

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 2020, payments totalling about \$2,084,384,000 have been made from the Fund since its establishment.

4 As at 31 January 2021, grants totalling \$72,474,000 have been made in 2020–21. No estimate of payment is made for the remaining part of 2020–21 and 2021–22 as calls on the Fund in relief of disasters cannot be predicted.

5 Receipts for 2020–21 and 2021–22 are estimated at \$62,740,000 and \$73 million respectively.

DISASTER RELIEF FUND

(Payments)

Sub-head (Code)	Actual expenditure 2019–20	Revised estimate 2020–21	Estimate 2021–22
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Head 800—Disaster Relief			
446	Relief programme for cyclone victims in Malawi—grant to Oxfam Hong Kong	5,289	—
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	—
462	Relief programme for typhoon victims in the Philippines—grant to ADRA Limited	764	—
463	Relief programme for typhoon victims in the Philippines—grant to Oxfam Hong Kong	1,522	—
464	Relief programme for flood victims in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, Mainland—grant to Amity Foundation, Hong Kong	—	550
465	Relief programme for flood victims in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, Mainland—grant to Oxfam Hong Kong	—	550
466	Relief programme for cyclone victims in India—grant to Oxfam Hong Kong	—	6,400
467	Relief programme for cyclone victims in India—grant to ADRA Limited	—	1,897

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(Payments)

Sub-head (Code)	Actual expenditure 2019–20	Revised estimate 2020–21	Estimate 2021–22
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Head 800—Disaster Relief—Cont'd.			
468			
Relief programme for cyclone victims in India—grant to Plan International Hong Kong Limited	—	3,817	—
469			
Relief programme for cyclone victims in Bangladesh—grant to ADRA Limited	—	1,955	—
470			
Relief programme for cyclone victims in Bangladesh—grant to Plan International Hong Kong Limited	—	1,902	—
471			
Relief programme for cyclone victims in Bangladesh—grant to Oxfam Hong Kong	—	5,417	—
472			
Relief programme for cyclone victims in India—grant to Habitat for Humanity Hong Kong Limited	—	5,099	—
473			
Relief programme for cyclone victims in India—grant to Save the Children Hong Kong Limited	—	4,520	—
474			
Relief programme for cyclone victims in India—grant to World Vision Hong Kong	—	3,860	—
475			
Relief programme for flood victims in the Mainland—grant to Amity Foundation, Hong Kong	—	5,798	—
476			
Relief programme for flood victims in the Mainland—grant to World Vision Hong Kong	—	4,158	—
477			
Relief programme for flood victims in Jiangxi Province, Mainland—grant to Amity Foundation, Hong Kong	—	1,651	—
478			
Relief programme for flood victims in Bangladesh—grant to World Vision Hong Kong	—	2,972	—
479			
Relief programme for flood victims in Bangladesh—grant to Habitat for Humanity Hong Kong Limited	—	3,855	—
480			
Relief programme for flood victims in Bangladesh—grant to Hong Kong Red Cross	—	2,218	—
481			
Relief programme for typhoon victims in the Philippines—grant to Amity Foundation, Hong Kong	—	525	—
482			
Relief programme for flood victims in Vietnam—grant to Plan International Hong Kong Limited	—	1,938	—
483			
Relief programme for flood victims in Vietnam—grant to World Vision Hong Kong	—	3,692	—
484			
Relief programme for typhoon victims in the Philippines—grant to Oxfam Hong Kong	—	2,614	—
485			
Relief programme for typhoon victims in the Philippines—grant to Plan International Hong Kong Limited	—	1,951	—
486			
Relief programme for typhoon victims in the Philippines—grant to Hong Kong Red Cross	—	1,825	—
487			
Relief programme for typhoon victims in the Philippines—grant to Save the Children Hong Kong Limited	—	3,310	—
	<u>66,783</u>	<u>72,474</u>	<u>—</u>
<i>Head 800: total</i>			
	<u>66,783</u>	<u>72,474</u>	<u>—</u>
Total (Payments)	<u><u>66,783</u></u>	<u><u>72,474</u></u>	<u><u>—</u></u>

DISASTER RELIEF FUND

(Receipts)

	Actual receipts 2019–20	Revised estimate 2020–21	Estimate 2021–22
	————— \$'000	————— \$'000	————— \$'000
Investment income	1,523	2,176	5,000[^]
Refund of grants.....	3,468	1,564	—
Transfer from General Revenue.....	74,000	59,000	68,000
Total (Receipts).....	<u>78,991</u>	<u>62,740</u>	<u>73,000</u>

[^] The amount has included the investment income brought back from the Housing Reserve.

DISASTER RELIEF FUND

Movement of the Account

	Actual				Revised Estimate	Estimate
	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
Opening Balance	14	28	16	24	36	27
Revenue	4	3	3	5	4	5
Expenditure	54	65	65	67	72	—
Surplus/(Deficit) before Transfer from GRA	(50)	(62)	(62)	(62)	(68)	5
Transfer from GRA	64	50	70	74	59	68
Surplus/(Deficit) after Transfer from GRA	14	(12)	8	12	(9)	73
Closing Balance	28	16	24	36	27	100

Revenue Analysis

	Actual				Revised Estimate	Estimate
	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
Investment Income	1	1	2	2	2	5 [^]
Refund of Grants	3	2	1	3	2	—
Total Revenue	4	3	3	5	4	5

[^] The amount has included the investment income brought back from the Housing Reserve.

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Expenditure Analysis

	Actual				Revised Estimate	Estimate
	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
Payments	54	65	65	67	72	—
Total Expenditure	54	65	65	67	72	—

Note: The 2020-21 Revised Estimate on payments reflects grants made as at 31 January 2021. No estimate of payment is made for the remaining part of 2020-21 and 2021-22 as calls on the Fund in relief of disasters cannot be predicted.