

AIDS Trust Fund Annual Report 2020-21



**Council for the AIDS Trust Fund
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region**

AIDS Trust Fund Annual Report 2020-21

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Introduction

Background

The AIDS Trust Fund (the Fund) was established in April 1993 with a commitment of \$350 million approved by the Finance Committee (FC) of the Legislative Council (LegCo) to provide assistance to HIV-infected haemophiliacs and generally to strengthen medical and support services and public education on AIDS. A one-off injection of \$350 million was approved by the FC in 2013-14 to support applications under the Fund.

The Fund is administered on the advice of the Council for the AIDS Trust Fund (the Council). Chairperson and Members (except ex-officio Member from the Food and Health Bureau) of the Council are appointed by the Chief Executive. Three sub-committees are set up under the Council to process the applications for funding. They are the Ex-gratia Payment Sub-Committee, the Medical and Support Services Sub-Committee, and the Publicity and Public Education Sub-Committee.

Areas of financial support

The Fund provides financial support in the following areas:

- Ex-gratia payment to those who are Hong Kong residents and have been infected with HIV through transfusion of blood or blood products in Hong Kong prior to August 1985.
- Medical and support services for HIV-infected patients to augment the existing services provided by the Hospital Authority and the Department of Health as well as researches on HIV/AIDS.
- Publicity and public education which remains the most effective way to combat the spread of HIV and AIDS.

This 2020-21 Annual Report of the Fund summarises the work done related to the operation of the Fund in 2020-21.



Membership and Terms of Reference

Council for the AIDS Trust Fund

Chairperson: Dr LAI Sik-to, Thomas

Members: Mr CHEUNG Hing-wah, B.B.S. (till July 2020)
Mr NGAN Man-por (August 2020 onwards)
Dr LEE Cheuk-kwong
Dr LEE Man-po
Ms LEE Hoi Lun, Leonie (ex-officio Member from Food and Health Bureau)

Secretary: Dr LIN Wai-chi, Ada

Ex-gratia Payment Sub-Committee

Chairperson: Mr CHEUNG Hing-wah, B.B.S. (till July 2020)
Mr NGAN Man-por (August 2020 onwards)

Members: Prof Albert LEE
Mr LIU Wing-ting, Stephen, J.P. (till August 2020)
Mr NGAN Man-por (till July 2020)
Ms LIU Mei-ling, Rhoda (January 2021 onwards)

Secretary: Dr YU Wing-man, Joan

Medical and Support Services Sub-Committee

Chairperson: Dr LEE Man-po

Members: Dr HO King-man
Dr HO Sai-yin, Daniel
Prof. HUNG Fan-ngai, Ivan
Dr TSANG Tak-yin, Owen
Prof. TSE Shu-ki, Samson

Secretary: Dr YU Wing-man, Joan

Publicity and Public Education Sub-Committee

Chairperson: Dr LEE Cheuk-kwong

Members: Mr CHEUNG Tat-ming, Eric
Ms FONG Oi-wah, Rosa
Dr HO Sai-yin, Daniel
Mr NGAN Man-por (till July 2020)
Dr NGAN Po-lun, Allan
Prof. SHIU Tak-ying, Ann
Mr TONG Tai-wai, Raphael, M.H.

Secretary: Dr YU Wing-man, Joan



Terms of Reference

Council for the AIDS Trust Fund

Subject to the provision of the Declaration of the Trust Fund, to determine all matters whatsoever touching the administration of the Fund and the fulfillment of the purposes thereof.

Ex-gratia Payment Sub-Committee

To consider claims for ex-gratia payment, and to make recommendations to the Council.

Medical and Support Services Sub-Committee

To consider applications for project grants for researches on HIV/AIDS, provision of additional medical and support services for those with HIV/AIDS and to make recommendations to the Council.

Publicity and Public Education Sub-Committee

To consider applications for project grants for publicity and public education on AIDS, and to make recommendations to the Council.

Summary of Meetings, Applications and Funding Approved

Based on the “Recommended HIV/AIDS Strategies for Hong Kong 2017-2021” issued by the Hong Kong Advisory Council on AIDS (ACA), higher funding priorities would be accorded to the applications to the Fund for programme targeted at the six high risk groups, namely:-

- (i) Men who have sex with men (MSM);
- (ii) People living with HIV (PLHIV);
- (iii) People who inject drugs (PWID);
- (iv) Ethnic minorities (EM);
- (v) Male-to-female transgender (TG); and
- (vi) Female sex workers (FSW) and their male clients (MCFSW)

Meetings held for processing applications in 2020-21

From 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021, 1 meeting of the Council and 3 meetings of the 3 Sub-Committees (i.e. Ex-gratia Payments: 1; Medical and Support Services (MSS): 1; and Publicity and Public Education (PPE): 1) were held.

Number of applications processed

During the period, a total of 44 applications (additional ex-gratia payment: 23, MSS: 16 and PPE: 5) were processed by the Council, of which 37 applications (84%) were approved. Excluding the 23 applications for additional ex-gratia payments, 14 out of 21 (67%) applications were approved. Details of breakdown are at **Table 1**.

**Table 1: Number of applications processed by the Council
(from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021)**

Types of Applications	Applications Withdrawn	Applications Rejected	Applications Approved	Applications Approved Subject to Conditions	Total
Additional Ex-gratia Payment	0	0	23	0	23
Medical and Support Services	0	7	9	0	16
Publicity and Public Education	0	0	5	0	5
Total	0	7	37	0	44

Summary of funding approved

The total funding amount approved for the 37 applications (additional ex-gratia payment: 23, MSS: 9 and PPE: 5) was around \$49.44 million (additional ex-gratia payment: \$8.32 million, MSS: \$8.31 million, PPE: \$32.81 million). Details of breakdown are at **Table 2**.

**Table 2: Number of applications and amount of funding approved by the Council
(from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021)**

Financial Year	2020-21	
	Number of applicants	Amount ^ (\$HK million)
Additional Ex-gratia Payment	23	8.32
MSS	9	8.31
PPE	5	32.81
Total	37	49.44

^ There may be a slight discrepancy between the sum of individual items and the total as shown in the table due to rounding of figures.

Applications and funding approved by high risk groups

A breakdown of applications and amount of funding approved from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021 by the six high risk groups recommended by ACA were shown at **Annexes Ia, Ib and Ic**.

From 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021, the amount granted for MSM projects / programmes topped the list at \$21.29 million among all approved applications, followed by that for FSW and MCFSW projects/ programmes at 8.09 million (**Annex Ia**). Classifying by the nature of the projects / programmes, MSM and PLHIV were the main research targets of the approved projects / programmes in MSS (**Annex Ib**), while MSM and FSW and MCFSW were the main service targets of the approved projects / programmes in PPE (**Annex Ic**).

Audited accounts in 2020-21

The Director of Accounting Services is responsible for keeping the accounts of the Fund which are also audited annually by the Director of Audit. Relevant information extracted from the audited accounts of the Fund in 2020-21 are at **Table 3**.

Table 3: Information extracted from audited accounts of the Fund (2020-21)

Financial Year	2020-21 (HK\$'000)
Capital (\$) (a)	700,000
INCOME (\$)	
Interest on deposits and bank balances	1,487
Interest on placement with the Exchange Fund	3,619
Refund of grants	328
Other Income*	1,487
Total (b)	6,921
EXPENDITURE (\$) **	
Publicity and Public Education	32,900
Medical and Support Services	8,356
Ex-gratia Payment	8,322
Total (c)	49,578
Deficit for the year (b-c)	(42,657)
Accumulated Expenditure at end of year*** (d)	(577,677)
Fund Balance (\$) (a) - (d)	122,323

* Other income includes the amount of the approved projects / programmes which the balance was no longer required.

** There might be a difference between the audited expenditure and the amount of funding approved at **Table 2** since the amount of funding approved did not include the extra cost incurred from auditing a grant approved by the Fund (in terms of auditors' remuneration) which may be claimed on a reimbursement basis.

*** Accumulated expenditure at the end of year represented the expenditure brought forward from the beginning of the fund to the current financial year end.

Note: The audited accounts will be uploaded onto the Fund's website.

Completed projects/programmes in 2020-21

In order to enhance transparency, accountability and access to information by the public, grantees are required to submit an executive summary and publication list for each completed project / programme which would be posted on the Fund's website for public information.

Project/ Programme Code	Project/ Programme Title
MSS 261 R	Impacts of change from permanent to time-limited deferral of men who have sex with men from blood donation in Hong Kong
MSS 264 R	Operability of a pilot incentivised PrEP programme for MSM in Hong Kong
MSS 266 PM	Support Fund for HIV/AIDS Patients and their Families
MSS 269 R	A longitudinal study to investigate impact of an online real-time HIV self-testing and counselling (OSTC) service on prevalence of first-time HIV testing, retesting and sexual risk behaviours among Hong Kong MSM
MSS 293 R	Update on clinical and public health HIV management in Hong Kong (HIV Manual)
MSS 304 R	Time associated evolvement of networking pattern and its association with STF/HIV transmission risk in HIV-positive MSM in Hong Kong
MSS 318 R	Automatic retinal image analysis (ARIA) to predict coronary artery disease in HIV-infected individuals
MSS 319 R	Contribution of physical, psychological and socioeconomic factors to frailty and quality of life in Chinese people living with HIV and comorbidities
PPE 685 PM	Mercury III - Intensive Support and Preventive Programme for AIDS and Blood Borne Disease
PPE 693 PM	Project Touch: HIV & Chemsex Prevention for Newly Come Out MSM & PLHIV through Early Identification, Empowerment, Peer Influence & Role Model
PPE 697 PM	Comprehensive HIV/STI Program with Sex Workers

Number of ALL approved projects and amount of funding by high risk groups (from 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2021)

Target groups of applications		Six higher funding priorities areas (Recommended HIV/AIDS Strategies for Hong Kong 2017 - 2021)						Others		Sub-total	Additional EGP (PLHIV)	Total
		MSM	FSW/ MCFSW	PWID	EM	TG	PLHIV	Multiple Target Groups*	Others #			
Apr 2020 - Mar 2021	Number of approved applications	12	3	1	1	0	2	0	1	20	23	43
	Amount approved for applications	\$21,287,203	\$8,092,177	\$2,076,927	\$1,806,280	\$0	\$3,851,617	\$0	\$4,006,402	\$41,120,606	\$8,322,000	\$49,442,606
Apr 2017 - Mar 2021	<i>Number of approved applications</i>	<i>44</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>98</i>	<i>99</i>	<i>197</i>
	<i>Amount approved for applications</i>	<i>\$77,542,983</i>	<i>\$24,372,217</i>	<i>\$7,728,617</i>	<i>\$7,380,542</i>	<i>\$1,625,319</i>	<i>\$32,961,838</i>	<i>\$1,323,053</i>	<i>\$9,695,190</i>	<i>\$162,629,759</i>	<i>\$35,202,000</i>	<i>\$197,831,759</i>
	<i>Resource allocation (%) ^</i>	<i>48%</i>	<i>15%</i>	<i>5%</i>	<i>5%</i>	<i>1%</i>	<i>20%</i>	<i>1%</i>	<i>6%</i>	<i>100%</i>		

Note: MSM – Men who have sex with men, FSW/MCFSW - Female sex worker and their male clients, PWID - Injecting drug users, EM – Ethnic minorities, TG - Transgender, PLHIV - People living with HIV.

^ There may be a slight discrepancy between the sum of individual items and the total as shown in the table due to rounding of figures.

* EM and PLHIV (1); MSM, FSW, MCFSW and TG (1).

Others include Prisoners (3).

Number of MSS approved projects and amount of funding by high risk groups (from 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2021)

Target groups of applications		MSS (research)									MSS (non-research)	Total
		Research									Service	
		Six higher funding priorities areas (Recommended HIV/AIDS Strategies for Hong Kong 2017 - 2021)						Others		Sub-total	People living with HIV	
		MSM	FSW/ MCFSW	PWID	EM	TG	PLHIV	Multiple Target Groups*	Others			
Apr 2020 - Mar 2021	Number of approved applications	7	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	8	1	9
	Amount approved for applications	\$4,463,304	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$393,712	\$0	\$0	\$4,857,016	\$3,457,905	\$8,314,921
Apr 2017 - Mar 2021	Number of approved applications	17	0	0	0	0	12	2	0	31	10	41
	Amount approved for applications	\$14,119,286	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$6,881,202	\$1,323,053	\$0	\$22,323,540	\$21,478,410	\$43,801,950
	Resource allocation (%)^	32%	0%	0%	0%	0%	16%	3%	0%	51%	49%	100%

Note: MSM – Men who have sex with men, FSW/MCFSW - Female sex worker and their male clients, PWID - Injecting drug users, EM – Ethnic minorities, TG - Transgender, PLHIV - People living with HIV.

^ There may be a slight discrepancy between the sum of individual items and the total as shown in the table due to rounding of figures.

* EM and PLHIV (1); MSM, FSW, MCFSW and TG (1).

Number of PPE approved projects and amount of funding by high risk groups (from 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2021)

Target groups of applications		PPE								Total
		Six higher funding priorities areas (Recommended HIV/AIDS Strategies for Hong Kong 2017 - 2021)						Others		
		MSM	FSW/ MCFSW	PWID	EM	TG	PLHIV	Multiple Target Groups	Others #	
Apr 2020 - Mar 2021	Number of approved applications	5	3	1	1	0	0	0	1	11
	Amount approved for applications	\$16,823,899	\$8,092,177	\$2,076,927	\$1,806,280	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4,006,402	\$32,805,685
Apr 2017 - Mar 2021	Number of approved applications	27	11	5	5	3	3	0	3	57
	Amount approved for applications	\$63,423,698	\$24,372,217	\$7,728,617	\$7,380,542	\$1,625,319	\$4,602,227	\$0	\$9,695,190	\$118,827,809
	Resource allocation (%)^	53%	21%	7%	6%	1%	4%	0%	8%	100%

Note: MSM – Men who have sex with men, FSW/MCFSW - Female sex worker and their male clients, PWID - Injecting drug users, EM – Ethnic minorities, TG - Transgender, PLHIV - People living with HIV.

^ There may be a slight discrepancy between the sum of individual items and the total as shown in the table due to rounding of figures.

Others include Prisoners (3).