

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 2021, payments totalling about \$2,156,858,000 have been made from the Fund since its establishment.

4 As at 31 January 2022, grants totalling \$17,292,000 have been made in 2021–22. It is estimated that \$11,927,000 will be paid in the remaining part of 2021–22 mainly to cater for requirements arising from relief programmes for typhoon victims in the Philippines. No estimate of payment is made for 2022–23 as calls on the Fund in relief of disasters cannot be predicted.

5 Receipts for 2021–22 and 2022–23 are estimated at \$73,511,000 and \$28 million respectively.

DISASTER RELIEF FUND
(Payments)

Sub-head (Code)	Actual expenditure 2020–21	Revised estimate 2021–22	Estimate 2022–23
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Head 800—Disaster Relief			
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	—	—
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	—	—

DISASTER RELIEF FUND
(Payments)

Sub-head (Code)	Actual expenditure 2020–21	Revised estimate 2021–22	Estimate 2022–23
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Head 800—Disaster Relief—<i>Cont'd.</i>			
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	—	—
488 Relief programme for flood victims in Henan Province, Mainland—grant to Plan International Hong Kong Limited...	—	550	—
489 Relief programme for flood victims in Henan Province, Mainland—grant to Amity Foundation, Hong Kong	—	7,969	—
490 Relief programme for earthquake victims in Haiti—grant to World Vision Hong Kong	—	4,347	—
491 Relief programme for typhoon victims in the Philippines— grant to Amity Foundation, Hong Kong.....	—	540	—
492 Relief programme for typhoon victims in the Philippines— grant to World Vision Hong Kong	—	3,886	—
Additional Commitments*	—	11,927	—
<i>Head 800: total</i>	72,474	29,219	—
Total (Payments).....	72,474	29,219	—

* Mainly to cater for requirements arising from relief programmes for typhoon victims in the Philippines.

DISASTER RELIEF FUND
(Receipts)

	Actual receipts 2020–21	Revised estimate 2021–22	Estimate 2022–23
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Investment income	2,176	4,490 [^]	7,000[^]
Refund of grants.....	2,447	1,021	—
Transfer from General Revenue	59,000	68,000	21,000
Total (Receipts).....	63,623	73,511	28,000

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

DISASTER RELIEF FUND

Movement of the Account

	Actual				Revised Estimate	Estimate
	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
Opening Balance	28	16	24	36	27	72
Revenue	3	3	5	4	6	7
Expenditure	65	65	67	72	29	—
Surplus/(Deficit) before Transfer from GRA	(62)	(62)	(62)	(68)	(23)	7
Transfer from GRA	50	70	74	59	68	21
Surplus/(Deficit) after Transfer from GRA	(12)	8	12	(9)	45	28
Closing Balance	16	24	36	27	72	100

Revenue Analysis

	Actual				Revised Estimate	Estimate
	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
Investment Income	1	2	2	2	5 [^]	7 [^]
Refund of Grants	2	1	3	2	1	—
Total Revenue	3	3	5	4	6	7

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

DISASTER RELIEF FUND

Expenditure Analysis

	Actual				Revised Estimate	Estimate
	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
Payments	65	65	67	72	29	—
Total Expenditure	65	65	67	72	29	—

Note: The 2021–22 Revised Estimate on payments reflects grants of \$17 million made as at 31 January 2022 plus additional commitments of \$12 million mainly to cater for requirements arising from relief programmes for typhoon victims in the Philippines. No estimate of payment is made for 2022–23 as calls on the Fund in relief of disasters cannot be predicted.