

# **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 2018, payments totalling about \$1,952,021,000 have been made from the Fund since its establishment.

**4** As at 31 January 2019, grants totalling \$65,580,000 have been made in 2018–19. No estimate of payment is made for the remaining part of 2018–19 and 2019–20 as calls on the Fund in relief of disasters cannot be predicted.

**5** Receipts for 2018–19 and 2019–20 are estimated at \$73,286,000 and \$76 million respectively.

## DISASTER RELIEF FUND

### (Payments)

Sub-head (Code)		Actual expenditure 2017–18	Revised estimate 2018–19	Estimate 2019–20
		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Head 800—Disaster Relief</b>				
402	Relief programme for drought victims in Somalia—grant to World Vision Hong Kong .....	4,934	—	—
403	Relief programme for drought victims in Ethiopia—grant to Oxfam Hong Kong .....	7,488	—	—
404	Relief programme for drought victims in Ethiopia—grant to Amity Foundation, Hong Kong .....	4,640	—	—
405	Relief programme for cyclone victims in Bangladesh—grant to ADRA Limited .....	1,909	—	—
406	Relief programme for flood victims in Sri Lanka—grant to Save the Children Hong Kong Limited .....	4,440	—	—
407	Relief programme for flood victims in Sri Lanka—grant to ADRA Limited .....	1,128	—	—
408	Relief programme for flood victims in Sri Lanka—grant to World Vision Hong Kong .....	3,471	—	—
409	Relief programme for flood victims in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, Mainland—grant to Amity Foundation, Hong Kong .....	434	—	—
410	Relief programme for flood victims in Assam and Manipur, India—grant to Oxfam Hong Kong .....	3,915	—	—
411	Relief programme for flood victims in Sri Lanka—grant to Amity Foundation, Hong Kong .....	747	—	—
412	Relief programme for drought victims in Ethiopia—grant to Plan International Hong Kong Limited .....	1,523	—	—
413	Relief programme for flood victims in Gansu Province, Mainland—grant to Oxfam Hong Kong .....	450	—	—
414	Relief programme for flood victims in Hunan Province and Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, Mainland—grant to Amity Foundation, Hong Kong .....	5,706	—	—
415	Relief programme for flood victims in Hunan Province, Mainland—grant to World Vision Hong Kong .....	3,520	—	—
416	Relief programme for flood victims in Hunan Province, Mainland—grant to Oxfam Hong Kong .....	700	—	—
417	Relief programme for flood victims in Assam, India—grant to Plan International Hong Kong Limited .....	1,463	—	—
418	Relief programme for flood victims in Shaanxi Province, Mainland—grant to Plan International Hong Kong Limited .....	959	—	—
419	Relief programme for flood victims in Bihar, India—grant to World Vision Hong Kong .....	3,128	—	—
420	Relief programme for flood victims in Bihar, India—grant to CEDAR Fund .....	2,883	—	—
421	Relief programme for flood victims in Nepal—grant to Habitat for Humanity Hong Kong Limited .....	3,599	—	—
422	Relief programme for flood victims in Bangladesh—grant to Hong Kong Red Cross .....	2,674	—	—
423	Relief programme for flood victims in Assam, India—grant to Habitat for Humanity Hong Kong Limited .....	3,376	—	—

## DISASTER RELIEF FUND

### (Payments)

Sub-head (Code)	Actual expenditure 2017–18	Revised estimate 2018–19	Estimate 2019–20
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Head 800—Disaster Relief—Cont'd.</b>			
424	Relief programme for cyclone victims in the Philippines— grant to ADRA Limited.....	1,196	—
425	Relief programme for earthquake victims in Papua New Guinea—grant to ADRA Limited .....	—	3,207
426	Relief programme for flood victims in Kenya—grant to World Vision Hong Kong.....	—	6,217
427	Relief programme for flood victims in Sichuan Province, Mainland—grant to Amity Foundation, Hong Kong .....	—	536
428	Relief programme for flood victims in Gansu Province, Mainland—grant to Oxfam Hong Kong.....	—	655
429	Relief programme for flood victims in Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, Sichuan, Shaanxi and Gansu Provinces in Mainland—grant to Amity Foundation, Hong Kong .....	—	5,824
430	Relief programme for typhoon victims in Shandong Province, Mainland—grant to Amity Foundation, Hong Kong .....	—	537
431	Relief programme for earthquake victims in Indonesia—grant to Plan International Hong Kong Limited .....	—	2,916
432	Relief programme for earthquake victims in Indonesia—grant to ADRA Limited.....	—	1,559
433	Relief programme for earthquake victims in Indonesia—grant to World Vision Hong Kong .....	—	3,925
434	Relief programme for earthquake victims in Indonesia—grant to Hong Kong Red Cross.....	—	2,019
435	Relief programme for flood victims in Kerala, India—grant to World Vision Hong Kong .....	—	6,508
436	Relief programme for flood victims in Kerala, India—grant to Oxfam Hong Kong .....	—	5,600
437	Relief programme for flood victims in Kerala, India—grant to CEDAR Fund .....	—	3,613
438	Relief programme for typhoon victims in the Philippines— grant to Amity Foundation, Hong Kong.....	—	548
439	Relief programme for flood victims in Kerala, India—grant to Save the Children Hong Kong Limited .....	—	1,786
440	Relief programme for flood victims in Kerala, India—grant to Plan International Hong Kong Limited .....	—	2,555
441	Relief programme for flood victims in Kerala, India—grant to Habitat for Humanity Hong Kong Limited .....	—	3,924
442	Relief programme for typhoon victims in the Philippines— grant to World Vision Hong Kong .....	—	3,602
443	Relief programme for typhoon victims in the Philippines— grant to ADRA Limited.....	—	1,249
444	Relief programme for earthquake and tsunami victims in Indonesia—grant to World Vision Hong Kong .....	—	5,800

## DISASTER RELIEF FUND

### (Payments)

Sub-head (Code)	Actual expenditure 2017-18	Revised estimate 2018-19	<b>Estimate 2019-20</b>
	\$'000	\$'000	<b>\$'000</b>
<b>Head 800—Disaster Relief—Cont'd.</b>			
445 Relief programme for earthquake and tsunami victims in Indonesia—grant to Save the Children Hong Kong Limited ..	—	3,000	—
<i>Head 800: total</i> .....	64,283	65,580	—
<b>Total (Payments)</b> .....	<u>64,283</u>	<u>65,580</u>	<u>—</u>

**DISASTER RELIEF FUND**

**(Receipts)**

	Actual receipts 2017-18	Revised estimate 2018-19	<b>Estimate 2019-20</b>
	————— \$'000	————— \$'000	————— <b>\$'000</b>
<b>Investment income</b> .....	1,026	1,988	<b>2,000</b>
<b>Refund of grants</b> .....	1,931	1,298	—
<b>Transfer from General Revenue</b> .....	50,000	70,000	<b>74,000</b>
<b>Total (Receipts)</b> .....	<u>52,957</u>	<u>73,286</u>	<u><b>76,000</b></u>

## DISASTER RELIEF FUND

### Movement of the Account

	Actual				Revised Estimate	Estimate
	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
Opening Balance	31	15	14	28	16	24
Revenue	2	1	4	3	3	2
Expenditure	47	82	54	65	65	—
Surplus/(Deficit) before Transfer from GRA	(45)	(81)	(50)	(62)	(62)	2
Transfer from GRA	29	80	64	50	70	74
Surplus/(Deficit) after Transfer from GRA	(16)	(1)	14	(12)	8	76
Closing Balance	15	14	28	16	24	100

### Revenue Analysis

	Actual				Revised Estimate	Estimate
	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
Investment Income	—*	—*	1	1	2	2
Refund of Grants	2	1	3	2	1	—
<b>Total Revenue</b>	2	1	4	3	3	2

\* The investment incomes for 2014-15 and 2015-16 on the balance of the Disaster Relief Fund placed with the Exchange Fund are \$1,059,000 and \$1,260,000 respectively. These, along with the investment income on other parts of the fiscal reserves, have been set aside and retained within the Exchange Fund for the Housing Reserve.

## DISASTER RELIEF FUND

### Expenditure Analysis

	Actual				Revised Estimate	Estimate
	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
Payments	47	82	54	65	65	—
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	47	82	54	65	65	—

*Note:* The 2018–19 Revised Estimate on payments reflects grants made as at 31 January 2019. No estimate of payment is made for the remaining part of 2018–19 and 2019–20 as calls on the Fund in relief of disasters cannot be predicted.