

# **DISASTER RELIEF FUND**

## 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 2017, payments totalling about \$1,887,738,000 have been made from the Fund since its establishment.

**4** As at 31 January 2018, grants totalling \$63,087,000 have been made in 2017–18. No estimate of payment is made for the remaining part of 2017–18 and 2018–19 as calls on the Fund in relief of disasters cannot be predicted.

**5** Receipts for 2017–18 and 2018–19 are estimated at \$52,777,000 and \$63 million respectively.

## DISASTER RELIEF FUND

### (Payments)

Sub-head (Code)	Actual expenditure 2016–17	Revised estimate 2017–18	Estimate 2018–19
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Head 800—Disaster Relief</b>			
382	Relief programme for cyclone victims in Fiji—grant to Habitat for Humanity Hong Kong Limited .....	2,636	—
383	Relief programme for earthquake victims in Ecuador—grant to Plan International Hong Kong Limited .....	824	—
384	Relief programme for earthquake victims in Ecuador—grant to World Vision Hong Kong .....	3,878	—
385	Relief programme for drought victims in India—grant to World Vision Hong Kong .....	3,877	—
386	Relief programme for cyclone victims in Sri Lanka—grant to ADRA Limited .....	1,188	—
387	Relief programme for cyclone victims in Bangladesh—grant to ADRA Limited .....	2,000	—
388	Relief programme for cyclone victims in Bangladesh—grant to Habitat for Humanity Hong Kong Limited .....	3,322	—
389	Relief programme for flood victims in Guizhou Province, Mainland—grant to Amity Foundation, Hong Kong .....	445	—
390	Relief programme for cyclone victims in Sri Lanka—grant to Save the Children Hong Kong Limited .....	2,263	—
391	Non-tangible relief programme for earthquake victims in Ecuador—grant to World Vision Hong Kong .....	1,500	—
392	Relief programme for flood victims in Guizhou and Hunan Provinces, Mainland—grant to Oxfam Hong Kong .....	1,000	—
393	Relief programme for flood victims in Hunan, Hubei and Anhui Provinces, Mainland—grant to World Vision Hong Kong .....	5,000	—
394	Relief programme for flood victims in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, Hunan Province, Anhui Province and Yunnan Province, Mainland—grant to Amity Foundation, Hong Kong .....	6,309	—
395	Relief programme for flood victims in Hubei Province, Mainland—grant to Save the Children Hong Kong Limited...	4,006	—
396	Relief programme for flood victims in Assam, India—grant to Oxfam Hong Kong .....	3,490	—
397	Relief programme for flood victims in Bihar, India—grant to Hong Kong Red Cross .....	1,346	—
398	Relief programme for flood victims in Assam and Bihar, India—grant to Save the Children Hong Kong Limited .....	2,289	—
399	Relief programme for hurricane victims in Haiti—grant to World Vision Hong Kong .....	6,000	—
400	Relief programme for hurricane victims in Haiti—grant to Plan International Hong Kong Limited .....	521	—
401	Relief programme for flood victims in Vietnam—grant to Habitat for Humanity Hong Kong Limited .....	2,550	—
402	Relief programme for drought victims in Somalia—grant to World Vision Hong Kong .....	—	4,934
403	Relief programme for drought victims in Ethiopia—grant to Oxfam Hong Kong .....	—	7,488

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### (Payments)

Sub-head (Code)	Actual expenditure 2016–17	Revised estimate 2017–18	Estimate 2018–19				
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000				
<b>Head 800—Disaster Relief—Cont'd.</b>							
404							
Relief programme for drought victims in Ethiopia—grant to Amity Foundation, Hong Kong .....	—	4,640	—				
405							
Relief programme for cyclone victims in Bangladesh—grant to ADRA Limited .....	—	1,909	—				
406							
Relief programme for flood victims in Sri Lanka—grant to Save the Children Hong Kong Limited .....	—	4,440	—				
407							
Relief programme for flood victims in Sri Lanka—grant to ADRA Limited .....	—	1,128	—				
408							
Relief programme for flood victims in Sri Lanka—grant to World Vision Hong Kong .....	—	3,471	—				
409							
Relief programme for flood victims in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, Mainland—grant to Amity Foundation, Hong Kong .....	—	434	—				
410							
Relief programme for flood victims in Assam and Manipur, India—grant to Oxfam Hong Kong .....	—	3,915	—				
411							
Relief programme for flood victims in Sri Lanka—grant to Amity Foundation, Hong Kong .....	—	747	—				
412							
Relief programme for drought victims in Ethiopia—grant to Plan International Hong Kong Limited .....	—	1,523	—				
413							
Relief programme for flood victims in Gansu Province, Mainland—grant to Oxfam Hong Kong .....	—	450	—				
414							
Relief programme for flood victims in Hunan Province and Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, Mainland—grant to Amity Foundation, Hong Kong .....	—	5,706	—				
415							
Relief programme for flood victims in Hunan Province, Mainland—grant to World Vision Hong Kong .....	—	3,520	—				
416							
Relief programme for flood victims in Hunan Province, Mainland—grant to Oxfam Hong Kong .....	—	700	—				
417							
Relief programme for flood victims in Assam, India—grant to Plan International Hong Kong Limited .....	—	1,463	—				
418							
Relief programme for flood victims in Shaanxi Province, Mainland—grant to Plan International Hong Kong Limited .....	—	959	—				
419							
Relief programme for flood victims in Bihar, India—grant to World Vision Hong Kong .....	—	3,128	—				
420							
Relief programme for flood victims in Bihar, India—grant to CEDAR Fund .....	—	2,883	—				
421							
Relief programme for flood victims in Nepal—grant to Habitat for Humanity Hong Kong Limited .....	—	3,599	—				
422							
Relief programme for flood victims in Bangladesh—grant to Hong Kong Red Cross .....	—	2,674	—				
423							
Relief programme for flood victims in Assam, India—grant to Habitat for Humanity Hong Kong Limited .....	—	3,376	—				
<i>Head 800: total</i> .....	54,444	63,087	—				
<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 60%;"><b>Total (Payments)</b> .....</td> <td style="text-align: center; border-top: 3px double black;">54,444</td> <td style="text-align: center; border-top: 3px double black;">63,087</td> <td style="text-align: center; border-top: 3px double black;">—</td> </tr> </table>				<b>Total (Payments)</b> .....	54,444	63,087	—
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**(Receipts)**

	Actual receipts 2016-17	Revised estimate 2017-18	<b>Estimate 2018-19</b>
	\$'000	\$'000	<b>\$'000</b>
<b>Investment income</b> .....	1,314	1,026	<b>3,000</b>
<b>Refund of grants</b> .....	2,334	1,751	—
<b>Transfer from General Revenue</b> .....	64,000	50,000	<b>60,000</b>
<b>Total (Receipts)</b> .....	<u>67,648</u>	<u>52,777</u>	<u><b>63,000</b></u>

## DISASTER RELIEF FUND

### Movement of the Account

	Actual				Revised Estimate	Estimate
	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
Opening Balance	6	31	15	14	28	17
Revenue	3	2	1	4	2	3
Expenditure	171	47	82	54	63	—
Surplus/(Deficit) before Transfer from GRA	(168)	(45)	(81)	(50)	(61)	3
Transfer from GRA	193	29	80	64	50	60
Surplus/(Deficit) after Transfer from GRA	25	(16)	(1)	14	(11)	63
Closing Balance	31	15	14	28	17	80

### Revenue Analysis

	Actual				Revised Estimate	Estimate
	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
Investment Income	1	—*	—*	1	1	3
Refund of Grants	2	2	1	3	1	—
Donations	—#	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Total Revenue</b>	3	2	1	4	2	3

# Figures less than \$1 million are not reflected here.

\* The investment incomes for 2014-15 and 2015-16 on the balance of the Disaster Relief Fund placed with the Exchange Fund are \$1,059,000 and \$1,260,000 respectively. These, along with the investment income on other parts of the fiscal reserves, have been set aside and retained within the Exchange Fund for the Housing Reserve.

## DISASTER RELIEF FUND

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### Expenditure Analysis

	Actual				Revised Estimate	Estimate
	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
Payments	171	47	82	54	63	—
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	171	47	82	54	63	—

*Note:* The 2017-18 Revised Estimate on payments reflects grants made as at 31 January 2018. No estimate of payment is made for the remaining part of 2017-18 and 2018-19 as calls on the Fund in relief of disasters cannot be predicted.