

DISASTER RELIEF FUND

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Memorandum Note

On 1 December 1993, the Legislative Council established the Disaster Relief Fund by Resolution to provide a ready mechanism for Hong Kong to respond swiftly to international appeals for humanitarian aid in relief of disasters that occur outside Hong Kong. The Resolution provides that—

- (a) the Financial Secretary is the administrator of the Fund and he may delegate his power of administration to other public officers;
- (b) a Disaster Relief Fund Advisory Committee shall be appointed by the Chief Executive to advise the Financial Secretary on disbursements from the Fund;
- (c) the Financial Secretary shall make a single grant of cash for each purpose advised by the Disaster Relief Fund Advisory Committee;
- (d) the Financial Secretary shall obtain the consent of the Finance Committee for a grant in excess of \$8 million;
- (e) the Finance Committee may amend the limit for which the Financial Secretary is required to obtain their consent;
- (f) the Financial Secretary shall credit to the Fund—
 - (i) appropriations from the general revenue approved by the Legislative Council for the purpose of the Fund;
 - (ii) donations received for the purpose of the Fund; and
 - (iii) other sums received for the purpose of the Fund including all moneys received as interest or dividends earned on moneys invested for the Fund;
- (g) the Financial Secretary may expend moneys from the Fund for the purpose of disaster relief as may be advised by the Disaster Relief Fund Advisory Committee;
- (h) the Director of Accounting Services shall, under the authority of a funds warrant issued by the Financial Secretary, pay from the Fund such sums as may be required to meet expenditure from the Fund;
- (i) the Financial Secretary in his discretion may authorise the investment in the manner he may determine of any unexpended balance held in the Fund at any time; and
- (j) the Financial Secretary shall not transfer any moneys from the Fund to the general revenue.

2 On 10 December 1993, the Finance Committee approved an appropriation of \$50 million for the establishment of the Fund.

3 As at 31 March 2012, payments totalling about \$1,478,214,000 have been made from the Fund since its establishment.

4 As at 14 January 2013, grants totalling \$54,517,000 have been made in 2012–13. No estimate of payment is made for the remaining part of 2012–13 and 2013–14 as calls on the Fund in relief of disasters cannot be predicted.

5 Receipts for 2012–13 and 2013–14 are estimated at \$53,183,000 and \$45,046,000 respectively.

DISASTER RELIEF FUND

(Payments)

Sub-head (Code)	Actual expenditure 2011-12	Revised estimate 2012-13	Estimate 2013-14
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Head 800—Disaster Relief			
293 Relief programme for earthquake victims in Japan—grant to Government of Japan.....	1,232	—	—
294 Relief programme for earthquake victims in Taichileik District, Myanmar—grant to World Vision Hong Kong.....	2,000	—	—
295 Relief programme for flood victims in Guizhou and Hunan, Mainland—grant to The Amity Foundation, Hong Kong, Limited.....	3,408	—	—
296 Relief programme for flood victims in Hunan and Jiangxi, Mainland—grant to World Vision Hong Kong.....	4,000	—	—
297 Relief programme for flood victims in Sichuan, Mainland—grant to The Association of Chinese Evangelical Ministry Limited.....	1,400	—	—
298 Relief programme for drought victims in Ethiopia—grant to World Vision Hong Kong.....	3,000	—	—
299 Relief programme for drought victims in Kenya—grant to World Vision Hong Kong.....	3,000	—	—
300 Relief programme for drought victims in Ethiopia—grant to Oxfam Hong Kong.....	3,000	—	—
301 Relief programme for drought victims in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, Mainland—grant to The Amity Foundation, Hong Kong, Limited.....	1,380	—	—
302 Relief programme for drought victims in Guizhou, Mainland—grant to World Vision Hong Kong.....	3,000	—	—
303 Relief programme for drought victims in Guizhou, Mainland—grant to Oxfam Hong Kong.....	1,340	—	—
304 Relief programme for drought victims in Yunnan, Mainland—grant to Oxfam Hong Kong.....	2,000	—	—
305 Relief programme for typhoon victims in the Philippines—grant to World Vision Hong Kong.....	1,500	—	—
306 Relief programme for flood victims in Cambodia—grant to ADRA Limited.....	500	—	—
307 Relief programme for flood victims in Thailand—grant to World Vision Hong Kong.....	3,000	—	—
309 Relief programme for typhoon victims in the Philippines—grant to World Vision Hong Kong.....	2,000	—	—
310 Relief programme for typhoon victims in the Philippines—grant to Save the Children Hong Kong Limited.....	1,000	—	—
311 Relief programme for drought victims in Yunnan Province, Mainland—grant to Amity Foundation, Hong Kong.....	—	3,280	—
312 Relief programme for drought victims in Mali—grant to World Vision Hong Kong.....	—	3,000	—
313 Relief programme for drought victims in Niger—grant to World Vision Hong Kong.....	—	3,000	—
314 Relief programme for drought victims in Yunnan Province, Mainland—grant to World Vision Hong Kong.....	—	2,000	—

DISASTER RELIEF FUND

(Payments)

Sub-head (Code)	Actual expenditure 2011–12	Revised estimate 2012–13	Estimate 2013–14
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Head 800—Disaster Relief—Cont'd.			
315 Relief programme for drought victims in Yunnan Province, Mainland—grant to Oxfam Hong Kong.....	—	3,810	—
316 Relief programme for flood and hailstorm victims in Gansu Province, Mainland—grant to Save the Children Hong Kong Limited	—	500	—
317 Relief programme for flood victims in Hunan Province and Jiangxi Province, Mainland—grant to World Vision Hong Kong.....	—	5,000	—
318 Relief programme for flood victims in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region and Hunan Province, Mainland— grant to Amity Foundation, Hong Kong.....	—	5,040	—
319 Relief programme for typhoon victims in the Philippines— grant to World Vision Hong Kong	—	1,500	—
320 Relief programme for typhoon victims in the Philippines— grant to Save the Children Hong Kong Limited	—	1,000	—
321 Relief programme for typhoon victims in the Philippines— grant to ADRA Limited	—	1,000	—
322 Relief programme for earthquake victims in Yunnan Province, Mainland—grant to Save the Children Hong Kong Limited...	—	1,247	—
323 Relief programme for earthquake victims in Yunnan Province, Mainland—grant to Amity Foundation, Hong Kong	—	5,137	—
324 Relief programme for earthquake victims in Yunnan Province, Mainland—grant to The Salvation Army	—	4,200	—
325 Relief programme for earthquake victims in Yunnan Province, Mainland—grant to The Association of Chinese Evangelical Ministry Limited.....	—	1,133	—
326 Relief programme for earthquake victims in Yunnan Province, Mainland—grant to CEDAR Fund.....	—	2,418	—
327 Relief programme for earthquake victims in Yunnan Province, Mainland—grant to Social Workers Across Borders Limited	—	420	—
328 Relief programme for typhoon victims in the Philippines— grant to World Vision Hong Kong	—	2,500	—
329 Relief programme for typhoon victims in the Philippines— grant to ADRA Limited	—	1,200	—
330 Relief programme for typhoon victims in the Philippines— grant to The Salvation Army	—	4,632	—
331 Relief programme for typhoon victims in the Philippines— grant to Save the Children Hong Kong Limited	—	2,500	—
<i>Head 800: total</i>	36,760	54,517	—
Total (Payments).....			
	36,760	54,517	—

DISASTER RELIEF FUND

(Receipts)

	Actual receipts 2011–12	Revised estimate 2012–13	Estimate 2013–14
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Investment income	1,608	1,076	2,000
Refund of grants	6,732	107	46
Transfer from General Revenue	—	52,000	43,000
Total (Receipts).....	8,340	53,183	45,046

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Movement of the Account

	Actual				Revised Estimate	Estimate
	2008–09	2009–10	2010–11	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
Opening Balance	28	36	8	35	7	5
Revenue	5	12	4	9	1	2
Expenditure	347	99	354	37	55	—
Surplus/(Deficit) before Transfer from GRA	(342)	(87)	(350)	(28)	(54)	2
Transfer from GRA	350	59	377	—	52	43
Surplus/(Deficit) after Transfer from GRA	8	(28)	27	(28)	(2)	45
Closing Balance	36	8	35	7	5	50

Revenue Analysis

	Actual				Revised Estimate	Estimate
	2008–09	2009–10	2010–11	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
Investment Income	3	3	3	2	1	2
Refund of Grants	2	9	1	7	—	—
Total Revenue	5	12	4	9	1	2

Expenditure Analysis

	Actual				Revised Estimate	Estimate
	2008–09	2009–10	2010–11	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
Payments	347	99	354	37	55	—
Total Expenditure	347	99	354	37	55	—

Note: The 2012–13 Revised Estimate on payments reflects grants actually made as at 14 January 2013. No estimate of payment is made for the remaining part of 2012–13 and 2013–14 as calls on the Fund in relief of disasters cannot be predicted.