

# **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 2019, payments totalling about \$2,017,601,000 have been made from the Fund since its establishment.

**4** As at 31 January 2020, grants totalling \$64,497,000 have been made in 2019–20. No estimate of payment is made for the remaining part of 2019–20 and 2020–21 as calls on the Fund in relief of disasters cannot be predicted.

**5** Receipts for 2019–20 and 2020–21 are estimated at \$77,996,000 and \$62 million respectively.

## DISASTER RELIEF FUND

### (Payments)

Sub-head (Code)	Actual expenditure 2018–19	Revised estimate 2019–20	Estimate 2020–21
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Head 800—Disaster Relief</b>			
425	Relief programme for earthquake victims in Papua New Guinea—grant to ADRA Limited .....	3,207	—
426	Relief programme for flood victims in Kenya—grant to World Vision Hong Kong.....	6,217	—
427	Relief programme for flood victims in Sichuan Province, Mainland—grant to Amity Foundation, Hong Kong .....	536	—
428	Relief programme for flood victims in Gansu Province, Mainland—grant to Oxfam Hong Kong.....	655	—
429	Relief programme for flood victims in Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, Sichuan, Shaanxi and Gansu Provinces in Mainland—grant to Amity Foundation, Hong Kong.....	5,824	—
430	Relief programme for typhoon victims in Shandong Province, Mainland—grant to Amity Foundation, Hong Kong .....	537	—
431	Relief programme for earthquake victims in Indonesia—grant to Plan International Hong Kong Limited .....	2,916	—
432	Relief programme for earthquake victims in Indonesia—grant to ADRA Limited.....	1,559	—
433	Relief programme for earthquake victims in Indonesia—grant to World Vision Hong Kong .....	3,925	—
434	Relief programme for earthquake victims in Indonesia—grant to Hong Kong Red Cross.....	2,019	—
435	Relief programme for flood victims in Kerala, India—grant to World Vision Hong Kong .....	6,508	—
436	Relief programme for flood victims in Kerala, India—grant to Oxfam Hong Kong .....	5,600	—
437	Relief programme for flood victims in Kerala, India—grant to CEDAR Fund .....	3,613	—
438	Relief programme for typhoon victims in the Philippines—grant to Amity Foundation, Hong Kong.....	548	—
439	Relief programme for flood victims in Kerala, India—grant to Save the Children Hong Kong Limited .....	1,786	—
440	Relief programme for flood victims in Kerala, India—grant to Plan International Hong Kong Limited .....	2,555	—
441	Relief programme for flood victims in Kerala, India—grant to Habitat for Humanity Hong Kong Limited .....	3,924	—
442	Relief programme for typhoon victims in the Philippines—grant to World Vision Hong Kong .....	3,602	—
443	Relief programme for typhoon victims in the Philippines—grant to ADRA Limited.....	1,249	—
444	Relief programme for earthquake and tsunami victims in Indonesia—grant to World Vision Hong Kong .....	5,800	—
445	Relief programme for earthquake and tsunami victims in Indonesia—grant to Save the Children Hong Kong Limited ..	3,000	—
446	Relief programme for cyclone victims in Malawi—grant to Oxfam Hong Kong .....	—	5,289

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### (Payments)

Sub-head (Code)	Actual expenditure 2018–19	Revised estimate 2019–20	Estimate 2020–21
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Head 800—Disaster Relief—Cont'd.</b>			
447			
Relief programme for cyclone victims in Mozambique—grant to World Vision Hong Kong .....	—	5,080	—
448			
Relief programme for cyclone victims in Mozambique—grant to Oxfam Hong Kong .....	—	6,654	—
449			
Relief programme for cyclone victims in Odisha, India—grant to World Vision Hong Kong .....	—	5,474	—
450			
Relief programme for cyclone victims in Odisha, India—grant to ADRA Limited.....	—	1,495	—
451			
Relief programme for cyclone victims in Odisha, India—grant to Save the Children Hong Kong Limited .....	—	2,518	—
452			
Relief programme for cyclone victims in Odisha, India—grant to Plan International Hong Kong Limited .....	—	3,019	—
453			
Relief programme for flood victims in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region and Jiangxi Province, Mainland—grant to Amity Foundation, Hong Kong.....	—	4,542	—
454			
Relief programme for cyclone victims in Odisha, India—grant to Habitat for Humanity Hong Kong Limited .....	—	4,477	—
455			
Relief programme for flood victims in Nepal—grant to Amity Foundation, Hong Kong .....	—	3,009	—
456			
Relief programme for flood victims in Maharashtra, India—grant to CEDAR Fund.....	—	4,810	—
457			
Relief programme for flood victims in Nepal—grant to ADRA Limited .....	—	1,606	—
458			
Relief programme for flood victims in Bangladesh—grant to Hong Kong Red Cross.....	—	1,636	—
459			
Relief programme for flood victims in Bihar, India—grant to CEDAR Fund .....	—	5,281	—
460			
Relief programme for flood victims in Bihar, India—grant to Habitat for Humanity Hong Kong Limited .....	—	5,108	—
461			
Relief programme for flood victims in Bihar, India—grant to Plan International Hong Kong Limited .....	—	4,499	—
<i>Head 800: total</i> .....	65,580	64,497	—
<b>Total (Payments)</b> .....	65,580	64,497	—

**DISASTER RELIEF FUND**

**(Receipts)**

	Actual receipts 2018–19	Revised estimate 2019–20	<b>Estimate 2020–21</b>
	\$'000	\$'000	<b>\$'000</b>
<b>Investment income</b> .....	1,988	1,523	<b>3,000</b>
<b>Refund of grants</b> .....	1,298	2,473	—
<b>Transfer from General Revenue</b> .....	70,000	74,000	<b>59,000</b>
<b>Total (Receipts)</b> .....	<u>73,286</u>	<u>77,996</u>	<u><b>62,000</b></u>

## DISASTER RELIEF FUND

### Movement of the Account

	Actual				Revised Estimate	Estimate
	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
Opening Balance	15	14	28	16	24	38
Revenue	1	4	3	3	4	3
Expenditure	82	54	65	65	64	—
Surplus/(Deficit) before Transfer from GRA	(81)	(50)	(62)	(62)	(60)	3
Transfer from GRA	80	64	50	70	74	59
Surplus/(Deficit) after Transfer from GRA	(1)	14	(12)	8	14	62
Closing Balance	14	28	16	24	38	100

### Revenue Analysis

	Actual				Revised Estimate	Estimate
	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
Investment Income	—*	1	1	2	2	3
Refund of Grants	1	3	2	1	2	—
<b>Total Revenue</b>	1	4	3	3	4	3

\* The investment income for 2015-16 on the balance of the Disaster Relief Fund placed with the Exchange Fund is \$1,260,000. This, along with the investment income on other parts of the fiscal reserves, has been set aside and retained within the Exchange Fund for the Housing Reserve.

## DISASTER RELIEF FUND

### Expenditure Analysis

	Actual				Revised Estimate	Estimate
	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
Payments	82	54	65	65	64	—
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	82	54	65	65	64	—

*Note:* The 2019-20 Revised Estimate on payments reflects grants made as at 31 January 2020. No estimate of payment is made for the remaining part of 2019-20 and 2020-21 as calls on the Fund in relief of disasters cannot be predicted.