

# **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 2014, payments totalling about \$1,703,983,000 have been made from the Fund since its establishment.

**4** As at 30 January 2015, grants totalling \$44,705,000 have been made in 2014–15. No estimate of payment is made for the remaining part of 2014–15 and 2015–16 as calls on the Fund in relief of disasters cannot be predicted.

**5** Receipts for 2014–15 and 2015–16 are estimated at \$31,372,000 and \$32,000,000 respectively.

## DISASTER RELIEF FUND

### (Payments)

Sub-head (Code)	Actual expenditure 2013–14	Revised estimate 2014–15	Estimate 2015–16
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Head 800—Disaster Relief</b>			
332	Relief programme for earthquake victims in Sichuan Province, Mainland—grant to Amity Foundation, Hong Kong .....	5,304	—
333	Relief programme for earthquake victims in Sichuan Province, Mainland—grant to Oxfam Hong Kong.....	1,967	—
334	Relief programme for earthquake victims in Sichuan Province, Mainland—grant to Save the Children Hong Kong Limited...	3,491	—
335	Relief programme for earthquake victims in Sichuan Province, Mainland—grant to The Salvation Army.....	6,180	—
336	Relief programme for earthquake victims in Sichuan Province, Mainland—grant to World Vision Hong Kong .....	4,636	—
337	Relief programme for earthquake victims in the Mainland— grant to Sichuan Province.....	100,000	—
338	Relief programme for earthquake victims in Sichuan Province, Mainland—grant to ADRA Limited .....	2,498	—
339	Relief programme for earthquake victims in Sichuan Province, Mainland—grant to CEDAR Fund.....	3,127	—
340	Relief programme for earthquake victims in Sichuan Province, Mainland—grant to Habitat For Humanity China Limited .....	1,572	—
341	Relief programme for drought victims in Yunnan Province, Mainland—grant to Oxfam Hong Kong.....	1,395	—
342	Relief programme for flood victims in Sichuan Province and Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, Mainland—grant to Amity Foundation, Hong Kong.....	4,087	—
343	Relief programme for flood victims in Uttarakhand, India— grant to Save the Children Hong Kong Limited.....	1,164	—
344	Relief programme for earthquake victims in Gansu Province, Mainland—grant to The Salvation Army.....	5,480	—
345	Relief programme for earthquake victims in Gansu Province, Mainland—grant to Social Workers Across Borders Limited .....	538	—
346	Relief programme for earthquake victims in 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	—
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	—

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### (Payments)

Sub-head (Code)	Actual expenditure 2013–14	Revised estimate 2014–15	Estimate 2015–16
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Head 800—Disaster Relief—Cont'd.</b>			
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	—
357	Relief programme for flood victims in Bosnia and Herzegovina—grant to World Vision Hong Kong.....	—	1,950
358	Relief programme for flood victims in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region and Hunan Province, Mainland— grant to Amity Foundation, Hong Kong.....	—	5,144
359	Relief programme for flood victims in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Serbia—grant to Oxfam Hong Kong.....	—	2,225
360	Relief programme for earthquake victims in Yunnan Province, Mainland—grant to Amity Foundation, Hong Kong .....	—	6,317
361	Relief programme for earthquake victims in Yunnan Province, Mainland—grant to World Vision Hong Kong .....	—	3,070
362	Relief programme for flood victims in Guizhou Province, Mainland—grant to Oxfam Hong Kong.....	—	1,015
363	Relief programme for flood victims in Hunan, Guizhou and Guangxi Provinces, Mainland—grant to World Vision Hong Kong .....	—	4,500
364	Relief programme for earthquake victims in Yunnan Province, Mainland—grant to Save the Children Hong Kong Limited...	—	4,000
365	Relief programme for earthquake victims in Yunnan Province, Mainland—grant to The Salvation Army .....	—	3,676
366	Relief programme for earthquake victims in Yunnan Province, Mainland—grant to Oxfam Hong Kong.....	—	5,610
367	Relief programme for earthquake victims in Yunnan Province, Mainland—grant to CSDCU Education Fund.....	—	395
368	Relief programme for flood victims in Jammu and Kashmir, India—grant to Save the Children Hong Kong Limited.....	—	1,914
369	Relief programme for flood victims in Jammu and Kashmir, India—grant to CEDAR Fund.....	—	2,889
370	Relief programme for flood victims in Jammu and Kashmir, India—grant to World Vision Hong Kong .....	—	2,000
	<i>Head 800: total</i> .....	171,252	44,705
<b>Total (Payments)</b> .....		171,252	44,705

**DISASTER RELIEF FUND**

**(Receipts)**

	Actual receipts 2013–14	Revised estimate 2014–15	<b>Estimate 2015–16</b>
	\$'000	\$'000	<b>\$'000</b>
<b>Investment income</b> .....	1,072	—*	<b>2,000</b>
<b>Refund of grants</b> .....	2,644	2,372	—
<b>Donations</b> .....	250	—	—
<b>Transfer from General Revenue</b> .....	193,000	29,000	<b>30,000</b>
<b>Total (Receipts)</b> .....	<b>196,966</b>	<b>31,372</b>	<b>32,000</b>

\* The 2014–15 investment income on the balance of the Disaster Relief Fund placed with the Exchange Fund is \$1,059,000. This, along with the investment income on other parts of the fiscal reserves, has been set aside and retained within the Exchange Fund for the Housing Reserve.

## DISASTER RELIEF FUND

### Movement of the Account

	Actual				Revised Estimate	Estimate
	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
Opening Balance	8	35	7	6	31	18
Revenue	4	9	1	3	2	2
Expenditure	354	37	54	171	44	—
Surplus/(Deficit) before Transfer from GRA	(350)	(28)	(53)	(168)	(42)	2
Transfer from GRA	377	—	52	193	29	30
Surplus/(Deficit) after Transfer from GRA	27	(28)	(1)	25	(13)	32
Closing Balance	35	7	6	31	18	50

### Revenue Analysis

	Actual				Revised Estimate	Estimate
	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
Investment Income	3	2	1	1	—*	2
Refund of Grants	1	7	—#	2	2	—
Donations	—	—	—	—#	—	—
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>

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

\* The 2014-15 investment income on the balance of the Disaster Relief Fund placed with the Exchange Fund is \$1,059,000. This, along with the investment income on other parts of the fiscal reserves, has been set aside and retained within the Exchange Fund for the Housing Reserve.

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### Expenditure Analysis

	Actual				Revised Estimate	Estimate
	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
Payments	354	37	54	171	44	—
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	354	37	54	171	44	—

*Note:* The 2014-15 Revised Estimate on payments reflects grants made as at 30 January 2015. No estimate of payment is made for the remaining part of 2014-15 and 2015-16 as calls on the Fund in relief of disasters cannot be predicted.