

DISASTER RELIEF FUND

DISASTER RELIEF FUND

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 2023, payments totalling about \$2,249,762,000 had been made from the Fund since its establishment.

4 As at 31 January 2024, grants totalling \$100,182,000 have been made in 2023–24. It is estimated that \$64,405,000 will be paid in the remaining part of 2023–24 mainly to cater for requirements arising from relief programmes for flood and earthquake victims in the Mainland. No estimate of payment is made for 2024–25 as calls on the Fund in relief of disasters cannot be predicted.

5 Receipts for 2023–24 and 2024–25 are estimated at \$136,202,000 and \$191 million respectively.

**DISASTER RELIEF FUND
(Payments)**

Sub-head (Code)	Actual expenditure 2022–23	Revised estimate 2023–24	Estimate 2024–25
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Head 800—Disaster Relief			
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	—
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	—
513	Relief programme for earthquake victims in Indonesia—grant to Habitat for Humanity Hong Kong Limited	1,210	—
514	Relief programme for earthquake victims in Indonesia—grant to World Vision Hong Kong	1,497	—
515	Relief programme for earthquake victims in Syria—grant to World Vision Hong Kong	4,740	—
516	Relief programme for earthquake victims in Türkiye—grant to Save the Children Hong Kong Limited	—	5,032
517	Relief programme for cyclone victims in Malawi—grant to World Vision Hong Kong	—	4,399
518	Relief programme for cyclone victims in Malawi—grant to Plan International Hong Kong Limited	—	3,005
519	Relief programme for cyclone victims in Malawi—grant to Oxfam Hong Kong	—	2,360

**DISASTER RELIEF FUND
(Payments)**

Sub-head (Code)	Actual expenditure 2022–23	Revised estimate 2023–24	Estimate 2024–25
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Head 800—Disaster Relief—Cont'd.			
520			
Relief programme for cyclone victims in Myanmar—grant to Plan International Hong Kong Limited	—	2,947	—
521			
Relief programme for typhoon victims in the Philippines— grant to Amity Foundation, Hong Kong.....	—	544	—
522			
Relief programme for flood victims in the Mainland—grant to Plan International Hong Kong Limited	—	3,300	—
523			
Relief programme for flood victims in the Mainland—grant to Amity Foundation, Hong Kong.....	—	8,000	—
524			
Relief programme for flood victims in the Mainland—grant to The HKFTU Disasters Relief Charity Fund.....	—	5,000	—
525			
Relief programme for typhoon victims in the Philippines— grant to Oxfam Hong Kong.....	—	4,126	—
526			
Relief programme for flood victims in India—grant to Plan International Hong Kong Limited	—	4,692	—
527			
Relief programme for flood victims in the Mainland—grant to World Vision Hong Kong	—	6,079	—
528			
Relief programme for flood victims in the Mainland—grant to Oxfam Hong Kong	—	4,790	—
529			
Relief programme for flood victims in the Mainland—grant to The Hong Kong Island Social Services Charitable Foundation Limited.....	—	8,000	—
530			
Relief programme for flood victims in the Mainland—grant to Federation Of Hong Kong Beijing Organisations Limited.....	—	8,000	—
531			
Relief programme for flood victims in the Mainland—grant to Hong Kong CPPCC (Provincial) Members Association Foundation Limited.....	—	7,948	—
532			
Relief programme for flood victims in the Mainland—grant to H.K. United Youth Exchange Foundation Limited.....	—	3,391	—
533			
Relief programme for flood victims in the Mainland—grant to Hua Jing Youth Foundation Limited.....	—	4,103	—
534			
Relief programme for earthquake victims in Afghanistan— grant to World Vision Hong Kong	—	5,474	—
535			
Relief programme for earthquake victims in Gansu Province, Mainland—grant to Plan International Hong Kong Limited...	—	550	—
536			
Relief programme for flood victims in the Mainland—grant to All-China Women's Federation Hong Kong Delegates Association Foundation Limited	—	8,000	—
537			
Relief programme for flood victims in the Mainland—grant to Social Workers Across Borders Limited	—	442	—
Additional Commitments*	—	64,405	—
<i>Head 800: total</i>	63,695	164,587	—
Total (Payments)	<u>63,695</u>	<u>164,587</u>	<u>—</u>

* Mainly to cater for requirements arising from relief programmes for flood and earthquake victims in the Mainland.

**DISASTER RELIEF FUND
(Receipts)**

	Actual receipts 2022–23	Revised estimate 2023–24	Estimate 2024–25
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Investment income	6,298 [^]	2,794	6,000
Refund of grants	1,691	408	—
Transfer from General Revenue	21,000	133,000	185,000
Total (Receipts)	28,989	136,202	191,000

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

DISASTER RELIEF FUND

Movement of the Account

	Actual				Revised Estimate	Estimate
	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
Opening Balance	24	36	27	72	37	9
Revenue	5	4	6	8	3	6
Expenditure	67	72	29	64	164	—
Surplus/(Deficit) before Transfer from GRA	(62)	(68)	(23)	(56)	(161)	6
Transfer from GRA	74	59	68	21	133	185
Surplus/(Deficit) after Transfer from GRA	12	(9)	45	(35)	(28)	191
Closing Balance	36	27	72	37	9	200

Revenue Analysis

	Actual				Revised Estimate	Estimate
	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
Investment Income	2	2	5 [^]	6 [^]	3	6
Refund of Grants	3	2	1	2	— [#]	—
Total Revenue	5	4	6	8	3	6

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

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

DISASTER RELIEF FUND

Expenditure Analysis

	Actual				Revised Estimate	Estimate
	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
Payments	67	72	29	64	164	—
Total Expenditure	67	72	29	64	164	—

Note: The 2023–24 Revised Estimate on payments reflects grants of \$100 million made as at 31 January 2024 plus additional commitments of \$64 million mainly to cater for requirements arising from relief programmes for flood and earthquake victims in the Mainland. No estimate of payment is made for 2024–25 as calls on the Fund in relief of disasters cannot be predicted.