

REPORT ON THE DISASTER RELIEF FUND 2011-12

INTRODUCTION

This report gives an account of the activities of the Disaster Relief Fund (the Fund) in 2011-12.

DISASTER RELIEF FUND

2. The Fund was established on 1 December 1993 following the introduction of a resolution under section 29 of the Public Finance Ordinance (PFO) into the Legislative Council (LegCo). It is 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. With an initial appropriation of \$50 million from the General Revenue, the Fund is topped up at the start of each financial year and as necessary during the financial year, depending on calls for relief and the size of the Fund balance and commitments then.

3. As with all other funds covered by PFO, the Financial Secretary has been designated as the administrator of the Fund. The LegCo Finance Committee's approval is required for each disbursement exceeding the limit of the delegated power which, at present, is \$8 million. The Fund is audited by the Audit Commission annually and the audited accounts are submitted to LegCo for information¹.

OPERATION OF THE FUND

Disaster Relief Fund Advisory Committee

4. A Disaster Relief Fund Advisory Committee (the Committee), comprising unofficial and official members, was set up on 1 February 1994 to

¹ The Director of Audit submits a report on the accounts of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region to LegCo in around November every year. The accounts of the Disaster Relief Fund are included in that report.

advise on the policy and practices regarding disbursement of funds for disaster relief. It also advises on the size of grants made to recipients and monitors the use of grants. The current membership of the Committee is at **Annex A**.

Guidelines and Conditions for Approval of Grants

5. Grants from the Fund are only made in cases of a specific disaster, not for an on-going problem, and of such nature and scale that stimulates a response by the international community. To enable a fair and objective appraisal of applications for grants from the Fund, the Committee employs a set of guidelines and conditions, which are reviewed as when necessary, for approving the applications. These guidelines and conditions are at **Annex B**.

Monitoring the Use of Grants

6. To ensure that grants are only used for the approved purposes, the following measures are put in place to monitor the use of grants made to relief organisations –

- (a) the relief organisation should report to the Committee the critical project milestones, including the commencement date and completion date of a project, within one month from the respective scheduled date;
- (b) should there be signs of deviation from the approved targets, inclusive of the schedule, relief area, number of victims benefited, etc., the relief organisation is required to obtain prior approval from the Committee;
- (c) the relief organisation should submit an evaluation report and an audited account on the use of the grant within six months upon completion of the relief programme. The evaluation report submitted should comprise an overall assessment of the programme in terms of the number of victims benefited and the total time used to provide emergency relief to them. Other information such as a statement of need, project goal, relief items, timeliness of relief actions, coordination with other relief organisations, monitoring effort and project finance, etc. should also be provided, where applicable; and

- (d) the evaluation report and audited accounts are reviewed by the Secretariat of the Committee and the Audit Commission during the annual audit of the Fund to ensure that the grant conditions are complied with.

7. For grants made to governments outside the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, evaluation reports on the use of grants are normally called for from the recipient authorities. The disasters in such cases are usually severe, extensive and complex. As the recipient authorities have to focus their efforts on emergency relief work, the timeframe for submission of evaluation reports is not specified.

GRANTS APPROVED IN 2011-12

8. In the year 2011-12, 21 applications were received. Among them, 18 were approved and three withdrawn by the relief organisations. The total amount of grants approved is \$41.53 million. These programmes, which complied with the guidelines for approval, are summarised as follows –

Relief programmes for	Amount of grants made
* drought victims in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region as well as Guizhou and Yunnan Provinces, Mainland (four cases)	\$7.72 million
* flood victims in Hunan, Guizhou, Jiangxi and Sichuan Provinces, Mainland (three cases)	\$8.81 million
* drought victims in Ethiopia (two cases)	\$6 million
* drought victims in Kenya (one case)	\$3 million
* typhoon victims in the Philippines (three cases)	\$4.5 million
* flood victims in Thailand (two cases)	\$4 million

Relief programmes for	Amount of grants made
* earthquake/tsunami victims in Japan (one case)	\$5 million
* earthquake victims in Myanmar (one case)	\$2 million
* flood victims in Cambodia (one case)	\$0.5 million

A list of approved programmes is at **Annex C**.

EFFECTIVENESS OF THE GRANTS

9. The grants made in 2011-12 had achieved the purpose of the Fund which is to provide swift response to international appeals for humanitarian aid for relief to disasters that occur outside Hong Kong, as measured against the following review findings.

Processing Time of Applications

10. Our target application processing time is 12 working days from the date of receipt of full information from the applicant to the date of notification of the result. In 2011-12, all applications were processed within the target timeline. With the exception of those applications withdrawn, the average processing time of the 18 applications processed was 4.89 working days.

Evaluation Reports from Grant Recipients

11. Relief organisations are required to submit audited accounts and evaluation reports within six months upon completion of the relief projects. In this regard, all the 16 reports due for submission in 2011-12 were received and examined by the Secretariat. All of these reports were accepted as they had satisfactorily met the following targets as prescribed in the application guidelines for grants—

- (a) Use of grants – all grants were used for the designated purposes to cover the budget of relief programmes as approved and that prior

approval from the Committee was obtained for changes in the use of grants. The condition that not more than 5% of an individual grant should be used to cover overheads or other administrative costs was met. Among the 16 relief programmes on which evaluation reports had been accepted, five recorded a total of unexpended balance of about \$0.5 million which was returned to the Fund.

- (b) Number of beneficiaries – all relief programmes had achieved the originally proposed target number of beneficiaries. The 16 programmes in aggregate provided immediate emergency relief to some 238 300 disaster victims and 19 968 affected families. The relief items received by the beneficiaries ranged from food, drinking water, tents, blankets, folding beds, clothing, hygiene kits, medicines, cooking utensils to portable toilets.
- (c) Timeliness of project completion – all relief projects were delivered according to the approved schedules.

12. For grants made in 2011-12 with the evaluation reports due for submission in 2012-13, the Secretariat will monitor their submission and examine them upon receipt. The outcome of the examination will be reported in the next annual report of the Fund.

GRANTS APPROVED SINCE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FUND

Summary

13. By 31 March 2012, the Committee had received a total of 374 applications for grants from the Fund. Of these, 306 applications involving \$1,478.16 million in total, were approved, representing a success rate of 81.82%. For the remaining 68 applications, 50 were declined as they did not comply with the guidelines for approval and 18 were withdrawn by relief organisations. A total of 15 relief agencies and eight governments/authorities had received the grants. The beneficiaries were mostly victims of earthquakes, tsunamis, floods, droughts/famines, and typhoons/cyclones. Relevant information and statistics are set out in the ensuing paragraphs.

Distribution of Grants by Recipients

14. A total of 15 relief agencies and eight governments had received grants from the Fund. The five non-governmental organisations which had received the largest amount of grants were Hong Kong Red Cross, Médecins Sans Frontières, Oxfam Hong Kong, The Salvation Army and World Vision Hong Kong. They had altogether received \$540.09 million from the Fund, representing some 36.54% of the total amount approved. Statistics on distribution of grants by recipients are at **Annex D**.

Distribution of Grants by Countries/Geographical Regions

15. Some 77.47% of the total approved grants (amounting to \$1,145.11 million) were used for carrying out relief programmes in the Mainland; 17.27% (amounting to \$255.29 million) for programmes in other places in Asia. The remaining 5.26% (amounting to \$77.76 million) were for programmes in Africa, Latin America and Oceania. Statistics on distribution of grants by countries/geographical regions are at **Annex E**.

Distribution of Grants by Nature of Disaster

16. Around 34.31% (105 cases) of all programmes approved by the Committee were for the relief of flood victims; 32.03% (98 cases) for earthquake/tsunami victims; 12.09% (37 cases) for drought/famine victims, 9.80% (30 cases) for typhoon/cyclone victims; 7.52% (23 cases) for snowstorm victims and 4.25% (13 cases) for other disasters. Statistics on distribution of grants by nature of disaster are at **Annex F**.

Secretariat

Disaster Relief Fund Advisory Committee

June 2012

Disaster Relief Fund Advisory Committee
Membership
賑災基金諮詢委員會
成員名單

(with effect from 1 January 2011)
(由二零一一年一月一日起生效)

Chairman

Chief Secretary for Administration) *ex-officio*
政務司司長) 當然委任

Members

Prof the Hon Anthony CHEUNG Bing-leung, GBS, JP
張炳良議員，GBS，JP

The Hon V Nee YEH, JP
葉維義議員，JP

The Hon Mrs Sophie LEUNG LAU Yau-fun, GBS, JP
梁劉柔芬議員，GBS，JP

The Hon WONG Sing-chi
黃成智議員

Mrs Alice CHONG YUK Tak-fun, JP
張郁德芬女士，JP

Mr Leo KUNG Lin-cheng, JP
孔令成先生，JP

Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury) *ex-officio*
財經事務及庫務局局長) 當然委任

Secretary for Labour and Welfare) *ex-officio*
勞工及福利局局長) 當然委任

Secretary

Chief Executive Officer (Administration)/Administration Wing
總行政主任(行政)/行政署

Guidelines for Grants from the Disaster Relief Fund

I. Coverage

- (1) Grants should only be made in cases of a specific disaster, not an on-going problem.
- (2) Grants should only be made in cases of disasters of such nature and scale that stimulate a response by the international community.

II. Assessment of Proposals

- (3) Grants should be made in response to-
 - (a) appeals made to the international community by a government or a relief organisation for disaster relief aid in the country or locality concerned; or
 - (b) applications submitted by a relief organisation for a disaster relief project being or to be carried out by the organisation. Retroactive funding is not supported.
- (4) The appeal/application should be based on humanitarian grounds. Political considerations will not be taken into account.
- (5) The appeal/application should have received a measure of public support in Hong Kong.
- (6) Any application by a relief organisation should be supported by a proposal outlining the nature and scale of the aid project, the number and type of beneficiaries and the size of grant required.
- (7) The relief organisation should have demonstrated a sound track record in providing similar types of disaster relief services and activities.
- (8) The size of the grant should be sufficient to make an impact.
- (9) When there is more than one application of a similar nature and for the same disaster, regard should be given to the likely number of beneficiaries, the promptness with which the relief may be provided and the nature of the relief to be provided.

III. Conditions of Grant

- (10) Individual grants should take the form of one-off cash payments.
- (11) The grant should be given to the government concerned or to a reputable relief organisation in the field.
- (12) Up to 5% of the grant may be used to cover overheads or other administrative costs. The rest should be spent entirely on disaster relief services and activities.
- (13) The government/relief organisation concerned should be required to submit an evaluation report / an evaluation report and an audited account respectively to the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region on the use of the grant within a specified period.

Disaster Relief Fund
賑災基金
Grants approved in 2011-12
2011-12 年度批出款項
1.4.2011 - 31.3.2012

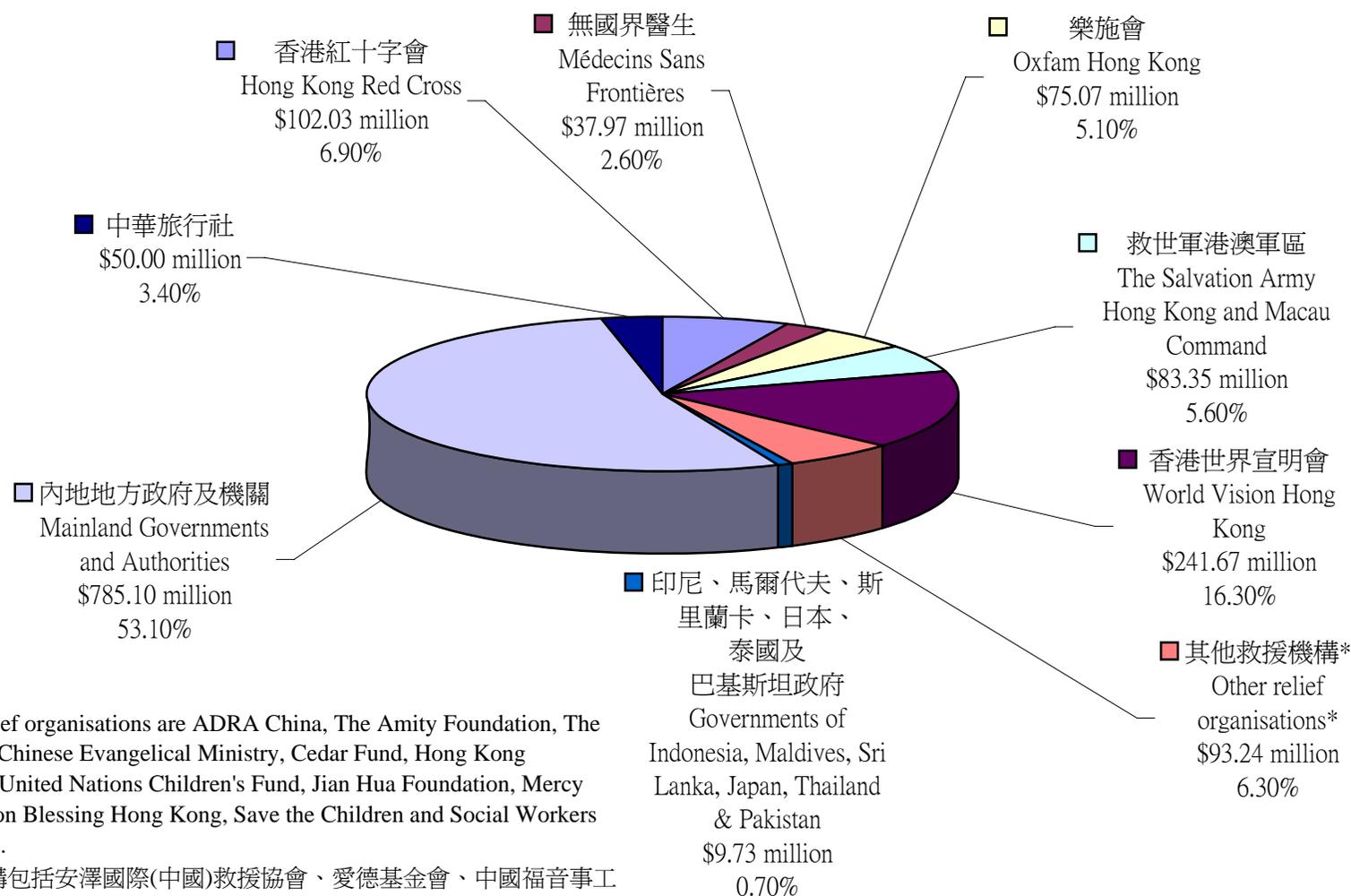
	Applicant 申請機構	Date of Approval 撥款日期	Beneficiaries 受惠人士	Nature of Programme 項目內容	Relief Areas 賑災地區	Grant Approved 批出款項 (\$million 百萬元)
1	Japanese Government 日本政府	4.4.2011	Earthquake victims 地震災民	Canned food and socks 罐裝食物及襪	Japan 日本	5.00
2	World Vision Hong Kong 香港世界宣明會	20.4.2011	Earthquake victims 地震災民	Zinc roofing sheets as shelter materials 薄鋅板	Myanmar 緬甸	2.00
3	World Vision Hong Kong 香港世界宣明會	28.6.2011	Flood victims 水災災民	Rice and quilt 食米及棉被	China - Hunan and Jiangxi 中國 - 湖南及江西	4.00
4	The Amity Foundation, Hong Kong, Limited 愛德基金會香港有限公司	28.6.2011	Flood victims 水災災民	Rice, cooking oil, quilt and tents 食米、食油、棉被及帳篷	China - Guizhou and Hunan 中國 - 貴州及湖南	3.41
5	The Association of Chinese Evangelical Ministry Limited 中國福音事工促進會有限公司	26.7.2011	Flood victims 水災災民	Rice 食米	China - Sichuan 中國 - 四川	1.40
6	World Vision Hong Kong 香港世界宣明會	2.8.2011	Drought victims 旱災災民	Cereals & vegetable oil 穀類食物及植物油	Ethiopia 埃塞俄比亞	3.00
7	World Vision Hong Kong 香港世界宣明會	2.8.2011	Drought victims 旱災災民	Cereals & vegetable oil 穀類食物及植物油	Kenya 肯尼亞	3.00
8	Oxfam Hong Kong 樂施會	25.8.2011	Drought victims 旱災災民	Water storage containers, water treatment tablets (chlorine) and soaps 貯水箱、淨水氣片及肥皂	Ethiopia 埃塞俄比亞	3.00
9	The Amity Foundation, Hong Kong, Limited 愛德基金會香港有限公司	6.9.2011	Drought victims 旱災災民	Rice and cooking oil 食米及食油	China - Guangxi 中國 - 廣西	1.38
10	World Vision Hong Kong 香港世界宣明會	4.10.2011	Drought victims 旱災災民	Rice 食米	China - Guizhou 中國 - 貴州	3.00
11	Oxfam Hong Kong 樂施會	4.10.2011	Drought victims 旱災災民	Rice 食米	China - Guizhou 中國 - 貴州	1.34
12	Oxfam Hong Kong 樂施會	4.10.2011	Drought victims 旱災災民	Rice 食米	China - Yunnan 中國 - 雲南	2.00
13	World Vision Hong Kong 香港世界宣明會	28.10.2011	Typhoon victims 風災災民	Food 食物	The Philippines 菲律賓	1.50
14	ADRA Limited 安澤國際救援協會有限公司	4.11.2011	Flood victims 水災災民	Food 食物	Cambodia 柬埔寨	0.50
15	World Vision Hong Kong 香港世界宣明會	4.11.2011	Flood victims 水災災民	Food 食物	Thailand 泰國	3.00
16	Save the Children Hong Kong Limited 香港救助兒童會有限公司	21.11.2011	Flood victims 水災災民	Hygiene kits 衛生用品	Thailand 泰國	1.00
17	World Vision Hong Kong 香港世界宣明會	30.12.2011	Typhoon victims 風災災民	Food, blanket, mat and hygiene kits 食物、毛毯、地氈及衛生用品	The Philippines 菲律賓	2.00
18	Save the Children Hong Kong Limited 香港救助兒童會有限公司	5.1.2012	Typhoon victims 風災災民	Household kits 家居用品	The Philippines 菲律賓	1.00
Grand Total 總數						41.53

DISASTER RELIEF FUND (AS AT 31 March 2012)

賑災基金(截至2012年3月31日)

DISTRIBUTION OF GRANTS BY RECIPIENTS SINCE ESTABLISHMENT OF FUND (\$million)

由基金成立開始接受援機構／政府劃分的撥款金額(百萬元)



* The other relief organisations are ADRA China, The Amity Foundation, The Association of Chinese Evangelical Ministry, Cedar Fund, Hong Kong Committee for United Nations Children's Fund, Jian Hua Foundation, Mercy Corps, Operation Blessing Hong Kong, Save the Children and Social Workers Across Borders.

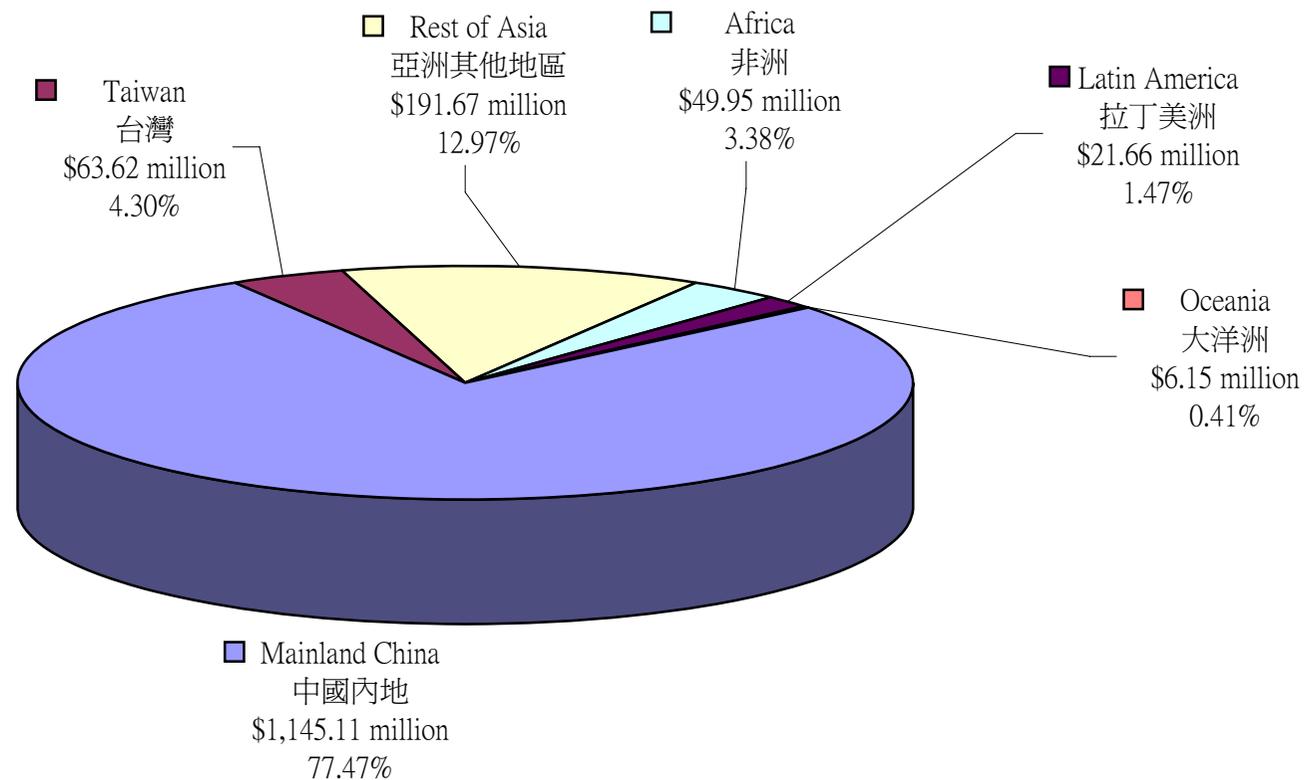
*其他救援機構包括安澤國際(中國)救援協會、愛德基金會、中國福音事工促進會、施達基金會、聯合國兒童基金香港委員會、建華基金會、國際美慈組織、慈福行動、救助兒童會及無國界社工。

DISASTER RELIEF FUND (AS AT 31 March 2012)

賑災基金 (截至2012年3月31日)

DISTRIBUTION OF GRANTS BY GEOGRAPHICAL REGIONS SINCE ESTABLISHMENT OF FUND (\$million)

由基金成立開始按國家/地區劃分的撥款金額 (百萬元)



DISASTER RELIEF FUND (AS AT 31 MARCH 2012)

賑災基金(截至2012年3月31日)

NUMBER OF PROGRAMMES APPROVED BY NATURE OF DISASTER SINCE ESTABLISHMENT OF FUND

由基金成立開始按災禍類別劃分的獲撥款賑災計劃

