

EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND

ANNUAL REPORT

BY THE TRUSTEE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 MARCH 2024

Emergency Relief Fund

Annual Report

by the Trustee

for the year ended

31 March 2024

Emergency Relief Fund

Annual Report by the Trustee for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

The Fund

The Emergency Relief Fund Ordinance, Chapter 1103 of the Laws of Hong Kong, provides for the establishment and administration of a trust fund known as the Emergency Relief Fund.

2. The Fund aims to provide prompt assistance for persons who are in need of urgent relief as a result of fire, flooding, tempest, landslide, typhoon or other natural disasters. Grants from the Fund are intended for relief rather than compensation.

3. The Fund consists of an annual allocation from the General Revenue and donations received from the public from time to time. It is vested in the Director of Social Welfare Incorporated as Trustee.

The Committee

4. The Emergency Relief Fund Committee advises the Trustee on matters relating to the administration of the Fund. The Committee, as laid down in the Ordinance, comprises three ex-officio members and two or more non-official members appointed by the Chief Executive. Membership as at 31 March 2024 was as follows:

Chairperson	Director of Social Welfare
Members	Mr CHEUNG Ngai-hoi, Brian
	Miss CHOI Chiu-yee, Jacqueline
	Ms LEUNG Shuk-wun, Zoe
	Director of Housing or representative
	Director of Home Affairs or representative
Secretary	Senior Social Security Officer (Social Security) ⁴ , Social Welfare Department

5. During the year, papers on matters below were issued to members of the Committee for information or agreement:

- quarterly reports on payments made;
- annual report by the Trustee for the year ending 31 March 2023;
- investment matters;
- annual revision of the payment rates; and
- the revised Emergency Relief Fund Payment Schedule.

Payments

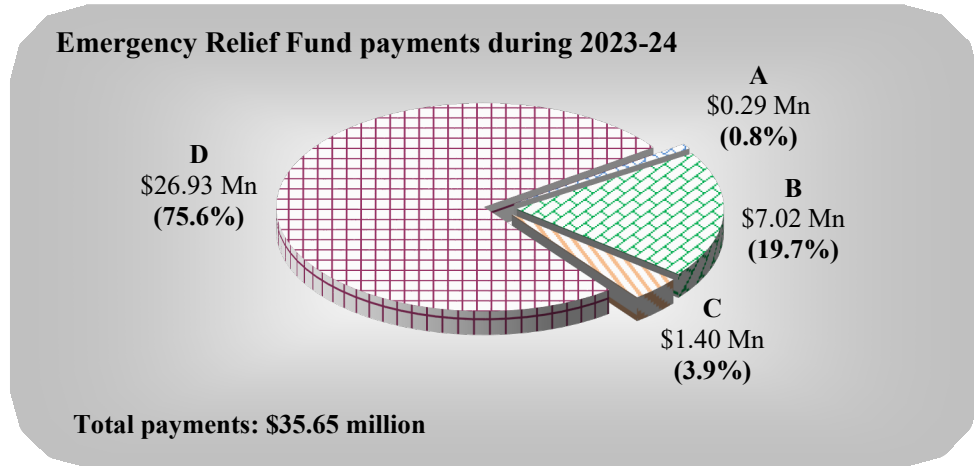
6. There are five major types of grants under the Fund as detailed in Annex I of Appendix I. Payments of grants are made on the basis set out in the Emergency Relief Fund Payment Schedule, which is subject to periodic revision to reflect changes in prices and wages. The payment rates were last revised on 1 April 2023 as set out in Annex III of Appendix I.

7. The responsibility for approving grants and making payments in accordance with the Operational Guidelines set out in Appendix I is, in most cases, vested in the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, the Marine Department, the Social Welfare Department and the Lands Department, while the Home Affairs Department is responsible for overall co-ordination at the district level.

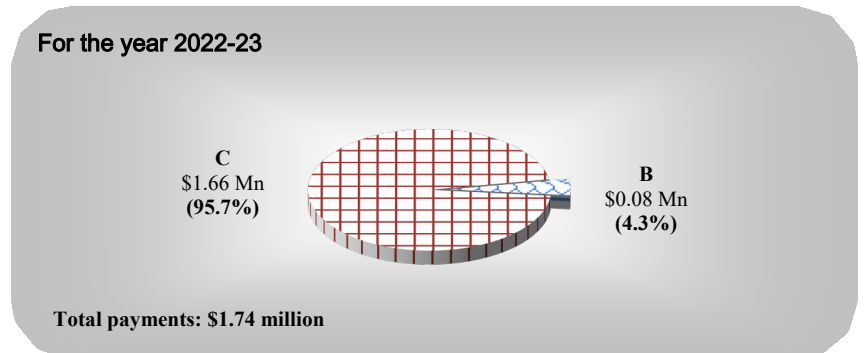
8. As the Fund is meant for urgent relief, applications for various types of grants must be made within the respective time limits as laid down in Annex II of Appendix I.

9. During the year, payments totalling \$35.65 million were made from the Fund. A breakdown by type of grant is provided below (preceding year inset):

Emergency Relief Fund payments during 2023-24		
Type of grant	\$Mn	%
A: Grants in respect of death or personal injury	0.29	0.8
B: Domestic re-accommodation, re-equipment, site formation & repair grants and grant for severe damage to home appliances	7.02	19.7
C: Grants to repair or replace vessels and fishing gear	1.40	3.9
D: Primary producer grants	26.93	75.6
Total	35.65	



For the year 2022-23		
Type of grant	\$Mn	%
B: Domestic re-accommodation, re-equipment, site formation & repair grants and grant for severe damage to home appliances	0.08	4.3
C: Grants to repair or replace vessels and fishing gear	1.66	95.7
Total	1.74	



Note
 Figures may not add up to total due to rounding.

Section

- A** : Grants in respect of death or personal injury
- B** : Domestic re-accommodation, re-equipment, site formation & repair grants and grant for severe damage to home appliances
- C** : Grants to repair or replace vessels and fishing gear
- D** : Primary producer grants
- E** : Special grants

Financial position

10. Income for the year amounted to \$19.65 million, including \$15 million from the Government. On 31 March 2024, the Fund's general account stood at \$120.13 million. Details of the accounts are shown in Appendix II.

Acknowledgements

11. As the Trustee of the Fund, I would like to express my appreciation for the continued support and assistance rendered by all government departments and other parties concerned. I also wish to extend my thanks to all members of the Committee for their contribution in the past year.

Miss Charmaine LEE
Director of Social Welfare Incorporated Trustee
Emergency Relief Fund

Emergency Relief Fund

Operational Guidelines

Types of Grants

There are five types of grants: grants in respect of death or personal injury; domestic re-accommodation, re-equipment, site formation and repair grants and grant for severe damage to home appliances; grants to repair or replace vessels and fishing gear; primary producer grants; and special grants. A table listing the types of grants and the government departments responsible for investigation and payment is at Annex I.

Time Limits for Application

2. An application for Emergency Relief Fund must be made within the time limits from the date of incident for the respective types of grants as specified in Annex II.

Definitions

3. Dependent Family Members

“Dependent Family Members” should include -

- (a) those family members, however distantly related, who were living under the same family roof, functioning as one household and were financially dependent on the deceased (these “dependent” members may be wage earners themselves who have been partially dependent on the deceased, e.g. a working teenage distant cousin);
- (b) those family members, usually closely related family members not living under the same family roof, who have been financially dependent on the deceased and can show this to be so (that is, remittance receipts, letters and statutory declarations, and the financial dependency must be regular);
- (c) a conceived baby of the family members in (a) and (b) at the time of the victim’s death (the baby will be included as a dependent family member only if he is subsequently born alive and survives up to the time when payment is made); and

- (d) close family members include spouse, children, parents, grandparents, unmarried brothers and sisters, step-parents, grandchildren, step-children, daughters-in-law, sisters-in-law and such persons whose relationship is created by any adoption recognised as valid by the laws of Hong Kong. In all other cases of less closely related family members not living under the same family roof but having been financially dependent on the deceased, discretion may be exercised to decide whether they should be included in the assessment of assistance payable.

General Criteria

4.1 To be eligible for relief from the Fund, a person must be in need to an extent which merits relief as set out in Section 4 of Chapter 1103 of the Laws of Hong Kong. The agents of the Fund must constantly bear this requirement in mind.

4.2 Grants are intended for relief rather than compensation.

4.3 Grants may be made to a person who is legally staying in Hong Kong and who appears to be in need as a result of a natural disaster such as tempest, typhoon, rainstorm, landslide and flooding, which has caused suffering or loss to an extent which merits assistance. In addition, victims of fire, house collapse, boat capsized, shipwreck, explosion, eviction from a dangerous building or building affected by a Court Order as a result of natural disaster are also eligible for assistance.

4.4 No payment will be made in respect of any occurrence resulting from a criminal act (e.g. arson) or an act of deliberate negligence (e.g. breach of marine regulations).

4.5 Eligibility criteria relating to individual government departments are set out in paragraphs 5 to 6 below. The Payment Schedule is set out in Annex III.

4.6 The level and conditions of payment should be in accordance with the Payment Schedule in effect on the day when the natural disaster occurs.

4.7 Public donations specifically given for victims of a particular incident should be disbursed exclusively to the designated victims and paid in addition to any entitlement under the Payment Schedule, regardless of the purpose of the donation.

Eligibility Criteria Relating to Individual Departments in respect of Sections A – D of the Payment Schedule

Lands Department

- 5.1
- (a) Grants for emergency relief would be payable irrespective of whether the victims have any insurance coverage. The victims may be required to repay the amount of the grants received if they subsequently recover compensation for the structures or equipment damaged from the insurance companies.
 - (b) Cases due to piling in the neighbourhood or other occurrences resulting from human acts cannot qualify for assistance. Cases where a forced eviction takes place as a result of a house or private tenement being rendered uninhabitable by a natural occurrence may qualify for assistance provided that compensation has not been provided by the landlord.
 - (c) For damaged or evacuated (either moved to rental housing, interim housing or resited) unauthorized domestic structures including unsurveyed squatter structures, only re-equipment grant is payable where there is loss of property; re-accommodation grant, site formation grant or repair grant is not payable.

Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

- 5.2
- (a) *Farmers*
 - (1) Generally, only genuine small full-time farmers should be considered and large-scale farmers or high income farmers will not be eligible except in unusual circumstances of extreme hardship.
 - (2) Where the source of half of the income of the applicant is not farming, the application should be rejected.
 - (3) If less than one-third of the whole farm is damaged, no grant should be given unless there are exceptional circumstances.
 - (4) For mixed farms, farmers are allowed to claim grants under the appropriate enterprises but subject to one applicable maximum whichever is the highest.
 - (5) If a farmer has received or will receive a grant as a result of a previous natural disaster which happened less than 7 days ago and no significant new damage occurred in the farm, no grant should be given except in unusual circumstances of extreme hardship.

(b) *Fishermen*

- (1) Only bona fide Hong Kong fishermen, and at least 50% of whose family income comes from fishing will be considered for relief.
- (2) Applicants must be the owners of the damaged/lost vessels which were used for fishing.
- (3) The damaged/lost vessel must be the subject of a valid fishing vessel licence issued by the Marine Department.
- (4) The damage/losses must have resulted from fire, strong wind, heavy rain, thick fog or other occurrence.
- (5) Application will not be considered if the damaged/lost vessel is owned by a fish trader or fishing company except in unusual circumstances of extreme hardship.
- (6) If the damaged/lost vessel has insurance coverage, the fisherman may be required to repay the amount of the grants received if he subsequently recovers compensation from the insurer.

(c) *Pond Fish Farmers*

- (1) Only genuine small-scale fish farmers will be considered; damage suffered by commercial farming concerns and comparatively high income fish farmers will not be considered except in unusual circumstances of extreme hardship.
- (2) Where the source of half of the family income of the applicant is not fish farming, the application will be rejected.
- (3) If less than one-third of the whole fish farm is damaged, no grant should be given unless there are exceptional circumstances.

(d) *Marine Fish Farmers*

- (1) Only licensed small-scale fish farmers with at least 50% of the family income coming from marine fish culture will be considered for relief.
- (2) Regarding loss or damage to rafts or cages, only those cases involving loss or damage of at least one-third of the rafts or

cages in use will be considered for relief unless there are exceptional circumstances.

- (3) Regarding loss of fish, only those cases involving a loss of at least one-third of the total fish stock by value will be considered for relief unless there are exceptional circumstances.
- (4) For both (2) & (3) above, the amount of grant in respect of the rafts, cages or fish stock should not exceed the value of the actual losses in the respective items.
- (5) Commercial farming concerns and large-scale farms will not be considered except in unusual circumstances of extreme hardship.
- (6) If the fish stock/rafts have insurance coverage, the fish farmer may be required to repay the amount of the grants received if he subsequently recovers compensation from the insurer.

Marine Department (for working boats)

- 5.3
- (a) Payment will only be made to the owner of a working boat that has been certificated and licensed under the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) (Certification and Licensing) Regulation Cap. 548D, irrespective of whether the owner has effective insurance coverage. However, the victim may be required to repay the amount of the grants received if he subsequently recovers compensation for the damage to his working boat(s) from the insurance company.
 - (b) The Operating Licence of the working boat must be valid when the natural disaster occurs.
 - (c) The working boat must be certificated and licensed in the name of the owner in person. For avoidance of doubt, no payment will be made if the owner of the working boat is a company, unless under exceptional circumstances.
 - (d) No payment will be made to the owner of a working boat if he owns more than one working boat and only one is damaged, unless under exceptional circumstances.

Social Welfare Department

- 5.4
- (a) If burial expenses were paid either in full or in part by the Government (such as under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme) or by any charitable fund, the amount of burial grant shall be reduced by the amount of such payment.

- (b) Payment of a burial grant is made to the person who is responsible for the funeral expenses or to a relative of the deceased, as considered appropriate by the Department.

Eligibility Criteria Relating to all Departments Concerned in respect of Section E of the Payment Schedule

- 6.
 - (a) The level of grant stipulated under Section E of the Payment Schedule refers to the total sum of payments for an event of natural disaster and not the payment for a victim.
 - (b) Ex-gratia grants may be payable to victims of natural disasters who are not covered by the standard grants but in need of some financial assistance. Therefore, grants are only payable to victims who cannot benefit from the provisions under Sections A - D of the Payment Schedule. Ex-gratia grants should not be paid in addition to any of the entitlements as listed under Sections A - D.
 - (c) The general criteria and eligibility criteria relating to Sections A - D of the Payment Schedule (set out in paragraphs 4.1 to 5.4 above) should not be violated.

Payment Schedule and Administrative Procedures

- 7. These are laid down in detail in Annexes I to III and they must be complied with accordingly.

Emergency Relief Fund

Types of Grants and the Departmental Officers Responsible for the Various Procedures

Type of Grants	Department Responsible for Investigation and Payment	Officer Responsible for Reporting, Verification, Test Check and Approval
<p>A. Grants in respect of death <u>or personal injury</u></p> <p>1. Burial grant</p> <p>2. Death grant</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">(a) Loss of the sole wage earner where there are dependants</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">(b) Loss of a wage earner where there are dependants and another wage earner remaining in the family</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">(c) Loss of a parent who was not a wage earner but there are children under 15 years of age</p> <p>3. Disability grant</p> <p>4. Injury grant</p> <p>5. Interim maintenance grant</p>	<p>Social Welfare Department</p>	<p>Reporting by Social Security Officer II/Senior Social Security Assistant/Social Security Assistant; co-ordination, supervision and recommendation by Supervisor of Social Security Field Units; approval by District Social Welfare Officer/Senior Social Security Officer and test check by staff of the Internal Audit Section, Social Welfare Department.</p>

Type of Grants	Department Responsible for Investigation and Payment	Officer Responsible for Reporting, Verification, Test Check and Approval
<p>B. Domestic re-accommodation, re-equipment, site formation and repair grants and grant for severe damage to home appliances *</p> <hr/> <p>1. Domestic structures rendered uninhabitable - victims moving to Housing Authority permanent rental housing or multi-storey interim housing with improved facilities comparable in quality to permanent rental housing or private housing</p> <p>2. Domestic structures rendered uninhabitable - victims resited and allowed to rebuild, or victims rebuild in situ</p> <p>3. Domestic structures damaged - victims repair in situ – (a) Structures substantially damaged (b) Structures not substantially damaged but warrant some assistance</p>	<p>Lands Department</p>	<p>Reporting and investigation by Clearance Officers; verification by Assistant Manager; test check and recommendation by Manager; approval by Senior Manager.</p> <p>(Note: The Clearance Unit, Lands Department is responsible for applications relating to Section B1)</p> <p>Reporting, investigation and verification by Land Executive/Estate Officer /Senior Estate Officer, test check and recommendation by Land Executive/Senior Land Executive/Senior Estate Officer/Principal Estate Officer, approval by Head of Land Enforcement Team/Land Control Team.</p> <p>(Note: The Land Enforcement Team/Land Control Team of the corresponding District Land Office, Lands Department is responsible for applications relating to Section B2)</p> <p>Same as Section B2</p>

Type of Grants	Department Responsible for Investigation and Payment	Officer Responsible for Reporting, Verification, Test Check and Approval
<p>4. Domestic structures (undamaged) to be permanently evacuated – (a) Victims moving to Housing Authority permanent rental housing or multi-storey interim housing with improved facilities comparable in quality to permanent rental housing or private housing (b) Victims resited</p> <p>5. Domestic structures not substantially damaged but victims suffer from damage or extensive loss to their home appliances, furniture and other personal belongings</p>	<p>In the case of dwelling vessels, investigation and verification by Marine Department and payment by Lands Department</p>	<p>Same as Section B1</p> <p>Same as Section B2</p> <p>For investigation and verification in respect of dwelling vessels, by Marine Inspector II or above.</p>

Type of Grants	Department Responsible for Investigation and Payment	Officer Responsible for Reporting, Verification, Test Check and Approval
<p>C. <u>Grants to repair or replace vessels and fishing gear</u></p> <p>1. Fishing gear or fishing or working boats lost or damaged beyond economic repair</p> <p>2. Fishing gear or fishing or working boats damaged but not beyond economic repair</p> <p>3. Licensed dwelling vessels - total destruction and severe damage</p>	<p>Marine Department for working boats</p> <p>Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department for fishing boats and gear</p> <p>Marine Department</p>	<p><u>For working boats</u> Reporting by Marine Inspector II or above; verification and check by Marine Inspector I or above and approval by District Marine Officer or Senior Marine Officer.</p> <p><u>For fishing boats and gear</u> Reporting by Fisheries Supervisors I/II and Fisheries Craft Technician I; verification by Senior Fisheries Supervisor or Fisheries Officer and approval by Senior Fisheries Officer.</p> <p>Same as C1 and 2 for working boats.</p>

Type of Grants	Department Responsible for Investigation and Payment	Officer Responsible for Reporting, Verification, Test Check and Approval
<p><u>D. Primary producer grants</u></p> <p>1. Stock houses and farm buildings destroyed or severely damaged *</p> <p>2. Rehabilitation grants for loss of crops or livestock and fish **</p> <p>(a) vegetables and other crops</p> <p>(b) livestock</p> <p>(c) mushroom</p> <p>(d) pond fish</p> <p>(e) silting</p> <p>(f) mariculture fish</p> <p>(g) fish rafts/cages</p> <p>(h) bund damage</p>	<p>Lands Department</p> <p>Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department</p>	<p>Same as Section B2</p> <p>Reporting by Field Officers or Field Assistants; verification by Field Officers; approval by Senior Field Officers or Agricultural Officers; test check by Agricultural Officers; approval of exceptional hardship cases by Senior Agricultural Officers.</p> <p>Same as (a).</p> <p>Same as (a).</p> <p>Reporting by Fisheries Supervisor I/II; verification and test check by Senior Fisheries Supervisor or Fisheries Officer and approval by Senior Fisheries Officer.</p> <p>Same as (a).</p> <p>Same as (d).</p> <p>Same as (d).</p> <p>Same as (d).</p>

Type of Grants	Department Responsible for Investigation and Payment	Officer Responsible for Reporting, Verification, Test Check and Approval
<p>E. <u>Special grants</u></p> <p>Ex-gratia grant</p>	<p>Operating department(s) concerned [The operating department has to provide details and justifications, including the total estimated amount of the ex-gratia grants, when seeking the approval of the Emergency Relief Fund Committee (where the amount is above the level of grant stipulated under Section E of the Payment Schedule) or the Director of Social Welfare for the release of the ex-gratia grant.]</p>	<p>Same as Sections A to D.</p>

Notes

* *Sections B & D1*

Cases due to piling in the neighbourhood or other occurrences resulting from human acts cannot qualify for assistance. Cases where a forced eviction takes place as a result of a house or a private tenement being rendered uninhabitable by a natural occurrence may qualify for assistance provided that compensation has not been provided by the landlord.

** *Section D2*

The captioned grant is issued on a household basis, and hence each household can only submit one application per incident.

Time Limits for Application for Emergency Relief Fund

Section	Type of Grants	Time Limit for Application #
A	Grants in respect of death or personal injury	6 months
B	Domestic re-accommodation, re-equipment, site formation and repair grants and grant for severe damage to home appliances	6 months 30 working days
C	Grants to repair or replace vessels and fishing gear	30 working days
D	Primary producer grants (i) Stock houses and farm buildings destroyed or severely damaged (ii) Rehabilitation grants for loss of crops or livestock and fish	30 working days 7 working days
E	Special grants	According to the time limits for individual items under Sections A to D depending on the nature of the event of disaster

Notes

Application for the Emergency Relief Fund must be made within the respective time limit.

In reckoning the time limit for application, the day on which the incident takes place is excluded. If the last day of the time limit is a public holiday, a gale or rainstorm warning day (i.e. Tropical Cyclone Warning Signal No. 8 or above or Black Rainstorm Warning Signal is issued), the period shall include the next normal working day.

Emergency Relief Fund
Chapter 1103 of the Laws of Hong Kong
Payment Schedule

(Effective from 1.4.2023)

Payment of grants included in this Payment Schedule
is governed by the definitions and criteria set out in the Operational Guidelines

Type of Payment	Level of Grant	Condition of Grant
A. Grants in respect of death <u>or personal injury</u>		
1. Burial grant	\$16,790 per person.	If the burial expenses were paid either in full or in part by Government (such as under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme) or by any charitable fund, the amount of grant shall be reduced by the amount of such payment.
2. Death grant		
(a) Loss of the sole wage earner where there are dependants	\$175,100 for one dependent family member plus \$14,590 for each additional dependent family member, up to a maximum of \$248,050.	If the beneficiary is an adult who is mentally unsound or found unconscious or is a minor without surviving parent or legal guardian, payments will be made on the advice of the Social Welfare Department.
(b) Loss of a wage earner where there are dependants and another wage earner remaining in the family	\$87,550 for one dependent family member plus \$14,590 for each additional dependent family member, up to a maximum of \$160,500.	
(c) Loss of a parent who was not a wage earner but there are children under 15 years of age	\$87,550 for one child under 15 plus \$14,590 for each additional child under 15, up to a maximum of \$160,500.	

Type of Payment	Level of Grant	Condition of Grant
3. Disability grant	Up to a maximum of \$210,120, abated to 2/3 for persons aged 60 and over, discounted on account of degree of disability as provided for under the Employees' Compensation Ordinance (see Assessment Table attached).	
4. Injury grant	\$804 up to a maximum of \$66,900 depending on gravity of injury (see Assessment Table attached).	<p>For cases where the injury period is 7 days or more before death -</p> <p>(a) injury grant is payable;</p> <p>(b) it is payable to the victim or to his family after his death as appropriate.</p> <p>Injury grant should cease from the date on which the victim becomes eligible for the disability grant, or upon the death of the victim.</p>
5. Interim maintenance grant	Up to \$14,590 per month for a maximum of six months (one month is regarded as 30 days) (see Assessment Table attached).	<p>In case of incapacity of a wage earner or a non-wage-earning parent where there are children under 15 years of age.</p> <p>Payment of this grant should cease upon the death of the victim.</p>

Type of Payment	Level of Grant	Condition of Grant
<p>B. Domestic re-accommodation, re-equipment, site formation and repair grants and grant for severe damage to home appliances *</p> <hr/> <p>1. Domestic structures rendered uninhabitable</p> <p>Victims moving to Housing Authority permanent rental housing or multi-storey interim housing with improved facilities comparable in quality to permanent rental housing or private housing</p> <p>2. Domestic structures rendered uninhabitable - victims resited and allowed to rebuild, or victims rebuild in situ</p>	<p>(i) Re-equipment grant of \$2,430 for a single person, \$3,630 for a family of 2 persons, and \$1,210 for each additional family member where there is loss of property.</p> <p>(ii) Re-accommodation grant of -</p> <p>(a) \$10,390 for a single person;</p> <p>(b) \$17,460 for a family of 2 to 3 persons;</p> <p>(c) \$24,320 for a family of 4 to 5 persons;</p> <p>(d) \$32,170 for a family of 6 persons and above.</p> <p>(i) Re-equipment grant of \$2,430 for a single person, \$3,630 for a family of 2 persons, and \$1,210 for each additional family member where there is loss of property.</p>	<p>(a) An “unborn baby” which is medically certified to be not less than 16 weeks of pregnancy at the time of rehousing should be eligible for assistance under Section B of the Payment Schedule.</p> <p>(b) Grants payable under Section B of the Payment Schedule can be used for appropriate purposes at the discretion of the victims.</p> <p>Same as B1</p>

Type of Payment	Level of Grant	Condition of Grant
<p>3. Domestic structures damaged – victims repair in situ</p> <p>(a) Structures substantially damaged</p>	<p>(ii) Re-accommodation grant of -</p> <p>(a) \$7,940 for a single person;</p> <p>(b) \$14,940 for a family of 2 persons;</p> <p>(c) \$16,080 for a family of 3 persons;</p> <p>(d) \$18,330 for a family of 4 persons;</p> <p>(e) \$21,000 for a family of 5 persons;</p> <p>(f) \$24,010 for a family of 6 persons and above.</p> <p>(iii) Site formation grant of \$1,540 per structure.</p> <p>(i) Repair grant of -</p> <p>(a) \$3,770 for a single person;</p> <p>(b) \$7,490 for a family of 2 persons;</p> <p>(c) \$8,080 for a family of 3 persons;</p> <p>(d) \$9,190 for a family of 4 persons;</p> <p>(e) \$10,510 for a family of 5 persons;</p> <p>(f) \$12,030 for a family of 6 persons and above.</p>	<p>Same as B1</p>

Type of Payment	Level of Grant	Condition of Grant
<p>(b) Structures not substantially damaged, but warrant some assistance</p> <p>4. Domestic structures (undamaged) to be permanently evacuated</p> <p>(a) Victims moving to Housing Authority permanent rental housing or multi-storey interim housing with improved facilities comparable in quality to permanent rental housing or private housing</p>	<p>(ii) Re-equipment grant of \$2,430 for a single person, \$3,630 for a family of 2 persons, and \$1,210 for each additional family member where there is loss of property.</p> <p>Repair grant of \$4,510 per family irrespective of size.</p> <p>(i) Re-accommodation grant of -</p> <p>(a) \$10,390 for a single person;</p> <p>(b) \$17,460 for a family of 2 to 3 persons;</p> <p>(c) \$24,320 for a family of 4 to 5 persons;</p> <p>(d) \$32,170 for a family of 6 persons and above.</p> <p>(ii) Re-equipment grant of \$2,430 for a single person, \$3,630 for a family of 2 persons, and \$1,210 for each additional family member where there is loss of property.</p>	<p>Same as B1</p>

Type of Payment	Level of Grant	Condition of Grant
(b) Victims resided	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Re-accommodation grant of - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) \$7,940 for a single person; (b) \$14,940 for a family of 2 persons; (c) \$16,080 for a family of 3 persons; (d) \$18,330 for a family of 4 persons; (e) \$21,000 for a family of 5 persons; (f) \$24,010 for a family of 6 persons and above. (ii) Re-equipment grant of \$2,430 for a single person, \$3,630 for a family of 2 persons, and \$1,210 for each additional family member where there is loss of property. (iii) Site formation grant of \$1,540 per structure. 	
5. Domestic structures not substantially damaged but victims suffer from damage or extensive loss to their home appliances, furniture and other personal belongings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) \$3,690 for a single person; (b) \$6,130 for a family of 2 persons; (c) \$7,530 for a family of 3 persons; (d) \$9,110 for a family of 4 persons; (e) \$10,760 for a family of 5 persons; (f) \$12,480 for a family of 6 persons and above. 	Same as B1

Type of Payment	Level of Grant	Condition of Grant
<p>C. <u>Grants to repair or replace vessels and fishing gear</u></p> <p>1. Fishing gear or fishing or working boats lost or damaged beyond economic repair</p> <p>2. Fishing gear or fishing or working boats damaged but not beyond economic repair</p> <p>3. Licensed dwelling vessels</p>	<p>(a) 50% of the cost of replacement up to a maximum of \$338,980 for non-mechanised vessels.</p> <p>(b) 50% of the cost of replacement up to a maximum of \$363,260 for mechanised vessels.</p> <p>(c) 50% of the cost of replacement up to a maximum of \$47,550 for gear lost or damaged beyond economic repair.</p> <p>(a) 50% of the cost of minimum repairs up to a maximum of \$169,490 for non-mechanised vessels.</p> <p>(b) 50% of the cost of minimum repairs up to a maximum of \$181,630 for mechanised vessels.</p> <p>(c) 50% of the cost of replacement up to a maximum of \$23,770 for gear partially damaged.</p> <p>Total destruction same as B1</p> <p>Severe damage same as B2</p>	<p>Applicants must be owners (excluding companies or fish-dealers) of the damaged/lost vessels. If the damaged/lost vessel has insurance coverage, the applicant may be required to repay the amount of the grants received if he subsequently recovers compensation from the insurer.</p> <p>Same as C1</p> <p>Same as B1</p> <p>Same as B1</p>

Type of Payment	Level of Grant	Condition of Grant
<p>D. <u>Primary producer grants</u></p> <p>1. Stock houses and farm buildings destroyed or severely damaged *</p> <p>2. Rehabilitation grants for loss of crops or livestock and fish **</p>	<p>Assessment is to be made on the basis of 50% of cost of replacement, up to a maximum of \$29,330.</p> <p>(a) Vegetables and other crops - \$2,160 per dau chung (including cost of \$313 and \$503 for soil conditioner and extra labour respectively) up to a maximum of \$12,960 for 6 dau chung.</p> <p>1 dau chung is equal to 674.5m² or 7 260 ft².</p> <p>(b) Livestock -</p> <p>(i) \$1,090 per pig plus \$503 cost for extra labour per farm up to a maximum of \$11,400 for 10 pigs;</p> <p>(ii) \$15 per bird plus \$503 cost for extra labour per farm up to a maximum of \$6,500 for 400 birds;</p> <p>(iii) \$14,930 per working cattle-calf/heifer to a maximum of \$14,930.</p> <p>(c) Mushroom - \$10 per m² of damaged bedding area plus \$503 cost for extra labour per farm up to a maximum of \$3,400.</p>	<p>Grants only payable to those who claim or appear to earn livelihood by farming.</p> <p>Generally, only genuine small full-time farmers adversely affected by a natural disaster could be eligible for consideration.</p>

Type of Payment	Level of Grant	Condition of Grant
	<p>(d) Pond fish - \$2.8 per m² for cost of basic material inputs up to a maximum of \$18,870 for 6 740 m² plus \$0.1 per m² for cost of extra labour up to a maximum of \$2,360.</p> <p>(e) Silting - \$18 per cubic metre or \$3,500 per dau chung paid according to actual damage up to a maximum of \$10,500.</p> <p>(f) Mariculture fish - \$263 per m² for cost of basic material inputs up to a maximum of \$5,260 for 20 m² plus \$6.3 per m² for cost of extra labour up to a maximum of \$1,260.</p> <p>(g) Fish rafts/cages - 50% of the cost of minimum repairs or replacement if beyond economic repair to a maximum of - rafts : \$18,660 cages : \$5,130.</p> <p>(h) Bund damage - 50% of the cost of minimum repairs to a maximum of \$3, 370.</p>	<p>If the fish stock/rafts have insurance coverage, the mariculturist may be required to repay the amount of the grants received if he subsequently recovers compensation from the insurer.</p> <p>If the fish stock/rafts have insurance coverage, the mariculturist may be required to repay the amount of the grants received if he subsequently recovers compensation from the insurer.</p>

Type of Payment	Level of Grant	Condition of Grant
E. <u>Special grants</u> Ex-gratia grant	Amounts above \$30,000 to be at the discretion of the Committee; others to be decided by the Trustee.	

Notes

* *Sections B & D1*

Cases due to piling in the neighbourhood or other occurrences resulting from human acts cannot qualify for assistance. Cases where a forced eviction takes place as a result of a house or a private tenement being rendered uninhabitable by a natural occurrence may qualify for assistance provided that compensation has not been provided by the landlord.

** *Section D2*

The captioned grant is issued on a household basis, and hence each household can only submit one application per incident.

Assessment Table for Disability Grant

(For injuries sustained on or after 1.4.2023)

Loss of Earning Capacity %	Payment (\$)	Loss of Earning Capacity %	Payment (\$)
0.1	210		
0.5	1,051		
1	2,101	51	107,161
2	4,202	52	109,262
3	6,304	53	111,364
4	8,405	54	113,465
5	10,506	55	115,566
6	12,607	56	117,667
7	14,708	57	119,768
8	16,810	58	121,870
9	18,911	59	123,971
10	21,012	60	126,072
11	23,113	61	128,173
12	25,214	62	130,274
13	27,316	63	132,376
14	29,417	64	134,477
15	31,518	65	136,578
16	33,619	66	138,679
17	35,720	67	140,780
18	37,822	68	142,882
19	39,923	69	144,983
20	42,024	70	147,084
21	44,125	71	149,185
22	46,226	72	151,286
23	48,328	73	153,388
24	50,429	74	155,489
25	52,530	75	157,590
26	54,631	76	159,691
27	56,732	77	161,792
28	58,834	78	163,894
29	60,935	79	165,995
30	63,036	80	168,096
31	65,137	81	170,197
32	67,238	82	172,298
33	69,340	83	174,400
34	71,441	84	176,501
35	73,542	85	178,602
36	75,643	86	180,703
37	77,744	87	182,804
38	79,846	88	184,906
39	81,947	89	187,007
40	84,048	90	189,108
41	86,149	91	191,209
42	88,250	92	193,310
43	90,352	93	195,412
44	92,453	94	197,513
45	94,554	95	199,614
46	96,655	96	201,715
47	98,756	97	203,816
48	100,858	98	205,918
49	102,959	99	208,019
50	105,060	100	210,120

Note

(a) According to percentage of a maximum of \$210,120.

(b) Abated to 2/3 for victims aged 60 and over.

Assessment Table for Injury Grant

(For injuries sustained on or after 1.4.2023)

No. of Days of Sick Leave	Payment (\$)	No. of Days of Sick Leave	Payment (\$)	No. of Days of Sick Leave	Payment (\$)
1	804	61	25,698	121	46,472
2	1,608	62	26,044	122	46,818
3	2,412	63	26,390	123	47,165
4	3,216	64	26,737	124	47,511
5	4,020	65	27,083	125	47,857
6	4,824	66	27,429	126	48,203
7	5,628	67	27,775	127	48,550
8	6,432	68	28,122	128	48,896
9	7,236	69	28,468	129	49,242
10	8,040	70	28,814	130	49,588
11	8,386	71	29,160	131	49,934
12	8,732	72	29,507	132	50,281
13	9,079	73	29,853	133	50,627
14	9,425	74	30,199	134	50,973
15	9,771	75	30,545	135	51,319
16	10,117	76	30,892	136	51,666
17	10,464	77	31,238	137	52,012
18	10,810	78	31,584	138	52,358
19	11,156	79	31,930	139	52,704
20	11,502	80	32,276	140	53,051
21	11,849	81	32,623	141	53,397
22	12,195	82	32,969	142	53,743
23	12,541	83	33,315	143	54,089
24	12,887	84	33,661	144	54,436
25	13,234	85	34,008	145	54,782
26	13,580	86	34,354	146	55,128
27	13,926	87	34,700	147	55,474
28	14,272	88	35,046	148	55,820
29	14,618	89	35,393	149	56,167
30	14,965	90	35,739	150	56,513
31	15,311	91	36,085	151	56,859
32	15,657	92	36,431	152	57,205
33	16,003	93	36,778	153	57,552
34	16,350	94	37,124	154	57,898
35	16,696	95	37,470	155	58,244
36	17,042	96	37,816	156	58,590
37	17,388	97	38,162	157	58,937
38	17,735	98	38,509	158	59,283
39	18,081	99	38,855	159	59,629
40	18,427	100	39,201	160	59,975
41	18,773	101	39,547	161	60,322
42	19,120	102	39,894	162	60,668
43	19,466	103	40,240	163	61,014
44	19,812	104	40,586	164	61,360
45	20,158	105	40,932	165	61,706
46	20,504	106	41,279	166	62,053
47	20,851	107	41,625	167	62,399
48	21,197	108	41,971	168	62,745
49	21,543	109	42,317	169	63,091
50	21,889	110	42,664	170	63,438
51	22,236	111	43,010	171	63,784
52	22,582	112	43,356	172	64,130
53	22,928	113	43,702	173	64,476
54	23,274	114	44,048	174	64,823
55	23,621	115	44,395	175	65,169
56	23,967	116	44,741	176	65,515
57	24,313	117	45,087	177	65,861
58	24,659	118	45,433	178	66,208
59	25,006	119	45,780	179	66,554
60	25,352	120	46,126	180	66,900

Note

- (a) \$804 is used as the base for the scale and rate of payment per day for the first 10 days.
- (b) The payment rate for the 11th day onwards is 1/170 of the difference between the maximum grant and the grant per day for the first 10 days, i.e. \$ (66,900 – 8,040) / 170 to be rounded up or down as appropriate.

Assessment Table for Interim Maintenance Grant

(For injuries sustained on or after 1.4.2023)

No. of Days of Loss of Earnings	Scale of Payment (\$)
1	486
2	973
3	1,459
4	1,945
5	2,432
6	2,918
7	3,404
8	3,891
9	4,377
10	4,863
11	5,350
12	5,836
13	6,322
14	6,809
15	7,295
16	7,781
17	8,268
18	8,754
19	9,240
20	9,727
21	10,213
22	10,699
23	11,186
24	11,672
25	12,158
26	12,645
27	13,131
28	13,617
29	14,104
30	14,590

Emergency Relief Fund

Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2023

Report of the Director of Audit



Audit Commission

The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

Independent Auditor's Report To the Legislative Council

Opinion

I certify that I have audited the financial statements of the Emergency Relief Fund set out on pages 4 to 15, which comprise the balance sheet as at 31 March 2024, and the income and expenditure account, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including material accounting policy information.

In my opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Emergency Relief Fund as at 31 March 2024, and of its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards (“HKFRSs”) issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants (“HKICPA”) and have been properly prepared in accordance with section 10(1) of the Emergency Relief Fund Ordinance (Cap. 1103).

Basis for opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with section 10(2) of the Emergency Relief Fund Ordinance and the Audit Commission auditing standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements* section of my report. I am independent of the Emergency Relief Fund in accordance with those standards, and I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with those standards. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Responsibilities of the Director of Social Welfare Incorporated for the financial statements

The Director of Social Welfare Incorporated is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with HKFRSs issued by the HKICPA

and section 10(1) of the Emergency Relief Fund Ordinance, and for such internal control as the Director of Social Welfare Incorporated determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Director of Social Welfare Incorporated is responsible for assessing the Emergency Relief Fund's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Audit Commission auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Audit Commission auditing standards, I exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control;
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Emergency Relief Fund's internal control;
- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Director of Social Welfare Incorporated;
- conclude on the appropriateness of the Director of Social Welfare Incorporated's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence

obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Emergency Relief Fund's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Emergency Relief Fund to cease to continue as a going concern; and

- evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with the Director of Social Welfare Incorporated regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

S. M . CHOI
Principal Auditor
for Director of Audit

28 August 2024

Audit Commission
6th Floor, High Block
Queensway Government Offices
66 Queensway
Hong Kong

Emergency Relief Fund
Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2024

	Note	2024 HK\$	2023 HK\$
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Placement with the Exchange Fund	3	59,633,921	57,506,192
CURRENT ASSETS			
Interest receivable		1,467,267	1,385,740
Other receivable		75	-
Time deposits with original maturities over three months		25,364,445	45,115,060
Cash and cash equivalents	4	33,667,435	32,121,327
		60,499,222	78,622,127
NET ASSETS		120,133,143	136,128,319
Representing:			
ACCUMULATED FUND			
Accumulated surplus		120,133,143	136,128,319

The accompanying notes 1 to 8 form part of these financial statements.

(Miss Charmaine LEE)
Director of Social Welfare Incorporated
Trustee of the Emergency Relief Fund
28 August 2024

Emergency Relief Fund

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 March 2024

	2024	2023
	HK\$	HK\$
INCOME		
Grant from the Government	15,000,000	5,000,000
Interest income	4,926,568	4,605,481
Net exchange losses	(276,665)	(410,799)
	19,649,903	9,194,682
EXPENDITURE		
Death and personal injury grants	(291,278)	-
Domestic re-accommodation, re-equipment, site formation and repair grants and grants for severe damage to home appliances	(7,019,980)	(75,260)
Grants to repair or replace vessels and fishing gear	(1,401,110)	(1,662,763)
Primary producer grants	(26,932,711)	-
	(35,645,079)	(1,738,023)
(DEFICIT) / SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	(15,995,176)	7,456,659
Other comprehensive income	-	-
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE (LOSS) / INCOME FOR THE YEAR	(15,995,176)	7,456,659

The accompanying notes 1 to 8 form part of these financial statements.

Emergency Relief Fund

Statement of Changes in Equity for the year ended 31 March 2024

ACCUMULATED SURPLUS	2024 HK\$	2023 HK\$
Balance at beginning of year	136,128,319	128,671,660
Total comprehensive (loss) / income for the year	(15,995,176)	7,456,659
Balance at end of year	<u>120,133,143</u>	<u>136,128,319</u>

The accompanying notes 1 to 8 form part of these financial statements.

Emergency Relief Fund

Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31 March 2024

	Note	2024 HK\$	2023 HK\$
Cash flows from operating activities			
(Deficit) / Surplus for the year		(15,995,176)	7,456,659
Adjustments for:			
Interest income		(4,926,568)	(4,605,481)
Net exchange losses		276,665	410,799
Increase in other receivable		(75)	-
Decrease in accounts payable		-	(1,343)
Net cash (used in) / from operating activities		(20,645,154)	3,260,634
Cash flows from investing activities			
Interest received		4,840,534	3,592,673
Decrease / (Increase) in time deposits with original maturities over three months		19,478,457	(7,853,144)
Increase in placement with the Exchange Fund		(2,127,729)	(2,506,192)
Net cash from / (used in) investing activities		22,191,262	(6,766,663)
Net increase / (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		1,546,108	(3,506,029)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		32,121,327	35,627,356
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	4	33,667,435	32,121,327

The accompanying notes 1 to 8 form part of these financial statements.

Emergency Relief Fund

Notes to the Financial Statements

1. General

The Emergency Relief Fund (the Fund) was established for the purpose of making grants and loans and providing material assistance to persons who are in need thereof as a result of fire, flood, tempest, typhoon or other occurrence which has caused suffering or loss in accordance with section 4 of the Emergency Relief Fund Ordinance (Cap. 1103).

The address of the Fund's principal place of business is Room 704, 7/F, Wu Chung House, 213 Queen's Road East, Wanchai, Hong Kong.

2. Material accounting policies

(a) Statement of compliance

The financial statements of the Fund have been prepared in accordance with section 10(1) of the Emergency Relief Fund Ordinance and all applicable Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards (HKFRSs), which is a collective term that includes all applicable individual HKFRSs, Hong Kong Accounting Standards and Interpretations issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants (HKICPA). Material accounting policies adopted by the Fund are set out below.

(b) Basis of preparation of the financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared on an accrual basis and under the historical cost convention.

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with HKFRSs requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the application of policies and reported amounts of assets, liabilities, income and expenditure. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances, the results of which form the basis for making judgements about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

There are no critical accounting judgements involved in the application of the Fund's accounting policies. There are neither key assumptions concerning the future nor other key sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities in the next year.

(c) Impact of new and revised HKFRSs

The HKICPA has issued certain new or revised HKFRSs which are first effective or available for early adoption for the current accounting period of the Fund. There have been no changes to the accounting policies applied in these financial statements for the years presented as a result of these developments

The Fund has not early adopted any amendments, new standards and interpretations which are not yet effective for the current accounting period. The Fund is in the process of making an assessment of what the impact of these amendments, new standards and interpretations is expected to be in the period of initial adoption. So far, it has concluded that the adoption of them is unlikely to have a significant impact on the financial statements.

(d) Financial assets

(i) Initial recognition and measurement

Financial assets are recognised on the date the Fund becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the financial instrument. They are initially stated at fair value plus transaction costs that are directly attributable to the acquisition of financial assets.

(ii) Classification and subsequent measurement

Financial assets measured at amortised cost

These comprise placement with the Exchange Fund, interest receivable, other receivable, time deposits and cash and cash equivalents. They are held for the collection of contractual cash flows which represent solely payments of principal and interest. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method. The measurement of loss allowances for these financial assets is based on the expected credit loss model as described in note 2(d)(iv).

The effective interest method is a method of calculating the amortised cost of a financial asset or a financial liability and of allocating and recognising the interest income or interest expense over the relevant period. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash receipts or payments through the expected life of the financial asset or financial liability to the gross carrying amount of the financial asset or to the amortised cost of the financial liability. When calculating the effective interest rate, the Fund estimates cash flows by considering all contractual terms of the financial instrument but does not consider the expected credit losses. The calculation includes all fees received or paid between parties to the contract that are an integral part of the effective interest rate, transaction costs and all other premiums or discounts.

(iii) Derecognition

A financial asset is derecognised when the contractual rights to receive the cash flows from the financial asset expire, or where the financial asset together with substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership have been transferred.

(iv) Impairment of financial assets

For financial assets measured at amortised cost, the Fund measures the expected credit losses to determine the loss allowance required to be recognised.

Expected credit losses are a probability-weighted estimate of credit losses. They are based on the difference between the contractual cash flows due in accordance with the contract and the cash flows that the Fund expects to receive, discounted at the effective interest rate. They are measured on either of the following bases:

- 12-month expected credit losses (for financial instruments for which there has not been a significant increase in credit risk since initial recognition): these are losses that are expected to result from possible default events within the 12 months after the reporting date; or
- lifetime expected credit losses (for financial instruments for which there has been a significant increase in credit risk since initial recognition): these are losses that are expected to result from all possible default events over the expected life of the financial instruments.

In assessing whether the credit risk of a financial instrument has increased significantly since initial recognition, the Fund compares the risk of default occurring on the financial instrument assessed at the reporting date with that assessed at the date of initial recognition. In making this assessment, the Fund considers that a default event occurs when (i) the borrower is unlikely to pay its credit obligations to the Fund in full; or (ii) the financial asset is 90 days past due. The Fund considers both quantitative and qualitative information that is reasonable and supportable, including historical experience and forward-looking information that is available without undue cost or effort.

For a financial asset with lifetime expected credit losses recognised in the previous reporting period, if its credit quality improves and reverses the previously assessed significant increase in credit risk, then the loss allowance reverts from lifetime expected credit losses to 12-month expected credit losses.

A financial asset is written off when there is no reasonable expectation of recovering the contractual cash flows.

(e) Revenue recognition

- (i) Grant from the Government is recognised in the income and expenditure account when there is reasonable assurance that it will be received and that the Fund will comply with the conditions attaching to it.
- (ii) Interest income from deposits with banks and the placement with the Exchange Fund is recognised as it accrues using the effective interest method.

(f) Expenditure on grants/refund of grants

Grants are recognised as expenditure when they are approved and due for payment. Refund of grants is credited to the income and expenditure account when they are accepted by the Fund.

(g) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash and bank balances, cash with a government department and short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value, having been within three months of maturity when placed or acquired.

(h) Foreign currency translation

Hong Kong dollar is the currency of the primary economic environment in which the Fund operates. Foreign currency transactions during the year are translated into Hong Kong dollars using the spot exchange rates at the transaction dates. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated into Hong Kong dollars at the closing exchange rates at the reporting date. Exchange gains and losses are dealt with in the income and expenditure account.

3. Placement with the Exchange Fund

In March 2016, HK\$25 million was placed with the Exchange Fund. The term of the placement is six years from the date of placement, during which the amount of the placement cannot be withdrawn. Upon maturity of the placement in March 2022, a principal sum of HK\$55 million was invested and placed with the Exchange Fund for another six years. Interest on the placement is at a rate determined annually in January and payable annually in arrears on 31 December. The rate is the average annual rate of return of the Exchange Fund's Investment Portfolio for the past six years or the average annual yield of three-year government bond in the previous year subject to a minimum of zero percent, whichever is the higher. The interest rate has been fixed at 3.7% per annum for January to December 2024 and 2023.

As at 31 March 2024, the total balance of the placement with the Exchange Fund amounted to HK\$59.6 million (2023: HK\$57.5 million), being the principal sum of HK\$55 million (2023: HK\$55 million) plus interest paid but not yet withdrawn at the reporting date of HK\$4.6 million (2023: HK\$2.5 million).

4. Cash and cash equivalents

	2024 HK\$	2023 HK\$
Time deposits with original maturities within three months	30,464,167	30,835,094
Cash with a government department	2,087,410	20,000
Cash at bank	1,115,858	1,266,233
	<u>33,667,435</u>	<u>32,121,327</u>

5. Financial risk management

The Fund's major financial instruments include placement with the Exchange Fund, time deposits and cash and cash equivalents. The major risks associated with these financial instruments are set out below.

(a) Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk that one party to a financial instrument will fail to discharge an obligation and cause the other party to incur a financial loss. The maximum exposure to credit risk of the financial assets of the Fund at the reporting date is equal to their carrying amounts.

The Fund limits its exposure to credit risk by transacting with licensed banks with high credit ratings in Hong Kong. Hence, the Fund's exposure to credit risk is considered to be limited. The credit risk in respect of placement with the Exchange Fund and cash with a government department is considered minimal.

The credit quality of time deposits and bank balances, analysed by the ratings designated by Moody's, at the reporting date is shown below:

	2024	2023
	HK\$	HK\$
Time deposits and bank balances, by credit rating		
Aa1 to Aa3	24,425,858	28,145,288
A1 to A3	28,775,495	49,071,099
Baa1 to Baa3	3,743,117	-
	<u>56,944,470</u>	<u>77,216,387</u>

While the financial assets measured at amortised cost are subject to the impairment requirements, the Fund has estimated that their expected credit losses are minimal and considers that no loss allowance is required.

(b) Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flow of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. This can be further classified into fair value interest rate risk and cash flow interest rate risk.

Fair value interest rate risk is the risk that the fair value of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. Since the Fund's bank deposits bear interest at fixed rates, their fair values will fall when market interest rates increase. However, as they are stated at amortised cost, changes in market interest rates will not affect their carrying amounts and the Fund's surplus/deficit for the year.

Cash flow interest rate risk is the risk that future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. The Fund's exposure to cash flow interest rate risk is small because interest income from financial instruments bearing interest at a floating rates is not significant.

(c) Currency risk

Currency risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate due to changes in currency exchange rates. The Fund's financial instruments denominated in currencies other than Hong Kong dollar are exposed to currency risk.

(i) Exposure to currency risk

As at 31 March 2024, the Fund did not maintain any financial instruments denominated in currencies other than Hong Kong dollar. As at 31 March 2023, the Fund maintained financial instruments denominated in Renminbi totalling CNY4,658,968. Since no foreign currency rate hedging is made by the Fund, the carrying amounts of the financial instruments in Renminbi represent the maximum exposure of the Fund to currency risk in respect of Renminbi.

(ii) Sensitivity analysis

As at 31 March 2024, since the Fund did not maintain any financial instruments denominated in currencies other than Hong Kong dollar, changes in currency exchange rates will not affect the Fund's deficit and the accumulated surplus. It was estimated that, at 31 March 2023, should the Renminbi strengthen/weaken by 5% against the Hong Kong dollar, with all other variables held constant, the surplus of the Fund for the year and the accumulated surplus would increase/decrease by HK\$266,000.

The above sensitivity analysis is based on the assumption that the change in currency exchange rate had occurred at the reporting date and for financial instruments in existence at that date.

(d) Other financial risk

The Fund is exposed to financial risk arising from the placement with the Exchange Fund due to changes in interest rate which is determined in January each year (note 3). It was estimated that, at 31 March 2024, a 50 basis point (2023: 50 basis point) increase/decrease in the interest rates, with all other variables held constant, would decrease/increase the deficit of the Fund for the year and increase/decrease the accumulated surplus by HK\$298,000 (2023: increase/decrease the surplus of the Fund for the year and the accumulated surplus by HK\$288,000).

6. Capital management

The capital structure of the Fund consists solely of accumulated surplus. The Fund's objectives when managing capital are:

- (a) to comply with the Emergency Relief Fund Ordinance; and
- (b) to maintain a capital base for carrying out the purpose of the Fund as stated in note 1 above.

The Fund manages capital to ensure that its level is adequate to fund future grants and expenditure, taking into account its projected cash flow requirements, future financial obligations and commitments.

7. Cost of administration of the Fund

The cost of administration of the Fund has been borne by the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region in accordance with section 11 of the Emergency Relief Fund Ordinance.

8. Fair values of financial assets

All financial assets are stated in the balance sheet at amounts equal to or not materially different from their fair values.