difficulties	1.9	37.7	1.6	3.9	§	§	3.5	2.4
Attention deficit / hyperactivity	1.7	34.0	0.4	0.9	§	§	2.1	1.4
<b>By level of difficulty in daily living~</b>								
A lot of difficulties	0.9	17.6	7.3	18.2	14.7	14.4	<b>22.9</b>	<b>15.6</b>
Some difficulties	2.2	44.4	22.5	55.9	53.6	52.5	<b>78.3</b>	<b>53.2</b>
No difficulty	1.9	38.0	10.4	25.9	33.8	33.1	<b>46.1</b>	<b>31.3</b>
<b>All persons with disabilities**</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>40.3</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>102.1</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>147.4</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Poverty rate (%)</b>	<b>20.5</b>		<b>22.4</b>		<b>34.6</b>		<b>29.5</b>	

Notes: (\*\*\*) Persons with more than one selected type of disability were counted in the respective types of disability and hence the overall number of persons with disabilities is smaller than the sum of the number of persons with individual types of disability.  
 (~) A person might have more than one selected type of disability and hence whether he / she had difficulties in daily living might not be owing to one and only one type of disability.  
 (§) Not released due to large sampling errors.  
 Based on poverty statistics after recurrent cash intervention.

Sources: General Household Survey; and Special Topic Enquiry on Persons with Disabilities, Census and Statistics Department.

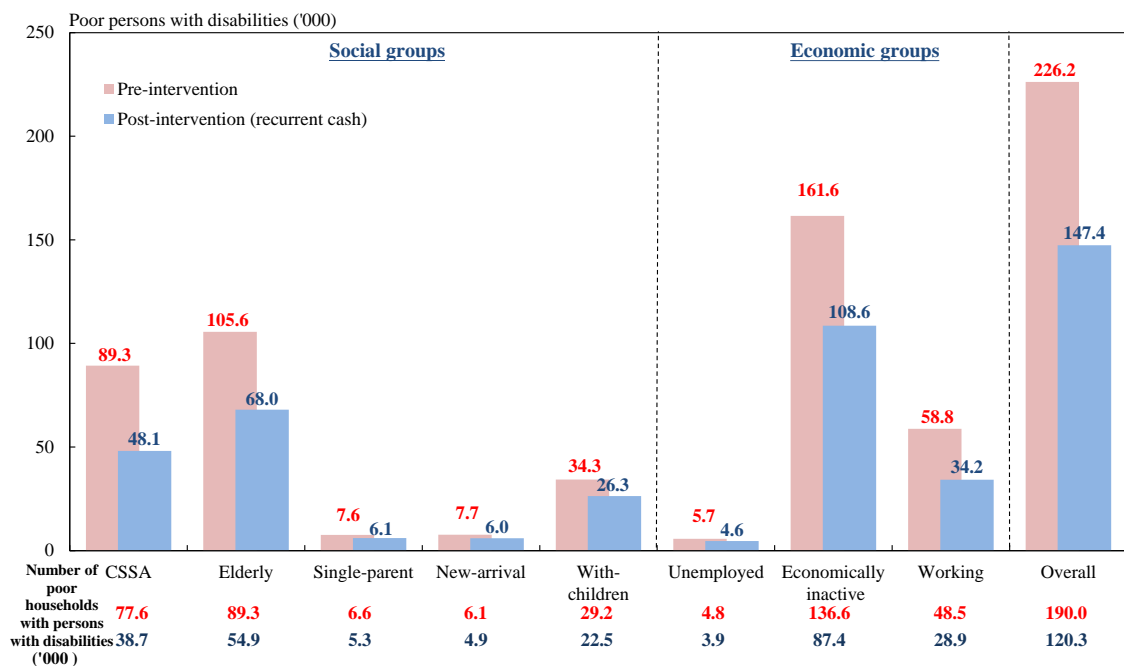
### 3.III Poverty Situation of Households with Persons with Disabilities by Selected Household Group

#### (a) Analysis in terms of socio-economic characteristics

3.13 Figures 3.4 and 3.5 respectively show the poor persons with disabilities and corresponding poverty rates by selected socio-economic group before and after policy intervention in 2013. Relevant key observations are as follows:

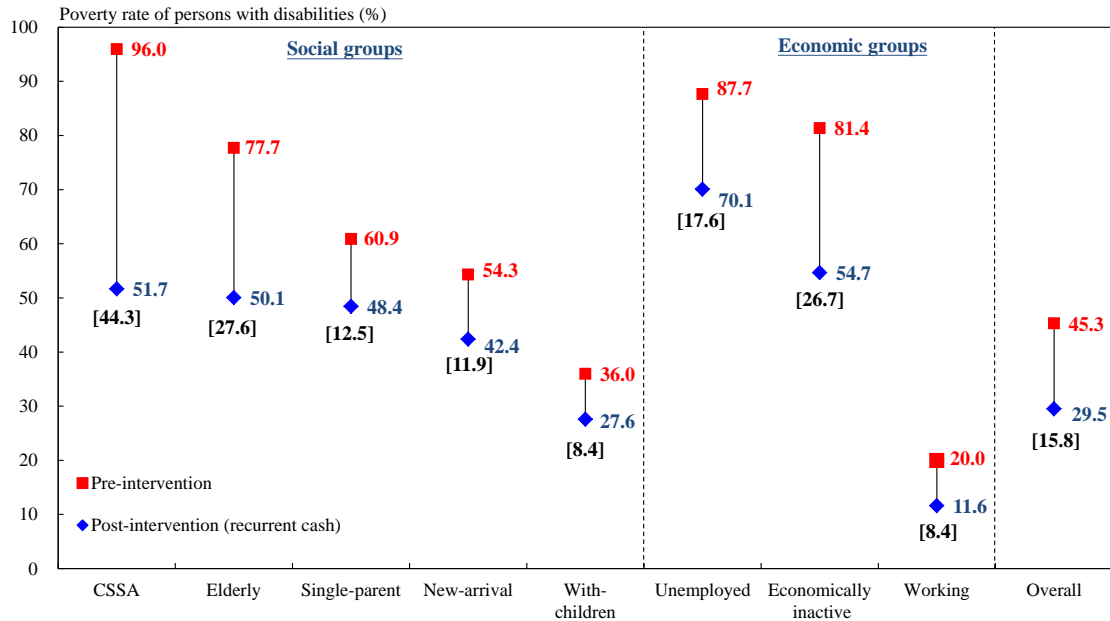
- Analysed by social characteristic both before and after policy intervention, poor persons with disabilities were concentrated in elderly and CSSA households, whereas those residing in single-parent and new-arrival households were relatively smaller in numbers. Analysed by economic characteristic, the majority of poor households with persons with disabilities were economically inactive, while poor persons with disabilities residing in working households accounted for less than 30% (**Figure 3.4**).
- Similar to the overall poverty situation, before policy intervention, the poverty rates of persons with disabilities in CSSA, elderly and single-parent (social groups) and unemployed and economically inactive households (economic groups) were fairly high, all exceeding 60%. The poverty rate of persons with disabilities in new-arrival households was also high at nearly 55% (**Figure 3.5**).
- After recurrent cash intervention, these household groups with persons with disabilities registered reductions in poverty rates. Among them, the reduction was the most significant for CSSA households, followed by elderly households, reflecting the importance of the Government's cash assistance in alleviating the financial burden of these households. Such reductions were relatively smaller for new-arrival, single-parent and with-children households (**Figure 3.5**).

**Figure 3.4: Poor persons with disabilities by selected socio-economic household group, 2013**



Sources: General Household Survey; and Special Topic Enquiry on Persons with Disabilities, Census and Statistics Department.

Figure 3.5: Poverty rates of persons with disabilities by selected socio-economic household group, 2013



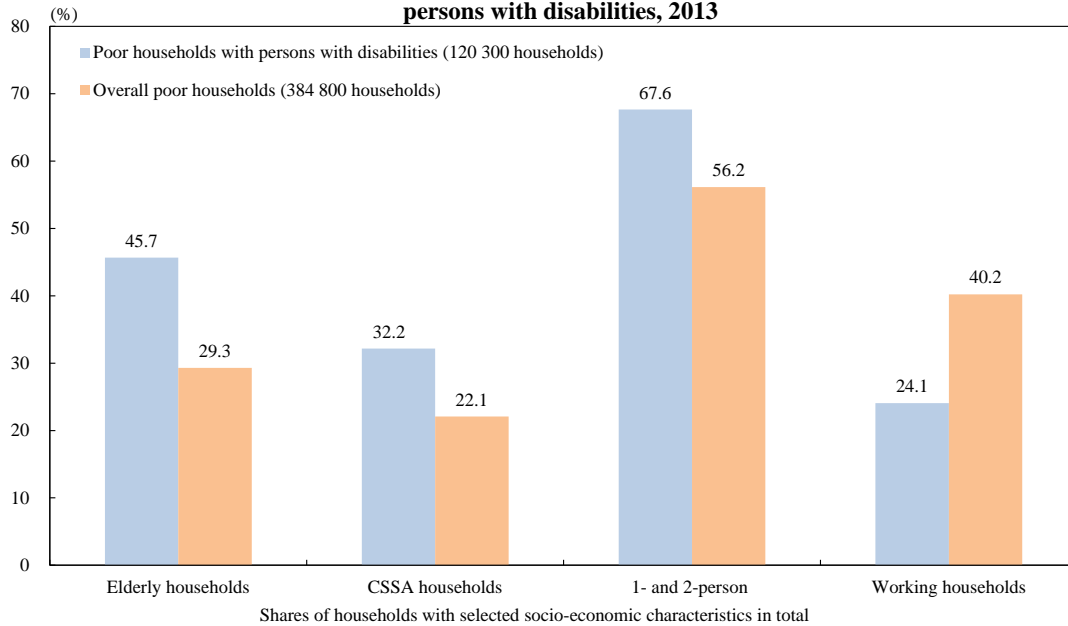
Note: [ ] Figures in square brackets denote the percentage point(s) reductions in poverty rates.

Sources: General Household Survey; and Special Topic Enquiry on Persons with Disabilities, Census and Statistics Department.

3.14 In comparison to the overall poor households, the distinct socio-economic characteristics of the 120 300 poor households with persons with disabilities in 2013 after policy intervention were as follows (Figure 3.6):

- **Higher proportion of CSSA and elderly households:** some 45% of the poor households with persons with disabilities were elderly households, and nearly one-third received CSSA. Both figures were higher than the corresponding ratios for the overall poor households.
- **Most were smaller families and lower working proportion:** a majority of poor households with persons with disabilities were 2-person and smaller families, with such ratio being higher than that of the overall poor households. On the other hand, the share of working households in the former group was notably lower, at less than one-quarter.

**Figure 3.6: Selected socio-economic characteristics of poor households with persons with disabilities, 2013**



Notes: ( ) Figures in parentheses denote the corresponding number of households.

Based on poverty statistics after recurrent cash intervention.

Sources: General Household Survey; and Special Topic Enquiry on Persons with Disabilities, Census and Statistics Department.

3.15 The above analysis shows that poor single-parent and new-arrival households with persons with disabilities registered relatively smaller reductions in their respective poverty rates after recurrent cash intervention. Moreover, their poverty rates were still relatively high after policy intervention. This warrants further investigation into their poverty situation. In 2013, among the poor households with persons with disabilities after policy intervention, 5 300 (4.4%) and 4 900 (4.1%) were single-parent and new-arrival households respectively. A focused analysis of the socio-economic characteristics of these households reveals that some observations pertaining to overall single-parent and new-arrival poor households are still valid (**Figure 3.7**):

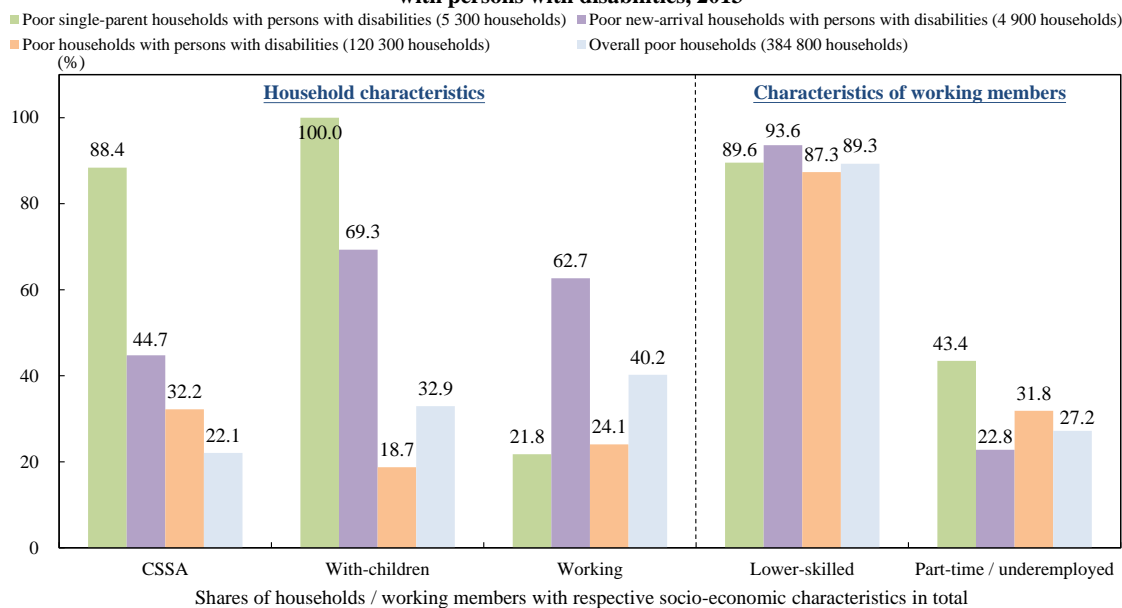
- **The proportion of poor single-parent households with persons with disabilities receiving CSSA was noticeably higher:** nearly 90% of these households were on CSSA, much higher than that of about one-third of overall poor households with members with disabilities. On the other hand, the corresponding ratio of poor new-arrival households with persons with disabilities receiving CSSA was just slightly higher than that of their overall counterparts.
- **The proportion of working households among poor new-arrival households with persons with disabilities was higher:** among the poor new-arrival households with members with disabilities, the proportion of working households was more than 60%, much higher than the corresponding figure for their single-parent counterparts.



The opposite was true for the proportion of employed persons working part-time / underemployed, with the ratio for the poor single-parent households with persons with disabilities being some 2 times their new-arrival counterparts. It should be noted that the proportion of working households among the poor single-parent households with persons with disabilities (21.8%) was also lower than that of overall poor single-parent households (38.4%). Indeed, nearly one-quarter (or 1 400 persons) of the persons with disabilities residing in these households were children, accounting for some 30% of all poor children with disabilities. This, to a certain extent, reflects that the responsibility of taking care of the poor children with disabilities may have restricted the capability of those living in these households to participate in the labour market.

- **Lower skill level for the employed persons:** some 90% of the employed persons in these two groups of poor households with persons with disabilities were engaged in the lower-skilled segment, similar to that for overall poor households.

**Figure 3.7: Selected socio-economic characteristics of poor single-parent and new-arrival households with persons with disabilities, 2013**



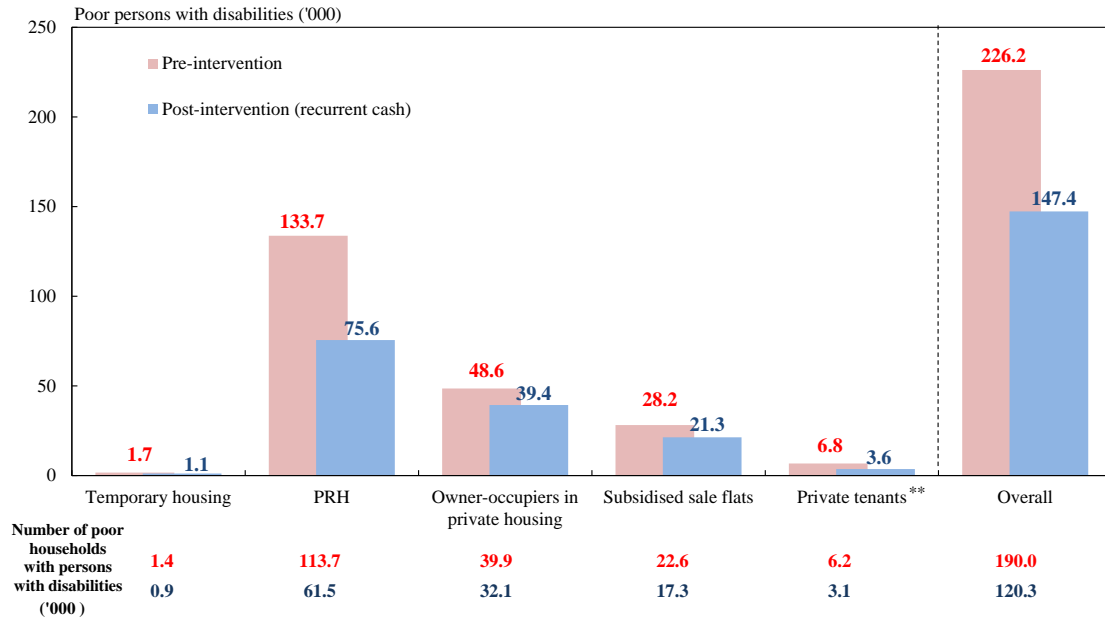
## (b) Analysis in terms of housing type<sup>28</sup>

3.16 Analysed by housing type, more than half of the total persons with disabilities in poverty reside in PRH, both before and after policy intervention (133 700 persons or 59.1%; 75 600 persons or 51.3%). This

28 Under the analytical framework of the poverty line, the housing type of poor households can be categorised into PRH, subsidised sales flats, private permanent housing and temporary housing.

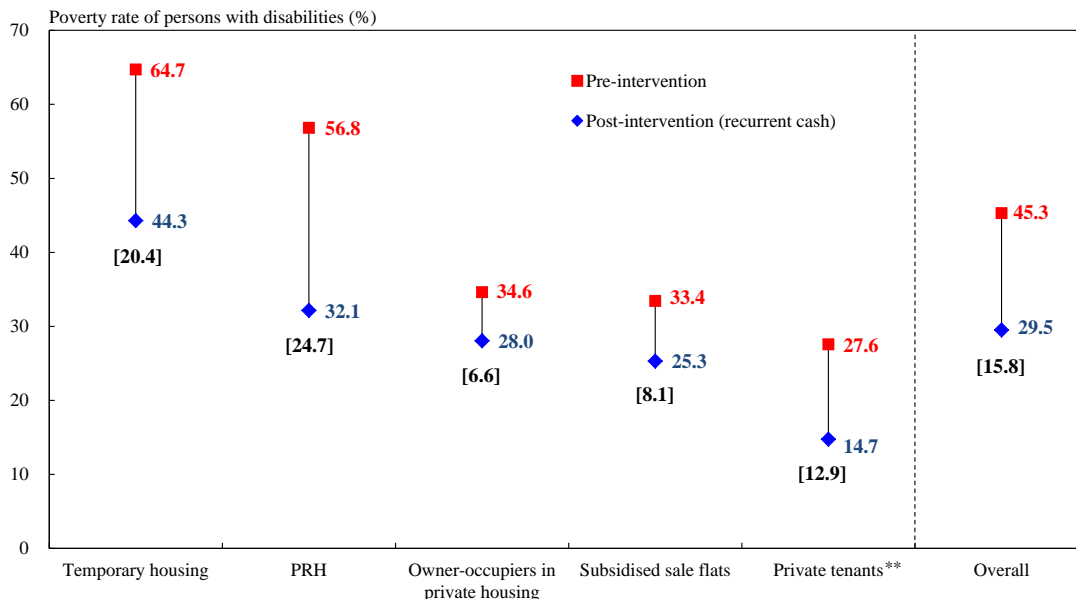
was followed by those residing in private housing as owner-occupiers (48 600 persons or 21.5%; 39 400 persons or 26.7%). Persons with disabilities in temporary housing had the highest poverty rates both before and after policy intervention, despite their smallest numbers in absolute terms. The poverty rates for persons with disabilities living in private housing as owner-occupiers and tenants, and subsidised sales flats were lower (Figures 3.8 and 3.9).

Figure 3.8: Poor persons with disabilities by type of housing, 2013



Notes: (\*\*) Including those residing in rooms / bedspaces / cocklofts.  
Due to large sampling errors, statistics pertaining to tenants in rooms / bedspaces / cocklofts are not released individually.  
Sources: General Household Survey; and Special Topic Enquiry on Persons with Disabilities, Census and Statistics Department.

Figure 3.9: Poverty rates of persons with disabilities by type of housing, 2013



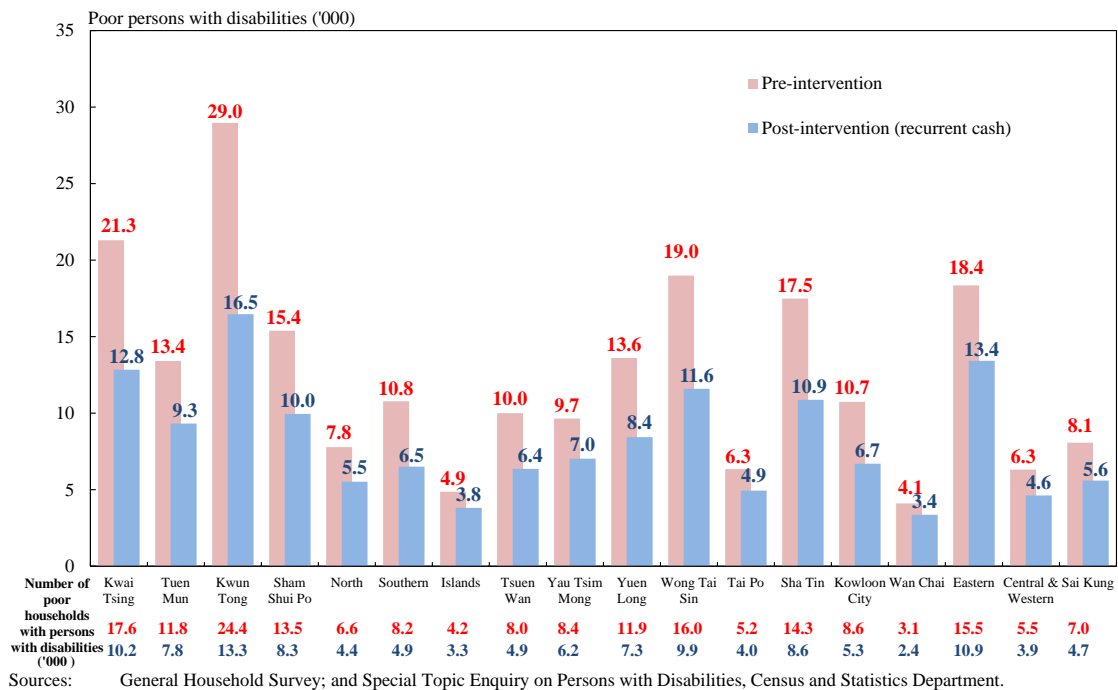
Notes: (\*\*) Including those residing in rooms / bedspaces / cocklofts.  
[ ] Figures in square brackets denote the percentage point(s) reductions in poverty rates.  
Due to large sampling errors, statistics pertaining to tenants in rooms / bedspaces / cocklofts are not released individually.  
Sources: General Household Survey; and Special Topic Enquiry on Persons with Disabilities, Census and Statistics Department.

3.17 Comparing the reduction of the poverty rates of persons with disabilities before and after policy intervention, housing types with higher poverty rates registered more notable reductions, for example, PRH and temporary housing (**Figure 3.9**). Such observation is consistent with the overall poverty situation in 2013. Conceivably, quite a number of households with members with disabilities residing in PRH and temporary housing have benefited from social security schemes.

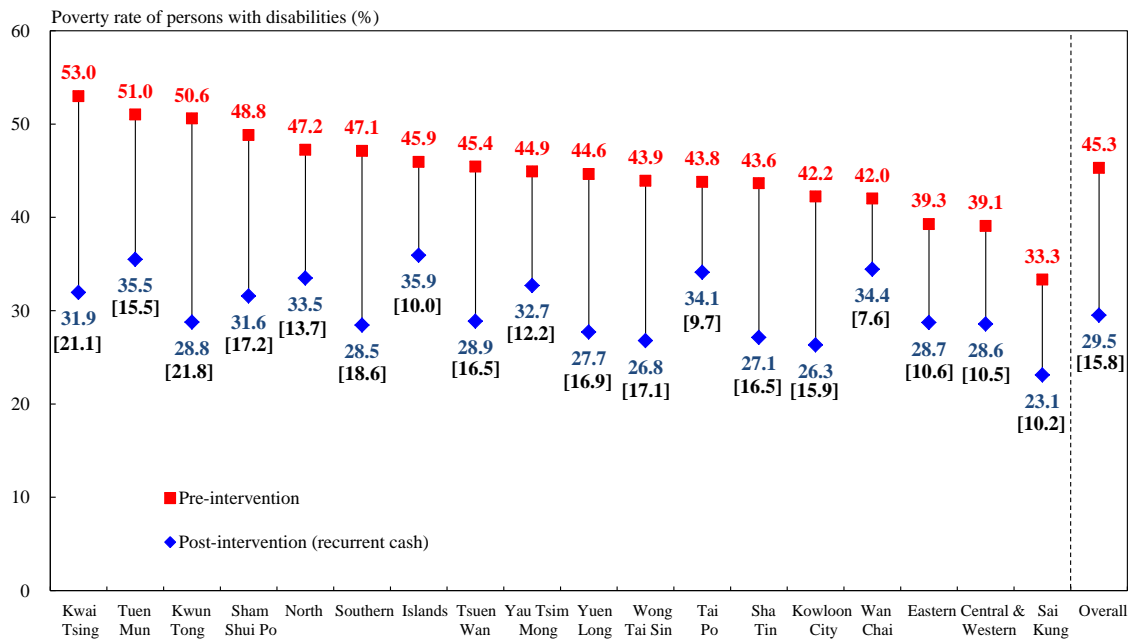
### 3.IV Poverty Situation of Persons with Disabilities by District

3.18 Analysed by the 18 District Council districts, poor households with persons with disabilities in 2013 were unevenly distributed over different areas. Before policy intervention, districts with more poor persons with disabilities and higher corresponding poverty rates include Kwai Tsing, Tuen Mun, Kwun Tong and Sham Shui Po. Wong Tai Sin, Sha Tin and Eastern were districts with fairly large numbers of these persons in poverty but lower-than-overall poverty rates of persons with disabilities. After policy intervention, the poverty situation of persons with disabilities recorded widespread improvement, in particular those districts with higher poverty rates (**Figures 3.10 and 3.11**).

**Figure 3.10: Poor persons with disabilities by District Council district, 2013**



**Figure 3.11: Poverty rates of persons with disabilities by District Council district, 2013**



Note: [ ] Figures in square brackets denote the percentage point(s) reductions in poverty rates.

Sources: General Household Survey; and Special Topic Enquiry on Persons with Disabilities, Census and Statistics Department.

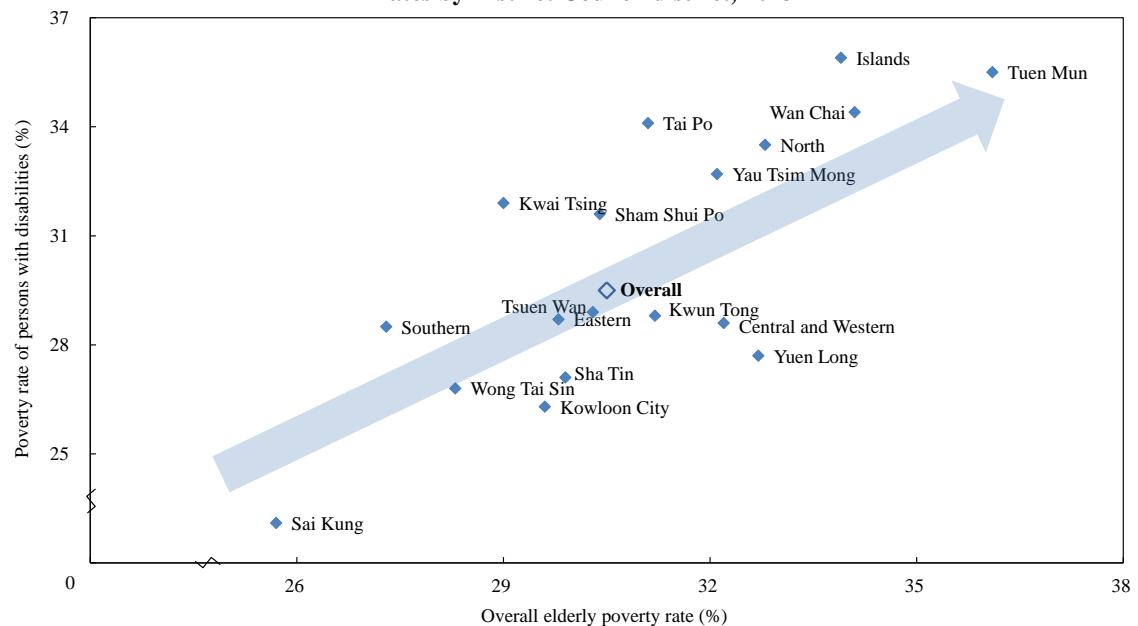
3.19 A further analysis of the poverty rates of the persons with disabilities by district after policy intervention reaffirms the close relationship between the age factor and their poverty situation (**Figure 3.12**). Specifically, in the eight districts with higher-than-overall poverty rates of those with disabilities, their corresponding elderly poverty rates also exceeded the relevant territory-wide level, and the overall elderly poverty rates in six of these districts were also higher than the corresponding territory-wide figure (**Table 3.5**). This is consistent with the observation that most poor persons with disabilities were elders, and given overall elderly poverty rate was higher than that of other age groups, the poverty situation of the former also, to a certain extent, reflected the overall elderly poverty situation of the relevant districts.

**Table 3.5: Poor persons with disabilities, poverty rates of those with disabilities and elderly poverty rates by District Council district, 2013**

	Poor population with disabilities ('000)	Poverty rate of persons with disabilities (%)	Poverty rate of the elderly with disabilities (%)	Overall elderly poverty rate (%)
<b>Islands</b>	3.8	35.9	45.0	33.9
<b>Tuen Mun</b>	9.3	35.5	47.9	36.1
<b>Wan Chai</b>	3.4	34.4	39.5	34.1
<b>Tai Po</b>	4.9	34.1	38.2	31.1
<b>North</b>	5.5	33.5	39.2	32.8
<b>Yau Tsim Mong</b>	7.0	32.7	40.0	32.1
<b>Kwai Tsing</b>	12.8	31.9	35.2	29.0
<b>Sham Shui Po</b>	10.0	31.6	37.0	30.4
<b>Tsuen Wan</b>	6.4	28.9	30.3	30.3
<b>Kwun Tong</b>	16.5	28.8	31.1	31.2
<b>Eastern</b>	13.4	28.7	33.6	29.8
<b>Central and Western</b>	4.6	28.6	37.9	32.2
<b>Southern</b>	6.5	28.5	34.1	27.3
<b>Yuen Long</b>	8.4	27.7	33.7	32.7
<b>Sha Tin</b>	10.9	27.1	32.4	29.9
<b>Wong Tai Sin</b>	11.6	26.8	30.1	28.3
<b>Kowloon City</b>	6.7	26.3	31.8	29.6
<b>Sai Kung</b>	5.6	23.1	28.3	25.7
<b>Overall</b>	<b>147.4</b>	<b>29.5</b>	<b>34.6</b>	<b>30.5</b>

Note: Based on poverty statistics after recurrent cash intervention.  
Sources: General Household Survey; and Special Topic Enquiry on Persons with Disabilities, Census and Statistics Department.

**Figure 3.12: Poverty rates of persons with disabilities and overall elderly poverty rates by District Council district, 2013**



Note: Based on poverty statistics after recurrent cash intervention.  
Sources: General Household Survey; and Special Topic Enquiry on Persons with Disabilities, Census and Statistics Department.

### **3.V Section Summary**

- 3.20 To summarise, as a substantial proportion of persons with disabilities are elders, the general forms and causes of poverty for both will inevitably be similar. For example, they may be in lack of employment income and hence easily be classified as poor. However, analysing the distinctive reason of elders with disabilities falling into poverty will be difficult, as the proportion of elders being economically inactive is naturally higher regardless of whether they are with disabilities. This is because it is difficult to determine and analyse based on the current dataset whether the reason of economic inactivity is due only to retirement or a result of their disabilities.
- 3.21 On the other hand, the poverty rate of the working-age (i.e. aged 18 to 64) persons with disabilities was more than double that of the overall figure for the same age group, in stark contrast to the other two age groups. As the poverty line framework adopts household income as the sole measurement of poverty, employment income is closely tied to the household's poverty risk. Given their low LFPR and higher level of difficulty faced in daily living, it is worth further examining the relationship between their disability, employment and causes of poverty.
- 3.22 It must be stressed that this focused analysis on the poverty situation of the working-age persons with disabilities does not mean that the Government would neglect the needs of the children, youth and elders with disabilities in poverty. In fact, under the current system, the Government has been providing various in-kind assistance according to the circumstances of persons with disabilities, in addition to cash subsidies (e.g. CSSA and DA, etc.).

### **3.VI Working-Age Persons with Disabilities: Their Possible Forms and Causes of Poverty**

- 3.23 With reference to relevant researches in overseas developed economies, the relationship between disability and poverty can usually be explored in two aspects<sup>29</sup>: (i) the relationship between disability and employment; and (ii) able-bodied members cannot fully participate in the labour market because they have to look after their family members with disabilities. Following the

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29 For details, please refer to OECD (2009), "Sickness, Disability and Work: Keeping on Track in the Economic Downturn", retrieved from <http://www.oecd.org/employment/emp/42699911.pdf>; Report of Census Bureau, US (2012), "Americans with Disability 2010", retrieved from <http://www.census.gov/prod/2012pubs/p70-131.pdf>; and World Bank research (1999), "Poverty and Disability: A survey of the Literature", retrieved from <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/DISABILITY/Resources/280658-172608138489/PovertyDisabElwan.pdf>.

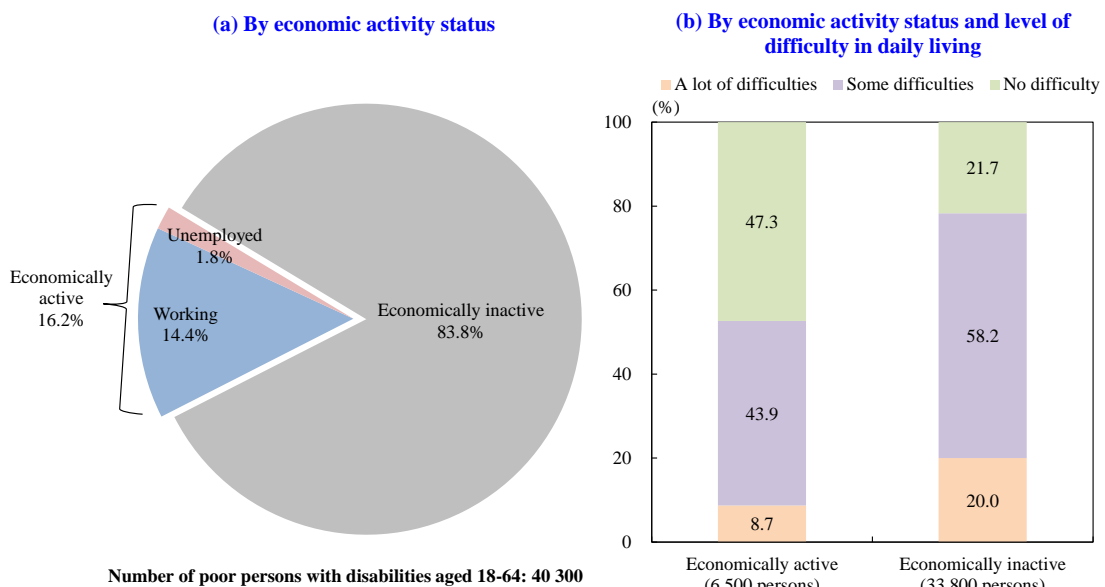
same logic, below are some of the possible main reasons to explain the higher poverty risks faced by poor persons with disabilities aged 18 to 64 in Hong Kong:

- **Impairment of capability to work due to disabilities:** persons with disabilities are easily trapped in poverty due to the lack of employment earnings as an important source of household income;
- **Employment difficulties faced by persons with disabilities:** they could face higher risk of unemployment despite their willingness to work. Difficulties in working full-time could be another issue for these employed persons due to their health conditions. Coupled with their relatively lower educational attainment and skill level, these factors would affect the level and stability of their employment income; and
- **Little capacity for carers to fully participate in the labour market:** carers living with persons with disabilities have difficulties in financially supporting the household by work, as they need to take care of the daily living of their family members with disabilities.

**(a) Impairment of capability to work due to disabilities**

3.24 In 2013, the LFPR of the 40 300 persons with disabilities in poverty aged 18 to 64 was only 16.2% (**Figure 3.13(a)**). For those being economically inactive, more than half of the persons attributed this to sickness / disability.

**Figure 3.13: Poor persons with disabilities aged 18-64 by economic activity status, 2013**



Notes: ( ) Figures in parentheses denote the corresponding number of persons.  
Based on poverty statistics after recurrent cash intervention.

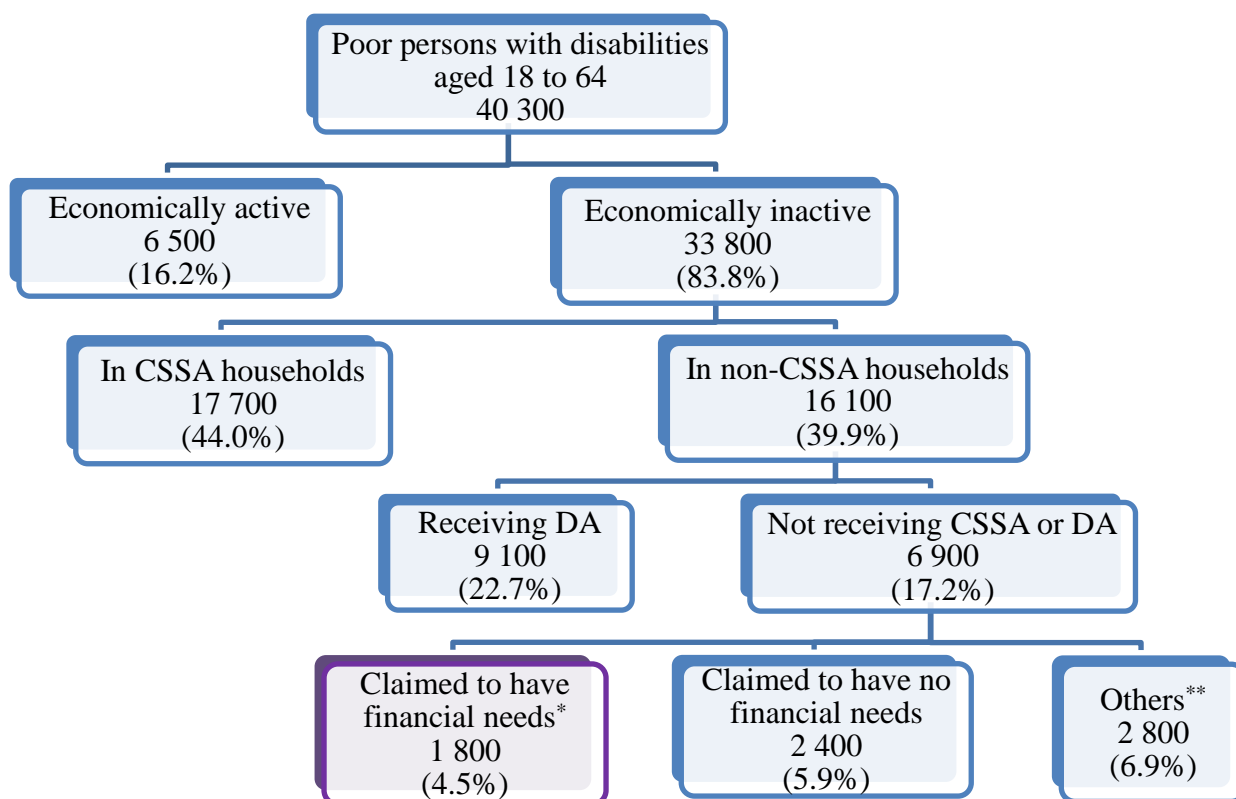
Sources: General Household Survey; and Special Topic Enquiry on Persons with Disabilities, Census and Statistics Department.

3.25 Further analysis shows that some one-fifth of the economically inactive

persons with disabilities in poverty aged 18 to 64 reported to face a lot of difficulties in daily living, suggesting that they face a higher poverty risk as they may not be able to secure a job for living due to their disabilities. In comparison, among the economically active persons with disabilities in poverty within the same age group, the proportion of those reported to have a lot of difficulties in daily living was only 8.7%, and the proportion reporting no difficulty was much higher (**Figure 3.13(b)**).

3.26 Analysed by the coverage of recurrent cash items, it is found that among the economically inactive persons with disabilities in poverty of the same age group, most were receiving CSSA (52.5%) or DA (27.0%). Among the remaining some 20% not receiving CSSA or DA, about a quarter (1 800 persons) reported to have financial needs, accounting for 4.5% of the overall persons with disabilities in poverty aged 18 to 64 (**Figure 3.14**).

**Figure 3.14: Poor persons with disabilities aged 18 to 64 by economic activity status, whether receiving CSSA and DA and reasons not applying for CSSA, 2013**



- Notes: ( ) Figures in parentheses represent the respective proportions in poor persons with disabilities aged 18 to 64.  
 (\*) Including those who have financial needs but fail to satisfy residence requirement / fail to pass the income and assets tests / are not willing to apply.  
 (\*\*) Including those whose applications for CSSA are in progress and who refuse to report their monthly household income / reasons for not applying for CSSA.  
 Based on poverty statistics after recurrent cash intervention.

Sources: General Household Survey; and Special Topic Enquiry on Persons with Disabilities, Census and Statistics Department.

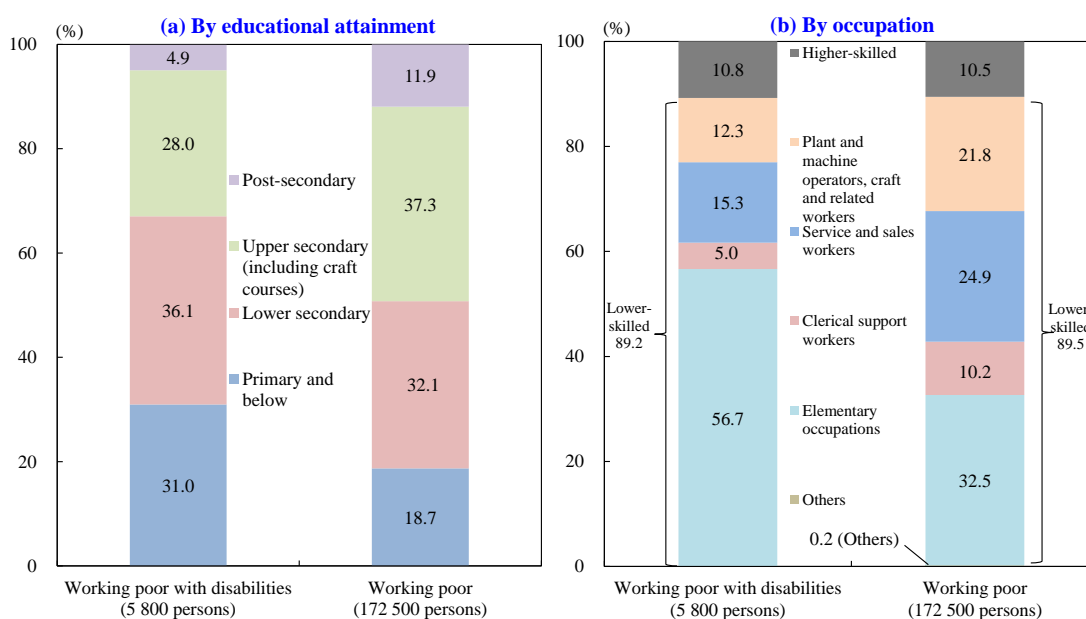


**(b) Employment difficulties faced by persons with disabilities**

3.27 As discussed in paragraphs 3.23 to 3.25, working-age persons with disabilities might face greater difficulties in securing a job for living due to their disabilities. Even if they are willing to participate in the job market, various factors will likely impact on the level and stability of their employment earnings.

3.28 Firstly, the educational attainment of working poor aged 18 to 64 and with disabilities was notably lower than that of working poor of the same age group, with only 4.9% of the former attaining post-secondary education, less than half of the corresponding ratio of the latter (**Figure 3.15(a)**). By occupation, nearly 60% of the working poor with disabilities aged 18 to 64 were engaged in elementary occupations, much higher than the corresponding proportion in working poor of the same age group. Only some 10% were engaged in the higher-skilled segment (**Figure 3.15(b)**).

**Figure 3.15: Working poor with disabilities aged 18-64 by educational attainment and occupation, 2013**



Notes: ( ) Figures in parentheses denote the corresponding number of persons. Based on poverty statistics after recurrent cash intervention.

Sources: General Household Survey; and Special Topic Enquiry on Persons with Disabilities, Census and Statistics Department.

3.29 Furthermore, the employment earnings of the poor persons with disabilities were also lower than the working poor with similar educational attainment (**Table 3.6**). This might be due to the fact that persons with disabilities have to regularly receive medical attention and hence have difficulties in working full-time, thereby restraining their employment earnings. In fact, the working hours of working poor with disabilities aged 18 to 64 were generally shorter. For example, the median and 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of their weekly working hours were respectively 35 and 48 hours, significantly lower than the corresponding figures of the overall working poor (40 and 60 hours) (**Table 3.7**).

**Table 3.6: Employment earnings of the working poor with disabilities aged 18-64 by educational attainment, 2013**

Median (\$, monthly)	Working poor with disabilities	Working poor
Primary and below	3,600	7,000
Secondary	4,000	8,500
Post-secondary	§	8,000
<b>Overall</b>	<b>3,600</b>	<b>8,000</b>

Notes: (§) Not released due to large sampling errors.

Based on poverty statistics after recurrent cash intervention.

Sources: General Household Survey; and Special Topic Enquiry on Persons with Disabilities, Census and Statistics Department.

**Table 3.7: Working hours of the working poor with disabilities aged 18-64, 2013**

Percentile (weekly working hours)	Working poor with disabilities	Working poor
90 <sup>th</sup>	48	60
75 <sup>th</sup>	42	50
50 <sup>th</sup> (median)	35	40
25 <sup>th</sup>	20	28
10 <sup>th</sup>	12	12

Note: Based on poverty statistics after recurrent cash intervention.

Sources: General Household Survey; and Special Topic Enquiry on Persons with Disabilities, Census and Statistics Department.

3.30 Meanwhile, the unemployment situation of persons with disabilities aged 18 to 64 is also challenging which directly increases their poverty risk. In 2013, the unemployment rate of persons with disabilities in poverty aged 18 to 64 was 10.9%, markedly higher than the overall figure of the same age group for Hong Kong (3.7%). The ratio of part-timers for the working poor with disabilities aged 18 to 64 was also high at 32.3%, almost five times that of the overall (7.1%). This suggests that even if the job market has been relatively tight during the period, persons with disabilities probably had not benefited much from such labour market buoyancy.

**(c) Little capacity for carers to fully participate in the labour market**

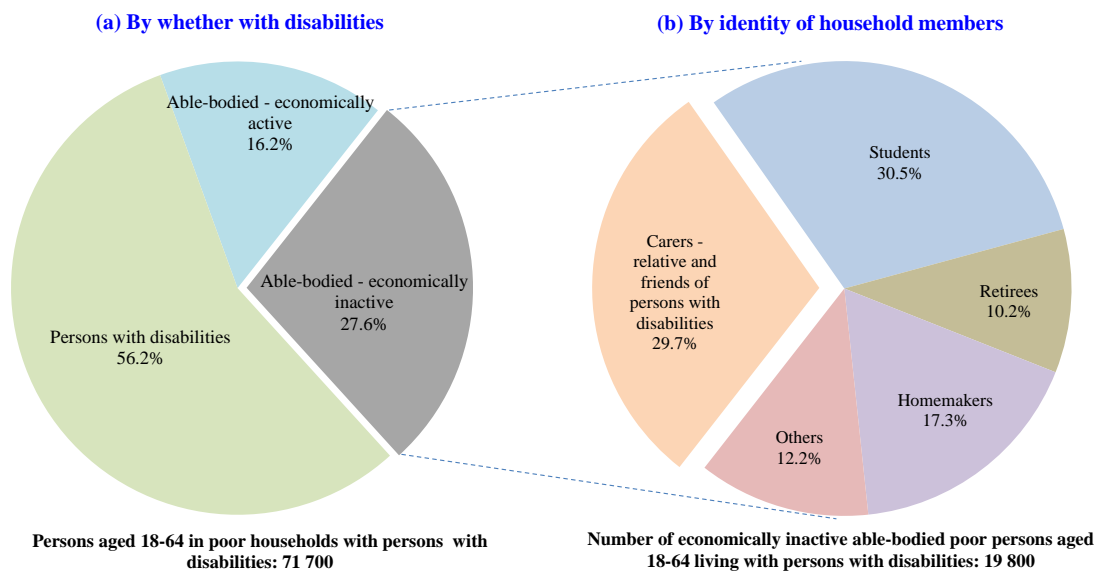
3.31 Apart from working-age persons with disabilities themselves being unable to join the labour market plausibly owing to their own challenging conditions, their household members might also have difficulties in fully participating in the workforce as they have to shoulder the household responsibilities of taking care of the daily living of the members with disabilities, even if they are capable of working.

3.32 The carers living with persons with disabilities can be broadly categorised

into two groups: (i) relatives and friends (e.g. spouses, sons and daughters, friends, etc.) and (ii) others, with the majority of them being persons employed from outside (e.g. private nurses, domestic helpers, etc.). Since most of the latter group are hired by the relevant household and are not formal household members, the analysis in the ensuing paragraphs will only focus on the carers from group (i).

3.33 In 2013, 55 400 able-bodied persons were residing with persons with disabilities aged 18 to 64, among whom 31 400 persons were in the same age group, but their LFPR was only 36.9% (**Figure 3.16(a)**), which was lower than the corresponding figure (77.3%) of non-poor households with persons with disabilities, and was also far below that of overall working-age population (72.8%). This is attributable to the fact that nearly 30% of these economically inactive able-bodied members at working-age were carers; as for the remaining economically inactive family members aged 18 to 64, a majority of them were home-makers and students (**Figure 3.16(b)**).

**Figure 3.16: Persons aged 18-64 in poor households with persons with disabilities by whether with disabilities, 2013**



Note: Based on poverty statistics after recurrent cash intervention.  
 Sources: General Household Survey; and Special Topic Enquiry on Persons with Disabilities, Census and Statistics Department.

3.34 Focusing on these carers aged 18 to 64 residing with persons with disabilities of the same age group, and analysing by the characteristic of members with disabilities being taken care of, it could be seen that 41.2% of these poor persons with disabilities were facing a lot of difficulties in daily living, which was higher than the corresponding figure (33.2%) for non-poor households with persons with disabilities. Consistent with such observation is that the relevant carers in poor households usually spend longer time per week taking care of their members with disabilities, as compared with their

counterparts in non-poor households.

- 3.35 Even if these carers are able to participate in the labour market, it is understandable that the family responsibility of taking care of the members with disabilities would, to a certain extent, affects their degree of participation in work. In fact, in these poor households, 38.5% of the working carers aged 18 to 64 were voluntary part-timers, significantly higher than the corresponding figure of less than 10% among their non-poor counterparts. Furthermore, the median weekly working hours at 40 hours for these working carers were also lower than that of their non-poor counterparts (45 hours). Meanwhile, the skill level and educational attainment of the former were also relatively lower than the non-poor working carers.
- 3.36 The above statistics demonstrate that while most persons with disabilities are economically inactive due to their own attributes, the carers living with them might also fail to work full-time, or even unable to work at all given their family commitments to look after the members with disabilities. All these factors combined have increased the poverty risk of this group.

### **3.VII Key Observations**

- 3.37 The poverty rates of persons with disabilities in Hong Kong were notably higher than the overall levels before and after recurrent cash intervention. This phenomenon is not unique to Hong Kong but is also prevalent in many developed economies overseas. In 2013, the key poverty indicators for those with disabilities (number of poor households with persons with disabilities, poor population with disabilities, and their corresponding poverty rates) in Hong Kong were as follows:
- Before policy intervention: 190 000 households, 226 200 persons, 45.3%;
  - After policy intervention: 120 300 households, 147 400 persons, 29.5%.

Nonetheless, it should be noted that the definition of persons with disabilities in the STE is more lenient when compared to the existing eligibility criteria of DA. The type of physical disability is defined based on the perceptions of the respondents and may not be certified by medical means (for the details of the definition of persons with disabilities and the major limitations of the corresponding statistics in the Report, please refer to Section 1.II and **Appendix 1**). It should be pointed out that amongst the poor persons with disabilities after recurrent cash intervention in 2013, some 30% reported that

- they had no difficulty in daily living. These persons whom some people may not regard as persons with disabilities have been included in the poverty statistics of this Report.
- 3.38 The Government's recurrent cash items lifted 78 800 persons with disabilities out of poverty, reducing their respective poverty rate and poor population by 15.8 percentage points and 34.9%. Both reductions are estimated to be larger than the overall poverty reduction, reflecting the effectiveness of the Government's recurrent cash policies in alleviating the financial burden of persons with disabilities.
- 3.39 Among the existing recurrent cash benefits more commonly received by persons with disabilities, except CSSA which determines and distribute allowance on a household basis, other benefits including DA, OALA and OAA are all individual-based or couple-based (applicable only to OALA), whereas poverty alleviation impact is computed on the basis of the entire household.
- 3.40 The analysis by socio-economic group shows that poor persons with disabilities were concentrated in elderly, CSSA and economically inactive households. After recurrent cash intervention, these household groups with persons with disabilities registered reductions in poverty rates. Among them, the reduction was the most significant for CSSA households, followed by elderly households, reflecting the importance of the Government's cash assistance in alleviating the financial burden of these households. Such reductions were relatively smaller for new-arrival, single-parent and with-children households. The poverty rates of persons with disabilities in single-parent and new-arrival households were still high even after policy intervention, reaching 48.4% and 42.4% in 2013, involving 6 100 and 6 000 poor persons with disabilities respectively. Furthermore, analysed by type of housing, more than half of poor persons with disabilities resided in PRH, while the poverty rate of their counterparts in temporary housing was high at 44.3%, despite their smallest number in absolute terms. A further analysis by district reaffirms the close relationship between the age factor and the poverty situation of persons with disabilities. Specifically, in the eight districts with higher-than-overall poverty rates of persons with disabilities, their poverty rates of the elderly with disabilities also exceeded the relevant territory-wide level, and the overall elderly poverty rates in six of these districts were also higher than the corresponding territory-wide figure.

### **Analysis on the Poor Population with Disabilities by Age Group**

- 3.41 Further analysis on the poor population with disabilities (and the corresponding poverty rates) by age after policy intervention in 2013:

- Children aged below 18: 5 000 persons (poverty rate at 20.5%, slightly higher than the overall figure of the same age group of 18.6%);
- Persons aged 18 to 64: 40 300 persons (poverty rate at 22.4%, more than double the overall figure of the same age group of 10.5%); and
- Elders aged 65 and above: 102 100 persons (poverty rate at 34.6%, slightly higher than the overall figure of the same age group of 30.5%).

#### Elders aged 65 and above

- 3.42 For poor elders with disabilities, their general forms and causes of poverty would inevitably be similar to that of poor elders, both mostly economically inactive. Elders, no matter with disabilities or not, in general are more likely to be economically inactive, in lack of employment income and hence have a higher poverty rate. It is difficult to differentiate and determine whether the elders exit the labour market upon retirement, or their inability to work is a result of their disabilities. As stated in paragraph 3.4, the definition of persons with disabilities in the STE is relatively lenient. Indeed, in 2013, after recurrent cash intervention, about one-third of the 102 100 poor elders with disabilities reported that they had no difficulty in daily living. Also, among those poor elders with disabilities not on CSSA, nearly half reported to have no financial needs.
- 3.43 In addition to DA, the range of government financial assistance to the elderly persons with disabilities is substantially the same as that for elderly people, including CSSA, OALA and OAA. For those poor elderly persons with disabilities not on CSSA but with financial needs, many were already enjoying various social security schemes, including OALA (51.6%), OAA (29.9%) and DA (15.0%). For those working elderly persons with disabilities, they might, like other working persons, apply for WITS if they were eligible.
- 3.44 Apart from financial assistance, the Government aims to encourage elderly persons to lead a more fulfilled life in their golden years and harness their wealth of experience, knowledge and expertise through continued learnings, volunteer service and participation in social and economic activities. A series of measures have been taken to promote active ageing, such as the Elderly Academy Scheme, the Opportunities for the Elderly Project, the Neighbourhood Active-Ageing Project and the Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities. It is our policy objective to provide community support to elderly persons,

including those with disabilities, thus enabling them to live at home. As for those elderly persons, including elderly persons with disabilities, who cannot live independently and those who cannot be adequately cared for by their families, we provide them with appropriate residential care services. Details of the programmes and services regarding community support and residential care are set out in paragraphs 17 to 19 of **Appendix 3**.

#### Children aged below 18

3.45 Children with disabilities living in poverty is relatively small in number (5 000 persons). However, some 20% of them (900 persons) reported to face a lot of difficulties in daily living and might require special care and extra support of the Government. Eligible children with disabilities could benefit from DA or CSSA, and the Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities<sup>30</sup>.

3.46 Apart from providing financial assistance to those families with children with disabilities, the Government strives to provide children, from birth to six years old, with disabilities or at risk of becoming disabled with early intervention to enhance their physical, psychological and social developments, thereby improving their opportunities for participating in ordinary schools and daily life activities and helping their families meet their special needs. To this end, we provide them with a wide range of pre-school rehabilitation and other supporting services as set out in paragraphs 5 to 7 of **Appendix 3**.

3.47 For those students with special educational needs studying in secondary and primary schools, the Government provides additional resources, professional support and teacher training for the schools to assist them in catering for the needs of the students and help the students develop their potential. Please refer to paragraphs 8 to 14 of **Appendix 3** for details of special education.

#### Persons aged 18 to 64

3.48 Analysis shows that working-age (aged 18 to 64) non-elderly persons with disabilities living in poverty also had a low proportion of being economically active, and the level of difficulties they faced in daily living was also considerably high. By focusing on this particular age group, the causes of poverty for these persons with disabilities can be analysed and

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30 The Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities now covers elderly people aged 65 and above, CSSA recipients aged below 65 with 100% disabilities, and recipients of DA aged below 65. Beneficiaries can travel on the general MTR lines, franchised buses and ferries any time at a concessionary fare of \$2 per trip.

summarised into three main points: (i) working capabilities being hampered due to disabilities and hence inability to participate in the labour market; (ii) employment difficulties faced by persons with disabilities even though they are willing to work, such as higher risk of unemployment, difficulties in maintaining a stable stream of employment income given their limitations on working hours as affected by their health conditions, relatively lower educational attainment and skill level; and (iii) carers living with persons with disabilities having difficulties in taking up full-time work as they need to take care of the daily living of their family members with disabilities, thereby affecting the income of the entire household.

3.49 The Government fully recognises that most persons with disabilities will be able to undertake some kind of productive work. Some of them, depending on the severity and the nature of the disabilities, may not be suitable to enter into the open market, while others may need assistance to prepare them for entry into the open market and for sustaining their employment. As such, the Government does not only provide employment services to persons with disabilities, but also render assistance to their employers, provide incentive to them and implement encouragement measures to facilitate employment among persons with disabilities. On the other hand, eligible working persons, with or without disabilities, may benefit from the WITS Scheme and some of them may also benefit from the Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities<sup>31</sup>. Details of the initiatives to facilitate employment among persons with disabilities are set out in paragraph 20 of **Appendix 3**.

3.50 The Government is keenly conscious that family members / carers have been facing pressure in taking care of persons with disabilities. It is our strategic development directions to empower persons with disabilities and their carers to become valuable social capital. Towards this direction, we provide a range of training and support services<sup>32</sup> for carers of persons with disabilities with a view to enhancing their ability and relieving their stress in taking care of their family members with disabilities. Details of the community support services in place are in paragraph 17 of **Appendix 3**.

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31 Please refer to footnote 30 for the coverage of the Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities.

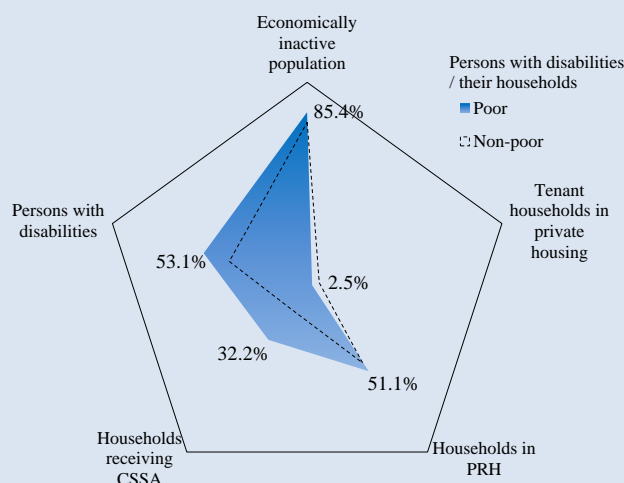
32 Various support for carers of persons with disabilities include training in District Support Centres for Persons with Disabilities to strengthen their caring capacity and relieve their stress; Parents / Relatives Resource Centres which provide a focal point for carers to share experience and seek mutual support with assistance from staff; Integrated Community Centres for Mental Wellness which also provide services for families / carers; and occasional child care services which relieve carers from taking care of the persons with disabilities thus enabling the carers to attend to their personal business or needs on a temporary basis; etc.



### 3.VIII A Synopsis of Poverty Situation after Recurrent Cash Intervention by Selected Household Group

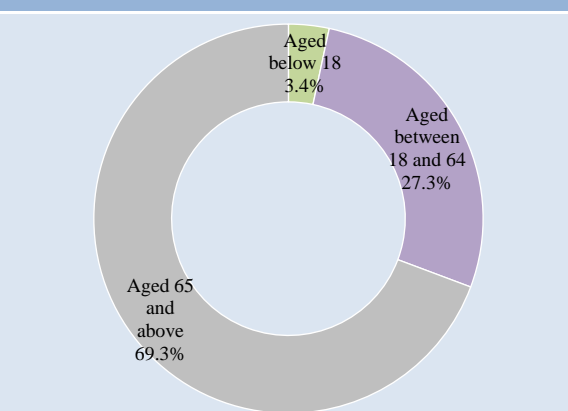
#### (i) Overall poor households with persons with disabilities

- Definition: domestic households with members with disabilities and with household income (after recurrent cash intervention) below the poverty line of the corresponding household size.
- Poor households with persons with disabilities comprised mostly (67.6%) 1- and 2-person families. About half were in PRH. The share of receiving CSSA (32.2%) was also high.
- Most (69.3%) of the poor persons with disabilities were elders. Over 90% of them were economically inactive. The unemployment rate and proportion of part-time employment were both quite high.
- 15.6% of these persons reported a lot of difficulties in daily living, while nearly 55% reported some difficulties.

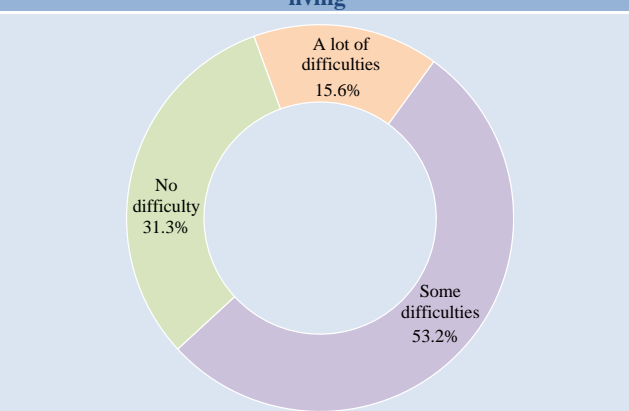


Major poverty figures		Selected statistical references of poor persons with disabilities and their households	
Poor households ('000)	120.3	Average household size/employed members	2.3 / 0.3
Poor population ('000)	277.3	Median monthly household income (\$)	6,000
Poor population with disabilities ('000)	147.4	Median age	74
Poverty rate of persons with disabilities (%)	29.5	LFPR (%)	5.5
Total poverty gap (per annum, \$Mn)	4,241.9	Unemployment rate (%)	9.0
Average poverty gap (per month, \$)	2,900	Demographic/Economic dependency ratio	1 328 / 5 847

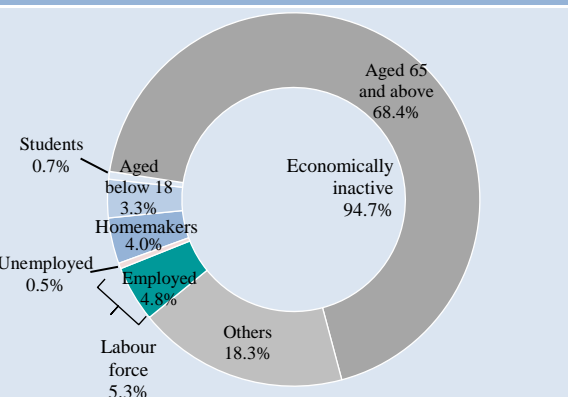
#### Poor persons with disabilities - age



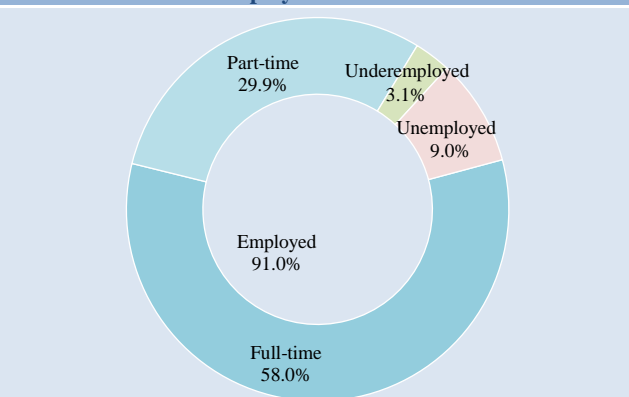
#### Poor persons with disabilities - level of difficulty in daily living



#### Poor persons with disabilities - economic activity status



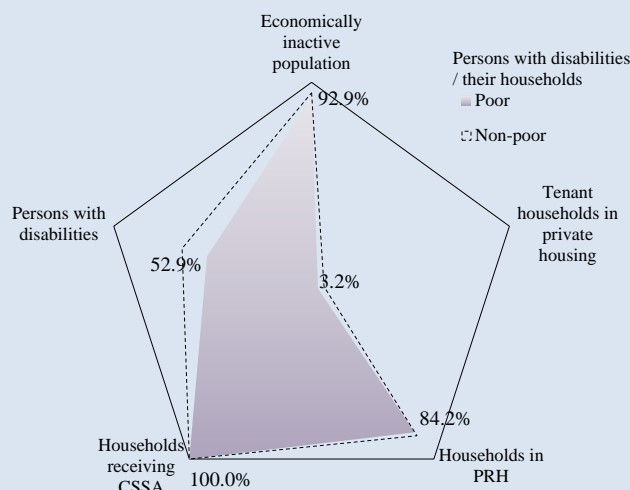
#### Economically active poor persons with disabilities - employment status



Sources: General Household Survey; and Special Topic Enquiry on Persons with Disabilities, Census and Statistics Department.

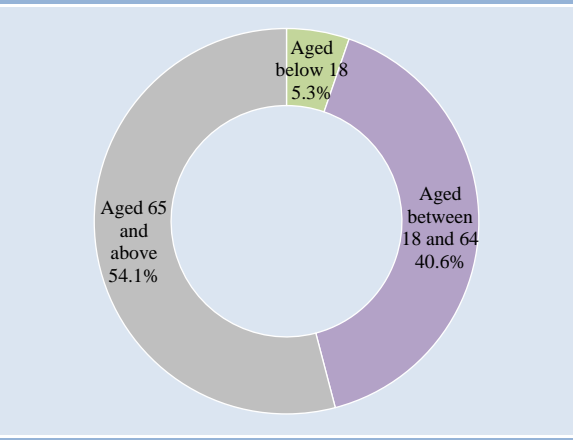
**(ii) Poor CSSA households with persons with disabilities**

- Definition: domestic households with members with disabilities in poverty receiving Comprehensive Social Security Assistance.
- Among the poor CSSA households with persons with disabilities, the proportion of persons with disabilities aged 18 to 64 was relatively high (40.6%).
- Most (84.2%) of these poor CSSA households were in PRH.
- Similar to the overall poor households with persons with disabilities, most of the persons with disabilities in poor CSSA households were economically inactive. The unemployment rate and proportion of part-timer were also quite high.
- These are estimates of GHS and STE and may not match SWD's administrative records.

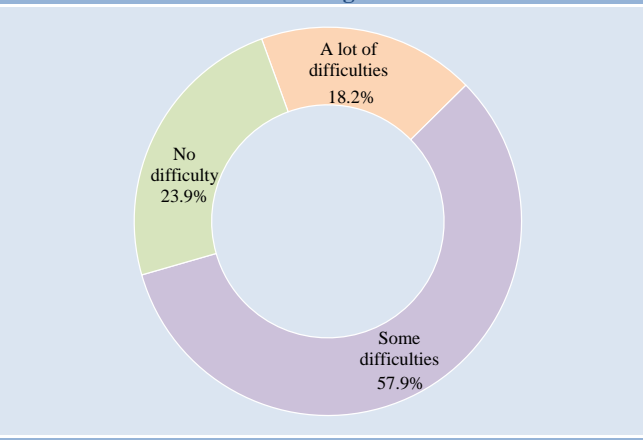


Major poverty figures		Selected statistical references of poor persons with disabilities and their households	
Poor households ('000)	38.7	Average household size/employed members	2.3 / 0.1
Poor population ('000)	90.9	Median monthly household income (\$)	6,800
Poor population with disabilities ('000)	48.1	Median age	67
Poverty rate of persons with disabilities (%)	51.7	LFPR (%)	4.1
Total poverty gap (per annum, \$Mn)	1,019.2	Unemployment rate (%)	18.9
Average poverty gap (per month, \$)	2,200	Demographic/Economic dependency ratio	1 014 / 13 035

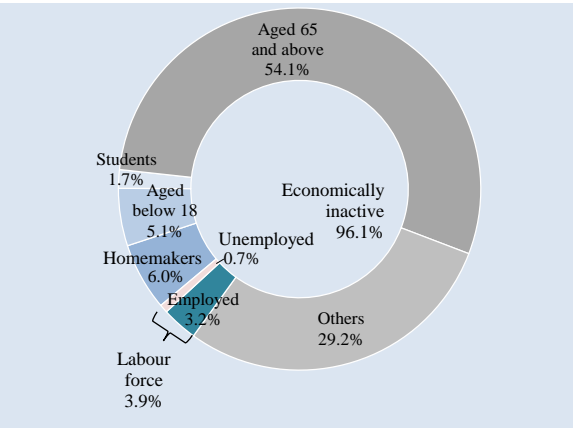
**Poor persons with disabilities - age**



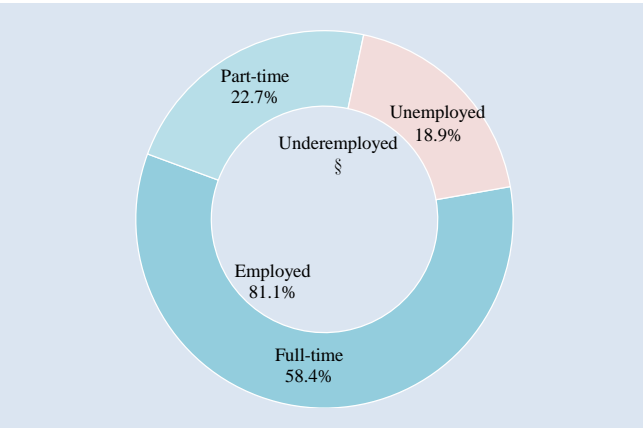
**Poor persons with disabilities - level of difficulty in daily living**



**Poor persons with disabilities - economic activity status**



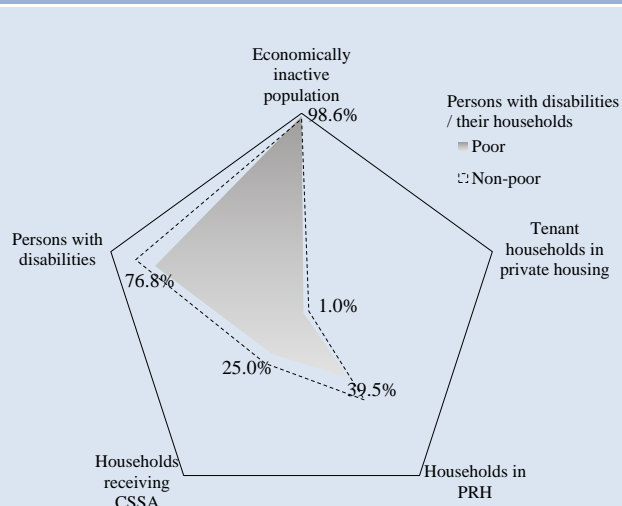
**Economically active poor persons with disabilities - employment status**



Note: (\$) Not released due to large sampling errors.  
Sources: General Household Survey; and Special Topic Enquiry on Persons with Disabilities, Census and Statistics Department.

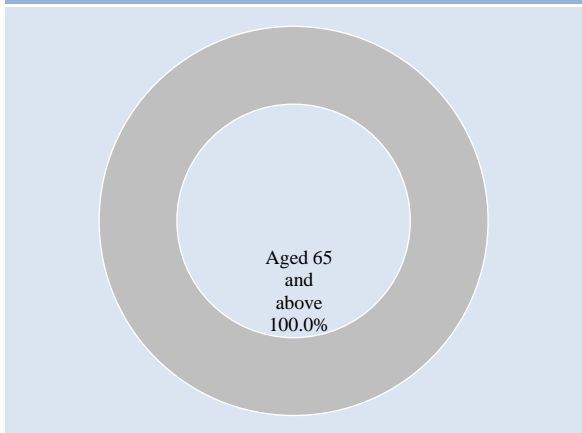
**(iii) Poor elderly households with persons with disabilities**

- Definition: domestic households with members with disabilities in poverty and with all members aged 65 and above.
- Most of the poor elderly households with members with disabilities comprised 1- and 2-person families. About 25% of them received CSSA, lower than 32.2% of the overall poor households with persons with disabilities.
- 76.8% of members were persons with disabilities, with almost all being economically inactive.
- Some 35% of these households were owner-occupiers in private housing, higher than that of other selected household groups, of which most were without mortgages and loans. This suggests a difference in terms of assets and liabilities between these households in question and other selected household groups.

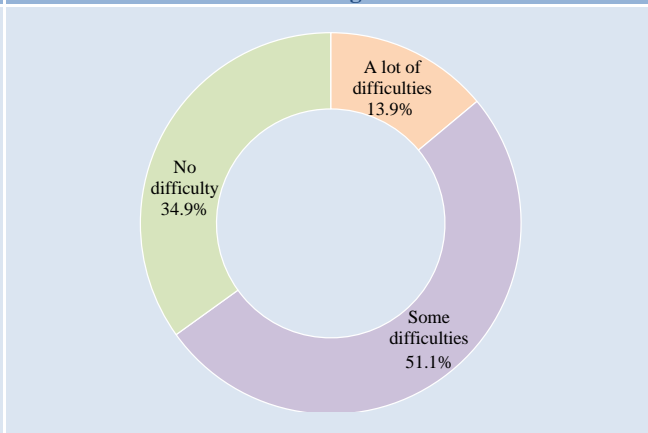


Major poverty figures		Selected statistical references of poor persons with disabilities and their households	
Poor households ('000)	54.9	Average household size/employed members	1.6 / @
Poor population ('000)	88.5	Median monthly household income (\$)	3,500
Poor population with disabilities ('000)	68.0	Median age	79
Poverty rate of persons with disabilities (%)	50.1	LFPR (%)	0.9
Total poverty gap (per annum, \$Mn)	1,635.2	Unemployment rate (%)	§
Average poverty gap (per month, \$)	2,500	Demographic/Economic dependency ratio	n.a. / 68 995

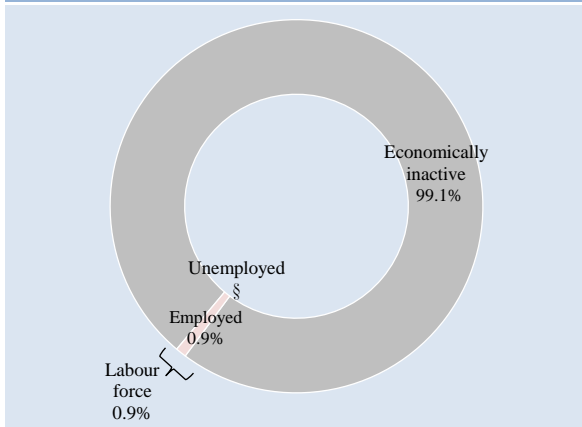
**Poor persons with disabilities - age**



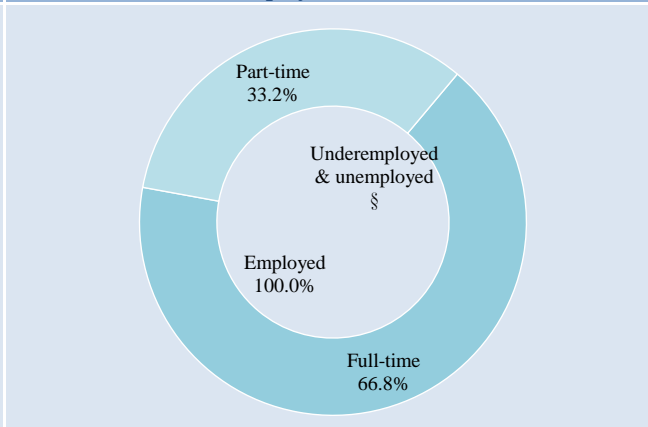
**Poor persons with disabilities - level of difficulty in daily living**



**Poor persons with disabilities - economic activity status**



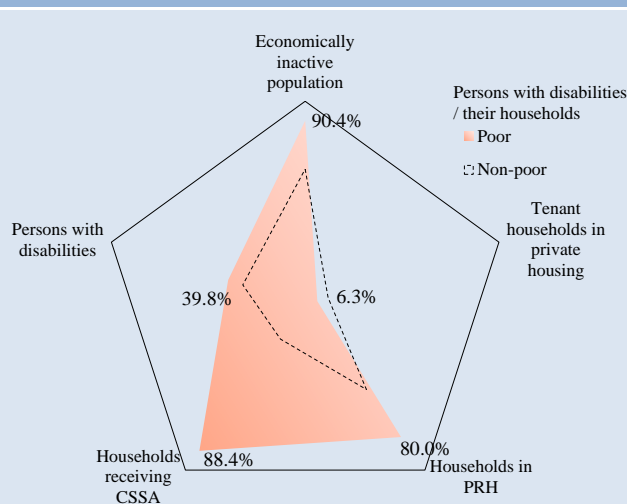
**Economically active poor persons with disabilities - employment status**



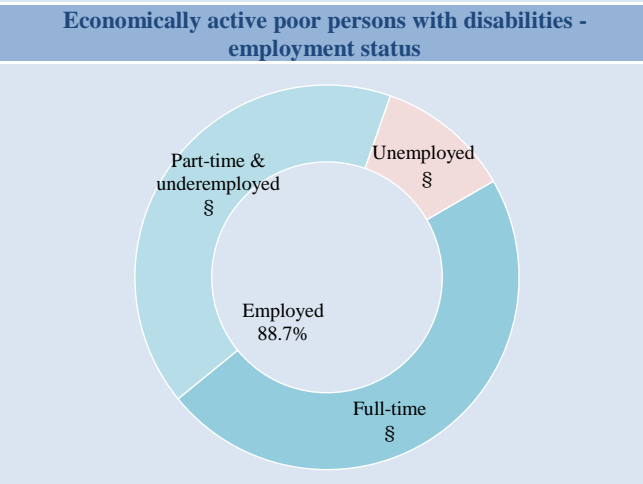
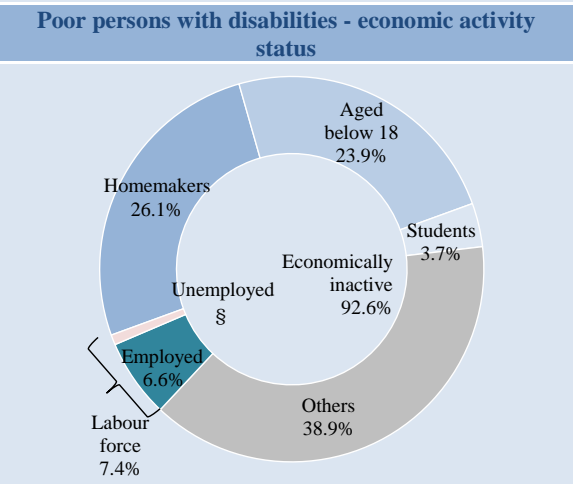
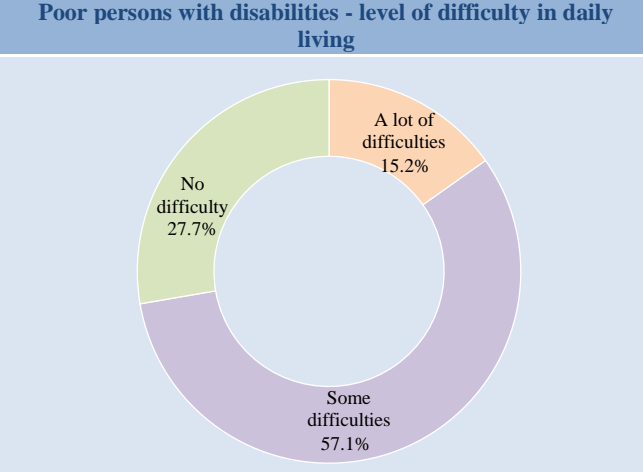
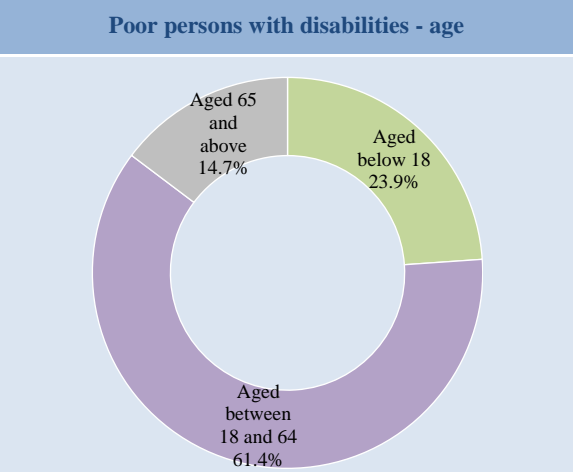
Notes: (§) Not released due to large sampling errors. (@) Less than 0.05%.  
Sources: General Household Survey; and Special Topic Enquiry on Persons with Disabilities, Census and Statistics Department.

**(iv) Poor single-parent households with persons with disabilities**

- Definition: domestic households with members with disabilities in poverty and with at least one unmarried, widowed, divorced or separated member living with children aged below 18.
- Poor single-parent households with members with disabilities were mostly (82.2%) 2- and 3-person families. They were mostly in PRH or CSSA-receiving (80.0% and 88.4% respectively). Such ratios were relatively high as compared to other selected groups.
- Among the poor persons with disabilities, some 60% aged 18 to 64 while some 25% were children aged below 18, both higher than those of the overall poor households with persons with disabilities.



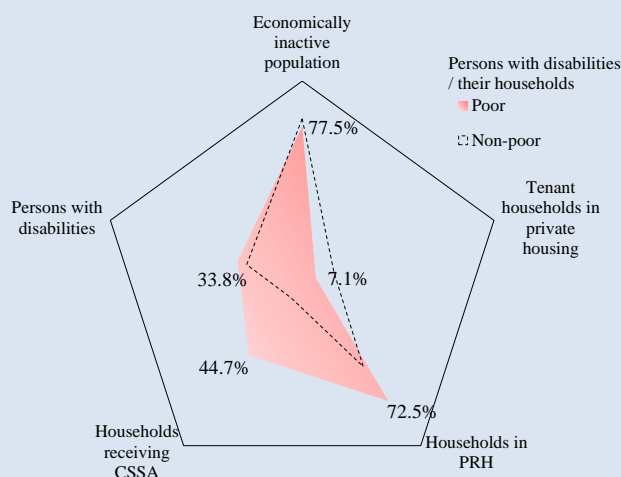
Major poverty figures		Selected statistical references of poor persons with disabilities and their households	
Poor households ('000)	5.3	Average household size/employed members	2.9 / 0.2
Poor population ('000)	15.2	Median monthly household income (\$)	8,100
Poor population with disabilities ('000)	6.1	Median age	42
Poverty rate of persons with disabilities (%)	48.4	LFPR (%)	9.3
Total poverty gap (per annum, \$Mn)	196.7	Unemployment rate (%)	§
Average poverty gap (per month, \$)	3,100	Demographic/Economic dependency ratio	719 / 9 431



Note: (§) Not released due to large sampling errors.  
Sources: General Household Survey; and Special Topic Enquiry on Persons with Disabilities, Census and Statistics Department.

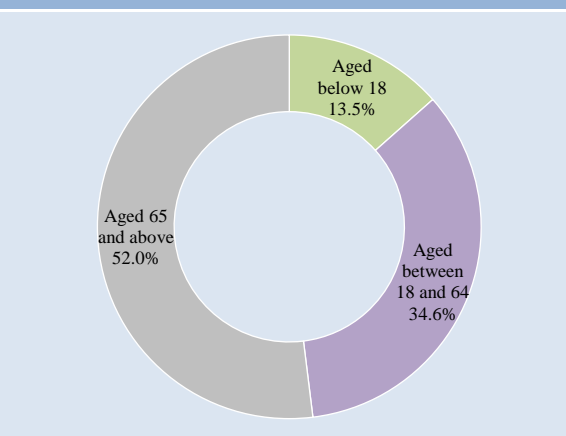
**(v) Poor new-arrival households with persons with disabilities**

- Definition: domestic households with members with disabilities in poverty and with at least one member from the Mainland having resided in Hong Kong for less than seven years.
- These households were mostly (72.7%) 2- to 4-person families. Their proportions of living in PRH and private housing as tenants (72.5% and 7.1% respectively) were both higher relative to other selected household groups.
- As compared to other selected groups, the share of members with disabilities in this household group (33.8%) was lower. Their LFPR was higher (10.1%).

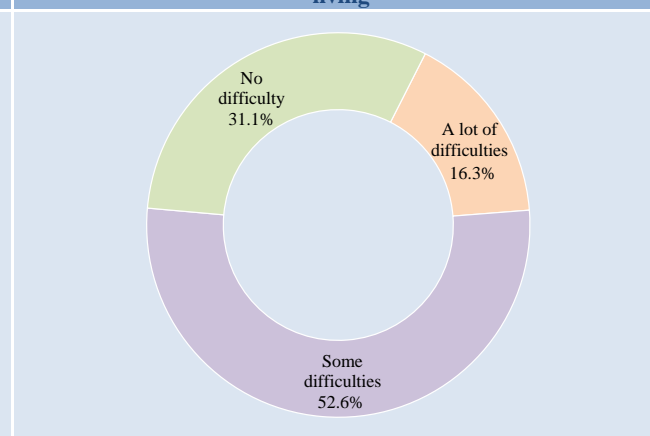


Major poverty figures		Selected statistical references of poor persons with disabilities and their households	
Poor households ('000)	4.9	Average household size/employed members	3.7 / 0.7
Poor population ('000)	17.8	Median monthly household income (\$)	10,300
Poor population with disabilities ('000)	6.0	Median age	65
Poverty rate of persons with disabilities (%)	42.4	LFPR (%)	10.1
Total poverty gap (per annum, \$Mn)	199.5	Unemployment rate (%)	§
Average poverty gap (per month, \$)	3,400	Demographic/Economic dependency ratio	934 / 3 445

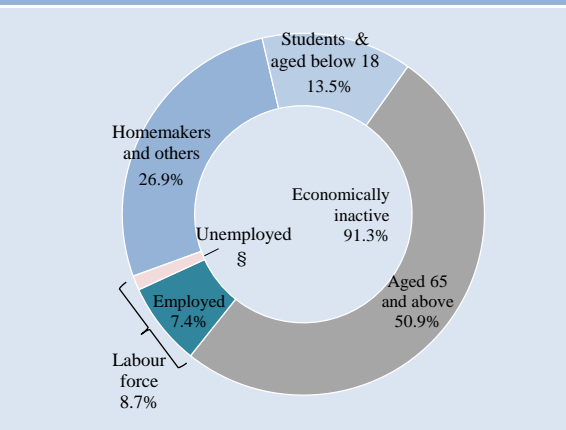
**Poor persons with disabilities - age**



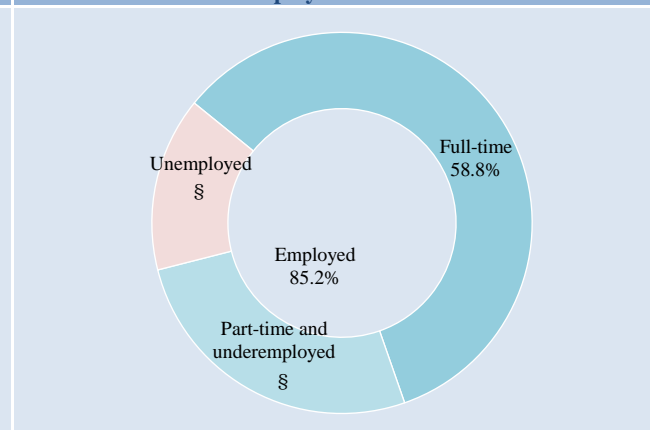
**Poor persons with disabilities - level of difficulty in daily living**



**Poor persons with disabilities - economic activity status**



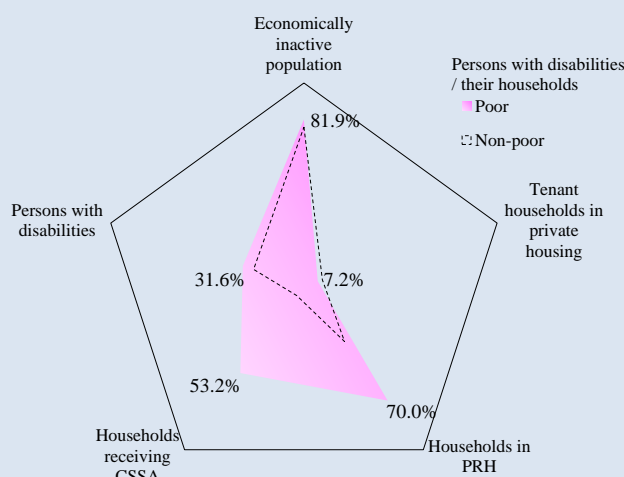
**Economically active poor persons with disabilities - employment status**



Note: (§) Not released due to large sampling errors.  
Sources: General Household Survey; and Special Topic Enquiry on Persons with Disabilities, Census and Statistics Department.

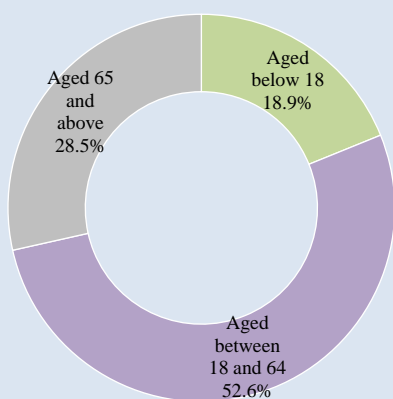
**(vi) Poor households with children and with persons with disabilities**

- Definition: domestic households with members with disabilities in poverty and with at least one member aged below 18.
- These households comprised mostly (71.3%) 3- and 4-person families with higher dependency ratios.
- Similar to poor single-parent households with persons with disabilities, the shares of persons with disabilities in question aged below 18 and 18 to 64 were higher (18.9% and 52.6% respectively) than those of the overall poor households with members with disabilities (3.4% and 27.3% respectively).
- The shares of the households in question living in PRH and receiving CSSA were also higher (70.0% and 53.2% respectively).

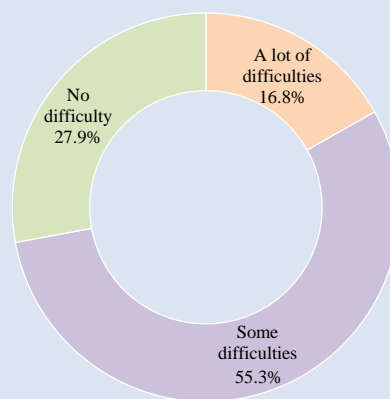


Major poverty figures		Selected statistical references of poor persons with disabilities and their households	
Poor households ('000)	22.5	Average household size/employed members	3.7 / 0.6
Poor population ('000)	83.1	Median monthly household income (\$)	10,400
Poor population with disabilities ('000)	26.3	Median age	50
Poverty rate of persons with disabilities (%)	27.6	LFPR (%)	12.3
Total poverty gap (per annum, \$Mn)	959.7	Unemployment rate (%)	9.8
Average poverty gap (per month, \$)	3,600	Demographic/Economic dependency ratio	705 / 4 537

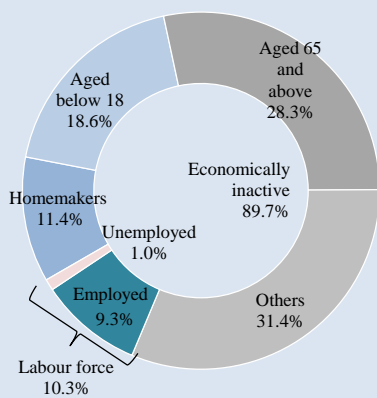
**Poor persons with disabilities - age**



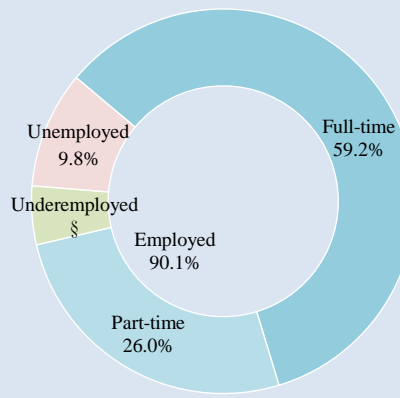
**Poor persons with disabilities - level of difficulty in daily living**



**Poor persons with disabilities - economic activity status**



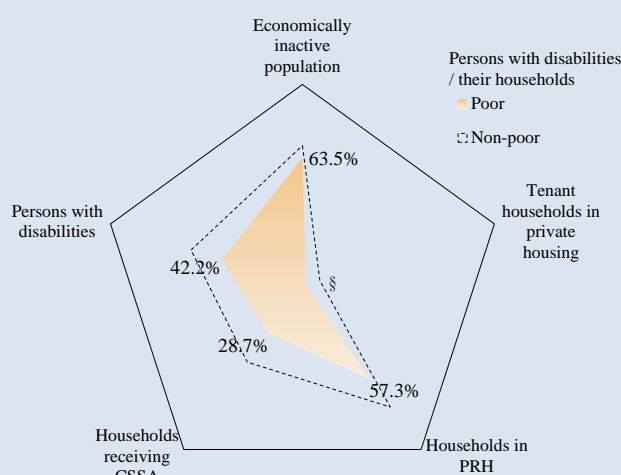
**Economically active poor persons with disabilities - employment status**



Note: (\$) Not released due to large sampling errors.  
Sources: General Household Survey; and Special Topic Enquiry on Persons with Disabilities, Census and Statistics Department.

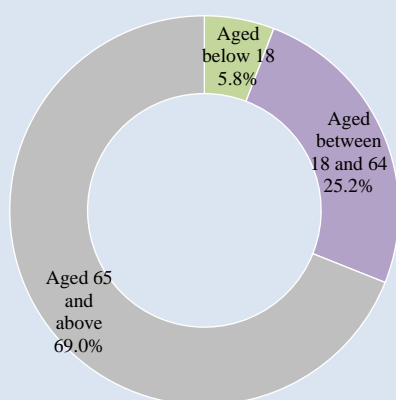
**(vii) Poor unemployed households with persons with disabilities**

- Definition: domestic households with members with disabilities in poverty and with all economically active members being unemployed.
- The poverty rate of persons with disabilities living in the unemployed households was 70.1%, the highest among all selected household groups.
- As compared with working poor households with persons with disabilities, the share of the households in question receiving CSSA was higher while the share of members with disabilities was also higher (42.2%), with the majority (69.0%) being elders.
- Only some 10% of persons with disabilities in question were economically active, all being unemployed. Nearly 80% of the economically inactive poor persons with disabilities were elders aged 65 and above.

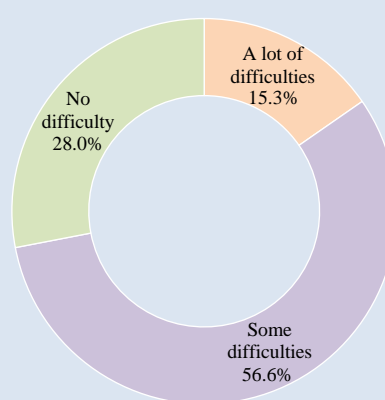


Major poverty figures		Selected statistical references of poor persons with disabilities and their households	
Poor households ('000)	3.9	Average household size/employed members	2.8 / n.a.
Poor population ('000)	10.9	Median monthly household income (\$)	6,700
Poor population with disabilities ('000)	4.6	Median age	72
Poverty rate of persons with disabilities (%)	70.1	LFPR (%)	13.3
Total poverty gap (per annum, \$Mn)	246.9	Unemployment rate (%)	100.0
Average poverty gap (per month, \$)	5,300	Demographic/Economic dependency ratio	883 / 1 743

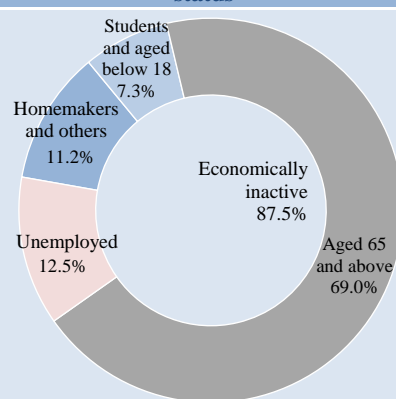
**Poor persons with disabilities - age**



**Poor persons with disabilities - level of difficulty in daily living**



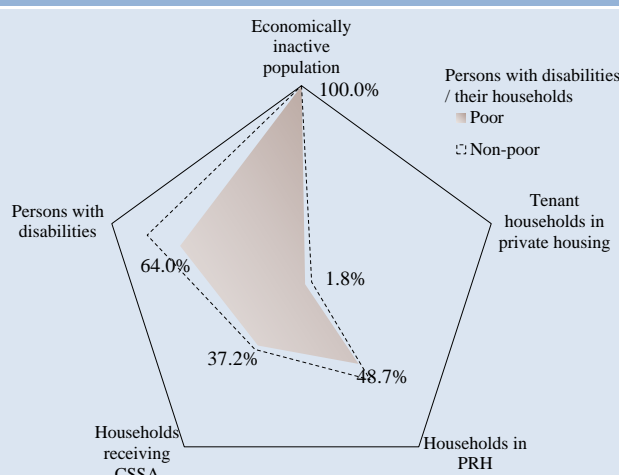
**Poor persons with disabilities - economic activity status**



Note: (\$) Not released due to large sampling errors.  
Sources: General Household Survey; and Special Topic Enquiry on Persons with Disabilities, Census and Statistics Department.

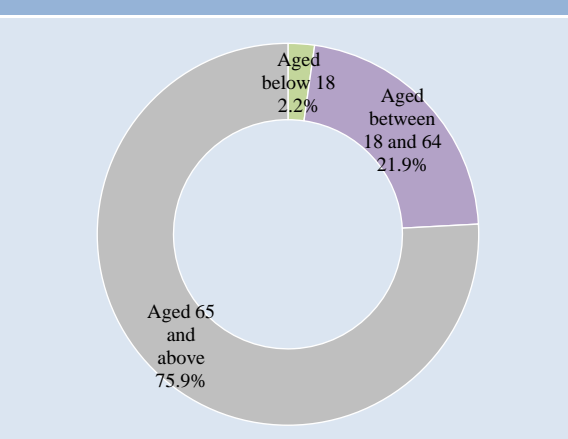
**(viii) Poor economically inactive households with persons with disabilities**

- Definition: domestic households with members with disabilities in poverty and with all members being economically inactive.
- Similar to the poor elderly households with persons with disabilities, the proportion of members with disabilities in this group was relatively high (64.0%), most (75.9%) of whom were elders.
- Mostly being elderly households, this household group was dominated by 1- and 2-person households. Around 50% were in PRH while nearly 30% were in private housing as owner-occupiers.

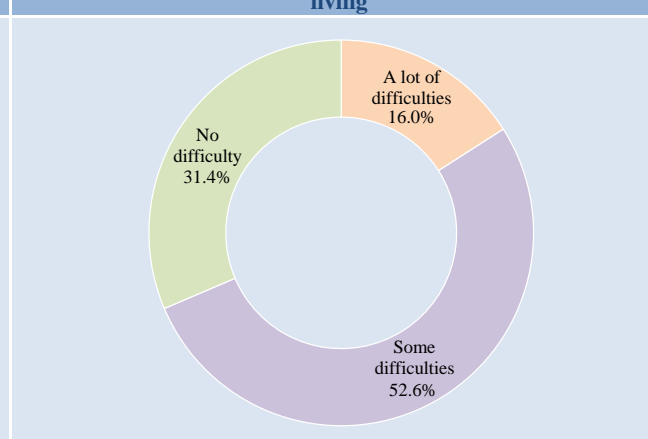


Major poverty figures		Selected statistical references of poor persons with disabilities and their households	
Poor households ('000)	87.4	Average household size/employed members	1.9 / n.a.
Poor population ('000)	169.6	Median monthly household income (\$)	4,500
Poor population with disabilities ('000)	108.6	Median age	75
Poverty rate of persons with disabilities (%)	54.7	LFPR (%)	n.a.
Total poverty gap (per annum, \$Mn)	3,116.6	Unemployment rate (%)	n.a.
Average poverty gap (per month, \$)	3,000	Demographic/Economic dependency ratio	2 344 / n.a.

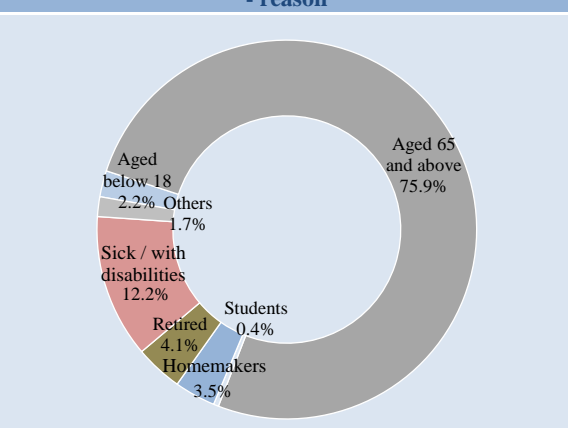
**Poor persons with disabilities - age**



**Poor persons with disabilities - level of difficulty in daily living**



**Poor persons with disabilities - economically inactive - reason**

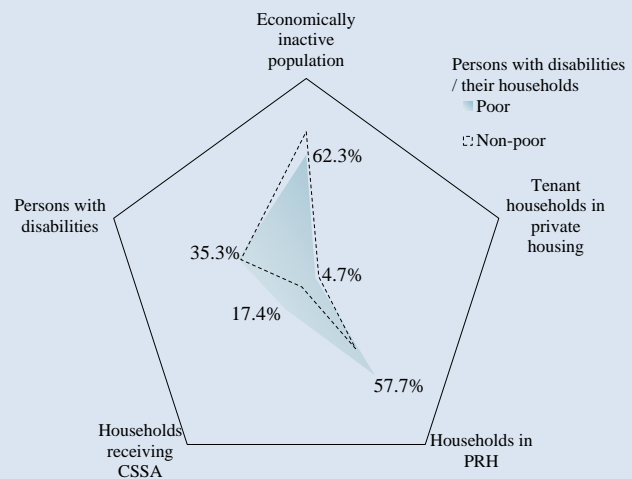


Sources: General Household Survey; and Special Topic Enquiry on Persons with Disabilities, Census and Statistics Department.



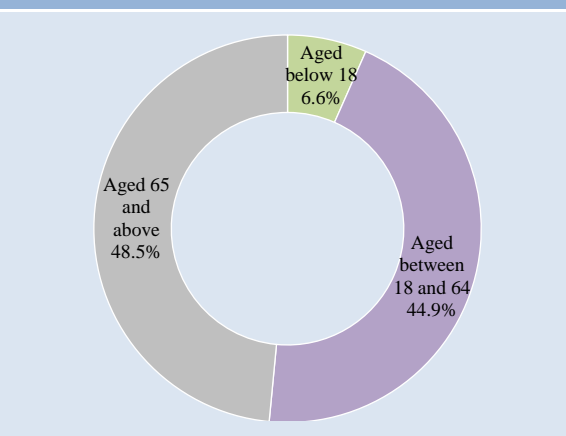
**(ix) Working poor households with persons with disabilities**

- Definition: domestic households with members with disabilities in poverty and with at least one employed member excluding foreign domestic helpers (FDHs).
- Working poor households with persons with disabilities comprised mostly (66.7%) 3- and 4-person families, yet on average having only about one household member in employment.
- As compared with other selected household groups, the proportion of persons with disabilities aged 18 to 64 in this group was higher. Their LFPR was higher (22.6%).
- The proportion of the poor households with persons with disabilities in question receiving CSSA was lower (17.4%).

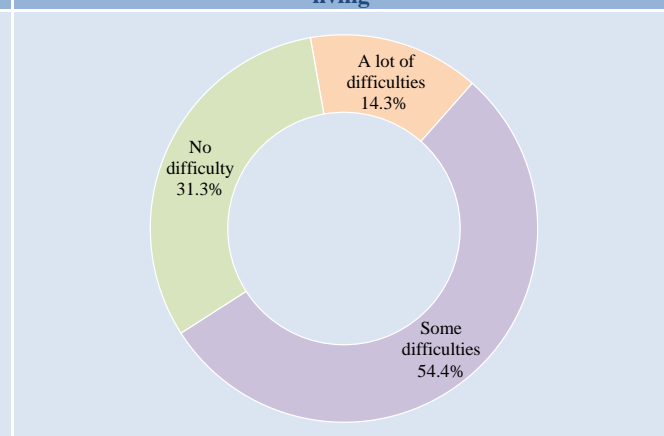


Major poverty figures		Selected statistical references of poor persons with disabilities and their households	
Poor households ('000)	28.9	Average household size/employed members	3.3 / 1.2
Poor population ('000)	96.8	Median monthly household income (\$)	10,900
Poor population with disabilities ('000)	34.2	Median age	64
Poverty rate of persons with disabilities (%)	11.6	LFPR (%)	22.6
Total poverty gap (per annum, \$Mn)	878.5	Unemployment rate (%)	§
Average poverty gap (per month, \$)	2,500	Demographic/Economic dependency ratio	546 / 1 650

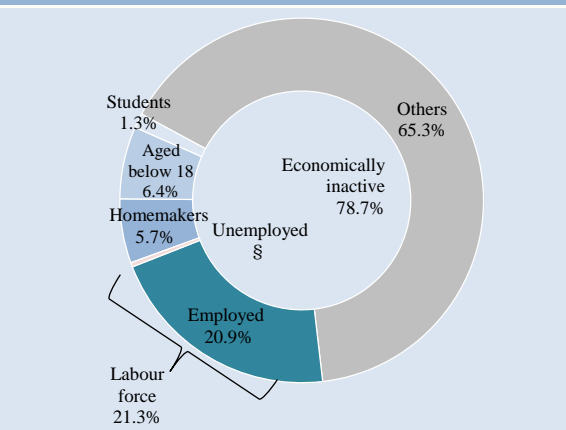
**Poor persons with disabilities - age**



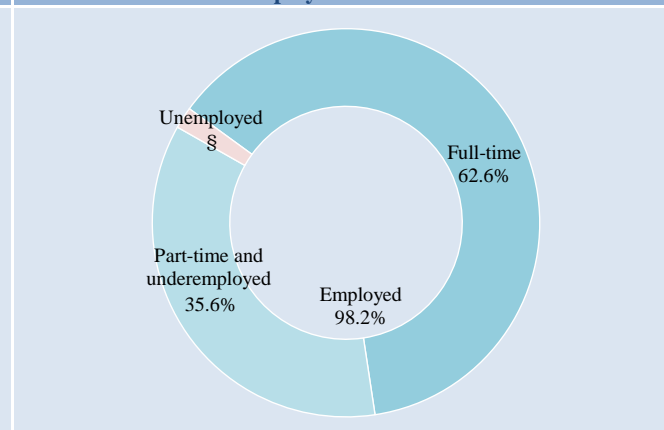
**Poor persons with disabilities - level of difficulty in daily living**



**Poor persons with disabilities - economic activity status**



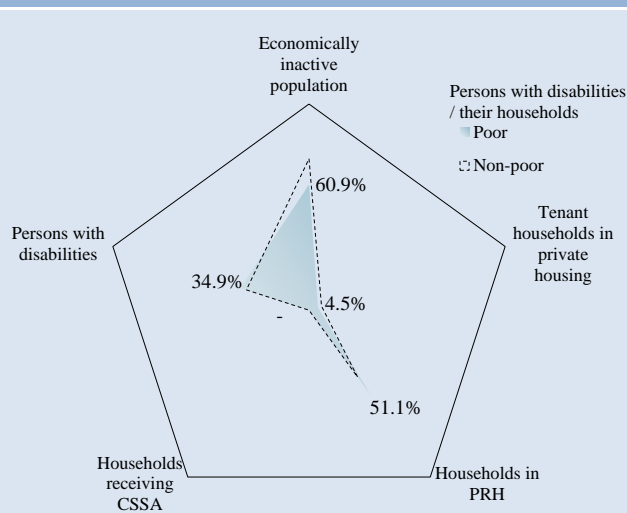
**Economically active poor persons with disabilities - employment status**



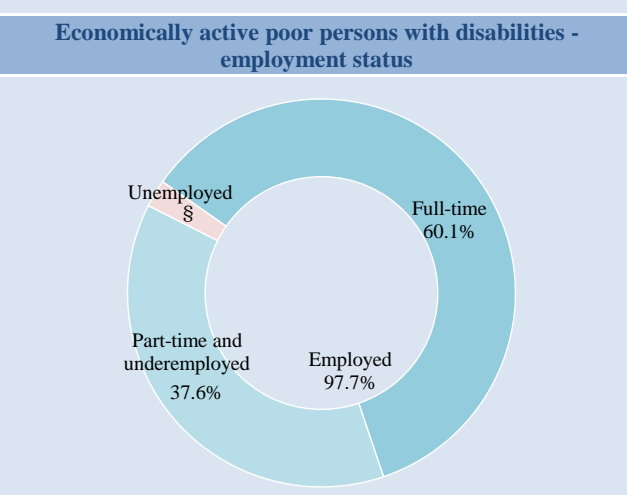
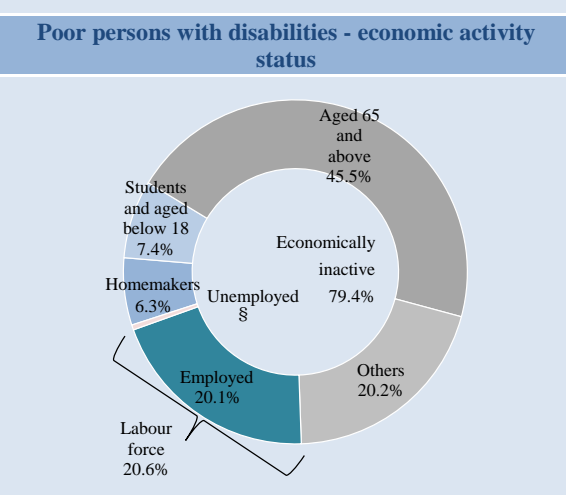
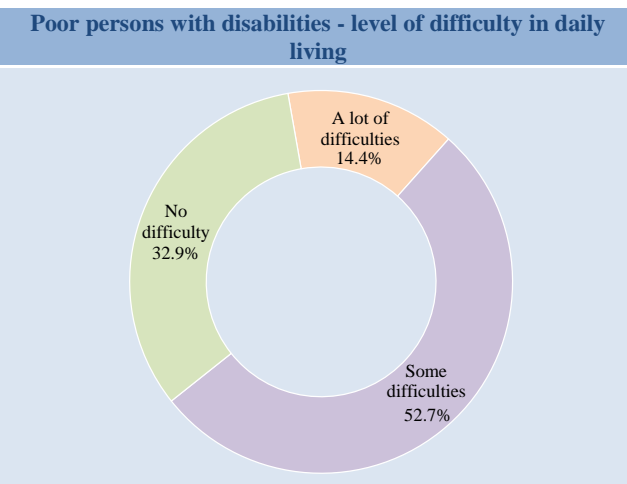
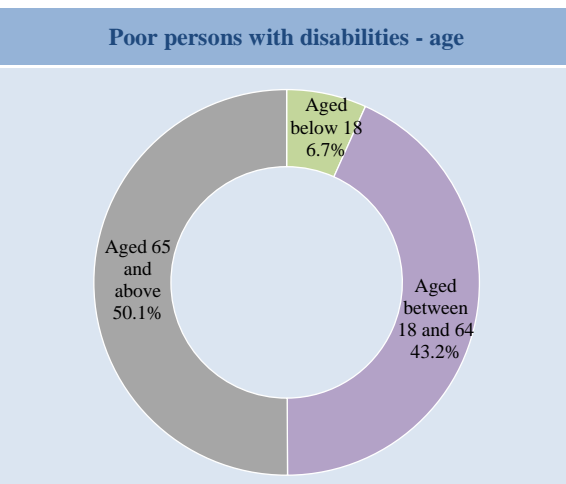
Note: (§) Not released due to large sampling errors.  
Sources: General Household Survey; and Special Topic Enquiry on Persons with Disabilities, Census and Statistics Department.

**(x) Non-CSSA working poor households with persons with disabilities**

- Definition: working poor domestic households with members with disabilities, excluding CSSA domestic households.
- Households in this sub-group were similar to the overall working poor households with persons with disabilities, in terms of socio-economic characteristics, housing type and employment status.
- Similar to the overall working poor households with persons with disabilities, this sub-group also faced the following difficulty: most had relatively large family size, with 80.1% being 3-person and above. However, having only about one working member on average alongside members with disabilities, their family burden is conceivably heavy.



Major poverty figures		Selected statistical references of poor persons with disabilities and their households	
Poor households ('000)	23.9	Average household size/employed members	3.3 / 1.2
Poor population ('000)	80.0	Median monthly household income (\$)	10,900
Poor population with disabilities ('000)	27.9	Median age	65
Poverty rate of persons with disabilities (%)	10.1	LFPR (%)	21.9
Total poverty gap (per annum, \$Mn)	750.8	Unemployment rate (%)	§
Average poverty gap (per month, \$)	2,600	Demographic/Economic dependency ratio	559 / 1 560



Notes: (§) Not released due to large sampling errors. (-) not applicable.  
Sources: General Household Survey; and Special Topic Enquiry on Persons with Disabilities, Census and Statistics Department.

## 4 Policy Implications

4.1 The Government attaches great importance to poverty alleviation, in particular on how to better cater for the needs of the underprivileged. Through the STE in 2013, and coupled with the poverty line data, C&SD has compiled estimates on the poverty situation of the persons with disabilities. The comprehensive analysis of their socio-economic characteristics as furnished in this Report reveals that:

- In 2013, according to the definition of “disability” adopted in the STE, about 0.5 million persons or 7.4% of our population were persons with disabilities residing in domestic households. After recurrent cash intervention, the number of such poor households and the persons with disabilities therein amounted to 0.12 million and 0.15 million, accounting for 15.2% of the overall poor population of 0.97 million, with a poverty rate of 29.5%. Whilst such figure is notably lower than that before policy intervention by 15.8 percentage points, it was still visibly higher than the overall level (14.5%).
- On the basis of the definition of “disability” used in the STE, nearly 70% (102 100 persons) of poor persons with disabilities were elders aged 65 and above. The socio-economic characteristics of the former are remarkably close to those of poor elders, e.g. most of them are economically inactive and in lack of employment income, thereby facing a higher poverty risk. Whilst the number of poor children with disabilities is relatively small (5 000 persons) and their poverty rate (20.5%) is similar to the corresponding level of the overall population (18.6%), some one-fifth (900 persons) of them reported to face a lot of difficulties in daily living and might require special attention and additional support of the Government.
- There were 40 300 working-age (aged 18 to 64) persons with disabilities in poverty in 2013. Statistics indicate that they are more prone to poverty as compared with their counterparts in the same age group. Even after recurrent cash intervention, their poverty rate (22.4%) was still more than double that of the overall population of the same age group (10.5%). This is mainly attributable to: (i) working capabilities being hampered due to disabilities and hence inability to participate in the labour market; (ii) the employment difficulties faced by persons with disabilities; and (iii) carers living with persons with disabilities having difficulties in fully participating in the labour market as they need to take care of the daily living of

their family members with disabilities, thereby increasing their poverty risks.

4.2 Further analysis reveals the higher poverty risks faced by working-age persons with disabilities:

- Persons with disabilities unable to work: in 2013, there were 6 900 economically inactive poor persons with disabilities, aged 18 to 64 and not receiving CSSA or DA, around one-quarter (1 800 persons) of whom reported to have financial needs.
- Employment difficulties faced by persons with disabilities: for the economically active persons with disabilities aged 18 to 64 who are in poverty, the unemployment rate was high at 10.9% (700 persons), and about 30% (1 900 persons) could only take up part-time work.
- Carers of persons with disabilities having difficulties in taking up full-time work: working-age carers, being charged with the responsibilities of taking care of their family members with disabilities, may fail to fully participate in the labour market even though they are capable of working.

4.3 The Government will continue to provide appropriate and targeted support measures to the persons with disabilities with different needs.

4.4 For the poor elderly persons with disabilities, the Government will continue to provide financial assistance as appropriate. Indeed, most of them (95.0% or 97 000 persons) were already benefiting from CSSA, OALA, OAA or DA. We would also continue to promote active ageing and to provide long-term care services.

4.5 As for the children with disabilities, the Government would, apart from helping those living in families with financial need, seek to increase the number of pre-school rehabilitation service places, and continue to provide suitable training/education for them through consolidating the existing measures and experimenting new ones.

4.6 Regarding the working-age persons with disabilities, the Government reaffirms its objective to assist persons with disabilities to find appropriate jobs on the basis of their abilities rather than disabilities, while promoting an inclusive society which duly recognises the rights, capabilities and contributions of persons with disabilities. Apart from continuing to provide vocational training and employment support to empower persons with disabilities (while also recognising that some of them may not be suitable for

working full-time), we will continue to adopt positive encouragement measures to enhance job opportunities for persons with disabilities, such as giving due recognition to good employers, sharing good practices among employers, creating more job opportunities through social enterprises, promoting the support of employment of persons with disabilities in the public and private sectors, as well as providing incentive and assistance to employers, etc. We will also continue to promote awareness of the rights and capabilities of the persons with disabilities in the community.

- 4.7 The Government will continue to provide carers of the persons with disabilities with support to meet their needs such as counselling, training and respite services, etc. The Government is aware that there have been requests for offering an allowance to these carers from low-income families. In June 2014, the Government rolled out the Pilot Scheme on Living Allowance for Carers of the Elderly Persons from Low Income Families under the Community Care Fund. During its implementation, the Government will conduct an evaluation to assess its implications and effectiveness. The Government will closely monitor the development and evaluation, including, whether corresponding initiative is applicable to persons with severe disabilities.
- 4.8 The Government will consider conducting a thematic survey for persons with disabilities at an appropriate time, so as to continuously monitor their poverty situation.

## **A1 Special Topic Enquiry on Persons with Disabilities - Technical Details and Limitations**

A1.1 C&SD conducted the STE in 2013 to collect data of land-based non-institutionalised persons with disabilities in Hong Kong in 2013. All statistics pertaining to the overall and poverty situation of persons with disabilities quoted in this Report are sourced from the survey in question. This Appendix provides an overall description of the concept and definition of persons with disabilities, as well as the data limitations of the STE.

### **A1.I Concept and Definition of Persons with Disabilities**

A1.2 In Hong Kong, disability statistics are mainly available from relevant Government bureaux / departments, statutory bodies and non-governmental organisations. In particular, the Rehabilitation Division of the Labour and Welfare Bureau maintains a database, the CRR, covering a total of ten selected types of disability, namely, (i) physical disability; (ii) hearing impairment; (iii) visual impairment; (iv) speech impairment; (v) mental illness; (vi) autism; (vii) intellectual disability; (viii) visceral disability / chronic illness; (ix) attention deficit / hyperactivity disorder; and (x) specific learning difficulties. Persons under the above disability types with valid disability proof could register in the CRR.

A1.3 On the other hand, an applicant for DA has to be assessed by a doctor of the Department of Health or HA (or under very exceptional circumstances by a registered doctor of a private hospital) as with severe disabilities and as a result needs substantial help from others to cope with daily life, and that such condition will persist for at least six months. As for the definition of severe disabilities and as a result needs substantial help from others to cope with daily life under DA, reference has been made to the Employees' Compensation Ordinance (Cap. 282). If an applicant suffers from conditions which result in 100% loss of earning capacity as listed under Schedule 1 (i.e. (i) loss of functions of two limbs; (ii) loss of functions of both hands or of all fingers and both thumbs; (iii) loss of functions of both feet; (iv) total loss of sight; (v) total paralysis (quadriplegia); (vi) paraplegia; (vii) illness, injury or deformity resulting in being bedridden; (viii) total loss of hearing; and (ix) any other conditions including visceral diseases resulting in total disablement), he / she will all be deemed as with severe disabilities and as a result needs substantial help from others to cope with daily life. However, the above professional medical assessment would not take account of whether the applicant is employed or not.

A1.4 All statistics related to persons with disabilities in this report are sourced from the STE. However, since interviewers could not possibly verify the disability and such severity of respondents reporting such disability from the medical assessment angle, the survey in question has adopted a different definition when distinguishing between different types of disability (i.e. the description in **Chapter 1**). Since the definition of a person with disabilities could be based on the perceptions of the respondents and might not be certified by medical means, the definition adopted by the STE, on which the persons with disabilities statistics of this Report are based, is more lenient than the assessment criteria as mentioned above.

## A1.II Limitations

A1.5 The major limitations of the statistics on persons with disabilities are as below:

- **Definition different from administrative records:** as stated in paragraph 1.4, the STE may define a person as one with disabilities or otherwise according to subjective answers provided by the respondents. As such, statistics on persons with disabilities in this Report cannot be directly compared with those obtained using medical assessment tests, such as the administrative records on recipients of DA or CSSA (disabled cases).
- **Under-estimating the severity of selected type of disability:** when delineating the severity of disability for persons with restriction in body movement, or difficulties in seeing, hearing and speech, the concepts of “difficulties” and “need for assistance” in performing certain functions were used in the survey. However, different persons might interpret these concepts differently. As such, in this aspect, the need for assistance might have been under-estimated as some respondents might not admit as being in need of assistance because of pride.
- **Under-estimating the number of persons with intellectual disability:** due to their sensitive nature, some respondents might not have accurately reported certain types of disability. Such underreporting is particularly evident in the case of intellectual disability. According to the survey results, it was estimated that there were roughly 21 700 persons with intellectual disability (including

13 800 residing in households and 7 900 in institutions)<sup>33</sup>, clearly indicating underestimation when compared with the corresponding administrative record of 34 400 registered persons with intellectual disability under CRR as at June 2013. In view of this and in order not to mislead data users and distort the overall survey results on persons with disabilities, all figures quoted in this Report in analysing the overall and poverty situation of persons with disabilities do not cover persons with intellectual disability.

- **More frequent updates not available:** unlike the regularly conducted GHS, the STE is a special survey which is only carried out when needed. Hence, the poverty situation of persons with disabilities cannot be updated annually like the overall poverty situation. Considering the time and resources required, such survey is conducted roughly once every five to seven years.
- **Information of all carers not available:** the STE covers only the one who provided the longest hours of caring services under three circumstances in daily living (including domestic activities, consulting doctors/receiving medical treatment, and going shopping/recreational centres) to the persons with disabilities during a week. Hence, the analyses of the situation of all carers of the persons with disabilities are not available. For details, please refer to **Glossary**.
- **Persons with disabilities residing in collective households or institutions not included:** GHS, from which most of the poverty line statistics are sourced, only covers domestic households in Hong Kong, and hence the poverty situation of persons with disabilities in collective households or those in institutions cannot be provided. According to the STE, there were a total of 72 000 persons with disabilities in institutions in 2013.
- **Expenditure pattern of households with persons with disabilities not available:** there have been views that besides the level of household income, the burden faced by persons with disabilities also hinges on certain necessary expenditures, such as the cost of purchasing medical equipment and medicines. These expenditures generate considerable financial difficulties for persons with

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33 A statistical assessment based on various relevant data sources available at hand points to an indication that the total number of persons with intellectual disability in Hong Kong (including those in households and those in institutions) is more likely to lie in the region of 71 000 – 101 000.



disabilities even if their incomes are not particularly low. However, since GHS, the STE and the 2014/15 Household Expenditure Survey being conducted do not collect expenditure data of households with persons with disabilities, such analysis is also unavailable.

- A1.6 Due to the limitations above, cautions must be exercised so as to avoid misinterpretation of the statistics on persons with disabilities.

## A2 Selected Statistics of Persons with Disabilities and Their Households

**Table A.1: Overall situation of persons with disabilities and their households, 2013**

	Households with persons with disabilities		All households	
<b>A. No. of households ('000)</b>	433.9		2 401.9	
<b>I. Characteristics of households</b>	<b>('000)</b>	<b>(%)</b>	<b>('000)</b>	<b>(%)</b>
<b>(i) Household type</b>				
1- and 2-person	225.9	{52.0%}	1 068.4	{44.5%}
Elderly	116.6	{26.9%}	261.4	{10.9%}
<b>(ii) Economic activity status</b>				
Economically active	263.5	{60.7%}	1 983.4	{82.6%}
<i>Working</i>	258.0	{59.5%}	1 952.4	{81.3%}
<i>Unemployed</i>	5.5	{1.3%}	30.9	{1.3%}
Economically inactive	170.4	{39.3%}	418.5	{17.4%}
<b>(iii) Whether receiving CSSA or not</b>				
Yes	80.9	{18.7%}	191.3	{8.0%}
No	353.0	{81.3%}	2 210.6	{92.0%}
<i>Reason: no financial needs</i>	43.2	{10.0%}	158.9	{6.6%}
<b>(iv) Housing characteristics</b>				
Public rental housing	206.2	{47.5%}	732.2	{30.5%}
Private permanent housing	153.8	{35.4%}	1 282.0	{53.4%}
<i>Owner-occupiers</i>	120.3	{27.7%}	857.9	{35.7%}
- <i>without mortgages and loans</i>	93.3	{21.5%}	517.2	{21.5%}
<b>(v) Other characteristics</b>				
With FDH(s)	51.9	{12.0%}	255.5	{10.6%}
<b>II. Other household characteristics</b>				
Average household size	2.7		2.8	
Average no. of persons with disabilities	1.2		-	
Average no. of working members	1.0		1.4	
Average no. of working members in working households	1.6		1.7	
Median monthly household income (HK\$)	13,800		22,100	
Economic dependency ratio <sup>#</sup>	1 609		894	

**Table A.1: Overall situation of persons with disabilities and their households, 2013 (Cont'd)**

	Persons with Disabilities		All persons	
<b>B. No. of persons ('000)</b>	499.4		6 704.1	
<b>I. Characteristics of persons</b>	<b>('000)</b>	<b>(%)</b>	<b>('000)</b>	<b>(%)</b>
<b>(i) Gender</b>				
Male	217.9	{43.6%}	3 236.3	{48.3%}
Female	281.5	{56.4%}	3 467.8	{51.7%}
<b>(ii) Age</b>				
Children aged <18	24.2	{4.8%}	1 017.8	{15.2%}
People aged 18-64	179.9	{36.0%}	4 751.7	{70.9%}
Elders aged 65+	295.3	{59.1%}	934.6	{13.9%}
<b>(iii) Level of difficulty in daily living</b>				
A lot of difficulties	69.0	{13.8%}	-	
Some difficulties	255.8	{51.2%}	-	
No difficulty	174.5	{35.0%}	-	
<b>(iv) Economic activity status</b>				
Economically active	76.7	{15.4%}	3 539.0	{52.8%}
<i>Working</i>	71.9	{14.4%}	3 408.5	{50.8%}
<i>Unemployed</i>	4.8	{1.0%}	130.6	{1.9%}
Economically inactive	422.7	{84.6%}	3 165.1	{47.2%}
<b>(v) Whether receiving CSSA / SSA or not</b>				
Receiving CSSA	92.1	{18.5%}	409.3	{6.1%}
Not receiving CSSA	407.2	{81.5%}	6 294.8	{93.9%}
<i>Reason: no financial needs</i>	51.4	{10.3%}	323.6	{4.8%}
DA	105.5	{21.1%}	114.8	{1.7%}
<i>Higher DA</i>	13.9	{2.8%}	14.4	{0.2%}
<i>Normal DA</i>	91.7	{18.4%}	100.3	{1.5%}
OALA	128.9	{25.8%}	381.8	{5.7%}
OAA	68.6	{13.7%}	212.5	{3.2%}
Not receiving CSSA and SSA	104.2	{20.9%}	5 585.7	{83.3%}

**Table A.1: Overall situation of persons with disabilities and their households, 2013 (Cont'd)**

	Persons with disabilities		All persons	
<b>B. No. of persons ('000)</b>	499.4		6 704.1	
<b>II. Other indicators</b>				
LFPR (%)	16.0		59.8	
Unemployment rate (%)	6.2		3.7	
Median age	70		42	
<b>C. No. of employed persons ('000)</b>	71.9		3 408.5	
<b>I. Characteristics of employed persons</b>	<b>('000)</b>	<b>(%)</b>	<b>('000)</b>	<b>(%)</b>
<b>(i) Occupation</b>				
Higher-skilled	19.0	<26.5%>	1 360.5	<39.9%>
Lower-skilled	52.9	<73.5%>	2 048.0	<60.1%>
<i>Elementary occupations</i>	23.2	<32.2%>	478.5	<14.0%>
<b>(ii) Educational attainment</b>				
Primary and below	18.6	<25.9%>	348.6	<10.2%>
Lower secondary	15.8	<22.0%>	511.4	<15.0%>
Upper secondary (including craft courses)	22.4	<31.2%>	1 277.3	<37.5%>
Post-secondary	15.0	<20.8%>	1 271.2	<37.3%>
<b>(iii) Employment status</b>				
Full-time	57.2	<79.5%>	3 106.9	<91.2%>
Part-time / underemployed	14.7	<20.5%>	301.6	<8.8%>
<b>(iv) Employment earnings</b>				
Median monthly employment earnings (HK\$)	9,800		13,500	

**Table A.2: Poverty situation of persons with disabilities and their households, 2013**

	Poor households with persons with disabilities	All poor households
<b>A. Poverty indicators</b>		
<b>I. Before policy intervention</b>		
(i) Poor households ('000)	190.0	554.9
(ii) Poor population ('000)	406.4	1 336.2
(iii) Poor population with disabilities ('000)	226.2	-
(iv) Poverty rate (%) <sup>†</sup>	45.3	19.9
Children aged<18	28.2	23.7
People aged 18-64	35.9	14.2
Elders aged 65+	52.4	44.9
(v) Annual total poverty gap (HK\$Mn)	11,459.3	30,640.4
(vi) Monthly average poverty gap (HK\$)	5,000	4,600
<b>II. After policy intervention</b>		
(i) Poor households ('000)	120.3	384.8
(ii) Poor population ('000)	277.3	972.2
(iii) Poor population with disabilities ('000)	147.4	-
(iv) Poverty rate (%) <sup>†</sup>	29.5	14.5
Children aged<18	20.5	18.6
People aged 18-64	22.4	10.5
Elders aged 65+	34.6	30.5
(v) Annual total poverty gap (HK\$Mn)	4,241.9	15,019.6
(vi) Monthly average poverty gap (HK\$)	2,900	3,300
<b>III. Poverty alleviation effect (reduction)</b>		
(i) Poor households ('000)	69.7	170.1
(ii) Poor population ('000)	129.1	364.0
(iii) Poor population with disabilities ('000)	78.8	-
(iv) Poverty rate (%) <sup>†</sup>	15.8 % pts	5.4 % pts
Children aged<18	7.7 % pts	5.1 % pts
People aged 18-64	13.5 % pts	3.7 % pts
Elders aged 65+	17.8 % pts	14.4 % pts
(v) Annual total poverty gap (HK\$Mn)	7,217.4	15,620.9
(vi) Monthly average poverty gap (HK\$)	2,100	1,300

**Table A.2: Poverty situation of persons with disabilities and their households, 2013 (Cont'd)**

	Poor households with persons with disabilities		All poor households	
<b>B. No. of households ('000)</b>	120.3		384.8	
<b>I. Characteristics of households</b>	<b>('000)</b>	<b>(%)</b>	<b>('000)</b>	<b>(%)</b>
<b>(i) Household type</b>				
1- and 2-person	81.4	(67.6%)	216.1	(56.2%)
Elderly	54.9	(45.7%)	112.8	(29.3%)
<b>(ii) Economic activity status</b>				
Economically active	32.8	(27.3%)	173.3	(45.0%)
<i>Working</i>	28.9	(24.1%)	154.7	(40.2%)
<i>Unemployed</i>	3.9	(3.2%)	18.6	(4.8%)
Economically inactive	87.4	(72.7%)	211.5	(55.0%)
<b>(iii) Whether receiving CSSA or not</b>				
Yes	38.7	(32.2%)	84.9	(22.1%)
No	81.6	(67.8%)	299.9	(77.9%)
<i>Reason: no financial needs</i>	37.3	(31.0%)	139.2	(36.2%)
<b>(iv) Housing characteristics</b>				
Public rental housing	61.5	(51.1%)	166.0	(43.2%)
Private permanent housing	40.5	(33.7%)	160.6	(41.7%)
<i>Owner-occupiers</i>	32.1	(26.7%)	120.8	(31.4%)
<i>-without mortgages and loans</i>	30.4	(25.3%)	107.9	(28.0%)
<b>(v) Other characteristics</b>				
With FDH(s)	8.1	(6.8%)	16.7	(4.3%)
<b>II. Other household characteristics</b>				
Average household size	2.3		2.5	
Average no. of persons with disabilities	1.2		-	
Average no. of working members	0.3		0.5	
Average no. of working members in working households	1.2		1.2	
Median monthly household income (HK\$)	6,000		6,700	
Economic dependency ratio <sup>#</sup>	5 847		3 448	

**Table A.2: Poverty situation of persons with disabilities and their households, 2013 (Cont'd)**

	Poor persons with disabilities		All poor population	
<b>C. No. of persons ('000)</b>	147.4		972.2	
<b>I. Characteristics of persons</b>	<b>('000)</b>	<b>(%)</b>	<b>('000)</b>	<b>(%)</b>
<b>(i) Gender</b>				
Male	67.4	(45.7%)	451.5	(46.4%)
Female	80.0	(54.3%)	520.7	(53.6%)
<b>(ii) Age</b>				
Children aged <18	5.0	(3.4%)	189.8	(19.5%)
People aged 18-64	40.3	(27.3%)	496.9	(51.1%)
Elders aged 65+	102.1	(69.3%)	285.5	(29.4%)
<b>(iii) Level of difficulty in daily living</b>				
A lot of difficulties	22.9	(15.6%)	-	
Some difficulties	78.3	(53.2%)	-	
No difficulty	46.1	(31.3%)	-	
<b>(iv) Economic activity status</b>				
Economically active	7.9	(5.3%)	218.6	(22.5%)
<i>Working</i>	7.1	(4.8%)	180.1	(18.5%)
<i>Unemployed</i>	0.7	(0.5%)	38.4	(4.0%)
Economically inactive	139.5	(94.7%)	753.6	(77.5%)
<b>(v) Whether receiving CSSA / SSA or not</b>				
Receiving CSSA	47.4	(32.2%)	204.5	(21.0%)
Not receiving CSSA	99.9	(67.8%)	767.7	(79.0%)
<i>Reason: no financial needs</i>	45.0	(30.6%)	298.0	(30.7%)
DA	21.8	(14.8%)	23.6	(2.4%)
<i>Higher DA</i>	3.7	(2.5%)	3.5	(0.4%)
<i>Normal DA</i>	18.1	(12.3%)	20.1	(2.1%)
OALA	38.5	(26.1%)	107.8	(11.1%)
OAA	23.5	(16.0%)	63.5	(6.5%)
Not receiving CSSA and SSA	16.1	(10.9%)	572.9	(58.9%)

**Table A.2: Poverty situation of persons with disabilities and their households, 2013 (Cont'd)**

	Poor persons with disabilities		All poor population	
<b>C. No. of persons ('000)</b>	147.4		972.2	
<b>II. Other indicators</b>				
LFPR (%)	5.5		26.5	
Unemployment rate (%)	9.0		17.6	
Median age	74		50	
<b>D. No. of employed persons ('000)</b>	7.1		180.1	
<b>I. Characteristics of employed persons</b>	<b>('000)</b>	<b>(%)</b>	<b>('000)</b>	<b>(%)</b>
<b>(i) Occupation</b>				
Higher-skilled	0.8	<11.3%>	19.3	<10.7%>
Lower-skilled	6.3	<88.7%>	160.8	<89.3%>
<i>Elementary occupations</i>	4.0	<56.5%>	59.5	<33.0%>
<b>(ii) Educational attainment</b>				
Primary and below	2.7	<38.4%>	36.2	<20.1%>
Lower secondary	2.2	<30.3%>	56.7	<31.5%>
Upper secondary (including craft courses)	1.9	<26.4%>	66.1	<36.7%>
Post-secondary	0.4	<4.9%>	21.1	<11.7%>
<b>(iii) Employment status</b>				
Full-time	4.6	<63.8%>	131.2	<72.8%>
Part-time / underemployed	2.6	<36.2%>	48.9	<27.2%>
<b>(iv) Employment earnings</b>				
Median monthly employment earnings (HK\$)	3,500		8,000	



**Table A.3: Persons with disabilities by age and selected type of disability, 2013**

	Aged<18		Aged 18-64		Aged 65+		Total	
	('000)	(%)	('000)	(%)	('000)	(%)	('000)	(%)
<b>A. All persons with disabilities**</b>	24.2	{100.0}	179.9	{100.0}	295.3	{100.0}	499.4	{100.0}
<b>Physical disabilities**</b>	8.4	{34.9}	119.5	{66.4}	285.5	{96.7}	413.4	{82.8}
Restriction in body movement	1.3	{5.5}	59.2	{32.9}	193.6	{65.5}	254.1	{50.9}
Seeing difficulty	1.8	{7.5}	37.3	{20.8}	113.5	{38.4}	152.6	{30.6}
Hearing difficulty	2.0	{8.3}	34.5	{19.2}	100.8	{34.1}	137.3	{27.5}
Speech difficulty	4.8	{19.7}	11.5	{6.4}	8.3	{2.8}	24.6	{4.9}
<b>Mental disabilities**</b>	20.1	{83.0}	75.8	{42.2}	34.3	{11.6}	130.2	{26.1}
Mental illness / mood disorder	4.9	{20.4}	70.3	{39.1}	34.1	{11.5}	109.3	{21.9}
Autism	5.8	{23.8}	3.3	{1.9}	§	{§}	9.2	{1.8}
Specific learning difficulties	9.9	{41.2}	5.1	{2.9}	§	{§}	15.3	{3.1}
Attention deficit / hyperactivity disorder	9.3	{38.4}	2.1	{1.2}	§	{§}	11.6	{2.3}
<b>B. Poor persons with disabilities**</b>	5.0	(100.0)	40.3	(100.0)	102.1	(100.0)	147.4	(100.0)
<b>Physical disabilities**</b>	1.9	(38.4)	24.3	(60.3)	99.1	(97.0)	125.2	(85.0)
Restriction in body movement	§	(§)	14.5	(36.1)	67.1	(65.8)	81.8	(55.5)
Seeing difficulty	0.3	(5.6)	6.3	(15.7)	41.7	(40.8)	48.2	(32.7)
Hearing difficulty	0.6	(11.4)	5.2	(13.0)	35.6	(34.9)	41.4	(28.1)
Speech difficulty	1.1	(22.8)	3.1	(7.7)	2.4	(2.3)	6.6	(4.5)
<b>Mental disabilities**</b>	4.1	(81.9)	19.9	(49.5)	11.1	(10.9)	35.1	(23.8)
Mental illness / mood disorder	1.3	(26.6)	18.6	(46.1)	11.0	(10.8)	30.9	(21.0)
Autism	1.0	(20.1)	0.7	(1.8)	§	(§)	1.7	(1.2)
Specific learning difficulties	1.9	(37.7)	1.6	(3.9)	§	(§)	3.5	(2.4)
Attention deficit / hyperactivity disorder	1.7	(34.0)	0.4	(0.9)	§	(§)	2.1	(1.4)

**Table A.4: Poverty situation of persons with disabilities aged 18-64, 2013**

	Poor persons with disabilities		All poor population	
<b>A. No. of persons ('000)</b>	40.3		496.9	
Poverty rate (%)	22.4		10.5	
<b>I. Characteristics of persons</b>	<b>('000)</b>	<b>(%)</b>	<b>('000)</b>	<b>(%)</b>
<b>(i) Whether receiving CSSA / SSA or not</b>				
Receiving CSSA	19.3	(47.9%)	93.4	(18.8%)
Not receiving CSSA	21.0	(52.1%)	403.6	(81.2%)
<i>Reason: no financial needs</i>	6.5	(16.1%)	135.6	(27.3%)
DA	11.1	(27.6%)	12.8	(2.6%)
<i>Higher DA</i>	1.0	(2.5%)	1.2	(0.2%)
<i>Normal DA</i>	10.1	(25.1%)	11.6	(2.3%)
Not receiving CSSA and SSA	9.9	(24.5%)	390.8	(78.6%)
<b>(ii) Economic activity status</b>				
Economically active	6.5	(16.2%)	210.1	(42.3%)
<i>Proportion with a lot of difficulties in daily living</i>	0.6	(1.4%)	-	
<i>Working</i>	5.8	(14.4%)	172.5	(34.7%)
<i>Unemployed</i>	0.7	(1.8%)	37.6	(7.6%)
Economically inactive	33.8	(83.8%)	286.9	(57.7%)
<i>Proportion with a lot of difficulties in daily living</i>	6.8	(16.8%)	-	

**Table A.4: Poverty situation of persons with disabilities aged 18-64, 2013 (Cont'd)**

	Poor persons with disabilities		All poor population	
<b>B. No. of employed persons ('000)</b>	5.8		172.5	
<b>I. Characteristics of employed persons</b>	<b>('000)</b>	<b>(%)</b>	<b>('000)</b>	<b>(%)</b>
<b>(i) Educational attainment</b>				
Primary and below	1.8	<31.0%>	32.3	<18.7%>
Lower secondary	2.1	<36.1%>	55.3	<32.1%>
Upper secondary (including craft courses)	1.6	<28.0%>	64.3	<37.3%>
Post-secondary	0.3	<5.0%>	20.6	<11.9%>
<b>(ii) Occupation</b>				
Higher-skilled	0.6	<10.8%>	18.2	<10.5%>
Lower-skilled	5.2	<89.2%>	154.3	<89.5%>
<i>Elementary occupations</i>	3.3	<56.7%>	56.0	<32.5%>
<b>(iii) Employment status</b>				
Full-time	3.7	<63.5%>	126.9	<73.6%>
Part-time	1.9	<32.3%>	32.5	<18.9%>
Underemployed	§	<§>	13.1	<7.6%>
<b>(iv) Working hours per month<sup>~</sup></b>				
<36	0.6	<9.5%>	11.9	<6.9%>
36-<72	0.6	<11.0%>	13.6	<7.9%>
72-<144	1.9	<33.2%>	32.1	<18.6%>
144-<192	1.6	<27.0%>	43.9	<25.5%>
192-<208	0.6	<10.4%>	32.7	<19.0%>
208+	0.5	<9.0%>	38.3	<22.2%>
<b>(v) Employment earnings</b>				
Median monthly employment earnings (HK\$)	3,600		8,000	

**Table A.5: Situation of carers aged 18-64 living with persons with disabilities aged 18-64**

	Living in poor households with persons with disabilities		All households with persons with disabilities	
<b>A. No. of persons ('000)</b>	7.3		23.6	
<b>I. Characteristics of persons</b>	<b>('000)</b>	<b>(%)</b>	<b>('000)</b>	<b>(%)</b>
<b>(i) Gender</b>				
Male	2.3	(30.7%)	8.0	{34.0%}
Female	5.1	(69.3%)	15.5	{66.0%}
<b>(ii) Economic activity status</b>				
Economically active	1.5	(19.8%)	10.8	{46.0%}
<i>Working</i>	1.1	(15.1%)	10.0	{42.3%}
<i>Unemployed</i>	0.3	(4.7%)	0.9	{3.8%}
Economically inactive	5.9	(80.2%)	12.7	{54.0%}
<b>(iii) Whether receiving CSSA / SSA or not</b>				
Receiving CSSA	4.2	(57.3%)	6.8	{28.7%}
Not receiving CSSA	3.1	(42.7%)	16.8	{71.3%}
<i>Reason: no financial needs</i>	0.4	(5.3%)	0.5	{1.9%}
DA	-	-	-	-
<i>Higher DA</i>	-	-	-	-
<i>Normal DA</i>	-	-	-	-
OALA	-	-	-	-
OAA	-	-	-	-
Not receiving CSSA and SSA	3.1	(42.7%)	16.8	{71.3%}

**Table A.5: Situation of carers aged 18-64 living with persons with disabilities aged 18-64 (Cont'd)**

	Living in poor households with persons with disabilities		All households with persons with disabilities	
<b>A. No. of persons ('000)</b>	7.3		23.6	
<b>II. Other indicators</b>				
LFPR (%)	19.8		46.0	
Unemployment rate (%)	23.8		8.2	
Median age	52		51	
<b>B. No. of employed persons ('000)</b>	1.1		10.0	
<b>I. Characteristics of employed persons</b>	<b>('000)</b>	<b>(%)</b>	<b>('000)</b>	<b>(%)</b>
<b>(i) Occupation</b>				
Higher-skilled	§	<§>	2.4	<24.4%>
Lower-skilled	1.0	<94.1%>	7.5	<75.6%>
<i>Elementary occupations</i>	0.5	<44.4%>	2.9	<29.5%>
<b>(ii) Educational attainment</b>				
Primary and below	§	<§>	1.8	<18.5%>
Lower secondary	0.4	<38.4%>	2.8	<28.1%>
Upper secondary (including craft courses)	0.3	<29.5%>	3.4	<34.4%>
Post-secondary	§	<§>	1.9	<19.0%>
<b>(iii) Employment status</b>				
Full-time	0.6	<55.1%>	8.7	<87.0%>
Part-time / underemployed	0.5	<44.9%>	1.3	<13.0%>

**Table A.5: Situation of carers aged 18-64 living with persons with disabilities aged 18-64 (Cont'd)**

	Living in poor household with persons with disabilities		All households with persons with disabilities	
<b>B. No. of employed persons ('000)</b>	1.1		10.0	
<b>I. Characteristics of employed persons</b>	<b>('000)</b>	<b>(%)</b>	<b>('000)</b>	<b>(%)</b>
<b>(iv) Working hours per month<sup>~</sup></b>				
<36	§	<§>	0.5	<5.0%>
36-<72	§	<§>	0.5	<4.8%>
72-<144	0.3	<25.0%>	1.2	<12.1%>
144-<192	§	<§>	3.4	<34.3%>
192-<208	§	<§>	1.4	<13.8%>
208+	0.3	<30.6%>	3.0	<30.1%>
<b>(v) Level of difficulty in daily living faced by the person with disabilities they take care of</b>				
A lot of difficulties	0.3	<26.1%>	3.4	<33.7%>
Some difficulties	0.8	<68.0%>	5.4	<54.6%>
No difficulty	§	<§>	1.2	<11.8%>
<b>(vi) Hours of caring services provided to the person with disabilities they take care of per week</b>				
<40	0.9	<81.5%>	8.6	<86.9%>
40-59	§	<§>	0.6	<5.7%>
60-79	§	<§>	§	<§>
80-99	§	<§>	0.3	<3.1%>
100+	§	<§>	0.3	<3.2%>
<b>(vii) Employment earnings</b>				
Median monthly employment earnings (HK\$)	6,500		10,000	

**Table A.6: Poverty situation of persons with disabilities and their households by selected household group, 2013**

	Household with persons with disabilities					
	CSSA	Elderly	Single-parent	New-arrival	With children	All
<b>A. Households with persons with disabilities / persons</b>						
<b>I. Major statistics</b>						
(i) No. of households ('000)	80.9	116.6	11.1	12.0	83.1	433.9
(ii) No. of persons ('000)	159.6	166.5	35.3	46.2	347.9	1 157.1
(iii) No. of persons with disabilities ('000)	93.1	135.8	12.5	14.2	95.3	499.4
Children aged<18	3.4	-	3.2	2.3	24.2	24.2
People aged 18-64	39.0	-	7.1	5.1	39.8	179.9
Elders aged 65+	50.6	135.8	2.2	6.9	31.3	295.3
(iv) Prevalence rate of disability (%)	22.6	36.9	6.2	5.5	3.5	7.4
Children aged<18	3.7	-	3.6	3.2	2.4	2.4
People aged 18-64	18.8	-	6.9	3.0	2.5	3.8
Elders aged 65+	45.0	36.9	24.0	37.1	25.0	31.6
<b>II. Other indicators</b>						
Average household size	2.0	1.4	3.2	3.8	4.2	2.7
Average no. of persons with disabilities	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.2
Average no. of working members	0.2	@	0.8	1.3	1.4	1.0
Median monthly household income (HK\$)	6,100	4,900	11,800	15,200	22,200	13,800
<b>B. Poor households with persons with disabilities / persons</b>						
<b>I. Poverty indicators (after policy intervention)</b>						
(i) Poor households ('000)	38.7	54.9	5.3	4.9	22.5	120.3
(ii) Poor population ('000)	90.9	88.5	15.2	17.8	83.1	277.3
(iii) Poor population with disabilities ('000)	48.1	68.0	6.1	6.0	26.3	147.4
Children aged<18	2.5	-	1.4	0.8	5.0	5.0
People aged 18-64	19.5	-	3.7	2.1	13.8	40.3
Elders aged 65+	26.0	68.0	0.9	3.1	7.5	102.1
(iv) Poverty rate of persons with disabilities (%)	51.7	50.1	48.4	42.4	27.6	29.5
Children aged<18	74.3	-	45.2	35.1	20.5	20.5
People aged 18-64	50.1	-	52.4	41.1	34.7	22.4
Elders aged 65+	51.4	50.1	40.5	45.7	24.0	34.6
(v) Annual total poverty gap (HK\$Mn)	1,019.2	1,635.2	196.7	199.5	959.7	4,241.9
(vi) Monthly average poverty gap (HK\$)	2,200	2,500	3,100	3,400	3,600	2,900
<b>II. Other indicators</b>						
Average household size	2.3	1.6	2.9	3.7	3.7	2.3
Average no. of persons with disabilities	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.2
Average no. of working members	0.1	@	0.2	0.7	0.6	0.3
Median monthly household income (HK\$)	6,800	3,500	8,100	10,300	10,400	6,000

**Table A.6: Poverty situation of persons with disabilities and their households by selected household group, 2013 (Cont'd)**

	Household with persons with disabilities				
	Economically active	Working	Unemployed	Economically inactive	All
<b>A. Households with persons with disabilities / persons</b>					
<b>I. Major statistics</b>					
(i) No. of households ('000)	263.5	258.0	5.5	170.4	433.9
(ii) No. of persons ('000)	876.8	862.5	14.3	280.3	1 157.1
(iii) No. of persons with disabilities ('000)	300.7	294.1	6.6	198.7	499.4
Children aged<18	21.2	20.9	0.3	2.9	24.2
People aged 18-64	135.9	133.6	2.2	44.0	179.9
Elders aged 65+	143.6	139.6	4.0	151.7	295.3
(iv) Prevalence rate of disability (%)	5.0	5.0	9.3	28.3	7.4
Children aged<18	2.2	2.2	2.3	4.6	2.4
People aged 18-64	3.0	3.0	4.5	18.6	3.8
Elders aged 65+	26.9	26.6	42.4	37.9	31.6
<b>II. Other indicators</b>					
Average household size	3.3	3.3	2.6	1.6	2.7
Average no. of persons with disabilities	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.2
Average no. of working members	1.6	1.6	-	-	1.0
Median monthly household income (HK\$)	22,500	22,900	7,000	5,300	13,800
<b>B. Poor households with persons with disabilities / persons</b>					
<b>I. Poverty indicators (after policy intervention)</b>					
(i) Poor households ('000)	32.8	28.9	3.9	87.4	120.3
(ii) Poor population ('000)	107.7	96.8	10.9	169.6	277.3
(iii) Poor population with disabilities ('000)	38.8	34.2	4.6	108.6	147.4
Children aged<18	2.5	2.3	0.3	2.4	5.0
People aged 18-64	16.5	15.3	1.2	23.8	40.3
Elders aged 65+	19.7	16.6	3.2	82.4	102.1
(iv) Poverty rate of persons with disabilities (%)	12.9	11.6	70.1	54.7	29.5
Children aged<18	11.9	10.8	100.0	82.7	20.5
People aged 18-64	12.1	11.5	51.7	54.1	22.4
Elders aged 65+	13.7	11.9	78.3	54.3	34.6
(v) Annual total poverty gap (HK\$Mn)	1,125.4	878.5	246.9	3,116.6	4,241.9
(vi) Monthly average poverty gap (HK\$)	2,900	2,500	5,300	3,000	2,900
<b>II. Other indicators</b>					
Average household size	3.3	3.3	2.8	1.9	2.3
Average no. of persons with disabilities	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2
Average no. of working members	1.0	1.2	-	-	0.3
Median monthly household income (HK\$)	10,500	10,900	6,700	4,500	6,000



**Table A.7: Poverty situation of persons with disabilities and their households by District Council district, 2013**

	Central and Western	Wan Chai	Eastern	Southern	Yau Tsim Mong	Sham Shui Po	Households with persons with disabilities
<b>A. Households with persons with disabilities / persons</b>							
<b>I. Major statistics</b>							
(i) No. of households ('000)	14.0	7.9	40.5	18.4	18.8	28.3	433.9
(ii) No. of persons ('000)	35.4	19.0	108.9	50.9	49.4	70.1	1 157.1
(iii) No. of persons with disabilities ('000)	16.2	9.8	46.7	22.9	21.5	31.5	499.4
Children aged<18	0.9	§	1.9	1.5	1.1	1.1	24.2
People aged 18-64	5.4	1.9	13.9	7.1	6.2	8.9	179.9
Elders aged 65+	9.9	7.7	30.9	14.3	14.1	21.5	295.3
(iv) Prevalence rate of disability (%)	7.3	7.4	8.6	9.2	7.4	8.7	7.4
Children aged<18	2.4	§	2.4	4.2	2.3	2.0	2.4
People aged 18-64	3.5	2.1	3.7	4.0	3.1	3.6	3.8
Elders aged 65+	31.4	33.2	32.8	37.6	34.0	34.9	31.6
<b>II. Other indicators</b>							
Average household size	2.5	2.4	2.7	2.8	2.6	2.5	2.7
Average no. of persons with disabilities	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.2
Average no. of working members	1.0	0.7	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.9	1.0
Median monthly household income (HK\$)	15,900	14,000	15,300	15,700	13,600	11,500	13,800
<b>B. Poor households with persons with disabilities / persons</b>							
<b>I. Poverty indicators (after policy intervention)</b>							
(i) Poor households ('000)	3.9	2.4	10.9	4.9	6.2	8.3	120.3
(ii) Poor population ('000)	7.8	4.0	23.7	10.9	13.3	19.0	277.3
(iii) Poor population with disabilities ('000)	4.6	3.4	13.4	6.5	7.0	10.0	147.4
Children aged<18	§	§	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.4	5.0
People aged 18-64	0.7	0.3	2.7	1.4	1.2	1.6	40.3
Elders aged 65+	3.7	3.0	10.4	4.9	5.7	8.0	102.1
(iv) Poverty rate of persons with disabilities (%)	28.6	34.4	28.7	28.5	32.7	31.6	29.5
Children aged<18	§	§	16.2	16.9	19.7	34.3	20.5
People aged 18-64	13.6	17.6	19.5	19.6	18.5	18.1	22.4
Elders aged 65+	37.9	39.5	33.6	34.1	40.0	37.0	34.6
(v) Annual total poverty gap (HK\$Mn)	190.9	110.2	423.4	145.1	205.8	267.8	4,241.9
(vi) Monthly average poverty gap (HK\$)	4,100	3,800	3,200	2,500	2,800	2,700	2,900
<b>II. Other indicators</b>							
Average household size	2.0	1.6	2.2	2.2	2.1	2.3	2.3
Average no. of persons with disabilities	1.2	1.4	1.2	1.3	1.1	1.2	1.2
Average no. of working members	0.2	@	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.3
Median monthly household income (HK\$)	3,000	1,900	4,900	6,100	3,000	6,000	6,000

**Table A.7: Poverty situation of persons with disabilities and their households by District Council district, 2013 (Cont'd)**

	Kowloon City	Wong Tai Sin	Kwun Tong	Kwai Tsing	Tsuen Wan	Tuen Mun	Households with persons with disabilities
<b>A. Households with persons with disabilities / persons</b>							
<b>I. Major statistics</b>							
(i) No. of households ('000)	21.4	37.9	49.7	34.7	18.8	23.9	433.9
(ii) No. of persons ('000)	57.5	100.3	132.2	89.8	46.8	60.3	1 157.1
(iii) No. of persons with disabilities ('000)	25.4	43.3	57.3	40.2	22.0	26.3	499.4
Children aged<18	1.8	0.9	2.4	1.5	0.8	1.2	24.2
People aged 18-64	7.8	14.2	21.6	13.5	7.0	12.2	179.9
Elders aged 65+	15.8	28.2	33.2	25.2	14.2	12.9	295.3
(iv) Prevalence rate of disability (%)	7.4	10.5	9.2	8.3	7.8	5.6	7.4
Children aged<18	3.4	1.6	2.6	2.0	1.7	1.8	2.4
People aged 18-64	3.3	5.0	5.1	4.0	3.5	3.5	3.8
Elders aged 65+	29.0	38.5	31.5	34.5	36.6	25.6	31.6
<b>II. Other indicators</b>							
Average household size	2.7	2.6	2.7	2.6	2.5	2.5	2.7
Average no. of persons with disabilities	1.2	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.2
Average no. of working persons	0.9	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.9	1.0
Median monthly household income (HK\$)	15,600	13,500	12,700	11,400	12,000	11,300	13,800
<b>B. Poor households with persons with disabilities / persons</b>							
<b>I. Poverty indicators (after policy intervention)</b>							
(i) Poor households ('000)	5.3	9.9	13.3	10.2	4.9	7.8	120.3
(ii) Poor population ('000)	11.7	23.9	33.1	25.6	10.4	17.3	277.3
(iii) Poor population with disabilities ('000)	6.7	11.6	16.5	12.8	6.4	9.3	147.4
Children aged<18	§	§	1.0	0.3	§	0.3	5.0
People aged 18-64	1.5	3.0	5.2	3.7	1.9	2.9	40.3
Elders aged 65+	5.0	8.5	10.3	8.9	4.3	6.2	102.1
(iv) Poverty rate of persons with disabilities (%)	26.3	26.8	28.8	31.9	28.9	35.5	29.5
Children aged<18	§	§	39.7	21.7	§	22.5	20.5
People aged 18-64	19.3	21.1	24.0	27.0	27.1	23.7	22.4
Elders aged 65+	31.8	30.1	31.1	35.2	30.3	47.9	34.6
(v) Annual total poverty gap (HK\$Mn)	200.5	340.4	385.6	347.0	223.2	281.5	4,241.9
(vi) Monthly average poverty gap (HK\$)	3,200	2,900	2,400	2,800	3,800	3,000	2,900
<b>II. Other indicators</b>							
Average household size	2.2	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.1	2.2	2.3
Average no. of persons with disabilities	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.2
Average no. of working members	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.3
Median monthly household income (HK\$)	5,300	6,400	6,800	6,800	4,600	5,100	6,000

**Table A.7: Poverty situation of persons with disabilities and their households by District Council district, 2013 (Cont'd)**

	Yuen Long	North	Tai Po	Sha Tin	Sai Kung	Islands	Households with persons with disabilities
<b>A. Households with persons with disabilities / persons</b>							
<b>I. Major statistics</b>							
(i) No. of households ('000)	27.5	14.4	12.8	34.7	20.7	9.5	433.9
(ii) No. of persons ('000)	74.7	40.5	36.1	96.3	62.8	26.0	1 157.1
(iii) No. of persons with disabilities ('000)	30.5	16.5	14.5	40.1	24.2	10.6	499.4
Children aged<18	1.2	0.9	0.9	3.6	1.6	0.8	24.2
People aged 18-64	15.5	7.5	5.7	14.4	12.4	4.5	179.9
Elders aged 65+	13.7	8.1	7.9	22.1	10.3	5.3	295.3
(iv) Prevalence rate of disability (%)	5.4	5.6	5.2	6.6	5.8	7.9	7.4
Children aged<18	1.2	1.9	2.3	4.2	2.3	3.2	2.4
People aged 18-64	3.8	3.5	2.7	3.2	4.1	4.8	3.8
Elders aged 65+	25.7	25.2	25.6	28.5	24.8	38.5	31.6
<b>II. Other indicators</b>							
Average household size	2.7	2.8	2.8	2.8	3.0	2.7	2.7
Average no. of persons with disabilities	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.2
Average no. of working persons	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.0	1.3	1.2	1.0
Median monthly household income (HK\$)	14,100	13,900	15,800	14,800	19,300	15,200	13,800
<b>B. Poor households with persons with disabilities / persons</b>							
<b>I. Poverty indicators (after policy intervention)</b>							
(i) Poor households ('000)	7.3	4.4	4.0	8.6	4.7	3.3	120.3
(ii) Poor population ('000)	17.3	10.6	8.6	20.8	12.3	7.1	277.3
(iii) Poor population with disabilities ('000)	8.4	5.5	4.9	10.9	5.6	3.8	147.4
Children aged<18	0.3	§	§	0.8	§	§	5.0
People aged 18-64	3.5	2.3	1.9	2.9	2.4	1.3	40.3
Elders aged 65+	4.6	3.2	3.0	7.2	2.9	2.4	102.1
(iv) Poverty rate of persons with disabilities (%)	27.7	33.5	34.1	27.1	23.1	35.9	29.5
Children aged<18	29.0	§	§	22.5	§	§	20.5
People aged 18-64	22.3	30.1	32.8	20.1	19.7	28.8	22.4
Elders aged 65+	33.7	39.2	38.2	32.4	28.3	45.0	34.6
(v) Annual total poverty gap (HK\$Mn)	219.9	143.2	146.3	346.5	168.5	96.3	4,241.9
(vi) Monthly average poverty gap (HK\$)	2,500	2,700	3,000	3,400	3,000	2,500	2,900
<b>II. Other indicators</b>							
Average household size	2.4	2.4	2.1	2.4	2.6	2.2	2.3
Average no. of persons with disabilities	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.2
Average no. of working members	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.3
Median monthly household income (HK\$)	6,900	6,600	4,900	6,100	6,700	6,100	6,000

- Notes:
- Unless otherwise specified, all figures of persons with disabilities only include persons with disabilities residing in domestic households, excluding those living in collective households or institutions.
  - Unless otherwise specified, all figures exclude FDHs.
  - Unless otherwise specified, all poverty statistics (persons with disabilities and overall) refer to situation after recurrent cash intervention.
  - Unless otherwise specified, all statistics pertaining to persons with disabilities exclude persons with intellectual disability.
  - { } Figures in curly brackets denote the proportions of relevant households / persons, in all domestic households / persons residing in domestic households of the corresponding groups.
  - ( ) Figures in parentheses denote the proportions of relevant (poor) households / persons, in (poor) domestic households / persons residing in domestic households of the corresponding groups.
  - < > Figures in angle brackets denote the proportions of relevant (poor) employed persons, in (poor) employed persons residing in domestic households of the corresponding groups.
  - (#) Economic dependency ratio refers to the number of economically inactive persons per 1 000 economically active persons.
  - (§) Estimates less than 250 and related statistics derived based on such estimates (e.g. percentages, rates and median) are not released due to large sampling errors.
  - (-) Not applicable.
  - (\*\*) Persons with more than one selected type of disability were counted in the respective types of disability and hence the overall number of persons with disabilities is smaller than the sum of the number of persons with individual types of disability.
  - (~) Estimated based on the actual working hours during the seven days before enumeration.
  - (@) Percentages less than 0.05% / average numbers of persons less than 0.05. Such statistics are also not shown in the table.
  - (†) Poverty rate under households with persons with disabilities refers to the poverty rate of persons with disabilities, i.e. the percentage share of persons with disabilities residing in poor households (poor persons with disabilities) in total persons with disabilities in Hong Kong, whereas the poverty rate of all households refers to the ratio of poor population to total population living in domestic households.  
There may be slight discrepancies between the sums of individual items and the totals due to rounding.  
Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.
- Sources: General Household Survey; and Special Topic Enquiry on Persons with Disabilities, Census and Statistics Department.

## **A3 Services and Support for Persons with Disabilities**

### **A3.I Policy objective**

A3.1 The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) has all along been attaching great importance to promoting the well-being of persons with disabilities, consistent with HKSAR's obligations under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (the Convention), which has been applicable to the People's Republic of China, including HKSAR, since August 2008. The purpose of the Convention is to promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities, and to promote respect for their inherent dignity. Persons with disabilities include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.

A3.2 Consistent with the objective of the Convention, it has all along been the policy objective of the HKSAR Government (the Government) to help persons with disabilities develop their capabilities as well as to build a barrier-free living environment with a view to enabling persons with disabilities to participate in full both in social life and personal growth, and enjoy equal opportunities.

A3.3 To underline our commitment under the Convention and address the distinctive needs of persons with different type and level of disabilities, the Government implements multi-pronged initiatives to meet their needs. Paragraphs A3.4 to A3.30 below outline the major categories of rehabilitation services and related initiatives in place to promote the equal rights and opportunities of persons with disabilities, ensure the development of their capabilities and facilitate their full integration into the community.

### **A3.II Initiatives and services in place for Persons with Disabilities**

#### **Pre-school Rehabilitation Services**

A3.4 Article 7 of the Convention states that measures should be taken to "ensure the full enjoyment by children with disabilities of all human rights and fundamental freedoms on an equal basis with other children". In this regard, the policy objective of the Government is to provide children, from birth to six years old, with disabilities or at risk of becoming disabled with early intervention to enhance their physical, psychological and social

developments, thereby improving their opportunities for participating in ordinary schools and daily life activities and helping their families meet their special needs.

A3.5 The Government provides a wide range of pre-school services for children with special needs. These include:

(A) Pre-school Rehabilitation Services

(a) Early Education and Training Centre (EETC) which seeks to maximise the developmental functioning of children with disabilities aged under six by enabling their parents, through support and assistance, to accept, understand, care for and train their children with disabilities;

(b) Special Child Care Centre (SCCC) which provides services for children with moderate and severe disabilities aged between two and six. These services aim to develop these children's fundamental developmental skills and intellectual ability, as well as the perceptual-motor, cognitive, communication, social and self-care skills to facilitate their smooth transition from pre-school education to primary education. Residential facilities are also available in some SCCC's to cater for the needs of children with disabilities who are homeless, abandoned or dwelling in abject living conditions or family environment;

(c) Integrated Programme in Kindergarten-cum-Child Care Centre (IP in KG-cum-CCC) which provides training and care to children aged between two and six with mild disabilities with a view to facilitating their full integration into normal pre-school setting as far as possible so that they will stand a better chance of future integration into the mainstream education;

(B) Other Supportive Services

(d) provision of occupational therapy (OT), physiotherapy (PT) and speech therapy (ST) which aims to enhance self-reliance of children with disabilities in daily living, correct deformities and prevent deterioration in health. At present, centre-based OT, PT and ST services are available in EETCs and SCCC's. For IP in KG-cum-CCC, OT and PT services are provided by the Central Para-medical Support Service Unit of the Social Welfare Department (SWD) whilst ST service by district-based speech therapist teams;

(e) clinical psychology services provided by the agency-based clinical psychologists (CP) or CPs from SWD to EETCs, SCCC's and IP in

KG-cum-CCC. These include assessment of psychological and intellectual functioning of children with disabilities, and devising training programmes to stimulate their normal emotional and behavioural development;

- (f) Parents / Relatives Resource Centre which provides a wide range of support services for parents and relatives of children with disabilities;
- (g) Occasional child care service for children with disabilities which provides a safe venue for the disabled children whose parents / carers have to stay away from home occasionally due to various commitments or sudden engagements so as to minimise the risks caused to young disabled children being left unattended at home; and
- (h) support and education services for hearing impaired pre-schoolers, including following up on children issued with free hearing aids, parent counselling and professional consultation.

A3.6 The Government has been continuously increasing the provision of pre-school rehabilitation places, namely the EETC, SCCC and IP in KG-cum-CCC places. In the past six years, the Government allocated funding to provide about 1 500 additional pre-school rehabilitation places, representing an increase of nearly 30%. There are currently a total of 6 534 pre-school rehabilitation places. In addition, sites have been reserved for providing nearly 1 500 additional pre-school rehabilitation places within this term of Government. Additional places will also be provided through redevelopment or expansion on the sites owned by the non-governmental organisations (NGOs), particularly those under the Special Scheme on Privately Owned Sites for Welfare Uses<sup>34</sup> (Special Scheme).

A3.7 Apart from increasing the number of pre-school rehabilitation places, the Government has spared no efforts in enhancing support for children on the waiting list for such services. Launched in December 2011, the Community Care Fund provided a training subsidy to children in need of rehabilitation services from low-income families, so as to enable them to receive timely pre-school rehabilitation services provided by NGOs to facilitate their development while waiting for subvented services. Considering the effectiveness of the programme, the Government regularised the programme in October 2014, and increased the level of subsidy. There

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34 The Special Scheme, through more flexible use of the Lotteries Fund and provision of targeted assistance during the planning or development process, encourages social welfare organisations to make better use of their land and to provide diversified subvented and self-financing facilities, in particular elderly and rehabilitation service facilities, through in-situ expansion or development.

are currently two levels of subsidy<sup>35</sup> for beneficiaries according to the service for which they are waitlisting.

## School Education

A3.8 The Education Bureau (EDB) is currently adopting a dual-track mode in implementing special education. Under the existing special education policy, students with special educational needs (SEN) are encouraged to study in ordinary schools if they can benefit from the ordinary school setting. For those students with severe SEN or multiple disabilities, they are placed in special schools for intensive support services.

### Education Services for Students with Special Educational Needs in Ordinary Schools

A3.9 EDB implements integrated education (IE) in accordance with five basic principles, namely early identification, early intervention, Whole School Approach (WSA), home-school co-operation and cross-sector collaboration. Under these basic principles, schools provide for their students suitable learning environment and teaching adaptations in the light of their learning needs, cultivate an inclusive culture in schools, and adopt the “3-Tier Intervention Model”<sup>36</sup> to cater for students’ learning needs.

A3.10 To facilitate schools in implementing IE, EDB has been providing ordinary schools with additional resources, professional support and teacher training. The additional resources include Learning Support Grant (LSG), Enhanced Speech Therapy Grant and additional teachers provided under various programmes. Schools may pool together and flexibly deploy these resources for employing additional teachers, teaching assistants and/or hiring professional support services to render appropriate support for students with SEN. Moreover, schools may apply to conduct repair / alteration works on their school facilities and install barrier free facilities such as lifts. Schools may also apply for Top-up Fund to procure special furniture and equipment or carry out minor conversion works for students with SEN. To further enhance the support for students with SEN in ordinary schools, the EDB raised the ceiling of the LSG for each school to \$1.5 million per annum in the 2013/14 school year, and increased the rates of the LSG by 30% in the 2014/15 school year. In subsequent school years, the grant rates and the

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35 A maximum subsidy of \$3,867 per month is provided to each eligible child who is waitlisting for Special Child Care Centre or Residential Special Child Care Centre. A maximum subsidy of \$2,763 per month is provided to each eligible child who is waitlisting for Early Education and Training Centre or Integrated Programme for Disabled Children in Kindergarten-cum-Child Care Centre.

36 Tier-1 support refers to quality teaching in the regular classroom to cater for students with mild or transient learning difficulties. Tier-2 support refers to “add-on” intervention for students with persistent learning difficulties, e.g. small group learning and pull-out programmes. Tier-3 support refers to intensive individualised support for students with severe and persistent learning difficulties.



ceiling of the LSG for each school year will be adjusted annually according to the change in the Composite Consumer Price Index. With regard to professional support, assessment and consultation services are provided by educational psychologists, speech therapists and audiologists. We also develop diversified teaching resources for the deployment of the teachers and parents. EDB has also published the Operation Guide on the Whole School Approach to Integrated Education, which provides guiding principles and practicable strategies for ordinary schools to formulate policies, measures and evaluation mechanisms for implementing IE. Moreover, EDB provides structured training courses for serving teachers, sets training targets, and establishes school networks for sharing of good practices with a view to enhancing the professional capacity of teachers in catering for students with SEN.

- A3.11 Communication and co-operation between parents and schools are essential for supporting students with SEN. To enhance parents' understanding of their roles, EDB has compiled the Parent Guide on Whole School Approach to Integrated Education, providing parents with information on the procedures for identifying and assessing different types of SEN and on various support strategies. We also require schools to establish a systematic and regular communication mechanism with parents and to strengthen communication and co-operation with them in catering for the needs of the students with SEN.

#### Education Services in Special Schools

- A3.12 Having regard to the SEN of the students in special schools, EDB has different provisions for various types of special schools. Apart from regular teachers, special schools are also provided with various types of specialists, e.g. physiotherapists, occupational therapists, mobility instructors, etc.
- A3.13 A number of improvement measures have been introduced in recent years with a view to enhancing the effectiveness of learning and teaching in special schools. These measures include the improvement measures on extension of years of study for students, reducing the class size for certain types of special schools<sup>37</sup>, and providing additional teacher assistants for schools for children with intellectual disabilities, physical disability, and visual impairment cum intellectual disabilities as well as the psychiatric classes of hospital schools. EDB has also improved the manpower for the

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37 More specifically, reducing the class size of schools for children with mild intellectual disabilities to 15 students per class progressively by grade level; and reducing progressively the class size to 12 students per class in the school for children with visual impairment and schools for social development.

boarding section of special schools and provided an additional grant to strengthen the support for boarders with medical complexity. Apart from resources provision, EDB has been providing teacher training and professional support for special schools to enhance their capacity to cater for their students' needs.

- A3.14 As a general practice, special schools will help their students plan and apply for post-school placement having regard to their interest, capabilities and service needs. Apart from pursuing further studies in post-secondary institutions or receiving vocational training, special school leavers may receive vocational rehabilitation service, day-time training service or day care service, etc.

### **Community Support Services and Residential Care Services**

- A3.15 Article 19 of the Convention states that state parties should “recognise the equal right of all persons with disabilities to live in the community, with choices equal to others, and shall take effective and appropriate measures to facilitate full enjoyment by persons with disabilities of this right and their full inclusion and participation in the community”, including by ensuring that, among others, “persons with disabilities have access to a range of in-home, residential and other community support services, including personal assistance necessary to support living and inclusion in the community, and to prevent isolation or segregation from the community”.

- A3.16 This is in line with our policy objectives in respect of the provision of residential care services as well as day care and community support services for persons with disabilities, as follows:

- (a) providing training and community support to persons with disabilities to develop their potential, thus enabling them to continue to live at home and preparing them for full integration into the community;
- (b) strengthening the carers' caring capacity and relieving their stress so as to provide a better quality of life for persons with disabilities and their families; and
- (c) for those persons with disabilities who cannot live independently and those who cannot be adequately cared for by their families, providing appropriate residential care and necessary training and support services to help them develop independent living skills.

#### Community care and support services

- A3.17 The Government provides a wide range of community care and support

services for persons with disabilities and their carers which include:

- (a) District Support Centres for Persons with Disabilities (DSCs) which provide one-stop community support services (including training, social, recreational and personal development programmes) for persons with disabilities to enhance their living skills and facilitate their continued living in the community. In 2014-15, the Government introduced a case management service approach in DSCs with a view to providing service users with more comprehensive and convenient support;
- (b) Home Care Service for Persons with Severe Disabilities which provides persons with severe disabilities with a package of home-based support services (including personal care and escort service, occupational therapist / physiotherapist rehabilitation training and nursing care service) to meet their care and training needs;
- (c) Integrated Support Service for Persons with Severe Physical Disabilities which provides persons with severe physical disabilities with a special subsidy for renting Respiratory Support Medical Equipment and purchasing medical consumables, as well as one-stop integrated support service by case managers who coordinate and arrange appropriate services for them according to their needs;
- (d) Integrated Community Centres for Mental Wellness which provide district-based, one-stop and integrated community mental health support services to discharged mental patients, persons with suspected mental health problems and local residents. These integrated services range from early prevention to risk management through casework counselling, outreaching visits, therapeutic and supportive groups, day training and public education programmes, and, where required, referral to the Hospital Authority for clinical assessment or psychiatric treatment;
- (e) other community care and support services including Day Activity Centres, Transitional Care and Support Centre for Tetraplegic Patients, Rehabilitation and Training Centre for Visually Impaired Persons, Library Services for Visually Impaired Persons, Multi-service Centre for Hearing Impaired Persons, Specialised Home-based Training and Support Service, etc.; and
- (f) various support for carers of persons with disabilities include training for carers of persons with disabilities in DSCs to strengthen their caring capacity and relieve their stress; Parents / Relatives Resource Centres

which provide a focal point for carers to share experience and seek mutual support with assistance from staff; Integrated Community Centres for Mental Wellness which also provide services for families / carers; and occasional child care services which relieve carers from taking care of the persons with disabilities thus enabling the carers to attend to their personal business or needs on a temporary basis; etc.

### Residential care services

A3.18 The Government provides a wide range of subsidised residential care services for persons with different types and levels of disabilities, including:

- (a) residential services for persons with severe / moderate intellectual disabilities and persons with severe physical disabilities aged 15 or above who are unable to live independently in the community. Apart from accommodation and meals, daily living skills training as well as social and recreational activities are provided to residents. Nursing service is also made available to residents in hostels for persons with severe intellectual / physical disabilities;
- (b) Care and Attention Homes for Severely Disabled Persons which serve persons with severe intellectual / physical disabilities aged 15 or above who are unlikely to benefit from regular day training placement and do not yet require infirmary care. Apart from accommodation, meals and nursing service, services like intensive personal care, living skills training, physiotherapy, occupational therapy as well as social and recreational activities are also provided to residents;
- (c) Supported Hostels which provide home living for persons with disabilities aged 15 or above who can only live semi-independently. Guidance and assistance for residents in performing some domestic tasks and daily activities are provided;
- (d) Halfway Houses which provide ex-mentally ill persons aged 15 or above with, apart from accommodation and meals, necessary training and counselling for residents;
- (e) Long Stay Care Homes which seek to equip residents, who are discharged patients with chronic psychiatric disabilities aged 15 or above, with the necessary abilities to progress to more integrated living in the community;
- (f) Care and Attention Homes for the Aged Blind which serve elderly persons aged 60 or above with visual impairment or severely low vision

and poor health or physical / psychiatric disabilities. The services include accommodation, meals, personal care, nursing service, infirmary care as well as regular social activities;

- (g) Small Group Homes for Mildly Mentally Handicapped Children / Integrated Small Group Homes which provide a home-like environment for persons with mild intellectual disabilities aged six to 18 until they can return to their families or a long-term alternative placement arrangement can be secured;
- (h) emergency placement service for the destitute and homeless persons with disabilities aged 15 or above;
- (i) places of refuge for children with disabilities and juveniles aged eight to under 18 (or 21 for disabled wards of the Director of Social Welfare) according to the Protection of Children and Juveniles Ordinance, Cap. 213; and
- (j) boarding service for special school students, including those with hearing impairment, visual impairment, physical disabilities and moderate / severe intellectual disabilities.

A3.19 The Government has been adopting a three-pronged approach to increase the provision of residential care services and encourage participation from different sectors to provide diversified services, namely:

- (a) regulating residential care homes for persons with disabilities (RCHDs) through a licensing scheme so as to ensure service quality on the one hand, and encouraging the market to develop more residential care service options by launching the Bought Place Scheme for Private Residential Care Homes for Persons with Disabilities on the other;
- (b) supporting NGOs to develop self-financing homes; and
- (c) continuing to steadily increase the number of subsidised residential care home places. As at end-October 2014, there were 12 608 subsidised residential care places for persons with disabilities (including the 365 places purchased under the BPS), representing an increase of about 97% since 1997. The Government will continue to actively identify suitable premises for setting up rehabilitation facilities to meet the existing and future demands, and additional places will also be provided through the Special Scheme as referred to in paragraph A3.6 above.

## Employment Support Services

A3.20 Article 27 of the Convention provides for recognition of the rights of persons with disabilities “to work, on an equal basis with others; this includes the right to the opportunity to gain a living by work freely chosen or accepted in a labour market and work environment that is open, inclusive and accessible to persons with disabilities”. The Government fully recognises that most persons with disabilities will be able to undertake some kind of productive work. Some of them, depending on the severity and the nature of the disabilities, may not be suitable to enter into the open market, while others may need assistance to prepare them for entry into the open market and for sustaining their employment. Assistance is provided not only to persons with disabilities, but also to their employers. The services are summarised as follows:

- (a) for persons with disabilities who are not ready to take up open employment yet, SWD provides various vocational rehabilitation services such as Sheltered Workshop, Supported Employment, Integrated Vocational Rehabilitation Services Centres and Integrated Vocational Training Centres. With appropriate vocational training in a specially designed work environment, persons with disabilities can learn to adapt to work requirements, develop social skills and relationships, and prepare for potential advancement to supported and open employment;
- (b) through the On the Job Training Programme for People with Disabilities and Sunnyway - On the Job Training Programme for Young People with Disabilities, on the job training is provided to persons with disabilities. During the job attachment period of both schemes, which is not more than three months, the participants who can fulfill the required attendance will have the job attachment allowance of \$2,000 per month. After completing the job attachment, each of the participants will be assisted to find suitable job or job trial in the open market. The employers can try out work abilities of the participants through job trial. During the job trial period, the employers will receive a wage subsidy equal to 50% of the actual wage paid to the participants with a ceiling of \$4,000 a month, whichever is the lower, for a maximum period of six months;
- (c) for job seekers with disabilities who are fit for open employment, Selective Placement Division (SPD) of the Labour Department (LD) provides them with free and personalised employment support services.

The Placement Officers offer persons with disabilities employment counselling, conduct job matching and referrals, and follow-up service for up to three months upon their placement in employment. SPD also provides free recruitment service to employers in the private sector for employing persons with disabilities;

- (d) under the Work Orientation and Placement Scheme (WOPS), employers of persons with disabilities may receive a monthly allowance equivalent to two-thirds of the actual salary paid to the employee, subject to a ceiling of \$4,000, for a maximum period of six months. In addition, an eligible employer who employs a person with disabilities having employment difficulties, and provides him / her with training, support and mentorship, is entitled to a monthly allowance equivalent to the amount of actual salary paid, less \$500 per month, subject to a ceiling of \$5,500, in the first two months of employment;
- (e) under the “Enhancing Employment of People with Disabilities through Small Enterprise” Project (generally referred to as “3E’s Project”), each funded business, with at least half number of the employees being persons with disabilities, will be offered a grant not exceeding \$2 million to meet the set-up capital cost and the operating loss incurred in the first three years of operation of the business. The business is expected to become self-sustaining after the funding period;
- (f) under the “Support Programme for Employees with Disabilities” implemented by SWD in June 2013, a maximum subsidy of \$20,000 for each employee with disabilities is provided to employers for procuring assistive devices and carrying out workplace modification works. The scheme was enhanced since April 2014, including raising the maximum support level of \$40,000 for procurement of a single assistive device and its essential accessories;
- (g) in September 2013, the Labour and Welfare Bureau, in collaboration with the Rehabilitation Advisory Committee, The Hong Kong Council of Social Service and the Hong Kong Joint Council for People with Disabilities, launched the Talent-Wise Employment Charter and Inclusive Organisations Recognition Scheme (the Charter Scheme) to mobilise the Government, private sector, public and subvented bodies to make collective efforts to promote the employment of persons with

disabilities through a host of sustainable measures<sup>38</sup> commensurate with their modes of operation. As at November 2014, more than 380 organisations, including all Government bureaux and departments and around 60 small and medium enterprises, had joined the Charter Scheme. The Government will continue to promote the Charter Scheme, in a continuing process of assisting persons with disabilities to find jobs on the basis of their abilities rather than disabilities, in an inclusive society which truly recognises the rights, capabilities and contributions of persons with disabilities; and

- (h) eligible working persons, with or without disabilities, may benefit from the Work Incentive Transport Subsidy (WITS) Scheme<sup>39</sup> and some eligible persons may benefit from the Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities as referred to in paragraph A3.28 below.

### **Accessible Environment**

A3.21 Article 9 of the Convention states that appropriate measures should be taken “to ensure to persons with disabilities access, on an equal basis with others, to the physical environment, to transportation, to information and communications, including information and communications technologies and systems, and to other facilities and services open or provided to the public, both in urban and in rural areas”, to enable persons with disabilities to live independently and participate fully in all aspects of life.

A3.22 The Government has continued to adopt the policy objective to provide barrier-free access and facilities for people in need (including persons with disabilities) with a view to enabling them to freely access premises and make use of community facilities and services on an equal basis with others,

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38 Participating organisations of the Charter Scheme may implement measures including: employing persons with disabilities and formulating corporate policies and measures on employment of persons with disabilities; publishing periodically in corporate publications / publicity materials on the number of employees with disabilities and on measures or indicators pertaining to the employment of persons with disabilities; providing a barrier-free working environment and assistive devices for employees with disabilities; participating in various on-the-job training and support programmes for persons with disabilities; using products or services provided by rehabilitation social enterprises and suppliers employing persons with disabilities; building an inclusive workplace through assisting persons with disabilities in mastering job skills and adapting into the work environment; and setting aside shops or stalls for social enterprises or self-employed persons with disabilities to operate their businesses, etc.

39 The WITS Scheme was implemented in October 2011 to help relieve the burden of work-related travelling expenses on low-income earners and promote sustained employment. Employed persons meeting the income and asset limits and other eligibility criteria for WITS, whether they are with or without disabilities, may apply for full-rate subsidy of \$600 per month (if working at least 72 hours per month) or half-rate subsidy of \$300 per month (if working less than 72 hours but at least 36 hours per month). Up to end-November 2014, the number of WITS beneficiaries totalled at 84 266 persons of whom 2 616 (3.1%) were aged 65 or above. There is no breakdown on the number of WITS beneficiaries with disabilities.



thereby facilitating them to live independently, participate in full in various social activities and integrate into the community.

- A3.23 In light of the changing social environment and public expectations, as well as the advancement in building technology, the Government amended Section 72 of the Building (Planning) Regulations under the Buildings Ordinance and promulgated the new “Design Manual: Barrier Free Access 2008” (“Design Manual 2008”) on 1 December 2008 to further enhance relevant design requirements. All new private buildings and redevelopment of existing buildings are required to comply with the latest barrier-free design standards.
- A3.24 In respect of the Government’s newly constructed or renovated buildings, all Government buildings constructed after this date will, wherever practicable, meet the requirements as set out in the “Design Manual 2008”, and achieve a standard beyond the statutory requirements. Persons with disabilities have been consulted in the planning stage of major projects, such as the Kai Tak Cruise Terminal and the West Kowloon Cultural District project.
- A3.25 Regarding existing Government buildings, the Government has also taken forward a comprehensive retrofitting programme to upgrade the barrier-free facilities for about 3 500 existing government premises and facilities, as well as about 240 public housing estates. With regard to public walkways, the Highways Department has been implementing a separate retrofitting programme for the provision of barrier-free access facilities at public footbridges, elevated walkway structures or subways without lifts or ramps or alternative at-grade crossings.
- A3.26 On the human side, the Government has, since April 2011, appointed Access Co-ordinators in individual bureaux and departments to co-ordinate accessibility issues within the bureau and department and raise staff awareness of accessibility issues. Individual bureaux and departments have also appointed an Access Officer for each venue under their management to offer assistance to people in need in access to the venue under his / her management and using the services and facilities therein, and handle complaints regarding accessibility issues for the venue. Members of the public may contact directly individual Access Co-ordinators and Access Officers of the venues concerned to seek assistance, offer suggestions and lodge complaints in respect of the barrier-free facilities of the venues.

### **Accessible Transport**

- A3.27 The Government has been taking forward the concept of "barrier-free

transport" through working with public transport operators to enhance public transport facilities where feasible. At present, there is at least one barrier-free access in every MTR station to facilitate the mobility impaired to enter and exit. These accesses are equipped with passenger lifts, wheelchair aids, stair lifts or ramps. For franchised buses, about 75% of the bus fleet comprises low-floor buses. Except for those buses running along road sections with steep gradient and sharp bend on Lantau Island, all buses newly purchased will be of a low-floor design to replace the old ones which are not low-floor. The replacement is expected to be completed by 2017.

- A3.28 To help build a caring and inclusive society, the Government launched the Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities in phases since June 2012 to enable elderly people aged 65 or above (irrespective of whether they are persons with disabilities) and recipients under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme aged below 65 with 100% disabilities and recipients of Disability Allowance (DA) in the same age group to travel on the general MTR lines, franchised buses and ferries (to be extended to green minibuses in phases starting from the first quarter of 2015) at any time at a concessionary fare of \$2 per trip.
- A3.29 Under the rehabilitation policy, a monthly transport supplement (current monthly rate at \$245) has also been provided to recipients under the CSSA Scheme aged between 12 and 64 with 100% disability and recipients of DA in the same age group since July 2008 in order to facilitate their integration into the society. Currently an NGO operates a total of 135 Rehabuses under Government subvention to provide point-to-point transport services for those persons with disabilities who have difficulties in using general public transport. In tandem, a social enterprise, in collaboration with taxi companies, has launched a fleet of six wheelchair accessible vehicles to provide 24-hour taxi hiring services for wheelchair users for point-to-point transport service.

### **Public Education**

- A3.30 In collaboration with the Rehabilitation Advisory Committee, the Government has been making proactive efforts in mobilising cross-sectoral collaboration towards building an equal and inclusive society through launching territory-wide public education activities, including television and radio programmes, docudrama, publicity programmes targeting youths and students, and roving exhibitions, etc. The Government has also increased

funding for subsidising the District Councils, NGOs, public organisations, local organisations and self-help groups of persons with disabilities for organising public education activities in the local communities.

### **A3.III Conclusion**

A3.31 The Government has been allocating additional resources to strengthen the rehabilitation services. The overall recurrent expenditure for supporting persons with disabilities has increased from \$16.6 billion in 2007-08 to \$26.6 billion in 2014-15, representing an increase of 60%. The expenditure for rehabilitation services in the welfare area has increased from \$2.8 billion in 2007-08 to \$5.1 billion in 2014-15, representing an increase of over 80%. The Government strives to continue to work in collaboration with the social welfare and the business sectors as well as the community at large in serving the different needs of persons with disabilities and in promoting an inclusive society.

## Glossary

Glossary	Definition
Domestic households	A domestic household consists of a group of persons who live together and make common provision for essentials for living. These persons need not be related. If a person makes provision for essentials for living without sharing with other persons, he/she is also regarded as a household. In this case, it is a 1-person household.
CSSA households	Refer to domestic households receiving Comprehensive Social Security Assistance.
Elderly households	Refer to domestic households with all members aged 65 and above.
Single-parent households	Refer to domestic households with at least one widowed, divorced, separated or never married member living with children aged below 18.
New-arrival households	Refer to domestic households with at least one member from the Mainland having resided in Hong Kong for less than seven years.
Households with children	Refer to domestic households with at least one member aged below 18.
Youth households	Refer to domestic households with all members aged 18-29.
Economically active households	Refer to domestic households with at least one member being economically active, excluding foreign domestic helpers.
Economically inactive households	Refer to domestic households with all members being economically inactive.
Unemployed households	Refer to domestic households with all economically active members being unemployed.
Working households	Refer to domestic households with at least one employed member, excluding foreign domestic helpers.
Households in private housing	Refer to domestic households residing in private permanent housing.

<b>Glossary</b>	<b>Definition</b>
Households in public rental housing	Refer to domestic households residing in public rental housing.
Households in subsidised sale flats	Refer to domestic households residing in subsidised home ownership housing.
Households in temporary housing	Refer to domestic households residing in temporary housing.
Households with persons with disabilities	Refer to domestic households with at least one member satisfying the definition of persons with disabilities.
Demographic dependency ratio	Refers to the number of persons aged below 15 (child dependency ratio) and aged 65 and above (elderly dependency ratio) per 1 000 persons aged between 15 and 64.
Economic dependency ratio	Refers to the number of economically inactive person(s) per 1 000 economically active persons.
Economic activity status	Domestic households/population can be classified into two main groups: economically active and economically inactive.
Household income	<p>The total income earned by all member(s) of the household in the month before enumeration. Household income in the Report can be divided into four types according to the coverage of policy intervention:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Pre-intervention;</li> <li>(ii) Post-intervention (recurrent cash);</li> <li>(iii) Post-intervention (recurrent cash + non-recurrent cash); and</li> <li>(iv) Post-intervention (recurrent cash + in-kind).</li> </ul>
Pre-intervention	This income type only includes household members' employment earnings, investment income and non-social-transfer cash income. In other words, the income is pre-tax income with all cash benefits excluded.
Post-intervention (recurrent cash)	It refers to the household income after tax, including recurrent cash benefits received.
Post-intervention (recurrent + non-	It refers to the household income after tax, including both recurrent and non-recurrent cash benefits (including

<b>Glossary</b>	<b>Definition</b>
recurrent cash)	one-off measures) received.
Post-intervention (recurrent cash + in-kind)	It refers to the household income after tax, including recurrent cash benefits and in-kind benefits monetised as part of income received.
Policy intervention measures	Under the discussion of CoP, policy intervention measures can broadly be classified into 4 types:  (i) Taxation; (ii) Recurrent cash benefits; (iii) Non-recurrent cash benefits; and (iv) In-kind benefits.
Taxation	Taxation includes salaries tax, property tax, rates, and government rents.
Recurrent cash benefits	Refer to cash-based benefits recurrently provided by the Government, such as social security benefits and education allowance in cash.
Non-recurrent cash benefits	Refer to the Government's non-recurrent cash benefits, including one-off measures. Cash benefits provided by the Community Care Fund are also included.
In-kind benefits	Refer to in-kind benefits provided with means tests. The provision of public rental housing by the Government is a typical example.
Persons	Only those residing in domestic households (excluding foreign domestic helpers) are counted as persons in this Report.
Economically active persons	The economically active persons, synonymous with the labour force, comprise the employed persons and the unemployed persons.
Economically inactive persons	Refer to those persons who have not had a job and have not been at work during the seven days before enumeration, excluding persons who have been on leave/holiday during the 7-day period and persons who are unemployed. Persons such as home-makers, retired persons and all those below the age of 15 are thus included.

<b>Glossary</b>	<b>Definition</b>
Employed persons	<p>For a person aged 15 or over to be classified as employed, that person should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) be engaged in performing work for pay or profit during the seven days before enumeration; or</li> <li>(ii) have formal job attachment (i.e. that the person has continued receipt of wage or salary; or has an assurance or an agreed date of return to job or business; or is in receipt of compensation without obligation to accept another job).</li> </ul>
Full-time workers	<p>Full-time workers are employed persons who work 35 hours and over during the seven days before enumeration, or those who work less than 35 hours due to leave during the 7-day period.</p>
Part-time workers	<p>Part-time workers are employed persons who work less than 35 hours during the seven days before enumeration, excluding those who work less than 35 hours due to leave during the 7-day period and those underemployed.</p>
Underemployed persons	<p>The criteria for an employed person to be classified as underemployed are: involuntarily working less than 35 hours during the seven days before enumeration; and either</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) has been available for additional work during the seven days before enumeration; or</li> <li>(ii) has sought additional work during the 30 days before enumeration.</li> </ul> <p>Working short hours is considered involuntary if it is due to slack work, material shortage, mechanical breakdown or inability to find a full-time job. Following this definition, employed persons taking no-pay leave due to slack work during the seven days before enumeration are also classified as underemployed if they worked less than 35 hours or were on leave even for the whole period during the 7-day period.</p>
Unemployed persons	<p>For a person aged 15 or over to be classified as unemployed, that person should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) not have had a job and should not have performed any work for pay or profit during the seven days</li> </ul>

Glossary	Definition
	<p>before enumeration; and</p> <p>(ii) have been available for work during the seven days before enumeration; and</p> <p>(iii) have sought work during the 30 days before enumeration.</p> <p>However, if a person aged 15 or over fulfils the conditions (i) and (ii) above but has not sought work during the 30 days before enumeration because he/she believes that work is not available, he/she is still classified as unemployed, being regarded as a so-called “discouraged worker”.</p> <p>Notwithstanding the above, the following types of persons are also classified as unemployed:</p> <p>(i) persons without a job, have sought work but have not been available for work because of temporary sickness; and</p> <p>(ii) persons without a job, have been available for work but have not sought work because they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✧ have made arrangements to take up a new job or to start business on a subsequent date; or</li> <li>✧ are expecting to return to their original jobs (e.g. casual workers are usually called back to work when service is need).</li> </ul>
Persons with disabilities	<p>Persons with disabilities in the Special Topic Enquiry refer to those who</p> <p>(i) had perceived themselves as having one or more of the following four conditions which had lasted, or were likely to last, for a period of six months or more at the time of enumeration :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✧ restriction in body movement;</li> <li>✧ seeing difficulty;</li> <li>✧ hearing difficulty; and</li> <li>✧ speech difficulty;</li> </ul> <p>or</p> <p>(ii) had been diagnosed by qualified health personnel (such as practitioners of Western medicine and Chinese medicine) as having one or more of the following five conditions:</p>



Glossary	Definition
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✧ mental illness/mood disorder;</li> <li>✧ autism;</li> <li>✧ specific learning difficulties;</li> <li>✧ attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder; and</li> <li>✧ intellectual disability.</li> </ul> <p>However, given that the estimates pertaining to persons with intellectual disability in the STE are considered to be subject to a certain degree of under-estimation, the analysis of persons with disabilities in this Report does not include persons with intellectual disability unless otherwise specified.</p>
Carers	<p>Refer to persons of any age who provide any assistance in daily living (including domestic activities, consulting doctors/receiving medical treatment, and going shopping/recreational centres), in terms of help or supervision, to persons with disabilities in domestic households. For each of the three concerned circumstances, if there are more than one carer for a person with disabilities, the carer is the one who provides the longest hours of caring services during a week.</p>
Unemployment rate	<p>Unemployment rate refers to the proportion of unemployed persons in the labour force.</p>
Prevalence rate of disability	<p>Refer to the share of persons with disabilities in the corresponding total population.</p>
Median	<p>For an ordered data set which is arranged in ascending order (i.e. from the smallest value to the largest value), the median is the value that ranks in the middle of all data in the set. If the total number of data is an even number, the median is the average of the two middle values of the ordered data set.</p>
Percentiles	<p>Percentiles are the 99 values that divide an ordered data set into 100 equal parts (in terms of number of observations). In brief, the pth percentile is the value which delineates the lowest p% of all the data, where p can be any integer value from 1 to 99.</p>

<b>Glossary</b>	<b>Definition</b>
Poverty indicators	Quantitative measurements of poverty.
Poverty incidence	Refer to the number of poor households and its corresponding number of persons living therein (i.e. poor population), with monthly household income below the poverty line corresponding to the household size.
Poverty rate	Poverty rate is the ratio of poor population to total population living in domestic households.
Poverty rate of persons with disabilities	Refers to the ratio of persons with disabilities residing in poor households (poor persons with disabilities) to total persons with disabilities living in domestic households.
Poverty gap	Poverty gap of a poor household refers to the amount of difference between its household income and the poverty threshold. Total poverty gap is the sum of such differences of all poor households. Total poverty gap divided by the number of poor households gives the average poverty gap.
Poverty line	Poverty line is set to define poor households and poor population. In this Report, 50% of median monthly household income before policy intervention by household size is adopted as the poverty line.

## Abbreviations

CoP	Commission on Poverty
CCF	Community Care Fund
C&SD	Census and Statistics Department
CRR	Central Registry for Rehabilitation
CSSA	Comprehensive Social Security Assistance
DA	Disability Allowance
FDH	Foreign domestic helper
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GHS	General Household Survey
HA	Hospital Authority
LFPR	Labour force participation rate
OAA / OALA	Old Age Allowance / Old Age Living Allowance
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PRH	Public rental housing
SSA	Social Security Allowance
STE	Special Topic Enquiry on Persons with Disabilities
SWD	Social Welfare Department
WITS	Work Incentive Transport Subsidy

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