



**AIDS Trust Fund**

**2014-15 Annual Report**  
**(from 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015)**



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## Introduction

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. An additional one-off injection of \$350 million was approved by the FC in 2013-14 to support the funding 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 look at the proposals applying 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.
- Publicity and public education which remains the most effective way to combat the spread of HIV and AIDS.

This 2014-15 Annual Report of the Fund summarises the work done related to the operation of the Fund in 2014-15.



## Membership and Terms of Reference

### **Council for the AIDS Trust Fund**

Chairperson:

Dr. Matthew NG, J.P.

Members:

Mr CHEUNG Hing Wah, B.B.S.

Dr. LIN Che Kit

Prof. Diana LEE

Ms. Fiona CHAU (*ex officio Member from Food and Health Bureau*)

Secretary:

Dr. Henry NG

### **Ex-gratia Payment Sub-Committee**

Chairperson:

Mr CHEUNG Hing Wah, B.B.S.

Members:

Dr. Thomas LAI

Mr. Stephen LIU

Secretary:

Dr. Janet KWAN

### **Medical and Support Services Sub-Committee**

Chairperson:

Dr. LIN Che Kit

Members:

Dr. LEE Man Po

Dr. LO Kuen Kong

Dr. Andrew SIU

Prof. Peter LEE, J.P.

Secretary:

Dr. Janet KWAN

### **Publicity and Public Education Sub-Committee**

Chairperson:

Prof. Diana LEE

Members:

Dr. Peter CHAN

Dr. Peter TSANG

Ms. Victoria KWONG

Secretary:

Dr. Janet KWAN

## **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 the provision of additional medical and/or 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 Applications, Meetings and Funding Approved

Based on the Recommended HIV/AIDS Strategies for Hong Kong 2012-2016 issued by the Hong Kong Advisory Council on AIDS (ACA), higher funding priorities would be accorded to the applications under the Fund for programme targeted at the five high risk groups, namely:-

1. men who have sex with men (MSM);
2. male clients of female sex workers ;
3. injecting drug users (IDU);
4. sex workers; and
5. people living with HIV (PLHIV).

### Meetings held for processing the applications in 2014-15

During 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015, 3 meetings of the Council and 4 meetings of the 3 Sub-Committees (Ex-gratia Payments: 1; Medical and Support Services (MSS): 2; and Publicity and Public Education (PPE): 1) were held.

### Number of applications processed

During the meetings, a total of 51 applications (additional ex-gratia payment: 26, MSS: 15 and PPE: 10) were processed by the Council, of which 48 applications (94%) were approved. Excluding the 26 applications for additional ex-gratia payments, 22 out of 25 (88%) applications were approved. Details of breakdown are at Table 1.

**Table 1: Number of applications processed by the Council  
(from 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015)**

Types of Applications	Applications Withdrawn	Applications Rejected	Applications Approved	Applications Approved Subject to Conditions	Total
Ex-gratia Payments	0	0	0	0	0
Additional Ex-gratia Payment	0	0	26	0	26
Medical and Support Services	0	1	14	0	15
Publicity and Public Education	0	1	8	1	10
<b>Total</b>	0	2	48	1	51

## Summary of funding approved

The total funding amount approved for the 48 applications (additional ex-gratia payment: 26, MSS: 14 and PPE: 8) was around \$52.67 million (additional ex-gratia payment: \$7.87 million, MSS: \$18.53 million, PPE: \$26.27 million). Details of breakdown are at Table 2.

**Table 2: Number of applications and amount of funding approved by the Council (from 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015)**

Financial Year	14-15	
	No.	Amount (\$M)
Ex-gratia Payments	0	0.00
Additional Ex-gratia Payment	26	7.87
MSS	14	18.53
PPE	8	26.27
<b>Total</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>52.67</b>

## Breakdown of applications and funding approved by at-risk groups

A breakdown of applications and amount of funding approved from 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015 by the five high risk groups recommended by ACA were shown at Annexes Ia, Ib and Ic.

From 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015, the amount granted for MSM project/programme topped the list at \$9.50 million (Annex Ia). For MSS, the amount of granted for PLHIV topped the list of MSS research project grants at \$2.99 million and MSS non-research project grants at \$13.76 million (Annex Ib). For PPE, the amount granted for MSM topped the list of PPE project/programme grants at \$9.50 million (Annex Ic).

## Audited accounts in 2014-15

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 table extracted from the audited accounts of the Fund in 2014-15 was at Table 3.

**Table 3: Table extracted from audited accounts of the Fund (2014-15)**

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>2014-15</b>
<b>INCOME (\$)</b>	
Interest	5,261,000
Refund of grants	63,000
Other Income*	132,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,456,000</b>
<b>Accumulated Total</b>	<b>243,335,000</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE (\$)**</b>	
Publicity and Public Education	26,332,000
Medical and Support Services	18,544,000
Ex-gratia Payment	7,832,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>52,708,000</b>
<b>Accumulated Total</b>	<b>605,505,000</b>
Surplus/Deficit for the year	-47,252,000
Accumulated Surplus/Deficit at end of year	-362,170,000
<b>Fund Balance (\$)</b>	<b>337,830,000</b>

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

\*\* There might be a discrepancy 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 ATF grant (in terms of auditors' remuneration) which may be claimed on a reimbursement basis.

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





# Update of the Fund's Application Guidelines and other requirements

## Update of the Fund's Application Guidelines

The Fund's Application Guideline has been updated regularly. The following updates to the Fund's Application Guideline were made in 2014-15:-

1. The following changes were made according to the recommendations from the Audit Commission
  - Clause 54: Requirements on avoiding and declaring conflicts of interests were added.
  - Clause 72: The period of record retention was changed from 3 years to 7 years.
2. The following change was made according to the feedback from grantees
  - Clause 77: Reimbursement of audit fee on project was increased from \$3,000 to \$ 5,000.
3. Annex about pricing standards: The pricing standard related to human resources was updated based on the pay scale of civil servant.

## Compliance to Quality Assurance Guidelines on HIV Voluntary Counselling and Testing (VCT) Services

The Quality Assurance Guidelines on HIV VCT Services in Community Settings (the Guideline) was developed and endorsed by the ACA. The Guidelines serve to provide basic guidance for service providers to take reference for improvement of their VCT services, with the purpose of upholding the standard of service provision as a whole. In order to facilitate evaluation of VCT services in community settings, Community Forum on AIDS subsequently developed a checklist in June 2014 based on the Guidelines. The Checklist would assess the quality of VCT services at two levels, including the organization level (Part A), and the individual level (Part B).

In order to comply with the Guidelines, for all projects/programmes with funding granted by the Fund and with VCT services provided, grantees were required to submit Part A of the Checklist (organization level) together with the progress or final reports and keep good record of Part B (individual level ).

## Communication with stakeholders

### Executive summary & publication list of completed projects/programmes

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 in the Fund's website for public information.

### Visits to Grantees

With the aims of monitoring the performance of grantees and also facilitating the information exchange between grantees and the Council, three visits were organised for the Council's Members and Secretariat on 21 May, 18 June and 19 December 2014 to the following five grantees:-

1. Community Health Organisation for Intervention, Care and Empowerment Limited (C.H.O.I.C.E.)
2. Heart to Heat
3. Teen's Key
4. The Boys' & Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong (B.G.C.A.)
5. The Society for the Aid and Rehabilitation of Drug Abusers (Hong Kong) (S.A.R.D.A.)



Visit to C.H.O.I.C.E.

Visit to Teen's Key



Visit to S.A.R.D.A.

## Sharing Session

Sharing session was held on 9 December 2014 which aimed at providing a platform for grantees to share their experience on HIV prevention and control in priority communities as well as AIDS-related research through their programmes supported by the Fund. Over 60 participants from different NGOs, Universities, the Council and ACA attended the sharing session.



Council and ACA Members with guest speakers in Sharing Session



Dr. Matthew NG, the Chairperson of the Council, expressed welcome remarks to the attendants

# Annex

Annex Ia

## Number of approved applications and amount of funding by at-risk groups (from 1 Apr 2014 to 31 March 2015)

Target groups of applications		Five higher funding priorities areas (Recommended HIV/AIDS Strategies for Hong Kong 2012 - 2016)					Others		Research	Sub-total	Additional EGP (PLHIV)	Total
		MSM	MCFSW	IDU	SW	PLHIV	Multiple Target Groups	Others #				
2014-15	Number of approved applications	7	1	2	0	9	2 **	7	10	38	26	64
	Amount approved for applications (\$)	9,497,532	1,991,798	2,805,418	0	15,937,591	5,964,930 **	3,839,816	4,766,520	44,803,605	7,870,500	52,674,105
	Resource allocation (%)	21%	4%	6%	0%	36%	13%	9%	11%	100%		
Oct 2012 - Mar 2015	Number of approved applications	24	1	4	4	11	3 **	11	17	75	53	128
	Amount approved for applications (\$)	27,921,579	1,991,798	8,403,418	4,095,238	17,034,059	9,830,713 **	9,417,474	11,195,756	89,890,035	15,407,158	105,297,193
	Resource allocation (%)	31%	2%	9%	5%	19%	11%	10%	12%	100%		

Note: MSM – Men who have sex with men, MCFSW - Male clients of female sex workers, IDU - Injecting drug users, SW – Sex workers, PLHIV - People living with HIV

\*\* Multiple Target Groups include MCFSW & SW (1) and MSM, MCFSW & Youth (1)

# Others include cross-border traveler (2) , prisoners (1), ethnic minorities (1), transgender (4), the deaf, blind & people with physical disabilities (1) and general public (students, young people, those at high risk of infection & those with risk behaviours including their spouses or partners) (2)

**Number of MSS approved applications and amount of funding by at-risk groups  
(from 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015)**

Target groups of applications		MSS (research)							MSS (non-research)	Total	
		Five higher funding priorities areas (Recommended HIV/AIDS Strategies for Hong Kong 2012 - 2016)					Others		Sub-total		People living with HIV
		MSM	MCFSW	IDU	SW	PLHIV	Multiple Target Groups	Others			
2014-15	Number of approved applications	3	1	0	0	6	0	0	10	6	16
	Amount approved for applications (€)	1,134,462	643,767	0	0	2,988,291	0	0	4,766,520	13,764,678	18,531,198
	Resource allocation (%)	6%	3%	0%	0%	16%	0%	0%		74%	100%
Oct 2012 - Mar 2015	Number of approved applications	7	1	0	0	8	1	0	17	8	25
	Amount approved for applications (€)	4,183,525	643,767	0	0	5,645,877	722,587	0	11,195,756	14,861,146	26,056,902
	Resource allocation (%)	16%	2%	0%	0%	22%	3%	0%		57%	100%

Note: MSM – Men who have sex with men, MCFSW - Male clients of female sex workers, IDU - Injecting drug users, SW – Sex workers, PLHIV - People living with HIV

**Number of PPE approved applications and amount of funding by at-risk groups  
(from 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015)**

Target groups of applications		PPE							Total
		Five higher funding priorities areas (Recommended HIV/AIDS Strategies for Hong Kong 2012 - 2016)					Others		
		MSM	MCFSW	IDU	SW	PLHIV	Multiple Target Groups	Others #	
2014-15	Number of approved applications	7	1	2	0	3	2**	7	22
	Amount approved for applications (\$)	9,497,532	1,991,798	2,805,418	0	2,172,913	5,964,930**	3,839,816	26,272,407
	Resource allocation (%)	36%	8%	11%	0%	8%	23%	15%	100%
Oct 2012 - Mar 2015	Number of approved applications	24	1	4	4	3	3**	11	50
	Amount approved for applications (\$)	27,921,579	1,991,798	8,403,418	4,095,238	2,172,913	9,830,713**	9,417,474	63,833,133
	Resource allocation (%)	44%	3%	13%	6%	3%	15%	15%	100%

Note: MSM – Men who have sex with men, MCFSW - Male clients of female sex workers, IDU - Injecting drug users, SW – Sex workers, PLHIV - People living with HIV

\*\* include one project for MCFSW & SW and one project for MSM, MCFSW & Youth.

# Others include cross-border traveler (2) , prisoners (1), ethnic minorities (1), transgender (4), the deaf, blind & people with physical disabilities (1) and general public (students, young people, those at high risk of infection & those with risk behaviours including their spouses or partners) (2).