

What Matters Most?

# CATALOGUE OF NEW HABITS & VALUE CONCEPTS

New Habits & Value Concepts that People Formed during the COVID-19 Pandemic and their Relationships to the Achievement of Relevant SDG key indicators

February 2022

Division of Environment and Sustainability  
Institute for the Environment  
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CATALOGUE OF NEW HABITS AND VALUE CONCEPTS THAT  
PEOPLE FORMED DURING THE PANDEMIC AND THEIR RELATIONSHIPS  
TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF RELEVANT SDG KEY INDICATORS

**February 2022**

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## Executive Summary

This “Catalogue of new habits and value concepts” is a compilation of values and behaviour changes observed among the public and institutions within Hong Kong during the COVID-19 pandemic, corresponding with certain targets and sub-targets under the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs).

This Catalogue was developed as a part of the research - conducted by the HKUST Division of Environment and Sustainability (ENVR), supported by the Robert H.N. Ho Family Foundation Hong Kong - that seeks to understand what has changed among Hong Kongers during the pandemic, and what the implications of these changes are to sustainable development and recovery.

These changes are ranked in order of their relevance to the COVID-19 situation of Hong Kong, and the rankings were determined by the researchers based on existing documentation of experiences and policies in Hong Kong – from news reports, social media, government mandates and programs, among others. This Catalogue provides baseline data for our work to compile habit-driven behavioural patterns related to the achievement of relevant SDG key indicators, and is useful for us to (1) prepare a deliberation guide/briefing material and (2) design a public opinion survey instrument.

In the top 15 of 75 final rankings, four SDGs, in particular, stand out **SDG 3** (Good Health and Wellbeing), **SDG 8** (Decent Work and Economic Growth), **SDG 1** (No Poverty), and **SDG 10** (Reduced Inequalities). These trending SDGs are reflective of the impacts the pandemic has had on human health, the local and global economies, as well as the disproportionate impacts on vulnerable and discriminated communities.

# Introduction

COVID-19 has struck hard on Hong Kong and exposed the weakness in systemic capacities to respond to vast spreading outbreaks of such kind. While foremost affecting citizens' health bearing high degrees of fatality rates, COVID-19 has also painfully demonstrated how individual freedoms had to be limited forcing local residents to rearrange everyday life, particularly in terms of values and behaviours pertaining to consumption and social interactions. It is beyond doubt that these experiences have weighted heavily on the population of Hong Kong, but what about the larger (longer-term) impact for sustainable development in the city?

Anti-pandemic measures pertaining to social distancing, preventive self-quarantine and the general reduction in interpersonal interactions have also vastly reduced the consumption of goods and services. By implication, people in Hong Kong have had to re-organise their daily lives with substantial constraints to pursue their 'traditional' patterns of consumption, which often are quite conspicuous in nature (compare Veblen<sup>1</sup>, 1899). Doing so in further consequence most likely entailed a temporarily reduced impact on the environment.

## **New values and practices – potential for a lasting shift towards sustainability instead of returning to business-as-usual?**

When evaluated from a sustainable development perspective, the alleviated ecological impact is good news. Yet, the crucial question is whether this momentum will last or if patterns of consumption and production will return to a business-as-usual (BAU) scenario. The obvious opportunity to extend the beneficial reduction of negative externalities from anthropogenic impacts on Hong Kong is essentially a matter of citizens' habits and routines. While everyday practices very much follow particular habitual patterns, the caesura generated by COVID-19, has forced Hongkongers to essentially change their routines so as to adjust to the challenging conditions. By virtue of routinisation and habituation new patterns of reduced, potentially more sustainable consumption may have emerged and might possibly become ingrained in people's everyday life.

Based on the substantial adjustment of everyday life that occurred since the COVID-19 outbreak in Hong Kong, we see a particular potential to identify valuable value and behaviour changes (in the sense of sustainable development) that could be used for promulgating a more sustainable lifestyle among Hong Kong citizenry. Despite many answers still requiring discovery along the way, we assert to have identified a promising starting point for this investigation.

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<sup>1</sup> Veblen, T. 1899. *The Theory of the Leisure Class*. New York: The Macmillan Company.

Our corresponding research questions included:

1. What novel value perspectives and practices have emerged across Hong Kong society during the COVID-19 pandemic?
2. What drove HK residents to change their traditional values and practices and adopt new ones?
3. Which of these new values and practices reflect and advance what SDGs in Hong Kong?
4. How could/do these practices contribute explicitly to achieving these SDGs?
5. How can the newly adopted value ideals and practices be sustained on the long term?
6. What mobilization strategies can be designed to nudge people towards sustainable options?

In our opinion, the common source providing these answers is located within Hongkonger's personal experience and practice formed during the past months since the outbreak. Bringing these experiences to light and highlighting their beneficial values both individually and collectively for society may in turn help encourage more sustainable behaviour in the city.

## Ranking of Changes

This table presents the ranking of the observed values and behaviour changes in order of their relevance to the COVID-19 situation of Hong Kong

Rank	SDG	Target No.	DESCRIPTION
1	3	3	End the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases
2	3	d	Strengthen the capacity of all countries, in particular developing countries, for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks
3	3	4	By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being
4	3	8	Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all
5	3	b	Support the research and development of vaccines and medicines for the communicable and non-communicable diseases that primarily affect developing countries
6	8	4	Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavour to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, in accordance with the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production, with developed countries taking the lead
7	8	3	Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services
8	1	3	Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable
9	10	4	Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality
10	8	5	By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value
11	1	5	By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters
12	8	b	By 2020, develop and operationalize a global strategy for youth employment and implement the Global Jobs Pact of the International Labour Organization
13	8	1	Sustain per capita economic growth in accordance with national circumstances and, in particular, at least 7 per cent gross domestic product growth per annum in the least developed countries
14	10	1	By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population at a rate higher than the national average
15	11	1	By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums
16	1	2	By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions
17	1	4	By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural

			resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance
18	1	b	Create sound policy frameworks at the national, regional and international levels, based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies, to support accelerated investment in poverty eradication actions
19	4	1	Ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes
20	4	2	Ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education
21	8	9	By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products
22	6	2	By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations
23	12	5	Substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse
24	1	a	Ensure significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources, including through enhanced development cooperation, in order to provide adequate and predictable means for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, to implement programmes and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions
25	4	3	Ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university
26	4	4	Substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship
27	1	1	By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day
28	2	1	By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round.
29	2	3	By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment.
30	11	5	By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations
31	11	6	By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management
32	8	6	By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training
33	8	8	Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment
34	12	6	Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle
35	12	b	Develop and implement tools to monitor sustainable development impacts for sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products
36	8	2	Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high-value added and labour-intensive sectors

37	9	3	Increase the access of small-scale industrial and other enterprises, in particular in developing countries, to financial services, including affordable credit, and their integration into value chains and markets
38	6	b	Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management
39	12	1	Implement the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production, all countries taking action, with developed countries taking the lead, taking into account the development and capabilities of developing countries
40	14	1	By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution
41	2	2	By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons.
42	3	5	Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol
43	2	4	By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality.
44	8	10	Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and expand access to banking, insurance and financial services for all
45	14	5	By 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information
46	14	7	By 2030, increase the economic benefits to Small Island developing States and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism
47	5	4	Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate
48	12	4	Achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment
49	3	9	Substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination
50	13	3	Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning
51	17	17	Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships
52	4	a	Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all
53	12	3	Halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses
54	4	5	Eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations
55	5	2	Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation
56	11	7	By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities
57	16	2	End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children



58	9	5	Enhance scientific research, upgrade the technological capabilities of industrial sectors in all countries, in particular developing countries, including, by 2030, encouraging innovation and substantially increasing the number of research and development workers per 1 million people and public and private research and development spending
59	10	b	Encourage official development assistance and financial flows, including foreign direct investment, to States where the need is greatest, in particular least developed countries, African countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, in accordance with their national plans and programmes
60	12	8	Ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature
61	10	5	Improve the regulation and monitoring of global financial markets and institutions and strengthen the implementation of such regulations
62	10	2	By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status
63	16	5	Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms
64	17	13	Enhance global macroeconomic stability, including through policy coordination and policy coherence
65	3	c	Increase health financing and the recruitment, development, training and retention of the health workforce in developing countries, especially in least developed countries and small island developing States
66	12	2	By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources
67	12	a	Support developing countries to strengthen their scientific and technological capacity to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production
68	6	3	By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally
69	15	12	Enhance global support for efforts to combat poaching and trafficking of protected species, including by increasing the capacity of local communities to pursue sustainable livelihood opportunities
70	11	b	By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, holistic disaster risk management at all levels
71	10	1	By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population at a rate higher than the national average
72	10	7	Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies
73	16	6	Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels
74	9	1	Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and transborder infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all
75	11	2	By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons

# Descriptions of the Ranks

## Rank: 1

### SDG: 3

Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

### Target: 3.3

SDG target description: end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases.

### Data support:

COVID-19 is a virus that has caused a pandemic that changed the course of human life for the past two years.

#### Observed behavioural changes under COVID-19 in Hong Kong:

3.3. HK has been significantly impacted by the pandemic and have needed to change protocols for school, work, travel, etc.

These changes interact with SDG Targets: 3.d / 3.8 / 3.b

## Rank: 2

### SDG: 3

Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

### Target: 3.d

SDG target description: Strengthen the capacity of all countries, in particular developing countries, for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks

### Background Research:

- (1) Early detection of COVID-19 through testing and monitoring of symptoms can prevent severe health impacts and/or death.
- (2) In addition, mass testing and strict contact tracing are vital to suppressing the spread of the virus.

### Reference/s:

- <https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/334018/WHO-AF-ARD-DAK-13-2020-eng.pdf?sequence=3&isAllowed=y>

### Observed behavioural changes under COVID-19 in Hong Kong:

3.d. (1) Hong Kong's 2-week mass testing drive of 1.8 million people finds 38 virus cases.

This change interacts with SDG Targets: 3.3 / 3.8

3.d. (2) Hong Kong spent \$68 million on the mass testing program, according to Secretary for Civil Service Patrick Nip, of which \$47 million was spent on medical and testing support staff.

This change interacts with SDG Targets: 3.3 / 3.8

3.d. (3) The city offered free tests to the entire population of more than 7 million people in the program.

This change interacts with SDG Targets: 3.3 / 3.8

### Sources:

- [https://edition.cnn.com/world/live-news/coronavirus-pandemic-09-15-20-intl/h\\_cecc445cc797e9d939a597177d567036](https://edition.cnn.com/world/live-news/coronavirus-pandemic-09-15-20-intl/h_cecc445cc797e9d939a597177d567036)

**Rank: 3**

### SDG: 3

Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

### Target: 3.4

SDG target description: Reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being

### Background Research:

- (1) The COVID-19 pandemic means that many of us are staying at home and doing less in terms of social interactions and exercise. This can have a negative effect on our mental health.
- (2) The COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting economic recession have negatively affected many people's mental health and created new barriers for people already suffering from mental illness and substance use disorders.

### Reference/s:

- <https://www.kff.org/coronavirus-COVID-19/issue-brief/the-implications-of-COVID-19-for-mental-health-and-substance-use/>

### Observed behavioural changes under COVID-19 in Hong Kong:

3.4 Compared with 2016 and 2017, the population stress level, prevalence of anxiety, and the depression symptoms drastically increased during the COVID-19 outbreak.

This change interacts with SDG Targets: 1.1 / 1.3 / 1.5 / 2.1 / 3.5 / 5.2 / 10.4 / 11.1 / 11.5 / 16.2

## Sources:

- Zhao, S. Z., Wong, J. Y., Luk, T. T., Wai, A. K., Lam, T. H., & Wang, M. P. (2020). Mental health crisis under COVID-19 pandemic in Hong Kong, China [Abstract]. *International Journal of Infectious Diseases*, 100, 431-433. doi:10.1016/j.ijid.2020.09.030

Rank: 4

## SDG: 3

Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

### Target: 3.8

SDG target description: Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all

### Background Research:

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres: "This huge gap in health coverage is one reason why COVID-19 has caused so much pain and suffering."

### Reference/s:

- <https://www.un.org/en/coronavirus/scale-investment-universal-health-coverage-and-stronger-health-systems>
- <https://www.who.int/news-room/feature-stories/detail/governments-push-for-universal-health-coverage-as-COVID-19-continues-to-devastate-communities-and-economies>

### Observed behavioural changes under COVID-19 in Hong Kong:

3.8 (1) Lack of mental health coverage: Government is planning to allocate sufficient resources to related bureaux to support people suffering from mental distress.

This change interacts with SDG Targets: 3.4

3.8 (2) Under the impact of the pandemic, government is focusing more on the enhancement of healthcare manpower training, expediting the upgrading or acquisition of medical equipment, introduction of advanced medical devices.

This change interacts with SDG Targets: 3.c / 3.d / 9.5

3.8 (3) Total health expenditure amounted to \$177,447 million in 2018/19, with annual per capita spending at \$23,815. From 1989/90 to 2018/19, total health expenditure rose at an average annual rate of 5.6% in real terms, faster than the corresponding increase of 3.7% in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) during the same period.

This change interacts with SDG Targets: 3.c / 3.d

## Sources:

- [https://www.fhb.gov.hk/statistics/en/dha/dha\\_summary\\_report.htm#:~:text=Total%20health%20expenditure%20a mounted%20to,GDP\)%20during%20the%20same%20period.](https://www.fhb.gov.hk/statistics/en/dha/dha_summary_report.htm#:~:text=Total%20health%20expenditure%20a mounted%20to,GDP)%20during%20the%20same%20period.)

**SDG: 3**

Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

**Target: 3.b**

SDG target description: Support the research and development of vaccines and medicines for the communicable and non-communicable diseases that primarily affect developing countries

**Background Research:**

- (1) Dr. Eric J. Yager, an associate professor of microbiology at Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences in Albany, NY, told MNT that scientists have been studying coronaviruses for over 50 years. This meant scientists had existing data on the structure, genome, and life cycle of this type of virus.
- (2) Dr. Yager said that thanks to advances in genomic sequencing, researchers successfully uncovered the viral sequence of SARS-CoV-2 in January 2020 — roughly 10 days after the first reported pneumonia cases in Wuhan, China. The ability to fast-track research and clinical trials was a direct result of this worldwide cooperation.
- (3) “Early efforts by scientists at Oxford University to create an adenovirus-based vaccine against MERS provided the necessary experimental experience and groundwork to develop an adenovirus vaccine for COVID-19.”

**Reference/s:**

- <https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/how-did-we-develop-a-COVID-19-vaccine-so-quickly#Other-coronaviruses>

**Observed behavioural changes under COVID-19 in Hong Kong:**

(1) People pay more attention to the development of vaccines due to COVID-19. When the COVID vaccines were out in the market, most people were rushing to get vaccinated, however, after few death cases related to the latest vaccine, some people have become apprehensive. Development of the newest vaccine is not stable yet<sup>2</sup>, citizens are not sure whether to vaccinate or not.

This change interacts with SDG Targets: 3.c / 3.d

(2) In general, Hong Kong citizens were not keen to receive the vaccination. Around 38.2% of respondents expressed their willingness, 42.7% their unwillingness, and 19.2% took a neutral stance.

This change interacts with SDG Targets: 3.c / 3.d

A clear correlation between gender and willingness for getting vaccinated was observed. Around half (48.7%) of male respondents were willing to get the jabs, higher than that of female respondents (37.3%).

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<sup>2</sup> As of writing in early 2021.

This change interacts with SDG Targets: 3.c, 3.d

**Sources:**

- <https://www.cityu.edu.hk/media/news/2021/02/24/cityu-survey-indicates-background-and-trust-government-affect-citizens-willingness-receive-coronavirus-vaccines#:~:text=In%20general%2C%20Hong%20Kong%20citizens,for%20getting%20vaccinated%20was%20observed.>

**Rank: 6**

**SDG: 8**

Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

**Target: 8.4**

SDG target description: Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavour to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, in accordance with the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production, with developed countries taking the lead

**Background Research:**

Plastic pandemic hits Hong Kong as takeaways surge under COVID-19: Amid the uncertainty many restaurants have rolled out takeaway or food delivery services. Foodpanda, for example, has seen a 50 per cent increase in demand in Hong Kong for takeaway food and grocery delivery services.

**Reference/s:**

- <https://hongkongfp.com/2020/12/24/plastic-pandemic-hits-hong-kong-as-takeaways-surge-under-COVID-19/>

**Observed behavioural changes under COVID-19 in Hong Kong:**

(1) Takeaway Food Containers: more than 100 million pieces of disposable cutlery and plastic bags are disposed of every week now, as the number of takeaways has jumped as people practice social distancing in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This change interacts with SDG Targets: 11.6 / 12.1 / 12.4 / 12.5 / 12.6 /

(2) Used Masks problem: used face masks of all types and colours, including the N95 version and the more common single-use surgical styles were found washed ashore by environmental groups that monitor the islands.

This change interacts with SDG Targets: 3.3 / 11.6 / 12.1 / 12.4 / 12.5 / 14.1

**Sources:**

- <https://news.rthk.hk/rthk/en/component/k2/1519790-20200409.htm>
- <https://hk.asiatatler.com/life/COVID-19-face-masks-pollution>

## Rank: 7

### SDG: 8

Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

#### Target: 8.3

SDG target description: Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services

#### Background Research:

Instead of job creation, HK is suffering serious job loss during COVID: Hong Kong unemployment set to surpass 7 per cent after Lunar New Year, minister warns as COVID-19 continues to strangle the economy.

#### Reference/s:

- <https://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/society/article/3121657/hong-kong-unemployment-set-surpass-7-cent-after-lunar-new>

#### Observed behavioural changes under COVID-19 in Hong Kong:

(1) Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) continue to be negatively affected by the pandemic with the diffusion index (DI) remaining below the 50 expansion mark at 38.1, according to a government survey.

This change interacts with SDG Targets: 9.3

(2) Local business sustain their business online: even the brick and mortar stores are closed, many online sites are still up and running (eg. Mannings, Watsons, Nike - retail shops change to online platform.)

This change interacts with SDG Targets: 8.2 / 12.a

#### Sources:

- <https://news.rthk.hk/rthk/en/component/k2/1519790-20200409.htm>

## Rank: 8

### SDG: 1

#### Target: 1.3

SDG target description: Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable

### Background Research:

Hong Kong budget: HK\$9.5 billion package of relief measures gives businesses shot in arm amid COVID-19 woes.

### Reference/s:

- <https://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/hong-kong-economy/article/3122994/hong-kong-budget-hk95-billion-package-relief>

#### Observed behavioural changes under COVID-19 in Hong Kong:

(1) To alleviate the financial burden suffered by individuals and businesses under the COVID-19 crisis, a stimulus package of a total HK\$287.5 billion (approximately 9.5% of Hong Kong's gross domestic product) has been unveiled by the Hong Kong Government.

This change interacts with SDG Targets: 1.3 / 1.5 / 2.1 / 8.3 / 11.1

Example: Paying one month's rent for lower income tenants living in public rental units  
Subsidy to each eligible non-domestic household accounts for four extra months to cover 75% of their monthly billed electricity charges, subject to a monthly cap of HK\$5,000 per account.

(2) Hong Kong government to give one-time handout of HK\$10,000 to non-permanent residents in need.

This change interacts with SDG Targets: 1.3 / 1.5 / 2.1 / 8.3 / 11.1

(3) The Government will further extend the flexibility arrangement announced on February 4, March 19, June 30 and September 30 to enable employers to extend the validity period of the existing contracts with their outgoing Foreign Domestic Helpers.

This change interacts with SDG Targets: 1.3 / 1.5 / 5.4 / 8.5 / 8.8 / 10.4

### Sources:

- <https://www.rsm.global/hongkong/en/insights/rsm-publications/hong-kong-government-relief-measures-response-covid-19>
- <https://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/society/article/3102421/coronavirus-hong-kong-government-give-one-time-handout>
- <https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202012/30/P2020123000304.htm?fontSize=1>

**Rank: 9**

### SDG: 10

Reduce inequality within and among countries

### Target: 10.4

SDG target description: Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality



### Background Research:

Some companies treat employees who've contracted the virus less favourably than they would treat someone who is not suffering from it, or would even dismiss the employee solely because he or she had contracted or has been suspected to have contracted COVID-19.

### Reference/s:

- <https://www.withersworldwide.com/en-gb/insight/employers-obligations-in-handling-COVID-19-in-hong-kong-employment-law-around-the-COVID-19-outbreak-in-china>

#### Observed behavioural changes under COVID-19 in Hong Kong:

(1) Minimum wage was frozen at HK\$37.5 (US\$4.84): Labour unions have claimed the decision was “totally disrespectful” to grassroots workers – especially to cleaners working on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This change interacts with SDG Targets: 1.3 / 8.5 / 8.8

(2) There have been a few high-profile redundancies—such as Sa Sa Cosmetics, which axed 3% of its 2,500-strong workforce and reduced pay by up to 40% — but experts expect that the job market will remain relatively resilient.

This change interacts with SDG Targets: 8.5 / 8.8

### Sources:

- <https://hongkongfp.com/2021/02/04/freezing-hong-kong-minimum-wage-at-hk37-5-an-hour-is-an-insult-to-cleaners-COVID-19-frontlines-labour-group-says/>

**Rank: 10**

### SDG: 8

Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

### Target: 8.5

SDG target description: By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value

### Background Research:

Instead of job creation, HK is suffering serious job loss during COVID: Hong Kong unemployment set to surpass 7 per cent after Lunar New Year, minister warns as COVID-19 continues to strangle the economy.

### Reference/s:

- <https://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/society/article/3121657/hong-kong-unemployment-set-surpass-7-cent-after-lunar-new>

### Observed behavioural changes under COVID-19 in Hong Kong:

(1) Unemployment problem is serious due to COVID, especially for the fresh graduates: graduates and young people lacking work experience have encountered great difficulties in finding job opportunities, many of the jobs under the scheme are created specifically for fresh graduates, or especially suitable for young people to apply.

This change interacts with SDG Targets: 8.6 / 8.b

(2) Suggested measures by the government: Among the more than 20,000 jobs created, nearly 10,000 are positions ideal for young people.

This change interacts with SDG Targets: 8.6 / 8.b

(3) Boost food delivery industry: The food delivery industry made huge contributions to Hong Kong economy throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, supporting a total of 48,000 jobs and earning \$8b in revenue for partner restaurants, according to a survey by Deliveroo.

This change interacts with SDG Targets: 8.6 / 8.b

#### Sources:

- [https://www.news.gov.hk/eng/2020/11/20201118/20201118\\_152258\\_899.html](https://www.news.gov.hk/eng/2020/11/20201118/20201118_152258_899.html)

Rank: 11

#### SDG: 1

End poverty in all its forms everywhere

#### Target: 1.5

SDG target description: By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters

#### Background Research:

- (1) Number of poor and unemployed skyrockets to 110,000 – 1.6 times more than Q2 last year, but Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) scheme not reaching most.
- (2) With the continued effects of COVID-19, the unemployment rate has reached 6.4% – the highest in 15 years – and 257,000 people are now out of work. Oxfam Hong Kong's (OHK's) latest research reveals that the number of unemployed people from poor households this year soared to nearly 110,000, 75% of which could be outside the safety net of CSSA scheme.)
- (3) Definition of "vulnerable groups" by the HKSAR government: elderly, children, people with disability, low income groups (Chinese: 政府會繼續向長者、幼兒、殘疾人士、低收入家庭等弱勢社群及有需要人士提供支援及加強服務。)

#### Reference/s:

- <https://www.oxfam.org.hk/en/news-and-publication/COVID-effects-on-unemployment-and-poor>
- [https://www.news.gov.hk/tc/record/html/2016/04/20160408\\_170131.shtml](https://www.news.gov.hk/tc/record/html/2016/04/20160408_170131.shtml)

### Observed behavioural changes under COVID-19 in Hong Kong:

(1) Stiff competition in the industry, stringent quality checks and an oversupply of workers soon forced factories to lay off people.

This change interacts with SDG Targets: 8.8 / 10.4

(2) Industries being affected: in the construction, catering and accommodation sectors, the unemployment rate is “double digits”.

This change interacts with SDG Targets: 8.5 / 8.9 / 10.4

(3) Obvious case for underprivileged group:

“It’s a double difficulty ... Inflation is high, food is expensive (and) even at the beginning, masks were so expensive,” said Sze Lai-shan, a community organiser with the Society for Community Organisations (SoCo), a charity dedicated to serving the underprivileged.

This change interacts with SDG Targets: 1.1 / 1.3 / 1.5 / 2.1 / 8.5

(4) The Senior Citizen Home Safety Association (SCHSA) reported a 52 per cent year-on-year increase in cases where elderly people needed emotional support, and a 36 per cent rise in cases deemed a “suicide risk”.

This change interacts with SDG Targets: 1.3 / 1.5 / 3.4 / 10.2 / 11.5

### Sources:

- <https://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/cnainsider/fear-uncertainty-grim-face-poverty-hong-kong-COVID-19-4th-wave-13687188>
- <https://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/society/article/3109932/anxiety-isolation-among-hong-kongs-elderly-amid-COVID-19>

**Rank: 12**

### SDG: 8

Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

### Target: 8.b

SDG target description: By 2020, develop and operationalize a global strategy for youth employment and implement the Global Jobs Pact of the International Labour Organization

### Background Research:

Hong Kong government wants to create 30,000 jobs in technology, health care and welfare sectors.

### Reference/s:

- <https://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/health-environment/article/3079367/coronavirus-hong-kong-government-wants-create>

### Observed behavioural changes under COVID-19 in Hong Kong:

(1) Unemployment problem is serious due to COVID, especially for the fresh graduates: graduates and young people lacking work experience have encountered great difficulties in finding job opportunities, many of the jobs under the scheme are created specifically for fresh graduates, or especially suitable for young people to apply.

This change interacts with SDG Targets: 8.6

(2) Suggested measures by the government:

2.1 Among the more than 20,000 jobs created, nearly 10,000 are local positions ideal for young people.

2.2 The government is planning to give companies up to HK\$18,000 per month for every fresh local graduate they recruit to work in the Greater Bay Area (GBA).

This change interacts with SDG Targets: 8.6

#### Sources:

- <https://news.rthk.hk/rthk/en/component/k2/1561839-20201125.htm?spTabChangeable=0>

**Rank: 13**

#### SDG: 8

Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

#### Target: 8.1

SDG target description: Sustain per capita economic growth in accordance with national circumstances and, in particular, at least 7 per cent gross domestic product growth per annum in the least developed countries

#### Background Research:

Assumption: Without regarding HK as LDC

The GDP for 2021 is only forecasted to increase by 3.5% to 5.5% in real terms, since several industries are seriously affected including tourism, retail, catering and beverage industry. Some of them are forced to shut down after months of lockdown and closure.

#### Reference/s:

- <https://www.censtatd.gov.hk/hkstat/sub/sp250.jsp?tableID=030&ID=0&productType=8>

### Observed behavioural changes under COVID-19 in Hong Kong:

(1) People reduce their private consumption during COVID to keep savings.

This change interacts with SDG Targets: 1.1 / 1.2 / 12.8

(2) Local consumption is not good to GDP growth.

This change interacts with SDG Targets: 17.13

(3) HK government promotes local consumption by giving more discount (spending more than HKD800 to get 500 discount on hotel staycation).

This change interacts with SDG Targets: 1.3 / 8.9

(4) Attract people to spend on retail and catering industry.

This change interacts with SDG Targets: 1.3

#### Sources:

- <https://www.hk01.com/社會新聞/604505/旅發局賞你住-消費-800 換-500 酒店折扣-一文睇清有邊間五星酒店>

Rank: 14

#### SDG: 10

Reduce inequality within and among countries

#### Target: 10.1

SDG target description: By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population at a rate higher than the national average

#### Background Research:

- (1) UN is using the absolute poverty line (defining that the people living with less than \$1.25 a day are regarded as the poor). However, HK is using relative poverty line. (The UN target requires adjustment before applying to HK situation).
- (2) Hong Kong recorded a poor population of more than 1.4 million people and a poverty rate of 21.4% according to the pre-intervention poverty figures in 2019. After the Government's recurrent cash intervention, the poverty rate recorded a slight increase in 2019 of 0.9 percentage point to 15.8%.

#### Reference/s:

- [https://www.news.gov.hk/eng/2020/12/20201223/20201223\\_175016\\_820.html](https://www.news.gov.hk/eng/2020/12/20201223/20201223_175016_820.html)

#### Observed behavioural changes under COVID-19 in Hong Kong:

(1) In a survey of 309 adult Hongkongers from low-income families conducted last month, Caritas found that 38 per cent of interviewees said they were out of work. Twenty-one per cent said they were asked to take unpaid leave, while 10 per cent said they could not go to work because they had to look after their children. Hong Kong schools have been suspended since February over fears of virus transmission.

This change interacts with SDG Targets: 1.1 / 1.2 / 1.3 / 1.4 / 1.5 / 1.b / 4.1 / 4.2 / 4.a / 5.4 / 8.8 / 10.4

**Sources:**

- <https://hongkongfp.com/2020/03/10/hong-kong-low-income-families-face-unemployment-economy-slumps-amid-coronavirus-outbreak/>

**Rank: 15**

**SDG: 11**

Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

**Target: 11.1**

SDG target description: By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums

**Background Research:**

The unemployment rate has increased because of the pandemic - surpassing almost 7% (a 16 year high), which may be a contributor to homelessness or displacement.

**Reference/s:**

- <https://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/society/article/3121657/hong-kong-unemployment-set-surpass-7-cent-after-lunar-new>

**Observed behavioural changes under COVID-19 in Hong Kong:**

(1) Increased number of people sleeping in the streets due to unemployment. This is also due to the temporary ban of 24-hr dining services in the country, to curb spread of COVID.

This change interacts with SDG Targets: 1.3 / 1.4 / 1.5 / 8.5 / 8.8 / 11.7

(2) In turn, homelessness also makes it difficult to find a new job (because of poor hygiene - cannot attend job interviews, etc.)

This change interacts with SDG Targets: 1.3 / 1.4 / 1.5 / 6.2 / 8.5 / 8.8

**Sources:**

- <https://msf-seasia.org/news/19070>

**Rank: 16**

**SDG: 1**

End poverty in all its forms everywhere

**Target: 1.2**

SDG target description: By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions

### Background Research:

(1) Low-income new arrivals from mainland China struggle with job losses, lack of support during COVID-19; Many poor families from mainland do not qualify for one-off HK\$10,000 government allowance.

(2) Pandemic adds to burdens of new arrivals coping with illness, reduced income, discrimination.

### Reference/s:

- <https://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/society/article/3103034/helpless-hong-kong-low-income-new-arrivals-mainland-china>

#### Observed behavioural changes under COVID-19 in Hong Kong:

(1) Hong Kong is no different. Like nearly everywhere else, COVID-19 has deepened wealth inequalities in the city, which ranks the eighth most unequal society in the world with a Gini coefficient of 0.539, according to the World Population Review.

World Population Review for 2021:

- 0.539 in 2016 (pre-pandemic)
- 0.777 in 2021 (during pandemic)

\*noted that Gini Coefficient is conducted every five years

[This change interacts with SDG Targets: 1.1 / 1.2 / 1.3 / 1.4 / 1.5 / 1.b / 5.4 / 8.5 / 8.8 / 10.1 / 10.4](#)

### Sources:

- <https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/gini-coefficient-by-country>

**Rank: 17**

### SDG: 1

End poverty in all its forms everywhere

#### Target: 1.4

SDG target description: By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance

### Background Research:

Elderly single-person applicants would also have to wait 0.1 years longer compared to last September, with their average waiting time increased to 3.4 years.

### Reference/s:

- <https://www.thestandard.com.hk/section-news/section/4/227437/COVID-stretches-the-wait-for-public-housing>

### Observed behavioural changes under COVID-19 in Hong Kong:

(1) Average waiting time for Hong Kong public housing rises to 5.7 years:

“In addition, public rental housing allocation earlier was affected by the development of COVID-19 pandemic to a certain extent,” said the Authority.

This change interacts with SDG Targets: 9.1 / 11.1

(2) The Authority said the reason for the increase is mainly because Chun Yeung Estate in Fo Tan was used as a quarantine center for most of the time in 2020 and Fai Ming Estate in Fanling was seriously vandalized and damaged in early 2020, with flat allocation for these two estates could not be conducted as scheduled.

Public Housing waiting time:

- 2017: 4.7 years
- 2018: 5.3 years
- 2019: 5.5 years
- 2020: 5.7 years

This change interacts with SDG Targets: 9.1 / 11.1 / 16.6

#### Sources:

- <https://www.thestandard.com.hk/breaking-news/section/4/165263/Average-waiting-time-for-Hong-Kong-public-housing-rises-to-5.7-years>
- <https://www.dimsumdaily.hk/the-average-waiting-time-for-public-housing-is-still-maintained-at-5-5-years-the-highest-in-19-years/>
- <https://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/education-community/article/2070493/waiting-time-get-hong-kong-public-housing-shoots>

**Rank: 18**

#### SDG: 1

End poverty in all its forms everywhere

#### Target: 1.b

SDG target description: Create sound policy frameworks at the national, regional and international levels, based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies, to support accelerated investment in poverty eradication actions

#### Background Research:

(1) The HKSAR government has established several Anti-epidemic Fund measures, totalling \$137.5 billion for the seriously affected groups in COVID.

#### Reference/s:

- <https://www.coronavirus.gov.hk/eng/anti-epidemic-fund-2.html>



#### Observed behavioural changes under COVID-19 in Hong Kong:

HK\$122 billion (4.3% of GDP) to combat COVID-19.

=> benefits of HK\$3,940 to each beneficiary family, helping to reduce local poverty rate

\* no specific data stating the number of budget spent on poverty reduction

This change interacts with SDG Targets: 1.3 / 1.5 / 1.a / 3.3 / 3.c / 8.1 / 8.2 / 10.1 / 10.4 / 17.13

#### Sources:

- <https://www.legco.gov.hk/research-publications/english/1920rb01-the-2020-2021-budget-20200403-e.pdf>

Rank: 19

#### SDG: 4

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

#### Target: 4.1

SDG target description: Ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes

#### Background Research:

The quality of learning cannot be guaranteed under online teaching mode.

#### Observed behavioural changes under COVID-19 in Hong Kong:

(1) Students are generally expressing a below average experience with online learning and low learning satisfaction. They cannot catch up with the study plan and course content through computer screens. Lack of interactive learning leads student to become unwilling to ask/answer questions. Even when a question is asked, the teacher may find it more difficult to explain or guide the student through the problem.

This change interacts with SDG Targets: 4.2

(2) Under learning-from-home policy, 90% of teachers have reported that they are falling behind schedule. The Examination Authority, aware of the disruption, has reduced the assessment load for most subjects in the DSE exam.

This change interacts with SDG Targets: 4.2 / 4.3

(3) 40% of students from low-income families do not have computers suitable for online lessons, a survey by the Society for Community Organisation (SoCO) has revealed. Government introduced a Subsidy Scheme for Internet Access Charges (SSIAC) but the effect is not significant.

This change interacts with SDG Targets: 1.1 / 1.2 / 1.3 / 1.4 / 1.b / 4.2 / 4.3 / 10.1

(4) Children in sub-divided flats and ethnic minorities who don't speak Chinese have been particularly affected as well.

This change interacts with SDG Targets: 10.2

#### Sources:

- <https://ln.edu.hk/research-and-impact/research-press-conferences/lu-study-reveals-over-60-of-hong-kong-university-students-have-found-online-learning-not-as-effective-as-face-to-face-teaching-during-COVID-19-pandemic>
- <https://hongkongfp.com/2020/09/24/hong-kongs-pandemic-education-crisis-the-blind-spot-which-must-be-tackled/>
- <https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/201712/06/P2017120600442.htm?fontSize=1>
- <https://www.scmp.com/yp/discover/lifestyle/article/3122797/difficulties-faced-low-income-students-hong-kong-during>

**Rank: 20**

#### SDG: 4

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

#### Target: 4.2

SDG target description: Ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education

#### Background Research:

- (1) Many pre-schools are forced to closed during the pandemic, children are relying on their parents or tutor to get prepared for primary education.
- (2) A lot of parents have decided to let their children have a year-delay in their education/schooling.

#### Reference/s:

- <https://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/health-environment/article/3109493/hong-kong-kindergartens-close-over-outbreaks-flu>
- <https://whichschooladvisor.com/hong-kong/school-news/coronavirus-how-are-hk-schools-coping>

#### Data support:

After about 100 clusters of upper respiratory tract infections have been found in preschools in Nov 2020, all the pre-schools closed nearly every two weeks.

#### Observed behavioural changes under COVID-19 in Hong Kong:

(1) It's very hard for parents to request to work from home and help their children with online learning since kindergarten students are very young and don't know how to log into platforms like Zoom by themselves. Parents are forced to either hire a house maid to look after the kid for living and schooling or one of them quits the job and spends all the time looking after the kids.

This change interacts with SDG Targets: 1.4 / 4.1 / 5.4

(2) Closing kindergartens have a big impact on pupils' progression. Young kids are more addicted to electronic devices than before, since they rely on it to have the class. There

is a raise in number of children addicted to YouTube and other social media while they are having classes. It brings a great concern on their childhood development. Parents are not experienced enough to teach their child in all aspects of learning.

This change interacts with SDG Targets: 4.1 / 4.a

**Sources:**

- <https://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/health-environment/article/3109493/hong-kong-kindergartens-close-over-outbreaks-flu>
- <https://whichschooladvisor.com/hong-kong/school-news/coronavirus-how-are-hk-schools-coping>
- <https://www.gov.hk/en/about/abouthk/factsheets/docs/education.pdf>

**Rank: 21**

**SDG: 8**

Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

**Target: 8.9**

SDG target description: By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products

**Background Research:**

Near-total collapse of travel leads to plummet from 2019's 55.9 million to just 3.57 million arrivals in 2020 amid coronavirus pandemic – 36-year low for tourism hub.

**Reference/s:**

- <https://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/hong-kong-economy/article/3117856/visitors-barred-COVID-19-hong-kong-logs-just-357>

**Observed behavioural changes under COVID-19 in Hong Kong:**

(1) Hong Kong to spend HK\$20 million on push to promote local tourism as social-distancing rules are relaxed.

This change interacts with SDG Targets: 1.5 / 8.8 / 12.b

(2) The government will also launch the “Green Lifestyle Local Tour Incentive Scheme” – a plan delayed for months due to the pandemic. It aims to boost local tourism by offering agencies a HK\$200 subsidy per tourist).

This change interacts with SDG Targets: 1.5 / 12.b

**Sources:**

- <https://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/hong-kong-economy/article/3121933/coronavirus-hong-kong-spend-hk20-million-push>
- <https://hongkongfp.com/2020/10/20/COVID-19-hong-kong-to-allow-30-person-local-tourism-groups-but-four-person-gathering-limit-remains/>

## Rank: 22

### SDG: 6

Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

### Target: 6.2

SDG target description: By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations

### Background Research:

The Food and Environmental Hygiene department have been managing the public hygiene and its related services in Hong Kong. Recognizing excrement would contain coronavirus, public toilets become one of the transmission routes. However, the department did not pay special attention to the hygiene in the toilets during the pandemic. With the view to avoiding the spreading of virus, the department have arranged few times of deep cleaning in the wet market. On the other hand, for the hand-cleaning facilities, some underprovided families reported that they do not have sufficient financial resources to purchase for soap and other related hand-cleaning resources at home.

### Reference/s:

- <https://www.hk01.com/熱爆話題/444616/公廁封廁格防疫-無品客洗手盤便溺-清潔工缺裝備善後好高危>
- [https://www.news.gov.hk/chi/2020/08/20200815/20200815\\_111814\\_016.html](https://www.news.gov.hk/chi/2020/08/20200815/20200815_111814_016.html) <https://www.legco.gov.hk/yr19-20/chinese/panels/ws/papers/wscb2-636-1-c.pdf>

### Observed behavioural changes under COVID-19 in Hong Kong:

(1) (Workers in service economy sector) More frequent deep-cleaning practice in the wet market

(2) (All Hong Kong citizens) citizens queue up for face mask and other sanitation materials

This change interacts with SDG Targets: 3.3 / 6.3

### Sources:

- [https://www.fehd.gov.hk/english/news/details/20200930\\_8159.html](https://www.fehd.gov.hk/english/news/details/20200930_8159.html)
- <https://tw.appledaily.com/international/20200127/YFLQBMRJ6DJXY7FTROGV6FE2DU/>

## Rank: 23

### SDG: 12

Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

### Target: 12.5

SDG target description: Substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse

### Background Research:

Wasted masks become the biggest trash problem in Hong Kong, the way we recycling these masks is important and will impact the future waste amount.

### Reference/s:

- <https://hongkongfp.com/2020/06/21/coronavirus-how-hong-kongs-dramatic-drop-in-recycling-sets-a-dangerous-new-norm/>
- <https://guide.michelin.com/hk/en/hong-kong-region/hong-kong/article/dining-out/creative-takeaways-and-deliveries-how-fine-dining-restaurants-are-adapting-to-the-challenges-of-COVID-19>

### Data support:

Despite efforts to improve waste recovery and recycling, around 70 per cent of waste in Hong Kong is sent to landfill. A lot of plastic bottles of hand sanitisers and wet wipes and their packaging. Even if only 50 per cent of the population used five masks a week for the past four months, that would be more than 315 million masks used

#### Observed behavioural changes under COVID-19 in Hong Kong:

- (1) (Citizens) Most Hongkongers have been using face masks every day, many of which are single-use. On the other hand, when ordering take-away food, more of the citizens will choose not to take cutleries. There is also another trend that, due to social distancing, people are more likely to buy take-away food, wherein some of the citizens start to bring their own lunch box as containers. In addition, HK recycled about 1.5 tonnes of plastics and we are seeing an increasing trend. Since most Hong Kong people don't know what is recyclable so they put everything in the trash together, including diapers and masks.
- (2) (Businesses) Plastic use jumped by 50 percent when dining in restaurants was banned all day. However, putting recycling aside, some restaurants try to eliminate plastic waste by finding eco-friendlier alternative materials. Most stores are now opting for a greener option.

This change interacts with SDG Targets: 6.6 / 8.9 / 12b / 14.7

### Sources:

- <https://hongkongfp.com/2020/06/21/coronavirus-how-hong-kongs-dramatic-drop-in-recycling-sets-a-dangerous-new-norm/>
- <https://hongkongfp.com/2020/12/24/plastic-pandemic-hits-hong-kong-as-takeaways-surge-under-COVID-19/>

Rank: 24

### SDG: 1

End poverty in all its forms everywhere

### Target: 1.a

SDG target description: Ensure significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources, including through enhanced development cooperation, in order to provide adequate and predictable means for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, to implement programmes and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions

**Background Research:**

During the Hong Kong COVID-19 lockdown in old districts, it has brought to light neglected pockets where the poor suffer inhumane living conditions, this raises the awareness from the government to deal with this poor living environment for the poor households.

**Reference/s:**

- <https://www.scmp.com/comment/opinion/article/3119818/hong-kongs-first-COVID-19-lockdowns-reveal-appalling-poverty-our>

**Observed behavioural changes under COVID-19 in Hong Kong:**

- (1) Coronavirus crisis exposes harsh conditions of Hong Kong’s poorest households.
- (2) Due to the closure of the schools and tutorial centres, kids are forced to stay home.
  - Limited space for kids to stay at for a long time affects their mental health
  - Increased incidence of depression, and seriously worsening the medical treatment effect of kids with ADHD

This change interacts with SDG Targets: 4.2 / 4.3 / 4.7

**Sources:**

- <https://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/society/article/3074994/coronavirus-crisis-exposes-harsh-existence-hong-kongs>

**Rank: 25**

**SDG: 4**

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

**Target: 4.3**

SDG target description: Ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university

**Background Research:**

The good quality of learning cannot be guaranteed under online teaching mode.

**Reference/s:**

- <https://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/education/article/3117912/amid-COVID-19-pandemic-hong-kongs-top-institutions-rethink>

**Data support:**

LU study reveals over 60% of Hong Kong university students have found online learning not as effective as face-to-face teaching during COVID-19 pandemic. 58.35% of student think online

teaching is worse than face-to-face and the quality is not guaranteed.

**Observed behavioural changes under COVID-19 in Hong Kong:**

- Students do not take the course on time, rather, they tend to watch recorded lecture video. Some might even choose not to watch it, and just read the notes.
- Without a physical classroom, the student's attention is greatly affected and is hard to correct. Learning materials or in-class discussions cannot provide the maximum benefit to the student, thus the access to education is not as effective as before. It is more likely dependent on how motivated the students are. The mode of teaching is moving forward to one-sided (student) learning.

This change interacts with SDG Targets: 1.a / 4.a / 4.c

**Sources:**

- <https://www.ln.edu.hk/sgs/news/lu-study-reveals-over-60-of-hong-kong-university-students-have-found-online-learning-not-as-effective-as-face-to-face-teaching-during-COVID-19-pandemic>
- <https://whichschooladvisor.com/hong-kong/school-news/coronavirus-how-are-hk-schools-coping>

**Rank: 26**

**SDG: 4**

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

**Target: 4.4**

SDG target description: Substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship

**Background Research:**

Skill-based colleges or technical training courses are not open, youth have less opportunity to learn relevant skills.

**Reference/s:**

- <https://www.youth.gov.hk/en/career-and-study/stories/detail.htm?content-id=2354299&section=CSA>

**Data support:**

According to data from a major employment platform, only about 12,500 jobs for graduates were listed between January and March this year (around 20,300 job openings in 2019) and nearly 30,000 young people graduated from Hong Kong's eight publicly funded universities each year.

**Observed behavioural changes under COVID-19 in Hong Kong:**

As Hong Kong's schools are restricted in what they can deliver, after-school education clubs and online tutors are trying to fill the gaps in education. More employment opportunity online and virtual internship provided for students. However, some practical skills are facing lack of face-to-face training.

This change interacts with SDG Targets: 4.4 / 4.1

Youth explore more online training class, but most of them are only willing to join the free classes, since they think it is not worth the money if the class is only conducted online. It affects youth's motivation to seek a wider net of resources and other decent jobs.

This change interacts with SDG Targets: 4.4 / 4.1

**Sources:**

- <https://web.edu.hku.hk/f/acadstaff/447/Ng%20%28in%20press%29%20%20Business%20%28Teaching%29%20as%20Usual%20amid%20the%20COVID-19%20Pandemic.docx>

**Rank: 27**

**SDG: 1**

**Target: 1.1**

SDG target description: By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day

**Background Research:**

UN is using the absolute poverty line by defining the people living with less than \$1.25 a day are regarded as the poor. However, HK is using relative poverty line. (The UN target requirement adjustment before applying to HK situation). Hong Kong recorded a poor population of more than 1.4 million people and a poverty rate of 21.4% according to the pre-intervention poverty figures in 2019. After the Government's recurrent cash intervention, the poverty rate recorded a slight increase in 2019 of 0.9 percentage point to 15.8%.

**Reference/s:**

- [https://www.news.gov.hk/eng/2020/12/20201223/20201223\\_175016\\_820.html](https://www.news.gov.hk/eng/2020/12/20201223/20201223_175016_820.html)

**Observed behavioural changes under COVID-19 in Hong Kong:**

Obvious unemployment rate leads to more serious poverty rate in HK: Roughly 1.4 million people in Hong Kong were living below the poverty line before the COVID-19 pandemic began, which is the country's highest poverty rate in nearly a decade. After the pandemic settled in the country, poverty rates have only gone up. The COVID-19 pandemic in Hong Kong has induced widespread job loss.

This change interacts with SDG Targets: 1 / 8.2 / 8.5

**Sources:**

- <https://www.borgenmagazine.com/COVID-19-pandemic-in-hong-kong/>



**SDG: 2**

End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

**Target: 2.1**

SDG target description: By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round.

**Background Research:**

People may consume less during COVID19 --> less waste produced --> reduced the impact and harm to the environment --> the conditions of the agricultural land may improve --> grow more food and having a more stable food supply

**Reference/s:**

- <https://www.foodlinkfoundation.org/challenges>
- <https://qz.com/1819651/local-farms-in-hong-kong-are-thriving-because-of-coronavirus/>

**Observed behavioural changes under COVID-19 in Hong Kong:**

(1) (NGOs)

Some of the NGOs stopped providing food to the needy during the pandemic (e.g., A spokesperson for Maxim’s told HKFP on Tuesday that many vendors suspended their food donations in July in light of the pandemic: “To ensure the health and safety of our staff, customers and volunteers, we took a more prudent measure to suspend the collection from the beginning of August until further notice.” Some NGOs continued with their feeding programs, however switched from dine-in to takeout methods instead.

(2) (Government)

The Short-term Food Assistance Service Projects provide a one-off basic food assistance to eligible individuals or families for a period of up to eight weeks. Operators may extend the service period beyond eight weeks, depending on the special needs of individual applicants and their families. Currently, the SWD has put in place established vetting principles and eligibility criteria, and anyone who is in need and eligible (including those with income reduction or unemployed due to economic downturn, as well as their families) may apply for food assistance. Operators will refer service users with long-term welfare or other service needs (such as Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA)) to the suitable service unit. Given the prevailing local economic conditions and outlook, the Government has proposed in the Estimates this year an increase in the commitment for the Short-term Food Assistance Service Projects by \$85 million to cope with the rising service demand. The SWD does not have plan to fund similar programmes currently not funded by the SWD.

The Chief Executive announced on February 14, 2020 that the Anti-epidemic Fund would provide a special allowance to eligible Working Family Allowance households and Student Financial Assistance households, regardless of whether they are unemployed or under-employed, so as to support low-income households to weather the deteriorating economic and employment conditions due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The disbursement of the special allowance will commence by end-June 2020 in batches. It is



Other technologies such as vertical farming (e.g. Sustenir Agriculture) were also utilized to supplement HK's local food supply amid the pandemic.

This change interacts with SDG Targets: 11.a / 2.4 / 2.c

**Sources:**

- <https://hongkongfp.com/2020/04/06/coronavirus-sparks-boom-for-local-farmers-in-import-dependent-hong-kong/>
- <https://www.ejinsight.com/eji/article/id/2461503/20200512-Sustenir-to-boost%20HK's-local-food-supply-amid-coronavirus-crisis>

**Rank: 30**

**SDG: 11**

Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

**Target: 11.5**

SDG target description: By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations

**Background Research:**

The COVID-19 pandemic has severe economic and social impacts - including economic loss (due to halted businesses, especially in the tourism and hospitality industries) and fatalities from the virus. Hong Kong's economy shrank by 3.4 per cent in the third quarter as compared to a year ago as the coronavirus pandemic continued its stranglehold on key drivers of growth such as tourism and consumption.

**Reference/s:**

- [https://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/hong-kong-economy/article/3107797/hong-kongs-economy-shrinks-34pc-third-quarter?utm\\_source=Yahoo&utm\\_medium=partner&utm\\_content=3109176&utm\\_campaign=contentexchange](https://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/hong-kong-economy/article/3107797/hong-kongs-economy-shrinks-34pc-third-quarter?utm_source=Yahoo&utm_medium=partner&utm_content=3109176&utm_campaign=contentexchange)

**Observed behavioural changes under COVID-19 in Hong Kong:**

Poor people are much more susceptible to infections and they have decreased ability, either financially or physically, to recover.

This change interacts with SDG Targets: 1.5 / 1.b / 11.a

**Rank: 31**

**SDG: 11**

Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

### Target: 11.6

SDG target description: By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management

#### Background Research:

The lockdown period due to social distancing measures to contain the spread of COVID-19 is reported to have increased the use of plastics, a situation that has policy implications (Klemeš et al. 2020). In Hong Kong, face masks are reported to have piled up at nature trails and beaches due to improper disposal in waterways, which disrupts the marine environment.

#### Reference/s:

- <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10668-020-00956-y>

#### Observed behavioural changes under COVID-19 in Hong Kong:

- More convenient recycling schemes (especially for beverage containers) are becoming more mainstream in Hong Kong. More Reverse Vending Machines (RVMs) are being rolled out which give cash-rebates for people who properly recycle their plastic beverage containers using the RVMs.
- More private companies are practicing circular economy (e.g., Vitasoy, Circle K) and providing recycling stations for the products.
- HK residents are still active in both recycling and coastal clean-up drives, however much less active compared to pre-pandemic.
- Single-use surgical masks are still the most preferred type of mask to be used during the pandemic (vs. reusable masks).
- Greeners Action, a local environmental group, surveyed more than 2,000 residents and discovered that people were ordering takeaway meals twice as often compared to last year.
- Increased use of plastic (restaurants), and disposable items due to the boom in takeaway meals.

[This change interacts with SDG Targets: 11.3](#)

#### Sources

- <https://www.facebook.com/drinkwithoutwaste/posts/641351633339843?>
- [https://www.facebook.com/drinkwithoutwaste/posts/634305640711109 ?](https://www.facebook.com/drinkwithoutwaste/posts/634305640711109?)

**Rank: 32**

### SDG: 8

Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

#### Target: 8.6

SDG target description: By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training

#### Background Research:

Hong Kong Labour Department launches Youth Employment and Training Programme (YETP) to help youth find jobs: HK government did have establish several programs to help youth to find a job but due to COVID, youth unemployment rate rose. As a result, there is necessity to improve the policy in helping them.

**Reference/s:**

- <https://www.labour.gov.hk/eng/service/content6.htm>

**Observed behavioural changes under COVID-19 in Hong Kong:**

(1) Unemployment problem is serious due to COVID, especially for the fresh graduates: graduates and young people lacking work experience have encountered great difficulties in finding job opportunities, many of the jobs under the scheme are created specifically for fresh graduates, or especially suitable for young people to apply.

(2) Suggested measures by the government:

2.1 Among the more than 20,000 jobs created, nearly 10,000 are local positions ideal for young people.

2.2 The government is planning to give companies up to HK\$18,000 per month for every fresh local graduate they recruit to work in the Greater Bay Area (GBA).

This change interacts with SDG Targets: 8.1 / 8.2 / 8.3

**Sources:**

- <https://news.rthk.hk/rthk/en/component/k2/1561839-20201125.htm?spTabChangeable=0>

**Rank: 33**

**SDG: 8**

Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

**Target: 8.8**

SDG target description: Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment

**Background Research:**

Due to the continuous outbreak of COVID in HK, many workers are under-employed that they only work for five or six days each month. Case: Hong Kong's K11 Musea (Poor ventilation in the workplace)

**Reference/s:**

- <https://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/hong-kong-economy/article/3095691/grim-times-without-jobs-some-hong-kong-tighten>

### Observed behavioural changes under COVID-19 in Hong Kong:

(1) Poor living environment provided to the domestic helpers during COVID-19 testing period: A workers' rights group has raised doubts about the efficacy of the government's coronavirus testing plan for all domestic helpers living in boarding facilities

This change interacts with SDG Targets: 10.3 / 6.2

(2) Mandatory preventive measures for workplace during COVID-19: Regularly clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces such as furniture, commonly shared items and floor with 1 in 99 diluted household bleaches (mixing 1 part of household bleach containing 5.25% sodium hypochlorite with 99 parts of water), leave for 15-30 minutes, and then rinse with water and wipe dry.

#### Sources:

- [https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/nid\\_guideline\\_workplace\\_eng.pdf](https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/nid_guideline_workplace_eng.pdf)

**Rank: 34**

#### SDG: 12

Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

#### Target: 12.6

SDG target description: Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle

#### Background Research:

Relating to the online retail and food industry sustainable development during the COVID. Since people in Hong Kong shops more often in the internet, Behavioral and other information are easier to obtain.

#### Reference/s:

- <https://www.scmp.com/business/markets/article/3112775/hong-kongs-most-sustainable-companies-report-some-years-worst>

#### Data support:

Conglomerates, utilities and property and construction companies have reported share price returns of between -10 and -40 per cent since January

### Observed behavioural changes under COVID-19 in Hong Kong:

In Hong Kong, at least five real estate developers, namely Link REIT [9], Hongkong Land [10], Sunlight REIT [11], Hang Lung [12] and Swire Pacific [13], secured sustainability-linked loans worth billions of dollars during the pandemic. For example, Hongkong Land is eligible for a tiered interest-rate discount on its HK\$1 billion loan if it achieves the pre-determined ESG targets on greenhouse-gas emissions, electricity consumption, food waste, solar-energy generation and maintaining green-building certifications.

**Sources:**

- <https://research.hktdc.com/en/article/NzUyMDczOTly>

**Rank: 35**

**SDG: 12**

Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

**Target: 12.b**

SDG target description: Develop and implement tools to monitor sustainable development impacts for sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products

**Background Research:**

Hong Kong has lost more than two-third of tourist due to the pandemic; it is very important for Hong Kong to promote local products and boost up the tourism industry after the COVID. Employee who are related to Airline and tourism have been affect the most and highest unemployment rate. Government ought to come up with a strategy that to improve the situation.

**Observed behavioural changes under COVID-19 in Hong Kong:**

Increase in interest in local travelling and recreational activities due to the halt of international / cross-border travelling. This was seen through the analysis of Google search trends in spring 2020 – the height of the first wave of the pandemic – versus pre-pandemic trends. It saw a sharp spike in frequency of search of the terms “recreational trip”, “hiking”, “camping” around April 2020.

**Sources:**

- Lee, H. Y., & Leung, K. (2021). Island ferry travel during COVID-19: charting the recovery of local tourism in Hong Kong. *Current Issues in Tourism*, 10.1080/13683500.2021.1911964

**Rank: 36**

**SDG: 8**

Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

**Target: 8.2**

SDG target description: Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high-value added and labour-intensive sectors

**Background Research:**

COVID-19 sped up digitalisation, innovation in Hong Kong

**Reference/s:**

- <https://hongkongbusiness.hk/economy/in-focus/COVID-19-sped-digitalisation-innovation-in-hong-kong-survey>
- <https://insights.ehotelier.com/insights/2020/10/05/COVID-19-accelerates-contactless-dining-and-the-digital-transformation-of-the-restaurant-industry/>

### **Observed behavioural changes under COVID-19 in Hong Kong:**

(1) Banking industry: The “contact-free” digital initiatives will help businesses address physical banking challenges posed by banking and trade finance transactions that are still largely paper-based.

This change interacts with SDG Targets: 9.4 / 9.3 / 9.5

(2) General business environment: Reorientations of business models as everything from commerce to events move online and major corporations are forced to reengineer supply chains, eco-systems, processes, products, and technology strategies to meet the requirements of a new global market.

This change interacts with SDG Targets: 9.4 / 9.3 / 9.5

### **Sources:**

- [https://www.dbs.com/hongkong/newsroom/DBS\\_Hong\\_Kong\\_rolls\\_out\\_digital\\_solutions\\_to\\_give\\_businesses\\_contact\\_free\\_banking\\_options\\_for\\_greater\\_peace\\_of\\_mind\\_during\\_COVID19](https://www.dbs.com/hongkong/newsroom/DBS_Hong_Kong_rolls_out_digital_solutions_to_give_businesses_contact_free_banking_options_for_greater_peace_of_mind_during_COVID19)
- <https://www.ejinsight.com/eji/article/id/2621902/20201102-COVID-19-to-turbocharge-HK's-fintech-revolution>

**Rank: 37**

### **SDG: 9**

Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

### **Target: 9.3**

SDG target description: Increase the access of small-scale industrial and other enterprises, in particular in developing countries, to financial services, including affordable credit, and their integration into value chains and markets

### **Background Research:**

- Many small-scaled businesses wind-down because of the COVID-19. It is very important that government to develop a more mature environment for Job Retention, Job Creation and Job Advancement. That's impacts a lot in Hong Kong economics.
- The Hong Kong Retail Management Association visited 152 retail companies from March 31 to April 9, involving a total of 3345 stores (58% are small and medium-sized enterprises, and 42% are chain stores, covering watches, jewellery, fashion accessories and other categories), involving about 59,000 retail employees. It was found that 96% of the companies surveyed had already recorded losses during the epidemic, and 66% had even reached a severe level of losses. This figure has reached 57% during the earlier revision period.

### **Reference/s:**

- <https://www.natlawreview.com/article/COVID-19-reliefs-and-support-small-and-medium-enterprises-smes-hong-kong>
- [https://www.hkcd.com/content/2020-04/17/content\\_1188616.html](https://www.hkcd.com/content/2020-04/17/content_1188616.html)



### **Observed behavioural changes under COVID-19 in Hong Kong:**

In response to the challenges arising from the pandemic, the government has introduced financing support, tax and other temporary relief measures intended to help Hong Kong businesses survive the dramatic short-term effects of COVID-19 and assist the economy in recovering after the COVID-19 crisis passes. Measures include providing financing support in the form of the SME Financing Guarantee Scheme, the Employment Support Scheme, as well as introducing reduction in profits tax, income tax, property tax, specific-industries subsidies and other relief measures.

Yet, we should note that those measures are criticized by many as ineffective.

This change interacts with SDG Targets: 8.3 / 8.7 / 8.9

#### **Sources:**

- <https://www.whitecase.com/publications/alert/COVID-19-hong-kong-government-financial-assistance-measures>

**Rank: 38**

#### **SDG: 6**

Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

#### **Target: 6.b**

SDG target description: Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management

#### **Background Research:**

As water pipes is considered to be one of the transmission routes during the pandemic, citizens attached their focus in maintaining the hygiene in the water pipes. The government have been introducing relevant programme to support the cleaning and sanitation of water pipes.

#### **Reference/s:**

- <https://news.now.com/home/local/player?newsId=425122>

### **Observed behavioural changes under COVID-19 in Hong Kong:**

Government launched a sum of money to subsidize the cleaning and maintenance of waterpipes.

This change interacts with SDG Targets: 3.9 / 3.c

#### **Sources:**

- [https://www.news.gov.hk/chi/2020/07/20200705/20200705\\_114421\\_648.html](https://www.news.gov.hk/chi/2020/07/20200705/20200705_114421_648.html)

**Rank: 39**

## SDG: 12

Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

### Target: 12.1

SDG target description: Implement the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production, all countries taking action, with developed countries taking the lead, taking into account the development and capabilities of developing countries

### Background Research:

Waste, unmasked have affected the HK environment a lot. But Hong Kong has actually improved the performance of online purchases which has boost up the sale of small-scale businesses. It is important to concerns how we can keep this trend stable.

### Reference/s:

- <https://www.sdsn-hk.org/en/initiatives/un-sustainable-development-goals-prioritized-sdgs-in-hong-kong>
- <https://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/hong-kong-economy/article/3122573/hong-kong-finance-minister-banking-green-shoots>

### Data support:

HK\$66 billion in green bonds, which the aim to raise money for sustainable projects, would be issued in 5 years. The second offering of US\$2.5 billion of government green bonds was completed in 2020 March.

#### Observed behavioural changes under COVID-19 in Hong Kong:

Hong Kong's finance minister is banking on the city's economic recovery lying in the creation of a green ecosystem rather than tourism. It is because the outbreak highlights our reliance on high-carbon, highly polluting energy sources that make our global economies vulnerable to the sudden change we have experienced.

[This change interacts with SDG Targets: 8.9 / 12.b / 14.7 / 9.b / 9.c](#)

More people agree on the epidemic will pass, and difficulties will be overcome, and the changing environment will just make us more resilient. While some economist still thinks that the budget should be used for resume the tourism and retail industries.

[This change interacts with SDG Targets: 8.9 / 12.b / 14.7 / 9.b / 9.c](#)

More sustainable products are created. i.e., InnoTier Business in HK also starting to support the concept of "stakeholder capitalism" highlighting the need for a balanced approach to profits, community and sustainability.

[This change interacts with SDG Targets: 8.9 / 12.b / 14.7 / 9.b / 9.c](#)

### Sources:

- <https://en.prnasia.com/releases/apac/innotier-launched-new-sustainable-and-innovative-products-in-hong-kong-amid-covid-19-pandemic-286135.shtml>
- [https://www.hkxgroup.com/Media-Centre/Insight/Insight/2020/Katherine-Ng/COVID-19-teaches-Hong-Kong-businesses-important-ESG-lessons?sc\\_lang=en](https://www.hkxgroup.com/Media-Centre/Insight/Insight/2020/Katherine-Ng/COVID-19-teaches-Hong-Kong-businesses-important-ESG-lessons?sc_lang=en)

Rank: 40

**SDG: 14**

Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

**Target: 14.1**

SDG target description: By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution.

**Background Research:**

The coronavirus has led to a sharp increase of plastic waste e.g. face masks, single-use lunchboxes that are mistreated and discharged into the ocean. This is related to our daily behaviour – we should monitor proper handling of these single-used waste.

The ocean has benefitted from the reduction of various practices that lead to pollution, overfishing, habitat loss/conversion, invasive species introductions and the impacts of climate change on the ocean.

**Reference/s:**

- <https://hongkongfp.com/2020/12/12/estimated-1-56-billion-facemasks-have-flooded-into-the-ocean-hong-kong-ngo-estimates/>
- <https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/blog/2020/the-ocean-and-COVID-19.html>

**Observed behavioural changes under COVID-19 in Hong Kong:**

(Behavioural changes: general public, F&B industry) A large amount of plastic waste such as disposable face masks, gloves, and takeaway boxes are found on beaches in Hong Kong. This is because many restaurants stopped accepting the use of reusable cups and utensils, and people were ordering takeaway at a doubled rate since the pandemic started to sustain their fast-paced lifestyle in Hong Kong.

This change interacts with SDG Targets: 8.4 / 11.6 / 12.5 / 12.8 / 12.a / 14.1

**Sources:**

- <https://hk.asiatatler.com/life/COVID-19-face-masks-pollution>

Rank: 41

**SDG: 2**

End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

**Target: 2.2**

SDG target description: By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons.

#### Background Research:

- 2020: 20% of children in hunger; 80% of poor children eat unhealthy food
- More than 90% of the vegetables we consume come from mainland China. When the coronavirus hit mainland China, prices of vegetables soared because the supply chain was broken --> buying food become more unaffordable to families who are under poverty; They spend almost half of their income on food
- At the beginning of COVID --> the cost of food increased drastically
- Many organizations who are providing free lunch boxes stop operating to avoid gathering people during COVID

#### Reference/s:

- <https://www.foodlinkfoundation.org/challenges>
- <https://qz.com/1819651/local-farms-in-hong-kong-are-thriving-because-of-coronavirus>
- <https://tradingeconomics.com/hong-kong/food-inflation>
- <https://www.hk01.com/%E7%86%B1%E7%88%86%E8%A9%B1%E9%A1%8C/453786/%E9%8A%80%E6%9D%8F%E9%A4%A8%E7%96%AB%E6%83%85%E4%B8%8B%E6%B4%BE%E5%85%8D%E8%B2%BB%E9%A3%AF%E7%9B%92%E4%BA%88%E5%BC%B1%E5%8B%A2%E7%A4%BE%E7%BE%A4-%E5%A9%86%E5%A9%86%E6%B7%9A%E6%B1%82%E5%A4%9A%E4%B8%80%E7%9B%92-%E6%88%91%E5%80%8B%E4%BB%94%E5%A4%B1%E6%A5%AD>

#### Observed behavioural changes under COVID-19 in Hong Kong:

Some of the NGOs stop providing food to the needy during the pandemic (eg. A spokesperson for Maxim's told HKFP on Tuesday that many vendors suspended their food donations in July in light of the pandemic: "To ensure the health and safety of our staff, customers and volunteers, we took a more prudent measure to suspend the collection from the beginning of August until further notice."

Some NGOs continued with their feeding programs, however switched from dine-in to takeout methods instead.

This change interacts with SDG Targets: 2.1

The Short-term Food Assistance Service Projects provide a one-off basic food assistance to eligible individuals or families for a period of up to eight weeks. Operators may extend the service period beyond eight weeks, depending on the special needs of individual applicants and their families. Currently, the SWD has put in place established vetting principles and eligibility criteria, and anyone who is in need and eligible (including those with income reduction or unemployed due to economic downturn, as well as their families) may apply for food assistance. Operators will refer service users with long-term welfare or other service needs (such as Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA)) to the suitable service unit.

This change interacts with SDG Targets: 2.1

Given the prevailing local economic conditions and outlook, the Government has proposed in the Estimates this year an increase in the commitment for the Short-term Food Assistance Service Projects by \$85 million to cope with the rising service demand.

The SWD does not have plan to fund similar programmes currently not funded by the SWD.

This change interacts with SDG Targets: 2.1

The Chief Executive announced on February 14, 2020 that the Anti-epidemic Fund would provide a special allowance to eligible Working Family Allowance households and Student Financial Assistance households, regardless of whether they are unemployed or under-employed, so as to support low-income households to weather the deteriorating economic and employment conditions due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The disbursement of the special allowance will commence by end-June 2020 in batches. It is expected to benefit about 200 000 households, and involve a total expenditure of about \$990 million. (more fundings for buying food)

This change interacts with SDG Targets: 1.1 / 1.2 / 1.5 / 2.1 / 11.1

Cost of food in Hong Kong increased significant by 6% when the pandemic started in Hong Kong. Although there is a decrease in the percentage of inflation rate, the cost of food keeps increasing throughout the year.

This change interacts with SDG Targets: 2.1

#### Sources:

- <https://hongkongfp.com/2020/08/06/COVID-19-hong-kong-food-charities-struggle-to-assist-needy-as-partners-suspend-donations/>
- <https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202005/06/P2020050600257.htm?fontSize=1>
- <https://tradingeconomics.com/hong-kong/food-inflation>
- <https://www.hk01.com/18區新聞/564449/冬至前派飯現-疫周期-社企零宣傳-領飯人數減>

**Rank: 42**

#### SDG: 3

Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

#### Target: 3.5

SDG target description: Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol

#### Background Research:

Financial pressure and work loss may cause people to misuse drug and alcohol.

#### Data support:

- 5.5 % of alcohol users had reported an increase in consumption, and 36.8% of alcohol drinkers reported having reduced their alcohol consumption due to social distancing.
- The proportions of regular drinkers were higher among males (15.0%) than females (3.2%). By age group, the proportions of regular drinkers were highest among people aged 55-64 (12.0%) and relatively lower among people aged 15-24 (2.6%) and those aged 85 or above (2.3%). The survey also revealed that 2.9% of people aged 15 or above had binge drinking (i.e. drinking at

least 5 cans of beer, 5 glasses of table wines or 5 pegs of spirits on a single occasion) at least monthly in the 12 months preceding the survey. a survey telephone-interviewed over 1 500 residents aged 18 or above between 9 and 23 April 2020 found that 5.5% of alcohol drinkers reported having increased their alcohol consumption since the COVID-19 outbreak.

#### Observed behavioural changes under COVID-19 in Hong Kong:

**Behavioral changes (drug abuse):** The overall number of reported drug users declined by 7 % from 3,703 to 3,459 over the same period in 2019, but the numbers could be affected by the epidemic, which could reduce the number of drug users contacted by the reporting institutions. Also, the proportion of students reported drug abuse increased during 2020. Schools are closed for a long time and teenagers might lack of proper drug learning and misled by unreliable online resources/ people online.

This change interacts with SDG Targets: 4.1 / 4.2 / 4.3

**Behavioral changes (alcohol):** While overall numbers have dipped, loneliness and boredom have played a role in boosting consumption of alcohol for a minority of Hongkongers. Social media, meanwhile, has perpetuated false claims that alcohol can kill the virus or boost immunity, a message often reaching the city's youth. Stress, isolation and the disruption of help services have led people to drink.

This change interacts with SDG Targets: 3.4

#### Sources:

- (1) <https://www.hk01.com/%E7%A4%BE%E6%9C%83%E6%96%B0%E8%81%9E/524476/%E7%A6%81%E6%AF%92%E8%99%95-%E4%BB%8A%E5%B9%B4%E4%B8%8A%E5%8D%8A%E5%B9%B4%E5%91%88%E5%A0%B1%E5%90%B8%E6%AF%92%E4%BA%BA%E6%95%B8%E4%B8%8B%E9%99%8D7-%E9%9D%92%E5%B0%91%E5%B9%B4%E5%90%B8%E9%A3%9F%E5%A4%A7%E9%BA%BB%E9%A0%88%E9%97%9C%E6%B3%A8>
- (2) <https://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/health-environment/article/3119957/despite-hong-kongs-bar-closures-some-drinking>
- (3) <https://www.chp.gov.hk/tc/statistics/data/10/100106/6953.html>
- (4) [https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/ncd\\_watch\\_december\\_2020.pdf](https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/ncd_watch_december_2020.pdf)
- (5) <https://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/society/article/3089728/pandemic-related-stress-and-isolation-driving-more-hong-kong>

Rank: 43

#### SDG: 2

End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

#### Target: 2.4

SDG target description: By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality.

### Background Research:

- Food cannot be imported from China --> people demand for more local food --> local food producers have to seek for more sustainable ways and practice to ensure long-term food supply available
- Sustenir Agriculture produces non-native crops that are in local demand using proprietary vertical farming technology solutions
- expanded to Hong Kong last year (uses controlled-environment agriculture to grow crops and fruits that previously could not be cultivated in the area. Its patented farming system, calibrated with lighting, temperature, humidity, water, nutrients and air, enables it to boost productivity and modify the taste, crunchiness, among other attributes, of vegetables) ("SARA", an agricultural real-time system to monitor the status and life cycle of the plants.)
- The crisis gives local farms a big responsibility, and a valuable opportunity, to provide cities with reliable local produce.
- Being a key initiative in his "30 by 30" vision, that will enable the island nation to locally produce 30 percent of its nutritional needs by 2030, with an aim to help ensure food security especially in times of crisis.

### Reference/s:

- <https://www.ejinsight.com/eji/article/id/2461503/20200512-Sustenir-to-boost%20HK's-local-food-supply-amid-coronavirus-crisis>

#### Observed behavioural changes under COVID-19 in Hong Kong:

Hong Kong imported 98% of fresh vegetables from other countries and COVID provided a valuable opportunity for local farms to provide local produce as countries - with new technology to improve the quantity on local produce provided by local farms, the amount of imported food will decrease.

[This change interacts with SDG Targets: 2.3](#)

**Rank: 44**

### SDG: 8

Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

#### Target: 8.10

SDG target description: Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and expand access to banking, insurance and financial services for all.

### Background Research:

Coronavirus impact left Hong Kong with trade deficit of HK\$342.2 billion last year as exports dropped 1.5 per cent and imports 3.3 per cent, new figures show

### Reference/s:

- <https://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/hong-kong-economy/article/3119301/coronavirus-impact-left-hong-kong-trade-deficit>

#### Observed behavioural changes under COVID-19 in Hong Kong:

SME/ exporters faced the risk of closure and financing difficulties:

1. Export Credit Insurance to Support Exporters: To ensure safer trade, exporters should manage credit risk prudently amid export market fluctuation.
2. A Special Loan Guarantee Scheme is also implemented to help Hong Kong enterprises tide over the liquidity problem during the global financial crisis. You can choose the scheme that best suits your needs.

This change interacts with SDG Targets: 8.2 / 9.3

#### Sources:

- <https://www.gov.hk/en/business/supportenterprises/localenterprises/fightdownturn.htm>

Rank: 45

#### SDG: 14

Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

#### Target: 14.5

SDG target description: By 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information

#### Observed behavioural changes under COVID-19 in Hong Kong:

There are six marine parks and one marine reserve protected by regulations and equipment in Hong Kong before the pandemic. After COVID-19, it is observed that pink dolphins, one of the main protected species, are staying longer in Hong Kong waters. This shows falling ocean pollution levels after the pandemic. Experts suggest this is due to reduced sea traffic and a more hospitable marine environment.

This change interacts with SDG Targets: 14.1

#### Sources:

- [https://www.afcd.gov.hk/english/country/cou\\_vis/cou\\_vis\\_mar/cou\\_vis\\_mar\\_pla/cou\\_vis\\_mar\\_pla\\_mpmp.html](https://www.afcd.gov.hk/english/country/cou_vis/cou_vis_mar/cou_vis_mar_pla/cou_vis_mar_pla_mpmp.html)
- <https://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/society/article/3110624/pink-dolphins-staying-longer-hong-kong-waters-sign-falling>

Rank: 46

#### SDG: 14

Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development



### Target: 14.7

SDG target description: By 2030, increase the economic benefits to Small Island developing States and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism

#### Background Research:

Most studies suggest as much as 10-15 years of reduced fishing is required to permit depleted stocks to recover. In the absence of governance and management reforms, such recoveries seem unlikely. There is also the risk that some countries might increase the level of unsustainable fisheries subsidies to assist the sector's recovery.

#### Reference/s:

- <https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/blog/2020/the-ocean-and-COVID-19.html>

#### Observed behavioural changes under COVID-19 in Hong Kong:

As there is no serious fluctuation in local fish stocks, this standard also would not greatly change under COVID.

Rank: 47

### SDG: 5

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

#### Target: 5.4

SDG target description: Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate

#### Background Research:

Women are prone to increased demand of unpaid care and domestic work under COVID due to unequal structures and social norms. Under increased economic pressure within families, their efforts and burden in their career and homecare are less likely recognised and appreciated.

#### Reference/s:

- [https://www.un.org/development/desa/family/wp-content/uploads/sites/23/2020/09/Duragova.Paper\\_.pdf](https://www.un.org/development/desa/family/wp-content/uploads/sites/23/2020/09/Duragova.Paper_.pdf)

#### Observed behavioural changes under COVID-19 in Hong Kong:

Most families in Hong Kong are double-income families, meaning that both men and women have to go out for work. Under COVID, the household responsibilities have greatly increased due to school suspension, and women are often expected to handle this extra pressure with their ongoing jobs. Their pressures are less recognised too.

[This change interacts with SDG Targets: 4.2](#)

#### Sources:

- <https://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/society/article/3091765/pandemic-leaves-hong-kong-women-stressed-caregiving>

**Rank: 48**

**SDG: 12**

Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

**Target: 4**

SDG target description: Achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment

**Observed behavioural changes under COVID-19 in Hong Kong:**

At present, discarded face masks from hospitals and isolation centres handling suspected and confirmed cases will be disposed of as clinical waste by delivering to the Chemical Waste Treatment Centre for incineration at a high temperature of about 1 000 degrees Celsius. All the emissions will be treated by advanced air pollution control equipment to ensure compliance with the stringent emission standards to protect the environment.

[This change interacts with SDG Targets: 11.6](#)

**Sources:**

- <https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202005/20/P2020052000551.htm?fontSize=1>

**Rank: 49**

**SDG: 3**

Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

**Target: 3.9**

SDG target description: Substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination

**Observed behavioural changes under COVID-19 in Hong Kong:**

Because of COVID-19, the air quality of Hong Kong has improved. However, as soon as the social distancing policies were eased, Hong Kong experienced a sharp increase of roadside air pollution level from July to September 2020. It is a worrying trend because medical study showed that increased human exposure to air pollution will increase the COVID-19 associated death rate.

This change interacts with SDG Targets: 11.5

The University of Hong Kong's Hedley Environmental Index estimates air pollution in Hong Kong caused an additional 130,000 hospital bed days, 2.3 million doctor visits, 1,700 premature deaths, and HK\$21 billion in economic losses in 2019 – a gigantic societal cost that can be prevented.

Roadside air pollution in 1H 2020 reached the lowest compared to same period in last 4 years (1H 2016 – 1H 2020). The six-month average level of roadside PM2.5, PM10 and NO2 in 1H 2020 was at 26.6, 29 and 70.8 microgram per cubic meter respectively. The reduction of roadside PM2.5 level in 1H 2020 was the most significant among the 3 roadside stations, compared to 1H 2019. The reduction of roadside PM10 and roadside NO2 level was at 12.6% and 5.1% respectively.

**Sources:**

- <https://www.scmp.com/comment/letters/article/3079610/after-coronavirus-pandemic-hong-kong-cant-go-back-business-usual>
- <https://www.aqhi.gov.hk/en/aqhi/statistics-of-aqhi/past-aqhi-records>. <http://cleartheair.org.hk/>
- <https://www.hongkongcan.org/hk/article/air-quality-review-2020halfyear/>

**Rank: 50**

**SDG: 13**

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

**Target: 13.3**

SDG target description: Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning

**Background Research:**

Certain behaviours can affect the severity or effects of climate change, which are also exacerbated by the pandemic (i.e., increase in use of electricity at home, less travel, reliance on delivery for shopping, etc.)

**Observed behavioural changes under COVID-19 in Hong Kong:**

Increased incidence of vegetarianism in 2020 (from 4% to 9%), attributing the change to following reasons: environment friendly (43%), preserve health (40%), reduce CO2 emissions (38%), animal welfare (33%)

[This change interacts with SDG Targets: /](#)

**Sources:**

- IPSOS Hong Kong. (June 2020). The New Normal - Hong Kong Consumers Post COVID-19. Retrieved from [https://www.ipsos.com/sites/default/files/ct/publication/documents/2020-06/the\\_new\\_normal\\_webinar\\_final.pdf](https://www.ipsos.com/sites/default/files/ct/publication/documents/2020-06/the_new_normal_webinar_final.pdf)

**Rank: 51**

**SDG: 17**

Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

**Target: 17.17**

SDG target description: Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships

**Background Research:**

Hong Kong government have been cooperating with different companies in coping with the pandemic. For instance, the government hired several private companies to assist with the Community Testing Scheme regarding COVID.

**Reference/s:**

- <https://www.communitytest.gov.hk/en/>

**Observed behavioural changes under COVID-19 in Hong Kong:**

Due to the huge demand for testing, the government cooperate with private companies for testing. (Many critics on these private companies)

This change interacts with SDG Targets: 3.3 / 3.4 / 3.8 / 3.d

**Sources:**

- <https://hk.appledaily.com/local/20200807/4NCB7R6JEGOLSCNEWNWEALNB5A/>

**Rank: 52**

**SDG: 4**

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

**Target: 4.a**

SDG target description: Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all

**Background Research:**

During COVID-19, school changed to online-teaching mode which cannot guarantee student have effective learning environment, while the safety is also another concerns for parents if school are open. I observed that many parents decided to teach their child on their own, it will definitely affect the education efficiency.

As defined by a university press: It aims to enhance the cognitive, personal and social growth of students, developing in particular their self-motivation, self-understanding, self-control, self-evaluation and self-management

**Index include:**

Classroom behaviour: This refers to the actions or reactions of classroom participants. The behaviour of an individual is complex as it is controlled not just by the nervous system but also by the social context in which she/he participates. The actions of individual teachers and students form particular patterns of classroom behaviour.

Discipline: This is the act of responding to misbehaving students in an effort to restore and maintain order, authority and control. It is also considered to be a form of training, aimed at influencing students' moral and mental development in ways which promote self-control, self-discipline and self-management.

Misbehaviour: This refers to behaviour that interferes with teaching, violating the right of other students to learn, and sometimes makes them feel psychologically uncomfortable and physically unsafe.

**Data support:**

More than 181,000 children living in poverty miss school facilities.

**Observed behavioural changes under COVID-19 in Hong Kong:**

Parents of children with disabilities or special needs have to squeeze extra time to take weekly class videos from the school teacher, including sessions of physiotherapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy. The responsibility of teaching is now on parent's shoulders. Parents had to do more for their children during online learning, for instance, by recording videos of their children's physiotherapy to show the school's in-house therapists for feedback.

[This change interacts with SDG Targets: /](#)

**Sources:**

- <https://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/education/article/3121684/falling-through-cracks-hong-kongs-vulnerable-pupils-set>
- <https://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/education/article/3115465/hong-kong-teachers-come-video-clips-help-deaf-students>

**Rank: 53**

**SDG: 12**

Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

**Target: 12.3**

SDG target description: Halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses

**Background Research:**

During the pandemic, Hong Kong has improved the food consumption and purchasing of instant food from online retail stores. Food delivery industry is more developed and convenient for people to order food, which leads to the increase in food supply

**Data support:**

In HK, we wasted 820,000 tonnes annually that ends up in our landfills.

**Observed behavioural changes under COVID-19 in Hong Kong:**

Due to the social distancing and close of party room, banquet-style dining has been greatly reduced and less food is wasted in this particular area. Rather, people staying at home order more of delivery food. It is hard for restaurants to charge customers fee for unfinished food. Some families are unwilling to pay for the delivery fee so prefer to cook at home which improve the food waste situation.

This change interacts with SDG Targets: 12.8

The restriction on "no dining" forced restaurant to close at 6pm, the food supply demanded from each store has dropped by at least 1/3 in portion. With the unstable closing down policies, restaurants store less food/ingredients in their storage. Buy less supplies each time compared to before.

Suppliers still demonstrated a remarkable resilience in the face of these stresses. Grocery store shelves have been replenished over time, as stockpiling behaviour disappeared and as supply chains responded to increased demand. Long lines at borders shrank quickly in response to policies to alleviate unnecessary restrictions.

Government put policies to contain the spread of the virus, which has placed unprecedented stresses on food supply chains, with bottlenecks in farm labour, processing, transport and logistics, as well as momentous shifts in demand.

This change interacts with SDG Targets: 2.4

**Sources:**

- <https://www.scmp.com/comment/opinion/article/3122616/how-COVID-19-offers-hong-kong-chance-tackle-food-waste-and-poverty>
- <http://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/policy-responses/food-supply-chains-and-COVID-19-impacts-and-policy-lessons-71b57aea/>

**Rank: 54**

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

**Target: 4.5**

SDG target description: Eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations

**Data support:**

Students from low-income homes, have special needs or are from ethnic minority communities are groups at risk of falling behind. Student and parents don't know where to find tutor and cannot afford it as well.

**Observed behavioural changes under COVID-19 in Hong Kong:**

Hong Kong treats all the student equally and provide the same service while discrimination against those from ethnic minority communities has worsened since the outbreak. Hong Kong's anti-discrimination watchdog, the Equal Opportunities Commission, received 335 complaints under the Racial Discrimination Ordinance last year. It received 98 such complaints in 2019.

This change interacts with SDG Targets: 1.4 / 4.a / 10.2

**Sources:**

- <https://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/education/article/3121684/falling-through-cracks-hong-kongs-vulnerable-pupils-set>

**Rank: 55**

**SDG: 5**

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

**Target: 5.2**

SDG target description: Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation

**Background Research:**

- The rate of sexual offences is low, and crimes such as trafficking basically do not exist in Hong Kong. In Hong Kong, the number of sexual offences (i.e. rape, indecent assault and non-violent offence) reported to the Police decreased by 39% within a decade to a 20-year low of 1 492 cases in 2019
- More family violence cases have been reported under the COVID-19 situation due to actions such as social distancing, staying at home, and travel restrictions. Under the worsening societal and economic conditions, family abuses are more likely to happen.

**Reference/s:**

- <https://www.legco.gov.hk/research-publications/english/2021issh01-sexual-offences-in-hong-kong-20201027-e.pdf>
- <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2665910720300384>

#### Observed behavioural changes under COVID-19 in Hong Kong:

There have been more reported cases of violence against women and children since the start of the pandemic, since there is a higher chance of conflict when abusers are at home. This is especially the case in Hong Kong as the space in each housing is very limited, and the cost of renting another house is unbearable especially under economic recession since the pandemic began.

This change interacts with SDG Targets: 16.2

#### Sources:

- <https://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/health-environment/article/3079338/stuck-home-monster-more-reports-violence-against>

Rank: 56

#### SDG: 11

Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

#### Target: 11.7

SDG target description: By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities

#### Background Research:

Gathering in public spaces may be more limited/difficult because of concerns regarding the transmission of the virus. However, housing in Hong Kong is generally very small and public spaces are usually placed where people can relax and recharge.

#### Observed behavioural changes under COVID-19 in Hong Kong:

Government has advised against domestic helpers in Hong Kong gathering for their days off, concerned about increased transmission of the virus. However, this has resulted in overworking the domestic helpers and negative impacts to their physical and mental health.

This change interacts with SDG Targets: 5.4

#### Sources:

- <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2020/dec/15/day-off-denied-how-COVID-confined-hong-kongs-domestic-helpers>

Rank: 57



## SDG: 16

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

### Target: 16.2

SDG target description: End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children

#### Background Research:

- Poor mental health of people --> affect their behaviours --> more violence behaviours
- Child abuse in Hong Kong escalating as pandemic sees children and stressed parents spending more time at home
- With schools closed, many of the city's working poor can't stay home to look after their children and can't afford child care, so they leave their children with underqualified carers

#### Reference/s:

- <https://www.aca.org.hk/media-report/20200909-SCMP-Child-abuse-in-Hong-Kong-escalating-as-pandemic-sees-children-and-stressed-parents-spending-more-time-at-home-expert-says.pdf>

#### Data support:

- A mother was arrested for allegedly pouring hot water repeatedly onto her seven-year-old child over a period of five years.
- Another mother was arrested on suspicion of strangling her seven-year-old child with a scarf because of homework issues.
- The parents of a five-year-old boy were arrested after leaving him at home alone for several months because the mother couldn't return to Hong Kong from the mainland and instead asked a friend to check on him from time to time.
- Some children who are isolated at home with abusive family members, disconnected from the safe adults who they might usually turn, to including teachers, medical professionals, and faith communities.
- With the world now connecting online, children are also exposed to more sexually explicit material due to the greater demand for child sexual images. Children may be victims of emotional abuse as a result of increased stress of parents, and are increasingly left alone as parents have little childcare support.
- Child abuse can be physical, sexual, and emotional in nature, and exploiting and neglecting children is also a form of abuse.

#### Observed behavioural changes under COVID-19 in Hong Kong:

Parents and children:

- Child abuse in Hong Kong escalating as pandemic sees children and stressed parents spending more time at home
- With schools closed, many of the city's working poor can't stay home to look after their children and can't afford child care, so they leave their children with underqualified carers

This change interacts with SDG Targets: 4.1 / 4.2 / 5.2

#### Sources:

- <https://www.aca.org.hk/media-report/20200909-SCMP-Child-abuse-in-Hong-Kong-escalating-as-pandemic-sees-children-and-stressed-parents-spending-more-time-at-home-expert-says.pdf>
- <https://news.rthk.hk/rthk/en/component/k2/1587170-20210423.htm>
- <https://www.motherschoice.org/en/2020/04/17/the-impact-of-COVID-19-on-vulnerable-children/>

**Rank: 58**

**SDG: 9**

Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

**Target: 9.5.**

SDG target description: Enhance scientific research, upgrade the technological capabilities of industrial sectors in all countries, in particular developing countries, including, by 2030, encouraging innovation and substantially increasing the number of research and development workers per 1 million people and public and private research and development spending.

**Background Research:**

The Government is developing telehealth services such as remote delivery and facilitation of health and health-related services, including medical care, provider and patient education, health information services and self-care, through information and communications technologies. The recent outbreak of the pandemic has provided the catalyst for the take-up and expansion of telehealth services usage around the world. Researchers from different universities are constantly developing COVID diagnostic device and vaccine.

**Reference/s:**

- <https://www.legco.gov.hk/research-publications/english/essentials-2021ise14-development-of-telehealth-services.htm>

**Observed behavioural changes under COVID-19 in Hong Kong:**

N.A.

**Rank: 59**

**SDG: 10**

Reduce inequality within and among countries

**Target: 10b**

SDG target description: Encourage official development assistance and financial flows, including foreign direct investment, to States where the need is greatest, in particular least developed countries, African countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, in accordance with their national plans and programmes

**Background Research:**

In 2020 there is a significant drop in HS index due to continuous outbreak globally: Hong Kong stocks fall most in two weeks as US expands China blacklist, and the COVID-19 crisis deepens. In 2021, there is improved market situation and investor confidence with the development of vaccines: China's investors are flooding Hong Kong's capital market in search of value as they dodge US sanctions

**Reference/s:**

- <https://www.scmp.com/business/markets/article/3114745/hong-kong-stocks-suffer-worsening-us-china-ties-blacklist-grows>
- <https://www.scmp.com/business/markets/article/3120862/chinas-investors-are-flooding-hong-kongs-capital-market-search>

**Observed behavioural changes under COVID-19 in Hong Kong:**

10b. Offshore RMB interest rates dropped and HKD exchange rates were at recent high level, indicating that more capital may flow into Hong Kong.

This change interacts with SDG Targets: 10.5

**Sources:**

- <https://citywireasia.com/news/chinas-icbc-expect-more-capital-flow-into-hong-kong/a1322197>

**Rank: 60**

**SDG: 12**

Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

**Target: 12.8**

SDG target description: Ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature

**Background Research:**

Impairment of information flows: Information are harder to be reached through internet. People go out less and the chance that they receive information of outside world has decreased, only relying on their phone and computer, which might be biased and not general enough to make the common knowledge of what is happening outside the house.

**Observed behavioural changes under COVID-19 in Hong Kong:**

12.8 People find it harder to obtain information from face-to-face interactions.

This change interacts with SDG Targets: 3.3

**Rank: 61**

## SDG: 10

Reduce inequality within and among countries

### Target: 10.5

SDG target description: Improve the regulation and monitoring of global financial markets and institutions and strengthen the implementation of such regulations

### Background Research:

Hong Kong was already in a recession in 2019 due to US–China trade tensions and domestic social unrest.

### Reference/s:

- <https://www.eastasiaforum.org/2020/12/19/COVID-19-shock-takes-its-toll-on-hong-kongs-economy/>

### Data support:

In the first two quarters of 2020, real GDP fell by around 9 per cent year-on-year.

#### Observed behavioural changes under COVID-19 in Hong Kong:

10.5 SFC regulatory response to COVID-19: Examples include giving specific guidance on how brokers can record client orders when out of office, deferral of regulatory timetables and allowing more flexibility on licensing matters, giving special guidance regarding the timely issuance of preliminary earnings results by listed companies, and intensified supervision on potential vulnerabilities caused by the exceptional market conditions, including investment fund liquidity, gold market volatility, redemption profiles, and fair treatment of investors.

[This change interacts with SDG Targets: 10b](#)

### Sources:

- <https://www.mayerbrown.com/en/perspectives-events/publications/2020/05/COVID19-related-circulars-or-guidance-non-exhaustive-published-by-financial-services-regulators-of-hong-kong-last-updated-25-may-2020>

**Rank: 62**

## SDG: 10

Reduce inequality within and among countries

### Target: 10.2

SDG target description: By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status

### Background Research:

Helpless in Hong Kong: low-income new arrivals from mainland China struggle with job losses, lack of support during COVID-19. Many poor families from mainland do not qualify for one-off HK\$10,000

government allowance Pandemic adds to burdens of new arrivals coping with illness, reduced income, and discrimination.

**Reference/s:**

- <https://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/society/article/3103034/helpless-hong-kong-low-income-new-arrivals-mainland-china>

**Observed behavioural changes under COVID-19 in Hong Kong:**

Low income group: A survey of more than 300 low-income residents by the Society for Community Organisation (SoCO) found 28.4 per cent had lost their jobs between May and July. This was almost five times higher than Hong Kong’s official, overall unemployment rate for the same period, which stood at 6.1 per cent, while underemployment was at 3.5 per cent.

This change interacts with SDG Targets: 1.1 / 1.2 / 1.3 / 1.5 / 8.5 / 8.8 / 10.1

**Sources:**

- <https://www.scmp.com/yp/discover/news/hong-kong/article/3098649/survey-finds-low-income-residents-hit-harder-hong-kongs>

**Rank: 63**

**SDG: 16**

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

**Target: 16.5**

SDG target description: Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms

**Background Research:**

COVID doesn’t affect the corruption situation in Hong Kong as it is the 11th least corrupt place. However, corruption thrives in difficult economic times, particularly when organizational and enforcement oversight is weak.

**Reference/s:**

- <https://www.icac.org.hk/en/intl-persp/survey/corruption-perceptions-index/index.html>

**Observed behavioural changes under COVID-19 in Hong Kong:**

The disruptions caused by COVID-19 has had organizations focus on business continuity and workforce-related issues, with some being concerned if they will survive the financial impact of the disruptions and starting to furlough and/or lay off employees. At the same time, employees have been trying to adapt to the upheaval. Many have been working remotely with less supervision, trying to be productive. Some are now worrying

about job security. These factors can result in organizations paying less focus on internal controls and compliance requirements, and employees cutting corners and/or giving in to the temptation of engaging in nefarious activities.

This change interacts with SDG Targets: 1.3 / 8.8

**Sources:**

- <https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=d3322441-18d6-465f-bfff-fdd1d5cf893c>

**Rank: 64**

**SDG: 17**

Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

**Target: 17.13**

SDG target description: Enhance global macroeconomic stability, including through policy coordination and policy coherence

**Background Research:**

COVID have been hitting the global economy. Hong Kong is also suffering from its detrimental effect. The traditional Hong Kong based company, Cathay Dragon, have closed down already.

**Reference/s:**

- [https://www.cathaypacific.com/cx/en\\_HK/prepare-trip/travel-advisories/important-information-for-cathay-dragon-passengers.html](https://www.cathaypacific.com/cx/en_HK/prepare-trip/travel-advisories/important-information-for-cathay-dragon-passengers.html)

**Observed behavioural changes under COVID-19 in Hong Kong:**

All Hong Kong citizens, especially the unskilled workers: Hong Kong unemployment rate hits its peak of 7%.

This change interacts with SDG Targets: 1.3 / 8.5 / 8.8

**Sources:**

- [https://www.censtatd.gov.hk/press\\_release/pressReleaseDetail.jsp?charsetID=2&pressRID=4824](https://www.censtatd.gov.hk/press_release/pressReleaseDetail.jsp?charsetID=2&pressRID=4824)

**Rank: 65**

**SDG: 3**

Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

**Target: 3c**

SDG target description: Increase health financing and the recruitment, development, training and retention of the health workforce in developing countries, especially in least developed countries and small island developing States

**Background Research:**

We need more professionals to deal with COVID or other sudden outbreaks. Patients' problems in HK are seen as merely health troubles originating in the individual, but we need to be assessed with regard to community networks and policy aspects. Under the two 10-year development plans for the city's public hospitals, which cover 2016 to 2035, more than 15,000 additional beds will be provided through redevelopment and expansion.

**Reference/s:**

- <https://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/hong-kong-economy/article/3082370/coronavirus-lessons-pandemic-have-officials>

**Observed behavioural changes under COVID-19 in Hong Kong:**

N.A.

**Rank: 66**

**SDG: 12**

Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

**Target: 12.2**

SDG target description: By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources.

**Background Research:**

This target do not play a key role during the pandemic. During COVID, there is too much oil but too little demand. People aren't travelling and not using their cars.

**Observed behavioural changes under COVID-19 in Hong Kong:**

Sustainable management: Some have sponsored virus-fighting measures within their local business community, showing a strong sense of community investment. Since during the pandemic, companies that are focused on being part of their community are more likely to find support in times of crisis. It raises their sense of the importance in sustainable management.

This change interacts with SDG Targets: 12.6 / 12.8

Use of natural resources: The pandemic will continue to hinder performance under energy-related agreements as more countries go into lockdown. Theoretically, it is possible to transform our energy into natural resources, but radically there is no incentive to do so. People still refuse to pay for it especially under the current stressful economic situation. People have changes to buy natural food and consume product that

are more sustainable, but to shift to solar, hydrogen and fuel cells in homes are still not a good idea for Hong Kongers.

This change interacts with SDG Targets: 12.6 / 12.8

**Sources:**

- <https://www.mondaq.com/hongkong/energy-law/907276/predicting-the-unpredictable-the-coronavirus-and-its-impact-on-the-energy-industry>
- <https://www.scmp.com/week-asia/opinion/article/3125261/its-gas-saudi-arabia-japan-and-china-pivoting-clean-hydrogen>
- <https://www.gov.hk/en/residents/environment/conservation/naturalresourceconservation.htm>

**Rank: 67**

**SDG: 12**

Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

**Target: 12a**

SDG target description: Support developing countries to strengthen their scientific and technological capacity to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production

**Background Research:**

Improving the technology of delivery services and home office might be need for Hong Kong people during the COVID. For instance, the retail industry and the banking and financial services industry have embraced digital transformation in a very short time.

**Observed behavioural changes under COVID-19 in Hong Kong:**

Companies realize the importance of embracing digital transformation to survive during COVID or even after the pandemic. The HKMA has been developing an Open API Framework for the banking sector, which will further accelerate fintech development in Hong Kong by allowing easy integration and access and providing consumers with an unprecedented level of convenience and functionality.

This change interacts with SDG Targets: 8.2

To nurture the next generation of ICT leaders, the government has a professional and leadership development platform, as well as mentoring programmes. It also has a FACE (Female, Attract, Connect, Engage) club for women to network and engage in ICT activities, as a way to encourage a more diverse IT workforce and a more inclusive culture in Hong Kong. Meanwhile, Hong Kong regulators have been very quick to accept new modes of digital interactions. The government launched a COVID-19 Online Dispute Resolution Scheme in June to provide mediation and arbitration services for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, as well as members of the public.

This change interacts with SDG Targets: 4.4

**Sources:**



- <https://www.scmp.com/comment/opinion/article/3113010/why-future-hong-kongs-economy-lies-digital-transformation>
- <https://www.brandhk.gov.hk/html/en/StrategicFocus/Hong-Kong-Helping-the-global-fight-against-COVID-19.html>
- <https://www.polyu.edu.hk/en/combataCOVID19/research-and-innovation/>

**Rank: 68**

**SDG: 6**

Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

**Target: 6.3**

SDG target description: By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally.

**Background Research:**

Employing different sewage treatment facilities, Hong Kong Drainage services Department utilize different treatment method to handle domestic and industrial wastewater properly and safely. The sewage (which might contain coronavirus) should be well-treated.

**Observed behavioural changes under COVID-19 in Hong Kong:**

Government enforced compulsory testing to all residents who live in the building with positive COVID result in their sewage for the very first time

This change interacts with SDG Targets: 3.3 / 3.d

**Source:**

- [https://www.news.gov.hk/chi/2021/02/20210201/20210201\\_172308\\_389.html](https://www.news.gov.hk/chi/2021/02/20210201/20210201_172308_389.html)

**Rank: 69**

**SDG: 15**

Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

**Target: 15.12**

SDG target description: Enhance global support for efforts to combat poaching and trafficking of protected species, including by increasing the capacity of local communities to pursue sustainable livelihood opportunities

**Background Research:**

Wildlife trafficking is present and serious in Hong Kong, but cases of animal trafficking should be greatly reduced due to travel restrictions.

## Reference:

- <https://www.hku.hk/press/press-releases/detail/21791.html>

### Observed behavioural changes under COVID-19 in Hong Kong:

Since COVID-10 was traced from a wildlife market, more attention is paid by the public to wildlife trafficking.

**Rank: 70**

## SDG: 11

Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

### Target: 11b

SDG target description: By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, holistic disaster risk management at all levels.

### Background Research:

Pandemics should also be considered in disaster resilience planning. Hong Kong has extensive knowledge and experience regarding health crises such as pandemics - attributable to their experience during the 2003 SARS epidemic - which explains why both the government and individuals have managed to have relative control over the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. These behaviours developed and policies put in place as a result of the SARS epidemic have been instrumental to that success.

## Reference/s:

- Samuel Y.S. Wong, Kin On Kwok and Francis K.L. Chan CMAJ May 11, 2020 192 (19) E511-E515; DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1503/cmaj.200563>

### Observed behavioural changes under COVID-19 in Hong Kong:

N.A.

**Rank: 71**

## SDG: 10

Reduce inequality within and among countries

### Target: 10.1

SDG target description: By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population at a rate higher than the national average

### Background Research:

UN is using the absolute poverty line by defining the people living with less than \$1.25 a day are regarded as the poor. However, HK is using relative poverty line. (The UN target requirement adjustment before applying to HK situation). Hong Kong recorded a poor population of more than 1.4 million people and a poverty rate of 21.4% according to the pre-intervention poverty figures in 2019. After the Government's recurrent cash intervention, the poverty rate recorded a slight increase in 2019 of 0.9 percentage point to 15.8%.

### Reference/s:

- [https://www.news.gov.hk/eng/2020/12/20201223/20201223\\_175016\\_820.html](https://www.news.gov.hk/eng/2020/12/20201223/20201223_175016_820.html)

#### Observed behavioural changes under COVID-19 in Hong Kong:

In a survey of 309 adult Hongkongers from low-income families conducted last month, Caritas found that 38 per cent of interviewees said they were out of work.

This change interacts with SDG Targets: 1.1

Twenty-one per cent said they were asked to take unpaid leave, while 10 per cent said they could not go to work because they had to look after their children. Hong Kong schools have been suspended since February over fears of virus transmission.

This change interacts with SDG Targets: 1.1

### Sources:

- <https://hongkongfp.com/2020/03/10/hong-kong-low-income-families-face-unemployment-economy-slumps-amid-coronavirus-outbreak/>

**Rank: 72**

### SDG: 10

Reduce inequality within and among countries

#### Target: 10.7

SDG target description: Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies

### Background Research:

More related to social unrest since 2019: 43.9 per cent of Hongkongers polled have said they would be inclined to emigrate if given a chance, according to a Chinese University of Hong Kong survey. It comes following a year of turmoil for the city, with mass protests and unrest, a wide-reaching crackdown by the authorities and the implementation of the national security law.

### Reference/s:

- <https://hongkongfp.com/2020/10/08/4-out-of-10-hongkongers-would-emigrate-if-given-the-opportunity-survey/>

### Observed behavioural changes under COVID-19 in Hong Kong:

The spring of 2020 has been a season of despair, as the news of people dying from COVID-19 dominates. Restrictions on international travel, cinema closures and other social distancing measures have made migration harder, especially for those domestic helpers.

#### Sources:

- <https://www.scmp.com/comment/opinion/article/3079398/how-coronavirus-crisis-will-affect-hong-kongs-migration-dynamics>

Rank: 73

#### SDG: 16

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

#### Target: 16.6

SDG target description: Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels.

#### Background Research:

After passing the controversial national security law last summer and a large-scale crackdown on the city's pro-democracy protest movement, there has been drastic decline in trust between residents and authorities. In the past year and a half, people's satisfaction ratings with the government have dropped to the lowest levels ever recorded since the city's 1997 handover from Britain to China. This had led to dispute with the government in the regard of the pandemic measures (eg. taking the vaccination, boycotting COVID-19 tracking app, government refused to close the border from Mainland China, criticizing government's policies in response to the COVID situation)

#### Reference/s:

- <https://thediplomat.com/2021/02/a-trust-deficit->

### Observed behavioural changes under COVID-19 in Hong Kong:

The government has low credibility and transparency in whatever decisions they make, and many Hong Kong citizens feel dissatisfied to whatever regulations are implemented.

Rank: 74

#### SDG: 9

Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

### Target: 9.1

SDG target description: Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and transborder infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all

#### Background Research:

These infrastructure do not play a key role during the pandemic.

#### Reference/s:

- <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/publication/521981/sdg09.pdf>

#### Observed behavioural changes under COVID-19 in Hong Kong:

N.A.

**Rank: 75**

### SDG: 11

Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

#### Target: 11.2

SDG target description: By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons.

#### Background Research:

There is a "trend" of elderly people in Hong Kong coming out of retirement to work. With the pandemic, they fall under those who are high-risk, and public spaces are also places where you are more likely to contract the virus. As many elderly people are looking to public transport to save on expenses, the pandemic has made choosing that option more difficult as that would mean exposing themselves to potential places where the virus can be spread.

#### Reference/s:

- <https://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/politics/article/3046690/cheaper-travel-will-help-ease-burden-hong-kongs-working>

#### Observed behavioural changes under COVID-19 in Hong Kong:

Despite the sharp drop in demand for transport generally because of COVID-19 restrictions, app users on average took 30 per cent more trips via UBER during the health crisis.

#### Sources:

- <https://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/hong-kong-economy/article/3101904/uber-hong-kong-driver-numbers-surge-during-COVID>

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