

# **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 2001, grants totalling \$252,195,000 had been made from the Fund since its establishment.

**4** Grants totalling \$6,200,000 have been made so far in 2001–02. The contingency nature of the Fund will mean variable calls on the Fund. No estimate of payment is made after 14 December 2001 and for 2002–03 as there is no predictable pattern to disasters.

**5** Receipts for 2001–02 and 2002–03 are estimated at \$26,473,000 and \$19,000,000 respectively.

## DISASTER RELIEF FUND

### (Payments)

Sub-head (Code)	Actual expenditure 2000-01	Revised estimate 2001-02	Estimate 2002-03
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Head 800—Disaster Relief</b>			
097	Relief programme for flood victims in Mozambique and nearby regions—grant to Hong Kong Red Cross.....	750	—
098	Relief programme for flood victims in Mozambique—grant to Oxfam Hong Kong.....	1,200	—
099	Relief programme for snowstorm victims in Mongolia—grant to World Vision Hong Kong.....	1,000	—
100	Relief programme for famine victims in Ethiopia—grant to World Vision Hong Kong.....	2,780	—
101	Relief programme for famine victims in Ethiopia—grant to Oxfam Hong Kong.....	2,000	—
102	Relief programme for drought victims in India—grant to Oxfam Hong Kong.....	1,000	—
103	Relief programme for drought victims in Eastern Africa (Ethiopia, Kenya, Eritrea, Somalia and Djibouti)—grant to Hong Kong Committee for United Nations Children's Fund...	3,000	—
104	Relief programme for flood victims in Shaanxi Province, Mainland—grant to World Vision Hong Kong .....	1,360	—
105	Relief programme for flood victims in Henan Province, Mainland—grant to World Vision Hong Kong .....	1,500	—
106	Relief programme for flood victims in Henan and Guangxi Provinces, Mainland—grant to The Association of Chinese Evangelical Ministry Limited .....	1,300	—
107	Relief programme for flood victims in India—grant to World Vision Hong Kong.....	1,840	—
108	Relief programme for flood victims in India—grant to Cedar Fund .....	1,000	—
109	Relief programme for flood victims in Bangladesh—grant to Hong Kong Red Cross .....	2,000	—
110	Relief programme for flood victims in Hainan Province, Mainland—grant to The Association of Chinese Evangelical Ministry Limited .....	500	—
111	Relief programme for snowstorm victims in Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, Mainland—grant to Salvation Army .....	3,000	—
112	Relief programme for snowstorm victims in Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, Mainland—grant to World Vision Hong Kong .....	2,000	—
113	Relief programme for snowstorm victims in Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, Mainland—grant to Jian Hua Foundation Limited.....	900	—
114	Relief programme for earthquake victims in El Salvador—grant to Salvation Army.....	3,000	—
115	Relief programme for earthquake victims in El Salvador—grant to World Vision Hong Kong.....	1,000	—
116	Relief programme for earthquake victims in India—grant to Hong Kong Red Cross .....	1,500	—
117	Relief programme for earthquake victims in India—grant to World Vision Hong Kong.....	2,900	—

## DISASTER RELIEF FUND

### (Payments)

Sub-head (Code)	Actual expenditure 2000-01	Revised estimate 2001-02	Estimate 2002-03
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Head 800—Disaster Relief—Cont'd.</b>			
118			
Relief programme for earthquake victims in El Salvador— grant to Hong Kong Committee for United Nations Children's Fund.....	2,000	—	—
119			
Relief programme for snowstorm victims in Mongolia—grant to Oxfam Hong Kong.....	1,000	—	—
120			
Relief programme for snowstorm victims in Mongolia—grant to Medecins Sans Frontieres Hong Kong.....	1,000	—	—
121			
Relief programme for earthquake victims in India—grant to Cedar Fund.....	2,000	—	—
122			
Relief programme for earthquake victims in India—grant to Oxfam Hong Kong.....	2,000	—	—
123			
Relief programme for earthquake victims in Peru—grant to World Vision Hong Kong.....	—	1,700	—
124			
Relief programme for flood victims in Guangxi Province, Mainland—grant to World Vision Hong Kong.....	—	1,000	—
125			
Relief programme for flood victims in Guangxi Province, Mainland—grant to Medecins Sans Frontieres Hong Kong....	—	1,000	—
126			
Relief programme for flood victims in Guangxi Province, Mainland—grant to The Association of Chinese Evangelical Ministry Limited.....	—	500	—
127			
Relief programme for refugees in Afghanistan—grant to World Vision Hong Kong.....	—	2,000	—
	<u>43,530</u>	<u>6,200</u>	<u>—</u>
<i>Head 800: total</i> .....			
	<u>43,530</u>	<u>6,200</u>	<u>—</u>
<b>Total (Payments)</b> .....	<u><u>43,530</u></u>	<u><u>6,200</u></u>	<u><u>—</u></u>

**DISASTER RELIEF FUND**

**(Receipts)**

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	Revised estimate 2001-02	<b>Estimate 2002-03</b>
	<u>\$'000</u>	<u>\$'000</u>
<b>Investment income</b> .....	—	—
<b>Refund of grants</b> .....	<u>473</u>	<u>—</u>
<b>Transfer from General Revenue</b> .....	<u>26,000</u>	<u>19,000</u>
<b>Total (Receipts)</b> .....	<u><u>26,473</u></u>	<u><u>19,000</u></u>

## DISASTER RELIEF FUND

### Movement of the Account

	Actual				Revised Estimate	Estimate
	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
OPENING BALANCE	19	10	19	22	11	31
Expenditure	38	38	32	43	6	—
Revenue	2	3	4	3	—	—
Surplus/(Deficit) before Transfer from GRA	(36)	(35)	(28)	(40)	(6)	—
Transfer from GRA	27	44	31	29	26	19
Surplus/(Deficit) after Transfer from GRA	(9)	9	3	(11)	20	19
CLOSING BALANCE	10	19	22	11	31	50

### Expenditure Analysis

	Actual				Revised Estimate	Estimate
	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
Payments	38	38	32	43	6	—
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	38	38	32	43	6	—

*Note:* The contingency nature of the Disaster Relief Fund will mean variable calls on the Fund. The payment figure for 2001-02 represents grants actually made. No estimate of payment is made after 14 December 2001 and for 2002-03 as there is no predictable pattern to disasters.

## DISASTER RELIEF FUND

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### Revenue Analysis

	Actual				Revised Estimate	Estimate
	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
Investment income	2	3	4	1	—	—
Refund of grants	—	—	—	2	—	—
<b>Total Revenue</b>	2	3	4	3	—	—