

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 2022, payments totalling about \$2,186,067,000 have been made from the Fund since its establishment.

4 As at 31 January 2023, grants totalling \$56,248,000 have been made in 2022–23. No estimate of payment is made for the remaining part of 2022–23 and 2023–24 as calls on the Fund in relief of disasters cannot be predicted.

5 Receipts for 2022–23 and 2023–24 are estimated at \$28,540,000 and \$56 million respectively.

**DISASTER RELIEF FUND
(Payments)**

Sub-head (Code)	Actual expenditure 2021–22	Revised estimate 2022–23	Estimate 2023–24
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Head 800—Disaster Relief			
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	—	—
493			
Relief programme for drought victims in Kenya—grant to Plan International Hong Kong Limited	2,210	—	—
494			
Relief programme for typhoon victims in the Philippines— grant to Save the Children Hong Kong Limited.....	3,000	—	—
495			
Relief programme for typhoon victims in the Philippines— grant to Plan International Hong Kong Limited	4,304	—	—
496			
Relief programme for typhoon victims in the Philippines— grant to ADRA Limited.....	2,403	—	—
497			
Relief programme for typhoon victims in the Philippines— grant to Habitat for Humanity Hong Kong Limited	—	1,349	—
498			
Relief programme for flood victims in Assam State, India— grant to Save the Children Hong Kong Limited.....	—	3,840	—
499			
Relief programme for flood victims in Assam State, India— grant to World Vision Hong Kong	—	3,972	—
500			
Relief programme for flood victims in Assam State, India— grant to Plan International Hong Kong Limited.....	—	4,065	—
501			
Relief programme for flood victims in the Mainland—grant to Oxfam Hong Kong	—	1,688	—
502			
Relief programme for flood victims in the Mainland—grant to World Vision Hong Kong	—	2,711	—
503			
Relief programme for flood victims in the Mainland—grant to Amity Foundation, Hong Kong.....	—	2,711	—
504			
Relief programme for flood victims in Bangladesh—grant to Habitat for Humanity Hong Kong Limited	—	4,200	—
505			
Relief programme for flood victims in Bangladesh—grant to Oxfam Hong Kong	—	4,299	—
506			
Relief programme for flood victims in Bangladesh—grant to World Vision Hong Kong	—	3,925	—
507			
Relief programme for flood victims in Bangladesh—grant to Save the Children Hong Kong Limited	—	3,925	—
508			
Relief programme for flood victims in Bangladesh—grant to Plan International Hong Kong Limited	—	1,006	—
509			
Relief programme for flood victims in Bangladesh—grant to Hong Kong Red Cross.....	—	4,382	—
510			
Relief programme for flood victims in Pakistan—grant to Amity Foundation, Hong Kong.....	—	6,245	—

**DISASTER RELIEF FUND
(Payments)**

Sub-head (Code)	Actual expenditure 2021–22	Revised estimate 2022–23	Estimate 2023–24	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	
Head 800—Disaster Relief—Cont'd.				
511	Relief programme for flood victims in Pakistan—grant to Save the Children Hong Kong Limited	—	3,930	—
512	Relief programme for typhoon victims in the Philippines— grant to Plan International Hong Kong Limited	—	4,000	—
	<i>Head 800: total</i>	29,209	56,248	—
Total (Payments)		<u>29,209</u>	<u>56,248</u>	<u>—</u>

**DISASTER RELIEF FUND
(Receipts)**

	Actual receipts 2021–22	Revised estimate 2022–23	Estimate 2023–24
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Investment income	4,490 [^]	6,298 [^]	3,000
Refund of grants	1,021	1,242	—
Transfer from General Revenue	68,000	21,000	53,000
Total (Receipts)	<u>73,511</u>	<u>28,540</u>	<u>56,000</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
	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
Opening Balance	16	24	36	27	72	44
Revenue	3	5	4	6	7	3
Expenditure	65	67	72	29	56	—
Surplus/(Deficit) before Transfer from GRA	(62)	(62)	(68)	(23)	(49)	3
Transfer from GRA	70	74	59	68	21	53
Surplus/(Deficit) after Transfer from GRA	8	12	(9)	45	(28)	56
Closing Balance	24	36	27	72	44	100

Revenue Analysis

	Actual				Revised Estimate	Estimate
	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
Investment Income	2	2	2	5 [^]	6 [^]	3
Refund of Grants	1	3	2	1	1	—
Total Revenue	3	5	4	6	7	3

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

DISASTER RELIEF FUND

Expenditure Analysis

	Actual				Revised Estimate	Estimate
	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
Payments	65	67	72	29	56	—
Total Expenditure	65	67	72	29	56	—

Note: The 2022–23 Revised Estimate on payments reflects grants made as at 31 January 2023. No estimate of payment is made for the remaining part of 2022–23 and 2023–24 as calls on the Fund in relief of disasters cannot be predicted.