

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 2024, payments totalling about \$2,388,613,000 had been made from the Fund since its establishment.

4 As at 31 January 2025, grants totalling \$84,279,000 have been made in 2024–25. It is estimated that \$5,114,000 will be paid in the remaining part of 2024–25 to cater for possible grant of funds in respect of applications under processing. No estimate of payment is made for 2025–26 as calls on the Fund in relief of disasters cannot be predicted.

5 Receipts for 2024–25 and 2025–26 are estimated at \$176,072,000 and \$78,800,000 respectively.

**DISASTER RELIEF FUND
(Payments)**

Sub-head (Code)	Actual expenditure 2023–24	Revised estimate 2024–25	Estimate 2025–26
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Head 800—Disaster Relief			
516	Relief programme for earthquake victims in Türkiye—grant to Save the Children Hong Kong Limited	5,032	—
517	Relief programme for cyclone victims in Malawi—grant to World Vision Hong Kong	4,399	—
518	Relief programme for cyclone victims in Malawi—grant to Plan International Hong Kong Limited	3,005	—
519	Relief programme for cyclone victims in Malawi—grant to Oxfam Hong Kong	2,360	—
520	Relief programme for cyclone victims in Myanmar—grant to Plan International Hong Kong Limited	2,947	—
521	Relief programme for typhoon victims in the Philippines—grant to Amity Foundation, Hong Kong.....	544	—
522	Relief programme for flood victims in the Mainland—grant to Plan International Hong Kong Limited	3,300	—
523	Relief programme for flood victims in the Mainland—grant to Amity Foundation, Hong Kong.....	8,000	—
524	Relief programme for flood victims in the Mainland—grant to The HKFTU Disasters Relief Charity Fund	5,000	—
525	Relief programme for typhoon victims in the Philippines—grant to Oxfam Hong Kong	4,126	—
526	Relief programme for flood victims in India—grant to Plan International Hong Kong Limited	4,692	—
527	Relief programme for flood victims in the Mainland—grant to World Vision Hong Kong	6,079	—
528	Relief programme for flood victims in the Mainland—grant to Oxfam Hong Kong	4,790	—
529	Relief programme for flood victims in the Mainland—grant to The Hong Kong Island Social Services Charitable Foundation Limited	8,000	—
530	Relief programme for flood victims in the Mainland—grant to Federation Of Hong Kong Beijing Organisations Limited.....	8,000	—
531	Relief programme for flood victims in the Mainland—grant to Hong Kong CPPCC (Provincial) Members Association Foundation Limited	7,948	—
532	Relief programme for flood victims in the Mainland—grant to H.K. United Youth Exchange Foundation Limited	3,391	—
533	Relief programme for flood victims in the Mainland—grant to Hua Jing Youth Foundation Limited	4,103	—
534	Relief programme for earthquake victims in Afghanistan—grant to World Vision Hong Kong	5,474	—
535	Relief programme for earthquake victims in Gansu Province, Mainland—grant to Plan International Hong Kong Limited...	550	—
536	Relief programme for flood victims in the Mainland—grant to All-China Women’s Federation Hong Kong Delegates Association Foundation Limited	8,000	—
537	Relief programme for flood victims in the Mainland—grant to Social Workers Across Borders Limited	442	—

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(Payments)**

Sub-head (Code)	Actual expenditure 2023–24	Revised estimate 2024–25	Estimate 2025–26
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Head 800—Disaster Relief—Cont'd.			
538	Relief programme for earthquake victims in Nepal—grant to Sowers Action	672	—
539	Relief programme for earthquake victims in the Mainland—grant to Amity Foundation, Hong Kong.....	8,000	—
540	Relief programme for earthquake victims in the Mainland—grant to Oxfam Hong Kong.....	5,986	—
541	Relief programme for earthquake victims in the Mainland—grant to The HKFTU Disasters Relief Charity Fund.....	6,000	—
542	Relief programme for flood victims in the Mainland—grant to The Y.Elites Foundation Company Limited.....	5,958	—
543	Relief programme for earthquake victims in Afghanistan—grant to Hong Kong Red Cross	4,409	—
544	Relief programme for earthquake victims in Nepal—grant to World Vision Hong Kong	2,597	—
545	Relief programme for earthquake victims in Nepal—grant to Plan International Hong Kong Limited	1,921	—
546	Relief programme for earthquake victims in the Mainland—grant to Save the Children Hong Kong Limited.....	3,126	—
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	—	7,968
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

**DISASTER RELIEF FUND
(Payments)**

Sub-head (Code)	Actual expenditure 2023–24	Revised estimate 2024–25	Estimate 2025–26	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	
Head 800—Disaster Relief—Cont'd.				
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	—
	Additional Commitments*	—	5,114	—
	<i>Head 800: total</i>	138,851	89,393	—
Total (Payments)		<u>138,851</u>	<u>89,393</u>	<u>—</u>

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

**DISASTER RELIEF FUND
(Receipts)**

	Actual receipts 2023–24	Revised estimate 2024–25	Estimate 2025–26
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Investment income	2,793	4,819	7,800
Refund of grants	492	6,253	—
Transfer from General Revenue	133,000	165,000	71,000
Total (Receipts)	<u>136,285</u>	<u>176,072</u>	<u>78,800</u>

DISASTER RELIEF FUND

Movement of the Account

	Actual				Revised Estimate	Estimate
	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	2025–26
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
Opening Balance	36	27	72	37	34	121
Revenue	4	6	8	3	11	8
Expenditure	72	29	64	139	89	—
Surplus/(Deficit) before Transfer from GRA	(68)	(23)	(56)	(136)	(78)	8
Transfer from GRA	59	68	21	133	165	71
Surplus/(Deficit) after Transfer from GRA	(9)	45	(35)	(3)	87	79
Closing Balance	27	72	37	34	121	200

Revenue Analysis

	Actual				Revised Estimate	Estimate
	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	2025–26
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
Investment Income	2	5 [^]	6 [^]	3	5	8
Refund of Grants	2	1	2	— [#]	6	—
Total Revenue	4	6	8	3	11	8

[^] The amount has included the investment income brought back from the Housing Reserve.

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

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Expenditure Analysis

	Actual				Revised Estimate	Estimate
	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	2025–26
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
Payments	72	29	64	139	89	—
Total Expenditure	72	29	64	139	89	—

Note: The 2024–25 Revised Estimate on payments reflects grants of \$84 million made as at 31 January 2025 plus additional commitments of \$5 million to cater for possible grant of funds in respect of applications under processing. No estimate of payment is made for 2025–26 as calls on the Fund in relief of disasters cannot be predicted.