

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 2013, payments totalling about \$1,532,731,000 have been made from the Fund since its establishment.

4 As at 15 January 2014, grants totalling \$171,415,000 have been made in 2013–14. No estimate of payment is made for the remaining part of 2013–14 and 2014–15 as calls on the Fund in relief of disasters cannot be predicted.

5 Receipts for 2013–14 and 2014–15 are estimated at \$195,268,000 and \$21,046,000 respectively.

DISASTER RELIEF FUND

(Payments)

Sub-head (Code)	Actual expenditure 2012–13	Revised estimate 2013–14	Estimate 2014–15
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Head 800—Disaster Relief			
311	Relief programme for drought victims in Yunnan Province, Mainland—grant to Amity Foundation, Hong Kong	3,280	—
312	Relief programme for drought victims in Mali—grant to World Vision Hong Kong	3,000	—
313	Relief programme for drought victims in Niger—grant to World Vision Hong Kong	3,000	—
314	Relief programme for drought victims in Yunnan Province, Mainland—grant to World Vision Hong Kong	2,000	—
315	Relief programme for drought victims in Yunnan Province, Mainland—grant to Oxfam Hong Kong.....	3,810	—
316	Relief programme for flood and hailstorm victims in Gansu Province, Mainland—grant to Save the Children Hong Kong Limited	500	—
317	Relief programme for flood victims in Hunan Province and Jiangxi Province, Mainland—grant to World Vision Hong Kong	5,000	—
318	Relief programme for flood victims in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region and Hunan Province, Mainland— grant to Amity Foundation, Hong Kong.....	5,040	—
319	Relief programme for typhoon victims in the Philippines— grant to World Vision Hong Kong	1,500	—
320	Relief programme for typhoon victims in the Philippines— grant to Save the Children Hong Kong Limited	1,000	—
321	Relief programme for typhoon victims in the Philippines— grant to ADRA Limited.....	1,000	—
322	Relief programme for earthquake victims in Yunnan Province, Mainland—grant to Save the Children Hong Kong Limited...	1,247	—
323	Relief programme for earthquake victims in Yunnan Province, Mainland—grant to Amity Foundation, Hong Kong	5,137	—
324	Relief programme for earthquake victims in Yunnan Province, Mainland—grant to The Salvation Army	4,200	—
325	Relief programme for earthquake victims in Yunnan Province, Mainland—grant to The Association of Chinese Evangelical Ministry Limited.....	1,133	—
326	Relief programme for earthquake victims in Yunnan Province, Mainland—grant to CEDAR Fund.....	2,418	—
327	Relief programme for earthquake victims in Yunnan Province, Mainland—grant to Social Workers Across Borders Limited	420	—
328	Relief programme for typhoon victims in the Philippines— grant to World Vision Hong Kong	2,500	—
329	Relief programme for typhoon victims in the Philippines— grant to ADRA Limited.....	1,200	—
330	Relief programme for typhoon victims in the Philippines— grant to The Salvation Army	4,632	—
331	Relief programme for typhoon victims in the Philippines— grant to Save the Children Hong Kong Limited.....	2,500	—

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(Payments)

Sub-head (Code)	Actual expenditure 2012–13	Revised estimate 2013–14	Estimate 2014–15
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Head 800—Disaster Relief—Cont'd.			
332			
Relief programme for earthquake victims in the Sichuan Province, Mainland—grant to Amity Foundation, Hong Kong.....	—	5,304	—
333			
Relief programme for earthquake victims in the Sichuan Province, Mainland—grant to Oxfam Hong Kong.....	—	2,064	—
334			
Relief programme for earthquake victims in the Sichuan Province, Mainland—grant to Save the Children Hong Kong Limited	—	3,500	—
335			
Relief programme for earthquake victims in the Sichuan Province, Mainland—grant to The Salvation Army	—	6,180	—
336			
Relief programme for earthquake victims in the Sichuan Province, Mainland—grant to World Vision Hong Kong.....	—	4,670	—
337			
Relief programme for earthquake victims in the Mainland—grant to Sichuan Province.....	—	100,000	—
338			
Relief programme for earthquake victims in the Sichuan Province, Mainland—grant to ADRA Limited	—	2,498	—
339			
Relief programme for earthquake victims in the Sichuan Province, Mainland—grant to CEDAR Fund.....	—	3,127	—
340			
Relief programme for earthquake victims in the Sichuan Province, Mainland—grant to Habitat For Humanity China Limited	—	1,595	—
341			
Relief programme for drought victims in the Yunnan Province, Mainland—grant to Oxfam Hong Kong.....	—	1,395	—
342			
Relief programme for flood victims in the Sichuan Province and the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, Mainland—grant to Amity Foundation, Hong Kong.....	—	4,087	—
343			
Relief programme for flood victims in Uttarakhand in India—grant to Save the Children Hong Kong Limited.....	—	1,164	—
344			
Relief programme for earthquake victims in the Gansu Province, Mainland—grant to The Salvation Army	—	5,480	—
345			
Relief programme for earthquake victims in the Gansu Province, Mainland—grant to Social Workers Across Borders Limited.....	—	538	—
346			
Relief programme for earthquake victims in the Gansu Province, Mainland—grant to Amity Foundation, Hong Kong.....	—	2,845	—
347			
Relief programme for flood victims in Heilongjiang Province, Mainland—grant to Social Workers Across Borders Limited	—	648	—
348			
Relief programme for drought victims in Hunan Province, Mainland—grant to The Salvation Army	—	4,728	—
349			
Relief programme for typhoon victims in the Philippines—grant to World Vision Hong Kong	—	7,000	—
350			
Relief programme for typhoon victims in the Philippines—grant to Save the Children Hong Kong Limited.....	—	3,500	—
351			
Relief programme for typhoon victims in the Philippines—grant to Amity Foundation, Hong Kong.....	—	2,057	—

DISASTER RELIEF FUND

(Payments)

Sub-head (Code)	Actual expenditure 2012–13	Revised estimate 2013–14	Estimate 2014–15
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Head 800—Disaster Relief—Cont'd.			
352			
Relief programme for typhoon victims in the Philippines— grant to ADRA Limited.....	—	3,000	—
353			
Relief programme for typhoon victims in the Philippines— grant to CEDAR Fund.....	—	1,244	—
354			
Relief programme for typhoon victims in the Philippines— grant to Social Workers Across Borders Limited.....	—	674	—
355			
Relief programme for typhoon victims in the Philippines— grant to Operation Blessing Hong Kong Limited.....	—	1,654	—
356			
Relief programme for typhoon victims in the Philippines— grant to Habitat For Humanity China Limited	—	2,463	—
<i>Head 800: total</i>	54,517	171,415	—
Total (Payments)			
	54,517	171,415	—

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(Receipts)

	Actual receipts 2012–13	Revised estimate 2013–14	Estimate 2014–15
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Investment income	1,076	1,072	2,000
Refund of grants	304	946	46
Donations	—	250	—
Transfer from General Revenue	52,000	193,000	19,000
Total (Receipts)	<u>53,380</u>	<u>195,268</u>	<u>21,046</u>

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Movement of the Account

	Actual				Revised Estimate	Estimate
	2009–10	2010–11	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
Opening Balance	36	8	35	7	6	29
Revenue	12	4	9	1	2	2
Expenditure	99	354	37	54	172	—
Surplus/(Deficit) before Transfer from GRA	(87)	(350)	(28)	(53)	(170)	2
Transfer from GRA	59	377	—	52	193	19
Surplus/(Deficit) after Transfer from GRA	(28)	27	(28)	(1)	23	21
Closing Balance	8	35	7	6	29	50

Revenue Analysis

	Actual				Revised Estimate	Estimate
	2009–10	2010–11	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
Investment Income	3	3	2	1	1	2
Refund of Grants	9	1	7	—#	1	—#
Donations	—	—	—	—	—#	—
Total Revenue	12	4	9	1	2	2

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

Expenditure Analysis

	Actual				Revised Estimate	Estimate
	2009–10	2010–11	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
Payments	99	354	37	54	172	—
Total Expenditure	99	354	37	54	172	—

Note: The 2013–14 Revised Estimate on payments reflects grants actually made as at 15 January 2014. No estimate of payment is made for the remaining part of 2013–14 and 2014–15 as calls on the Fund in relief of disasters cannot be predicted.