

A SURVEY OF FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS IN MACAO

澳门食物银行项目调查报告

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Abstract

This article examines the attitudes and policy implications surrounding food insecurity in relation to social welfare programs, community associations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and the private sector. We describe the ‘relationship of persons to the food supply’ (Sen 2010), as observed in Macao, and we use this framework to highlight general policies regarding social welfare. We conducted face-to-face interviews with operators, volunteers, and beneficiaries of various food distribution programs, examining how different associations and private initiatives address gaps in food distribution and access to food.

摘要

本文探讨围绕粮食问题的态度及政策影响，涉及社会福利计划、社区协会、非政府组织和私营部门。我们运用森（Sen, 2010）的理论框架描述澳门观察到的“人与食物供应关系”，并以此凸显社会福利的总体政策。我们通过对各类食物分发计划的操作者、志愿者和受益者进行面对面访谈，考察不同协会和私人倡议如何弥补食物分配和获取方面的缺口。

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Introduction

The Macao Special Administrative Region is a small, densely populated territory located on the southern coast of China. The Portuguese heritage in Macao is visible in its culture and architecture, particularly in numerous churches that reflect Portugal's Catholic influence. While the gaming industry makes the most significant contribution to Macao's economy, reliance on gaming and tourism makes it vulnerable to fluctuations in global travel and regional competition, as experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic (Noronha et al., 2021; Zhou et al., 2022). Moreover, the displacement of local workers and the high cost of living can potentially create economic inequality, and poorer residents may struggle to afford necessities, including food (Li & Zeng, 2015; Zheng & Hung, 2011). As Macao relies heavily on imported food, price fluctuations can restrict access to certain products (Xu et al., 2024).

Welfare policies and social patronage

In a market economy, ownership implies a right (or entitlement) to possess something, such as food items. Amartya Sen's *Poverty and Famines* (Sen, 2010) defines various relations, such as trade agreements, resource production, and inheritance, which entitle their owners legally. Accordingly, people can exchange what they own, such as labor and commodities, for other goods and services.

While various studies advocated for social security policies to mitigate the higher cost of living and reduce inequalities, particularly among the aging population (Hui et al., 2012; H. Wang et al., 2024; X. Wang et al., 2023), investment in labor laws, employment opportunities, social welfare programs, and access to social benefits, have been progressively implemented (W. L. Lai, 2008). For instance, under the 'Healthcare Subsidy Scheme', the Health Bureau of the Macao Government distributes healthcare

引言

澳门特别行政区是位于中国南部沿海的一个小而人口密集的地区。葡萄牙传统在澳门的文化和建筑中清晰可见，尤其体现在众多反映葡萄牙天主教影响的教堂建筑中。虽然博彩业对澳门经济贡献最大，但对博彩和旅游业的依赖使其易受全球旅行波动和区域竞争的影响，这在新冠疫情(COVID-19)大流行期间尤为明显(Noronha等, 2021; Zhou等, 2022)。此外，本地工人被取代和生活成本高昂可能造成经济不平等，较贫困居民可能难以负担包括食物在内的必需品(Li & Zeng, 2015; Zheng & Hung, 2011)。由于澳门高度依赖进口食品，价格波动可能限制某些产品的获取(Xu等, 2024)。

福利政策与
社会支持

在市场经济中，所有权意味着拥有某物(如食品)的权利(或资格)。阿玛蒂亚·森的《贫困与饥荒》(Amartya Sen, 2010)界定了各种关系，如贸易协定、资源生产和继承，这些关系使其所有者合法享有权利。因此，人们可以用自己拥有的东西(如劳动力和商品)交换其他商品和服务。

多项研究主张通过社会保障政策来缓解高昂生活成本并减少不平等——特别是在老龄化人群中(Hui等, 2012; H. Wang等, 2024; X. Wang等, 2023)。实际上，目前在劳动法、就业机会、社会福利计划和获取社会福利方面的投资已逐步实施(W. L. Lai, 2008)。例如，根据“

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vouchers to each permanent resident to subsidize medical expenses. Under the ‘Wealth Partaking Scheme,’ the Social Welfare Bureau distributes the ‘Subsidy for Senior Citizens’ and ‘Disability Subsidies.’ The Housing Bureau assists residents with limited financial means in accessing public housing through leasing (subsidized home ownership) and social housing units where tenants are exempt from paying rent. The Labour Affairs Bureau provides legislation regarding various guaranteed benefits, including the minimum wage for employees, severance pay, and the right to compensation for occupational accidents and occupational diseases. The government also provides subsidy programs for unemployed workers participating in training, as well as for hiring youth and individuals with disabilities seeking employment. Finally, the Financial Services Bureau subsidizes utilities and public transportation.

Case studies

While the Macao government does not directly operate food assistance programs, general subsidies and regulations mitigate food insecurity. Additionally, the government funds various associations that provide food assistance, including the Short-term Food Assistance Programme, which is outsourced to Caritas Macao and supported by the Social Welfare Bureau. Accordingly, the government has developed a type of patron-client network with thousands of local interest groups. Macao’s social patronage is rooted in historical, cultural, and political factors, and it remains a significant aspect of Macao’s societal dynamics (Chong, 2016; Feng & He, 2011; R. Zhang, 2024). Before the 1980s, interest groups provided social welfare services. As the government’s activities expanded to social services and cultural activities, those interest groups became the government’s ‘executive arms’ under the patronage system (Chou, 2005). Local associations can act as intermediaries between the government

医疗补贴计划”，澳门政府卫生局向每位永久居民发放医疗券以补贴医疗开支。根据“现金分享计划”，社会福利局发放“敬老金”和“残疾津贴”。房屋局通过租赁（补贴性住房所有权）和免租金的社会房屋单位，帮助经济能力有限的居民获得公共住房。劳工事务局提供有关各项保障福利的立法，包括雇员最低工资、遣散费以及职业事故和职业病的赔偿权。政府还为参加培训的失业工人提供补贴计划，并为雇用青年和残疾求职者提供资助。最后，财政局对公用事业和公共交通进行补贴。

案例研究

虽然澳门政府不直接运营食物援助计划，但一般补贴和法规可缓解粮食问题。此外，政府资助多个提供食物援助的协会，包括外包给澳门明爱并由社会福利局支持的短期食物援助计划。因此，政府与数千个本地组织建立了一种庇护-委托关系网络。澳门的社会福音系统植根于历史、文化和政治因素，至今仍是澳门社会动态的重要方面（Chong, 2016; Feng & He, 2011; R. Zhang, 2024）。在1980年代之前，本地利益相关方提供社会福利服务。随着政府活动扩展到社会服务和文化活动，这些利益相关团体成为庇护体系下政府的「执行臂膀」（Chou, 2005）。本地协会可充当政府与居民之间的中介，提供社会服务、财政援助、工作机会和慈善活动以支持社区活动、教育和医疗保健。从这个意义上说，社会支持促进了公众参与，直接反映了社区的需求和利益。

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and residents, providing social services, financial aid, job opportunities, and charitable activities to support community events, education, and healthcare. In this sense, social patronage fosters public participation, directly reflecting the community's needs and interests.

We conducted face-to-face interviews with associations/organizations that provide food assistance services to low-income individuals. Interviewees include operators, staff members, volunteers, donors, and beneficiaries of food distribution programs. The questionnaire was based on the entitlement approach (Sen, 2010) and the social innovation approach (Buckland & Murillo, 2013). We identified five social innovation variables: 1) social impact, 2) economic sustainability and viability, 3) collaboration between sectors, 4) type of innovation, and 5) scalability and replicability. Interviews were recorded in audio format for data processing (transcription and translation to English). We obtained informed consent from all participants, ensuring their confidentiality and privacy. The research adheres to the ethical guidelines and regulations regarding data collection, analysis, and storage, as stipulated by Esade's Ethics Committee.¹

Oxfam Macao

Founded in 2000, Oxfam Macao is part of the global Oxfam network, dedicated to alleviating poverty and inequality, with a focus on promoting social justice, human rights, and sustainable livelihoods. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Oxfam Macao partnered with the Bosco Youth Service Network (BYS), Centro Comunitário Sun Tou Tong, The Salvation Army Joy Family Integrated Service Center, and União Geral das Associações dos Moradores de Macau to distribute rice to nearly 3,000 low-income households.

¹ <https://www.esade.edu/faculty-research/en/research/research-services/research-ethics>

我们对向低收入个人提供食物援助服务的协会/组织进行了面对面访谈。受访者包括食物分发计划的操作者、工作人员、志愿者、捐助者和受益者。问卷依据权利获取理论设计（森，2010）和社会创新方法（Buckland & Murillo, 2013）。我们确定了五个社会创新变量：1）社会影响，2）经济可持续性和可行性，3）跨部门合作，4）创新类型，以及5）可扩展性和可复制性。访谈以音频形式记录以便数据处理（转录和翻译成英文）。我们获得了所有参与者的知情同意，确保其保密性和隐私权。本研究遵循埃萨德伦理委员会规定的关于数据收集、分析和存储的伦理准则和法规。¹

澳门乐施会

澳门乐施会成立于2000年，是全球乐施会网络的一部分，致力于减轻贫困和不平等，重点在于促进社会正义、人权和可持续生计。在COVID-19大流行期间，澳门乐施会与鲍思高青年服务网络、新陶苑互助中心、救世军喜乐家庭综合服务中心和澳门街坊会联合总会合作，向近3000户低收入家庭分发大米。

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Since 2016, Oxfam Macao has organized the 'Market Treasure Hunt' as an extension of the World Poverty Day program and the Leftovers Recycling Project in collaboration with the Bosco Youth Service and the Salvation Army. Three times per week, volunteers and staff meet with market vendors to collect excess perishables (vegetables, fruits, buns, fish bones) close to expiration or overripe. The perishable nature of the food motivates donation, but at the same time, creates additional challenges. For instance, the amount of donations depends on market sales and weather conditions. Additionally, food items must be inspected individually after collection and distributed to the beneficiaries on the same day at a nearby school.

Most beneficiaries are retired people who receive government pensions and allowances. While the activity is promoted online, elderly beneficiaries may not be familiar with using the internet. They may only learn about the activity from social workers or friends. In general, the beneficiaries expressed satisfaction in saving money and meeting people, and the donors were happy that the food was not wasted. While Oxfam and its partners support volunteers and staff members, participation is unstable due to limited availability outside working hours. Therefore, even if the activity can be easily replicated in other locations, human resources are the most significant challenge to scalability. First, considerable training is necessary to complete multiple tasks efficiently on the same day. Second, regular volunteers are essential for building relationships with the vendors and providing a sense of recognition. Nevertheless, similar activities are conducted in several districts and in other forms, such as a clothes recycling program.

自2016年以来，澳门乐施会组织「市场寻宝」活动，作为世界扶贫日计划的延伸，并与鲍思高青年服务和救世军合作开展剩食回收计划。每周三次，志愿者和工作人员与市场摊贩会面，收集接近过期或过熟的多余易腐食品（蔬菜、水果、包子、鱼骨）。食品的易腐性促使捐赠，但同时也带来了额外的挑战。例如，捐赠数量取决于市场销售和天气条件。此外，食品必须在收集后逐一检查，并在同一天在附近学校分发给受益者。

大多数受益者是领取政府养老金和津贴的退休人员。虽然活动在网上传播，但年长受益者可能不熟悉使用互联网。他们可能只能从社工或朋友那里了解活动。总体而言，受益者对节省开支和结识朋友表示满意，捐助者则对食物未被浪费感到高兴。虽然乐施会及其合作伙伴支持志愿者和工作人员，但由于工作时间外的可用性有限，参与并不稳定。因此，即使该活动可以轻松在其他地点复制，人力资源仍是可扩展性的最大挑战。首先，需要在同一天高效完成多项任务的大量培训。其次，固定的志愿者对于与摊贩建立关系和提供认同感至关重要。尽管如此，类似活动在多个区域以其他形式进行，例如衣物回收计划。

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Macao Eco-Conscious Community Fridge

Launched during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Macao Eco-Conscious Community Fridge offers a space where surplus food, donated by local businesses and individuals, can be freely accessed by those in need. It not only helps to alleviate food insecurity but also raises awareness about environmental issues related to overconsumption and waste in a city known for its rapid development and high consumption rates. The project embodies the principles of the circular economy, encouraging both individuals and businesses to contribute to a more sustainable and compassionate urban environment. The organization does not have formal branches outside of Macao but has built relationships with Filipino and Vietnamese migrant workers, who benefit from the food distributions. The operator states that they are currently only reaching a small fraction of the potential food waste in Macao, but high rent challenges access to suitable space. The organization is currently supported by the Catholic Pastoral Center, which provides space for food storage and distribution. The organization ensures the quality of the food by inspecting it for freshness and ensuring it meets the required standards. For example, the organization has established agreements with local hotels and casinos to accept food donations that would otherwise be discarded,

澳门环保社区冰箱

澳门环保社区冰箱在新冠疫情(COVID-19)大流行期间启动，提供了一个空间，让本地企业和个人捐赠的剩余食物可以被有需要的人自由获取。它不仅有助于缓解粮食问题，还提高了对以快速发展和高消费著称的城市中过度消费和浪费相关环境问题的认识。该项目体现了循环经济的原则，鼓励个人和企业为更可持续和富有同情心的城市环境做出贡献。该组织在澳门以外没有正式分支机构，但与菲律宾和越南移工建立了关系，他们从食物分发中受益。操作者表示，他们目前仅接触到澳门潜在食物浪费的一小部分，但高昂的租金挑战了对合适空间的获取。该组织目前得到天主教牧灵中心的支持，该中心提供食物储存和分发空间。该组织通过检查食物新鲜度并确保其符合所需标准来保证食品质量。例如，该组织已与本地酒店和赌场建立协议，接受原本会被丢弃的食物捐赠，从而避免浪费并促进可持续的食物分发方法。食物银行的努力主要通过社交媒体推广，尽管资源有限和物流受限，该组织在考虑扩张之前仍专注于增加其本地影响力。

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thereby avoiding waste and promoting a sustainable approach to food distribution. The food bank's efforts are primarily promoted through social media, and despite limited resources and logistical constraints, the organization remains focused on increasing its local impact before considering expansion.

Caritas Macao

Caritas Macao is a prominent non-profit organization dedicated to providing social services to vulnerable groups in Macao, including low-income individuals, families, children, the elderly, and those with special needs. Caritas Macao launched its short-term food assistance service in 2011 to address food insecurity and support individuals and families facing financial hardship. The service provides emergency food relief, helping to alleviate immediate difficulties while fostering long-term solutions to poverty through community collaboration. The Ming Liang Fong food bank, a branch of Caritas in Macao, primarily provides emergency short-term food assistance to the elderly, low-income families, and other vulnerable groups. Government funding and charitable donations are the primary sources of financial support, ensuring long-term sustainability. The food bank's social impact is significant, as it aids near-poor families in overcoming economic difficulties, often linked to the high cost of living in Macao. It also contributes to building a more harmonious society by raising awareness of poverty. Additionally, the food bank helps recipients navigate their emotional and mental health challenges by offering referrals to other social welfare services. Accordingly, some staff members mentioned that future facilities could include private spaces for individuals to share their concerns and expand emotional support services.

澳门明爱

澳门明爱是一个著名的非营利组织，致力于向澳门的弱势群体提供社会服务，包括低收入个人、家庭、儿童、老年人和有特殊需求者。澳门明爱于2011年启动短期食物援助服务，以解决粮食缺乏并支持面临经济困难的个人和家庭。该服务提供紧急食物救济，帮助缓解眼前困难，同时通过社区合作为贫困问题提供长期解决方案。

明爱粮坊食物银行作为澳门明爱的一个分支，主要向老年人、低收入家庭和其他弱势群体提供紧急短期食物援助。政府资助和慈善捐赠是财政支持的主要来源，确保长期可持续性。该食物银行的社会影响显著，因为它帮助临界贫困家庭克服经济困难，这些困难通常与澳门高昂的生活成本有关。它还通过提高对贫困问题的认识，促进建设更和谐的社会。此外，食物银行通过提供转介到其他社会福利服务，帮助受助者应对情绪和心理健康挑战。因此，一些工作人员提到，未来的设施可以包括私人空间，供个人分享他们的担忧并扩展情感支持服务。

On the one hand, the availability of ‘reclaimed’ food depends on a profit-oriented market, mainly driven by tourism. As the tourism industry increases demand for all products, residents and suppliers must also contend with high food prices and importation costs. On the other hand, reclaimed food products typically fall at the lower end of the market and may be restricted to specific categories, or the information may only reach particular groups.

一方面，“回收”食物的可用性取决于以利润为导向的市场，主要由旅游业驱动。随着旅游业增加对所有产品的需求，居民和供应商还必须应对高食品价格和进口成本。另一方面，回收食品通常处于市场的低端，可能仅限于特定类别，或者信息可能只到达特定群体。

The food bank ensures the quality of its food through regular supplier evaluations and annual tenders, and efforts are made to meet diverse cultural and dietary needs. Challenges include communication difficulties, particularly with recipients who speak dialects or have unstable physical or mental conditions. Despite these obstacles, staff members are optimistic about the replicability of the food bank’s model in other regions, noting that its methods remain consistent across different service points. The model implementation should rely on strengthening collaborations with other social welfare organizations to provide more comprehensive assistance. Therefore, the interviews with beneficiaries highlight the significant role the Ming Liang Fong food bank plays in providing essential food support and social assistance, as many are elderly, unemployed, or facing health challenges, with limited or no regular income. Most beneficiaries learn about the food bank through word of mouth, often from family, friends, or neighbors, and they appreciate its proximity, with locations generally within walking distance of their homes. However, they expressed a desire for more nutritious food options, such as fresh fruits and vegetables. Despite these concerns, the food bank remains a vital source of support for those who rely on it, providing essential food and a sense of community and care.

食物银行通过定期供应商评估和年度招标确保其食品质量，并努力满足多样化的文化和饮食需求。挑战包括沟通困难，特别是与讲方言或身心状况不稳定的受助者。尽管存在这些障碍，工作人员对食物银行模式在其他地区的可复制性持乐观态度，指出其方法在不同服务点保持一致。模式实施应依赖于加强与其他社会福利组织的合作，以提供更全面的援助。因此，对受益者的访谈凸显了明粮坊食物银行在提供基本食物支持和社会援助方面发挥的重要作用，因为许多受益者是老年人、失业者或面临健康挑战者，收入有限或无固定收入。大多数受益者通过口耳相传了解食物银行，他们认可其邻近性，地点通常在他们家步行距离内。然而，他们表示希望获得更多营养食品选择，如新鲜水果和蔬菜。尽管如此，食物银行仍然是依赖它的人的重要支持来源，提供基本食物和社区关怀感。

Temporary and non-official support

Spontaneous initiatives, business operators, and religious groups represent a non-official form of food assistance. Some corporations, shop owners, and religious administrators declined to participate in the interview due to concerns about confidentiality. Nevertheless, our research suggests that many local and international businesses are involved, at various levels, in charitable work related to food assistance. For example, Mother's Meal was established in response to the COVID-19 pandemic to support families facing financial hardship and foreign workers who were unable to return home. Local restaurants offered meals at a discount price, covered by the St. Lawrence Church. Knowledge of the activity spread by word of mouth, and at its peak, 70 meals were distributed daily, also providing relief from isolation to elderly beneficiaries, who eventually developed friendships. Also, U Po Wo is a family-owned herbal tea and Chinese herbal cuisine shop that, as part of its regular operation, distributes excess production to neighbors to minimize waste. Since the products are prepared daily, they are always suitable for consumption. The distribution mainly relies on word of mouth. Therefore, the ability to donate depends on the business's sustainability and the local demand for soups and herbal teas.

Discussion

While unfavorable or declining exchange entitlements affect the quality or quantity of food that is accessible, various welfare or charity programs can help mitigate the impact. The effectiveness of food assistance programs in Macao can be measured in terms of their social impact, economic sustainability, collaboration between sectors, innovation, scalability, and replicability (Buckland & Murillo, 2013).

临时和非官方支持

自发倡议、企业运营者和宗教团体代表了一种非官方的食物援助形式。一些公司、店主和宗教管理人员因保密问题拒绝参与访谈。尽管如此，我们的研究表明，许多本地和国际企业在不同程度上参与了与食物援助相关的慈善工作。例如，“慈母餐”是为应对COVID-19大流行而设立的，旨在支持面临经济困难的家庭和无法回家的外籍工人。本地餐厅以折扣价提供餐食，费用由圣老楞佐堂 (St. Lawrence's Church) 承担。活动信息通过口耳相传扩散，在高峰期每天分发70份餐食，也为年长受益者提供缓解孤立感的机会，他们最终建立了友谊。此外，“乌婆窝”是一家家族经营的中草药茶和中式药膳店，作为其常规运营的一部分，将多余的产品分发给邻居，以尽量减少浪费。由于产品是每日制备的，它们始终适合食用。分发主要依靠口耳相传。因此，捐赠能力取决于企业的可持续性以及本地对汤品和中草药茶的需求。

讨论

虽然不利或下降的交换资格影响了可获取食物的质量或数量，²但各种福利或慈善计划可以帮助减轻影响。澳门食物援助计划的有效性可以从其社会影响、经济可持续性、跨部门合作、创新、可扩展性和可复制性等方面衡量 (Buckland & Murillo, 2013)。

2 译者注：如摊贩因游客减少（贸易权受损）导致食物获取能力下降，从而降低其捐赠食物的能力。

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Macao's social welfare policies align with studies that suggest that structural interventions—such as public housing, vocational training and employment support, labor protections, and access to healthcare—can yield more substantial benefits for low-income families than direct food aid alone (Seo & Park, 2021; Fu et al., 2023; Rai & Blane, 2024). Nevertheless, access to food is exposed to the market economy. On the one hand, the availability of 'reclaimed' food depends on a profit-oriented market, mainly driven by tourism. As the tourism industry increases demand for all products, residents and suppliers must also contend with high food prices and importation costs. On the other hand, reclaimed food products typically fall at the lower end of the market and may be restricted to specific categories, or the information may only reach particular groups. In other words, only the most vulnerable groups may receive some support, and such aid is limited in quantity and quality. First, initiatives such as the Market Treasure Hunt, Community Fridge, and U Po Wo promote food waste reduction while supporting those in need; however, relying on excess food may not be a sustainable approach. Although food waste is a public concern in Macao (Liang et al., 2021), market vendors and shops prefer to minimize waste generation. Nevertheless, as the tourism industry is bound to fluctuate, enhancing reclaimed food programs remains relevant. Second, low-income households may prioritize affordability over variety or quality: low-income families may receive goods at prices lower than average or for free (excess production or unwanted items), but reclaimed food is often limited to perishable products (primarily vegetables and fruits of lesser quality).

澳门的社会福利政策与研究表
明结构性干预——如公共住房、职
业培训和就业支持、劳动保护和医
疗保健获取——可以为低收入家庭
带来比单纯直接食物援助更实质性
的好处 (Seo & Park, 2021; Fu等,
2023; Rai & Blane, 2024)。尽管如
此, 食物获取暴露于市场经济中。一
方面, “回收”食物的可用性取决于
以利润为导向的市场, 主要由旅游业
驱动。随着旅游业增加对所有产品
的需求, 居民和供应商还必须应对
高食品价格和进口成本。另一方面,
回收食品通常处于市场的低端, 可
能仅限于特定类别, 或者信息可能只
到达特定群体。换句话说, 只有最弱
势的群体可能获得一些支持, 而且这
种援助在数量和质量上都是有限的。
首先, 诸如“市场寻宝”、社区冰箱
和“乌婆窝”等倡议在支持有需要者
的同时促进减少食物浪费; 然而, 依
赖多余食物可能不是一种可持续的方
法。尽管食物浪费是澳门的一个公共
关注问题 (Liang等, 2021), 但市
场摊贩和商店倾向于尽量减少浪费产
生。尽管如此, 由于旅游业必然波
动, 加强回收食品计划仍然具有现实
意义。其次, 低收入家庭可能优先考
虑可负担性而非多样性或质量: 低
收入家庭可能以低于平均价格或免费
(多余产品或不需要的物品) 获得商
品, 但回收食品通常仅限于易腐产品
(主要是质量较差的蔬菜和水果)。

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In general, the case studies underline a positive social impact on the community. For example, activities such as Mother's Meal or Market Treasure Hunt provide a social network for the elderly, and the Community Fridge reaches out to foreign workers. This networking between individuals translates directly into cooperation between sectors, such as the formal collaboration between Caritas Macao and the Social Welfare Bureau, the participation of the Catholic Church in Community Fridge and Mother's Meal, and the coordination between volunteering programs from Oxfam Macao and local associations. As the scalability of a given program depends on volunteer participation, Macao's patronage system fosters a high degree of social and institutional networking between government bodies, religious organizations, educational institutions, interest groups, and private establishments. This network helps raise public awareness among potential donors and recruit new volunteers, thereby encouraging program scalability and replicability. The challenge is establishing an official framework to coordinate volunteer teams and donors, thereby optimizing the collection of reclaimed food. The successful collaboration between the Social Welfare Bureau and Caritas Macao demonstrates that it is possible.

For financial stability, food banks in Macao must secure diverse funding sources, including government support, private donations, corporate sponsorships, and community fundraising efforts. For example, partnerships with Macao's thriving casino and hospitality industries can provide stable financial backing. In fact, some hotels in Macao already support food bank-related initiatives. Additionally, public awareness and consistent engagement encourage ongoing donations and support, as building long-term relationships with local businesses can provide a more dependable funding base, ensuring continued operations.

总体而言，案例研究强调了社区产生的积极社会影响。例如，“慈母餐”或“市场寻宝”等活动为老年人提供社交网络，社区冰箱则接触到外籍工人。这种个人之间的网络直接转化为部门间的合作，例如澳门明爱与社会福利局之间的正式合作、天主教会参与社区冰箱和“慈母餐”，以及澳门乐施会与本地协会之间的志愿者计划协调。由于特定计划的可扩展性取决于志愿者参与，澳门的庇护体系促进了政府机构、宗教组织、教育机构、利益集团和私营企业之间高度社会和制度网络化。该网络有助提高潜在捐助者的公众意识并招募新志愿者，从而鼓励计划的可扩展性和可复制性。挑战在于建立一个官方框架来协调志愿者团队和捐助者，从而优化回收食品的收集。社会福利局与澳门明爱之间的成功合作表明这是可能的。

为了财务稳定，澳门的食物银行必须确保多样化的资金来源，包括政府支持、私人捐赠、企业赞助和社区筹款努力。例如，澳门蓬勃发展的赌场和酒店业的合作伙伴关系可以提供稳定的财政支持。事实上，澳门的一些酒店已经支持与食物银行相关的倡议。此外，公众意识和持续参与鼓励持续的捐赠和支持，因为与本地企业建立长期关系可以提供更可靠的资金基础，确保持续运营。

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In terms of innovation, food reclaiming activities successfully integrate three components: waste reduction, community networking, and social responsibility. Fostering this model is relevant, even in a prosperous society like Macao, because it applies to other commodities (such as clothing, furniture, toys, and electronics) and, more importantly, it offers a quick and efficient response mechanism in emergencies, as seen during the COVID-19 pandemic. Although waste reduction and food reclaiming can be perceived as market-driven decisions, they also promote wealth distribution. Furthermore, as interest groups can mobilize volunteers efficiently and rapidly, the collaboration between different associations facilitates logistics and extends capabilities. While registration is typically straightforward, some individuals may not be familiar with using smartphones, certain services are restricted to residents, and language barriers exist between stakeholders. Beneficiaries often obtain information through word of mouth, suggesting that isolated individuals may not be aware of the programs. As food banks can create more streamlined partnerships with local hotels, restaurants, and supermarkets to redirect surplus food to those in need, digital resources could allow recipients to select the specific food items they need, thereby reducing food waste and improving the promotion and efficiency of the distribution process.

Scaling up food bank programs locally includes the ability to expand capacity during economic downturns or emergencies, such as the COVID-19 pandemic. To achieve this, programs need to strengthen partnerships with local supporters and organizations, as well as increase the number of food storage and distribution points across various areas of the city. Despite Macao's unique socio-economic conditions, its approach to integrating social responsibility with environmental sustainability offers a valuable example of addressing

在创新方面，食物回收活动成功整合了三个组成部分：减少浪费、社区网络化和社会责任。即使在像澳门这样繁荣的社会中，培育这种模式也具有现实意义，因为它适用于其他商品（如服装、家具、玩具和电子产品），更重要的是，它在紧急情况下提供了快速有效的响应机制，如在COVID-19大流行期间所见。尽管减少浪费和食物回收可以被视为市场驱动的决策，但它们也促进了财富分配。此外，由于利益集团可以高效快速地动员志愿者，不同协会之间的合作促进了物流并扩展了能力。虽然注册通常很简单，但一些个人可能不熟悉使用智能手机，某些服务仅限于居民，利益相关者之间存在语言障碍。受益者通常通过口耳相传获取信息，这表明孤立的个体可能不知道这些计划。由于食物银行可以与本地酒店、餐厅和超市建立更精简的合作伙伴关系，将多余食物重新分配给有需要的人，数字资源可以让受助者选择他们需要的特定食品，从而减少食物浪费并提高分发过程的推广和效率。

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food insecurity and food waste. The collaboration between government, non-profits, businesses, and communities shows how multiple sectors can work together to tackle complex social issues, such as reducing food waste, building community networks, and ensuring access to food for vulnerable groups.

Conclusion

Although food insecurity is not a primary concern in Macao, the cost of living and market fluctuations may increase the difficulty of accessing food products. Case studies demonstrate that food access for low-income households in Macao relies on intricate networking among individuals, interest groups, organizations, and government bodies. While this model is derived from local governance practices, it is adapted to a market economy, striking a balance between environmental and social responsibility. To ensure the sustainability of food assistance programs and to prevent food insecurity, collaboration between sectors must be maintained, and volunteering should be promoted. Even modest programs facilitate social and community networking, thereby strengthening Macao's social fabric and integrating vulnerable groups into social activities, especially the elderly. Challenges remain regarding economic sustainability, food quality, and the equitable distribution of resources. Many of the programs are dependent on volunteer participation, short-term donations, and ad hoc partnerships, making long-term financial stability a critical concern for future growth.

在当地扩大食物银行计划包括在经济衰退或紧急情况（如COVID-19大流行）期间扩展能力。为了实现这一目标，计划需要加强与本地支持者和组织的合作伙伴关系，并增加城市各个区域的食物储存和分发点数量。尽管澳门具有独特的社会经济条件，但其将社会责任与环境可持续性相结合的方法为解决粮食缺乏和食物浪费问题提供了宝贵的范例。政府、非营利组织、企业和社区之间的合作展示了多个部门如何共同努力解决复杂的社会问题，例如减少食物浪费、建立社区网络并确保弱势群体获取食物。

结论

虽然粮食缺乏不是澳门的主要关切问题，但生活成本和市场波动可能增加获取食品的难度。案例研究表明，澳门低收入家庭的粮食获取依赖于个人、利益集团、组织和政府机构之间复杂的网络关系。虽然这种模式源于地方治理实践，但它适应了市场经济，在环境和社会责任之间取得了平衡。为了确保食物援助计划的可持续性并防止粮食缺乏，必须维持部门间的合作，并推广志愿服务。即使适度的计划也促进了社会和社区网络化，从而加强了澳门的社会结构并将弱势群体融入社会活动，特别是老年人。在经济可持续性、食品质量和资源公平分配方面仍然存在挑战。许多计划依赖于志愿者参与、短期捐赠和临时合作伙伴关系，这使得长期财务稳定性成为未来增长的关键问题。

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