

# **DISASTER RELIEF FUND**

## 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 2025, payments totalling about \$2,473,602,000 had been made from the Fund since its establishment.

**4** As at 31 January 2026, grants totalling \$69,952,000 have been made in 2025–26. It is estimated that \$10,848,000 will be paid in the remaining part of 2025–26 to cater for possible grant of funds in respect of applications under processing. Estimate of payment is not made for 2026–27 as calls on the Fund in relief of disasters cannot be predicted.

**5** Receipts for 2025–26 and 2026–27 are estimated at \$81,896,000 and \$72 million respectively.

**DISASTER RELIEF FUND  
(Payments)**

Sub-head (Code)	Actual expenditure 2024–25	Revised estimate 2025–26	Estimate 2026–27
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Head 800—Disaster Relief</b>			
547	Relief programme for flood victims in the Mainland—grant to Amazing Foundation Limited.....	7,993	—
548	Relief programme for earthquake victims in Nepal—grant to Hong Kong Red Cross.....	1,672	—
549	Relief programme for earthquake victims in the Mainland—grant to Hong Kong Federation of Overseas Chinese Associations Charitable Foundation Limited .....	5,099	—
550	Relief programme for earthquake victims in the Mainland—grant to H.K. United Youth Exchange Foundation Limited .....	1,008	—
551	Relief programme for flood victims in Brazil—grant to World Vision Hong Kong.....	3,905	—
552	Relief programme for flood victims in the Mainland—grant to Oxfam Hong Kong .....	7,870	—
553	Relief programme for flood victims in Kenya—grant to World Vision Hong Kong.....	2,547	—
554	Relief programme for flood victims in Kenya—grant to Hong Kong Red Cross .....	1,831	—
555	Relief programme for flood victims in the Mainland—grant to Plan International Hong Kong Limited .....	4,679	—
556	Relief programme for flood victims in the Mainland—grant to Amity Foundation, Hong Kong.....	8,000	—
557	Relief programme for flood victims in the Mainland—grant to World Vision Hong Kong .....	3,588	—
558	Relief programme for cyclone victims in Bangladesh—grant to Plan International Hong Kong Limited .....	4,203	—
559	Relief programme for cyclone victims in Bangladesh—grant to World Vision Hong Kong .....	3,916	—
560	Relief programme for cyclone victims in Bangladesh—grant to Oxfam Hong Kong .....	5,133	—
561	Relief programme for flood victims in Myanmar—grant to World Vision Hong Kong .....	3,881	—
562	Relief programme for flood victims in Myanmar—grant to Hong Kong Red Cross.....	1,626	—
563	Relief programme for typhoon victims in Vietnam—grant to Oxfam Hong Kong .....	2,327	—
564	Relief programme for typhoon victims in Vietnam—grant to Save the Children Hong Kong Limited .....	2,697	—
565	Relief programme for typhoon victims in Vietnam—grant to Plan International Hong Kong Limited .....	1,537	—
566	Relief programme for typhoon victims in Vietnam—grant to World Vision Hong Kong .....	1,591	—
567	Relief programme for flood victims in Nepal—grant to Plan International Hong Kong Limited .....	3,495	—
568	Relief programme for flood victims in Nepal—grant to Save the Children Hong Kong Limited.....	2,812	—

**DISASTER RELIEF FUND  
(Payments)**

Sub-head (Code)	Actual expenditure 2024-25	Revised estimate 2025-26	Estimate 2026-27
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Head 800—Disaster Relief—Cont'd.</b>			
569	Relief programme for flood victims in Nepal—grant to Oxfam Hong Kong.....	3,579	—
570	Relief programme for earthquake victims in Myanmar—grant to World Vision Hong Kong .....	—	4,768
571	Relief programme for earthquake victims in Myanmar—grant to Oxfam Hong Kong .....	—	4,992
572	Relief programme for earthquake victims in Myanmar—grant to Plan International Hong Kong Limited .....	—	4,200
573	Relief programme for earthquake victims in Myanmar—grant to Save the Children Hong Kong Limited .....	—	4,185
574	Relief programme for earthquake victims in Myanmar—grant to Social Workers Across Borders Limited .....	—	1,997
575	Relief programme for earthquake victims in Myanmar—grant to Amity Foundation, Hong Kong.....	—	4,843
576	Relief programme for earthquake victims in Myanmar—grant to Hong Kong Red Cross.....	—	5,000
577	Relief programme for earthquake victims in Afghanistan—grant to Save the Children Hong Kong Limited.....	—	3,536
578	Relief programme for earthquake victims in Afghanistan—grant to World Vision Hong Kong .....	—	4,993
579	Relief programme for earthquake victims in Afghanistan—grant to Hong Kong Red Cross .....	—	3,652
580	Relief programme for flood victims in India—grant to Plan International Hong Kong Limited .....	—	6,588
581	Relief programme for typhoon victims in the Philippines—grant to World Vision Hong Kong .....	—	2,910
582	Relief programme for typhoon victims in the Philippines—grant to Oxfam Hong Kong.....	—	3,000
583	Relief programme for typhoon victims in the Philippines—grant to Plan International Hong Kong Limited .....	—	3,300
584	Relief programme for flood victims in Indonesia—grant to Social Workers Across Borders Limited .....	—	3,000
585	Relief programme for flood victims in Indonesia—grant to Oxfam Hong Kong .....	—	3,000
586	Relief programme for flood victims in Indonesia—grant to Save the Children Hong Kong Limited .....	—	3,000
587	Relief programme for cyclone victims in Sri Lanka—grant to World Vision Hong Kong .....	—	2,988
	<b>Additional Commitments*</b>	—	10,848
	<i>Head 800: total</i> .....	84,989	80,800
<b>Total (Payments)</b> .....		84,989	80,800

\* To cater for possible grant of funds in respect of applications under processing.

**DISASTER RELIEF FUND  
(Receipts)**

	Actual receipts 2024-25	Revised estimate 2025-26	<b>Estimate 2026-27</b>
	\$'000	\$'000	<b>\$'000</b>
<b>Investment income</b> .....	4,819	6,734	<b>9,000</b>
<b>Refund of grants</b> .....	7,326	4,162	—
<b>Transfer from General Revenue</b> .....	165,000	71,000	<b>63,000</b>

<b>Total (Receipts)</b> .....	177,145	81,896	<b>72,000</b>
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## DISASTER RELIEF FUND

### Movement of the Account

	Actual				Revised Estimate	Estimate
	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	2025–26	2026–27
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
Opening Balance	27	72	37	34	127	<b>128</b>
Revenue	6	8	3	12	11	<b>9</b>
Expenditure	29	64	139	84	81	—
Surplus/(Deficit) before Transfer from GRA	(23)	(56)	(136)	(72)	(70)	<b>9</b>
Transfer from GRA	68	21	133	165	71	<b>63</b>
Surplus/(Deficit) after Transfer from GRA	45	(35)	(3)	93	1	<b>72</b>
Closing Balance	72	37	34	127	128	<b>200</b>

### Revenue Analysis

	Actual				Revised Estimate	Estimate
	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	2025–26	2026–27
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
Investment Income	5 <sup>^</sup>	6 <sup>^</sup>	3	5	7	<b>9</b>
Refund of Grants	1	2	— <sup>#</sup>	7	4	—
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>9</b>

<sup>^</sup> The amount has included the investment income brought back from the Housing Reserve.

<sup>#</sup> Figures less than \$1 million are not reflected here.

## DISASTER RELIEF FUND

### Expenditure Analysis

	Actual				Revised Estimate	Estimate
	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	2025–26	2026–27
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
Payments	29	64	139	84	81	—
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	29	64	139	84	81	—

*Note:* The 2025–26 Revised Estimate on payments reflects grants of \$70 million made as at 31 January 2026 plus additional commitments of \$11 million to cater for possible grant of funds in respect of applications under processing. No estimate of payment is made for 2026–27 as calls on the Fund in relief of disasters cannot be predicted.