

Commission on Poverty Summit 2018

Opening Remarks by the Chief Executive

Chief Executive, Mrs Carrie Lam

24 March 2018

Innovations in poverty alleviation

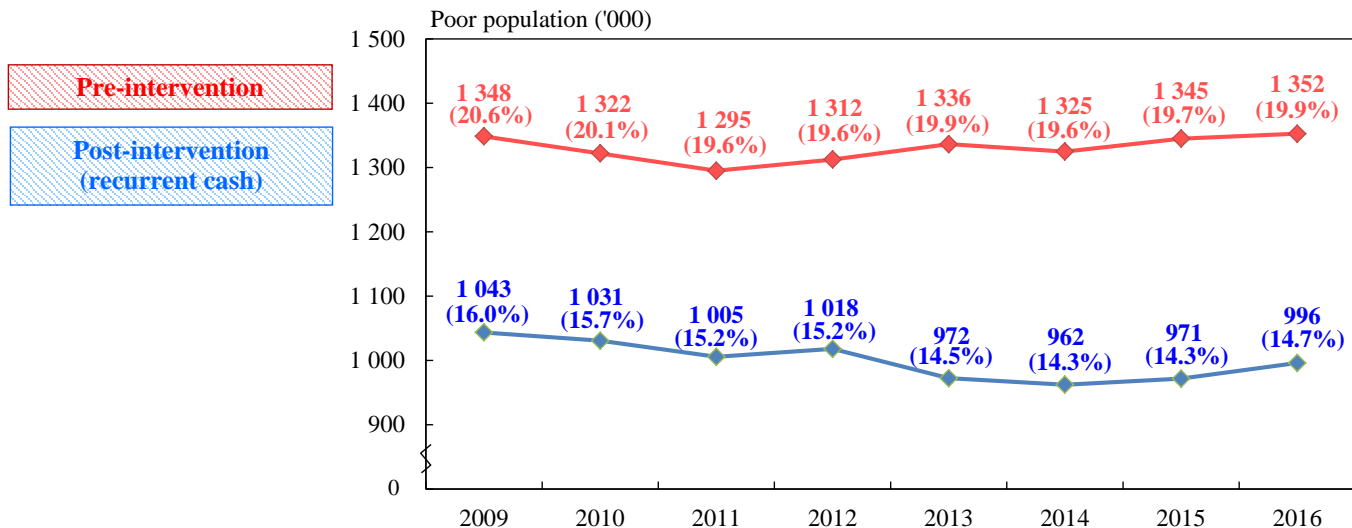
- The Government reinstated the Commission on Poverty (CoP) in December 2012. Chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration, the CoP is a high-level platform for deliberation of poverty alleviation policies
- When I was the Chief Secretary for Administration, the CoP brought about various innovative work and projects under my leadership, including:
 - Formulating the first official poverty line, publishing the annual update of the poverty situation in Hong Kong, and conducting thematic studies such as the analyses on the poverty situation of ethnic minorities
 - Launching the Low-income Working Family Allowance
 - Conducting public engagement exercise on retirement protection
 - Undertaking to resolve the Mandatory Provident Fund “offsetting” issues
 - Filling the gaps of existing assistance programmes through the Community Care Fund
 - Promoting social innovation and cross-sector collaboration through the Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Fund

The objectives of the Commission on Poverty Summit



The value of the poverty line

Poor population and poverty rate after recurrent cash benefits, 2009-2016



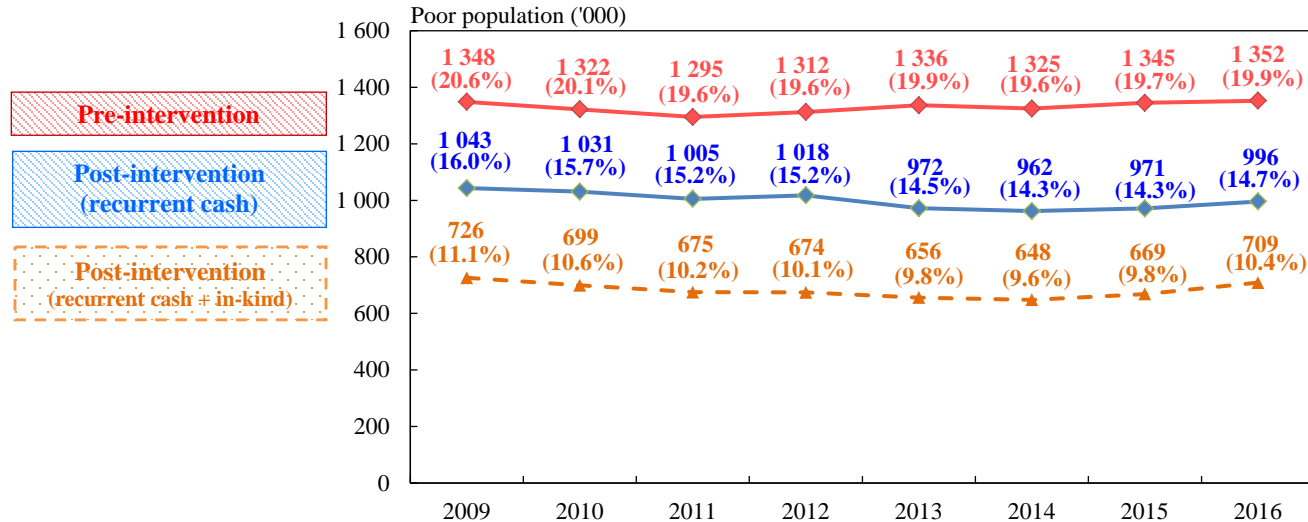
Poor households ('000)	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Pre-intervention	541	536	530	541	555	555	570	582
Post-intervention (recurrent cash)	406	405	399	403	385	383	392	412

Note: () Figures in parentheses denote the corresponding poverty rates.

Source: General Household Survey, Census and Statistics Department.

Public rental housing (PRH) is an important pillar in poverty alleviation work

Poor population and poverty rate after in-kind benefits, 2009-2016



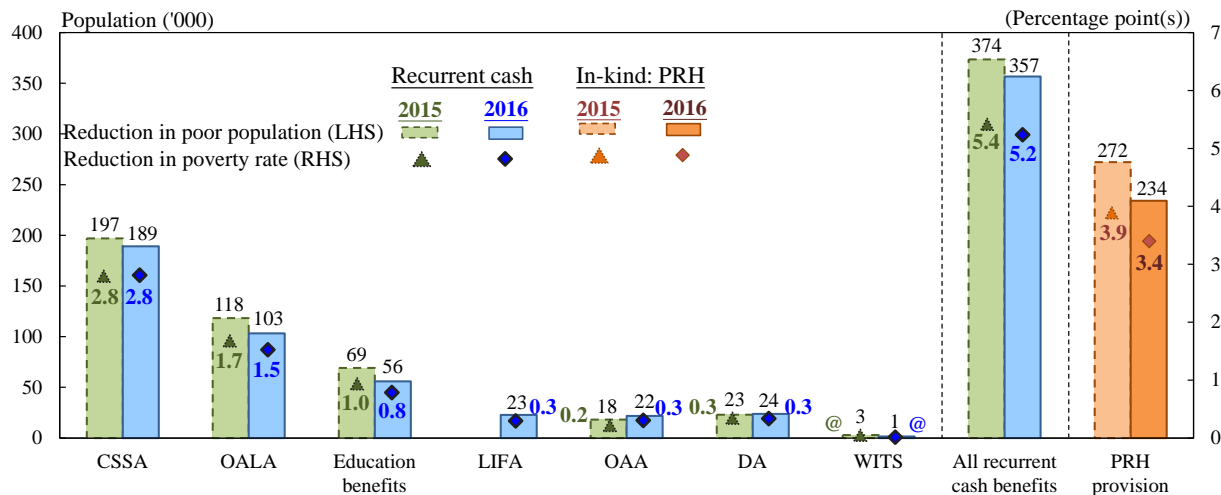
Poor households ('000)	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Pre-intervention	541	536	530	541	555	555	570	582
Post-intervention (recurrent cash)	406	405	399	403	385	383	392	412
Post-intervention (recurrent cash + in-kind)	284	278	271	272	269	271	281	304

Note: () Figures in parentheses denote the corresponding poverty rates.

Source: General Household Survey, Census and Statistics Department.

PRH was effective in alleviating poverty, reducing the poverty rate by 3.4 percentage points and lifting over 230 000 persons out of poverty. Its effectiveness was even higher than those of recurrent cash benefits (including Comprehensive Social Security Assistance)

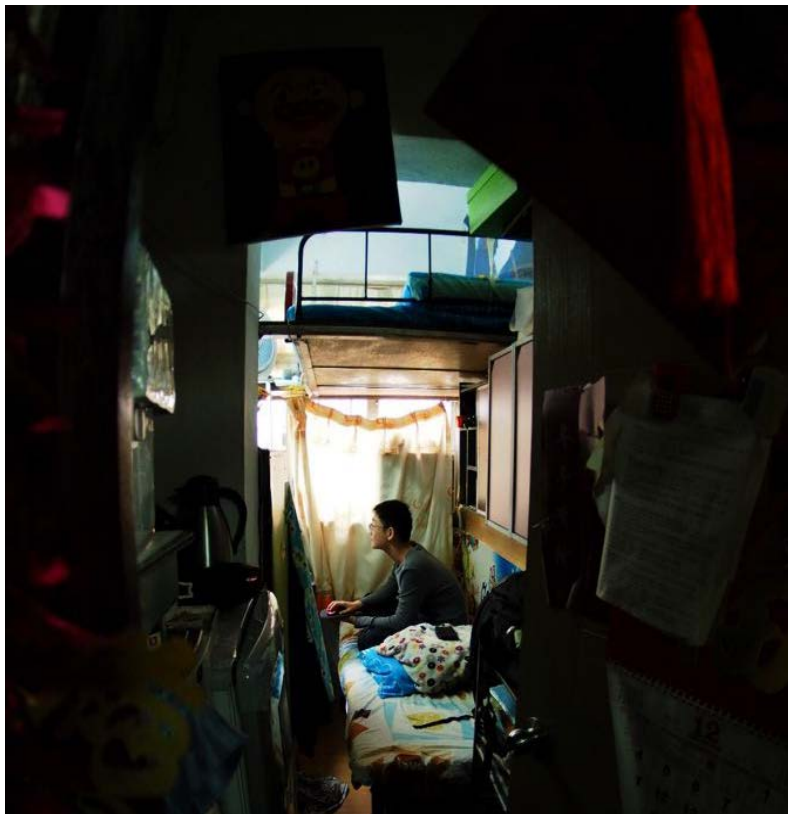
Effectiveness of selected recurrent cash benefits and PRH provision in poverty alleviation, 2015-2016



Reduction in poor households ('000)	CSSA	OALA	Education benefits	LIFA	Old Age Allowance (OAA)	Disability Allowance (DA)	Work Incentive Transport Subsidy (WITS)	All recurrent cash benefits	PRH provision
2015	108	54	18	-	9	8	1	177	102
2016	107	49	15	6	10	8	1	170	91

Note: (@) Less than 0.05 percentage point.

Source: General Household Survey, Census and Statistics Department.



Visiting Light Home in Wing Lee Street
in July 2015





Visiting Light Housing in Sham Tseng in July 2016



Officiating at the launching ceremony of Light Housing in Sham Tseng in October 2016





Celebrating the Chinese New Year with tenants of Light Housing in Sham Tseng in February 2018





Visiting a social housing project under the Community Housing Movement of Hong Kong Council of Social Service (HKCSS) in February 2018



The Government will strive to increase the supply of PRH

- Increasing the supply of PRH is the ultimate solution to resolve the housing problem of underprivileged families
- It takes time to identify land for increasing housing supply. Hence, we cannot fully meet the housing needs of the underprivileged through PRH in the short run. The average waiting time for general applicants of PRH is 4.7 years



Exploring strategies to increase land supply

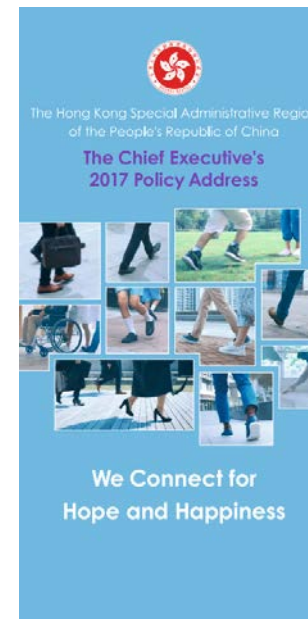
- Increasing land supply is the prerequisite of increasing PRH supply. It is a pressing problem that warrants immediate attention
- The Task Force on Land Supply will launch a 5-month public engagement exercise in April to facilitate the community to discuss the pros and cons of different land supply options and their relative priorities, with a view to achieving a broad consensus in the community



While we are striving to increase PRH supply, the Government endeavours to optimise existing housing resources to help families on the PRH waiting list and the inadequately housed

The Policy Address put forth specific measures that may be considered, including:

- optimising the use of idle government premises by providing rental housing units like those under the Light Housing project launched by Light Be in Sham Tseng;
- supporting the Community Housing Movement initiated by HKCSS on a pilot basis, including encouraging the Urban Renewal Authority to participate by offering units in old buildings;
- facilitating the Hong Kong Housing Society in allowing the owners of its subsidised housing to rent out their flats with premium unpaid to needy families at below market rentals on a pilot basis;
- exploring the wholesale conversion of industrial buildings into transitional housing with waiver of land premium; and
- supporting non-profit-making organisations to explore the feasibility of constructing pre-fabricated modular housing on idle sites



Consolidating the resources of different sectors in the community to promote social housing projects

Social housing projects

- By consolidating the resources of different sectors in the community, including social welfare organisations, social enterprises, charities, landlords and professionals, social housing projects provide underprivileged families with renovated housing units as temporary homes at affordable rents



香港公益金
THE COMMUNITY CHEST



九龍樂善堂
THE LOK SIN TONG
BENEVOLENT SOCIETY
KOWLOON



The Chief Executive's principles in social policies - The Chief Executive's 2017 Policy Address

- Whether in poverty alleviation, care for the elderly or support for the disadvantaged, the Government should adhere to the following principles in formulating policies: pro-child, pro-family, pro-work and pro-user. On the provision of social services, we should promote cross-sector and cross-profession collaboration as well as public-private partnership to make better use of our resources and provide more comprehensive care for the needy in society
- The Government will continue to devote resources in alleviating poverty and supporting the disadvantaged with a view to building a caring and inclusive society



Thank you
