

AIDS Trust Fund Annual Report 2017-18



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

AIDS Trust Fund Annual Report 2017-18

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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 2017-18 Annual Report of the Fund summarises the work done related to the operation of the Fund in 2017-18.

Membership and Terms of Reference

Council for the AIDS Trust Fund

- Chairperson: Dr Matthew NG, J.P. (until July 2017)
Dr LAI Sik-to, Thomas (August 2017 onwards)
- Members: Mr CHEUNG Hing-wah, B.B.S.
Dr LIN Che-kit (until July 2017)
Dr LEE Man-po (August 2017 onwards)
Prof LEE Tze-fan, Diana, J.P.
Ms CHAU Suet-mui, Fiona (until October 2017) (*ex-officio Member from Food and Health Bureau*)
Miss KWOK Wing-see, Grace (October 2017 onwards) (*ex-officio Member from Food and Health Bureau*)
- Secretary: Dr TO May-kei, Liza

Ex-gratia Payment Sub-Committee

- Chairperson: Mr CHEUNG Hing-wah, B.B.S.
- Members: Dr LAI Sik-to, Thomas (until August 2017)
Mr LIU Wing-ting, Stephen, J.P.
Mr NGAN Man-por (December 2017 onwards)
- Secretary: Dr LAU Tin-wai, Winnie

Medical and Support Services Sub-Committee

- Chairperson: Dr LIN Che-kit (until Jul 2017)
Dr LEE Man-po (August 2017 onwards)
- Members: Dr HO King-man
Dr LEE Cheuk-kwong
Dr LEE Man-po (until July 2017)
Dr LO Kuen-kong (until August 2017)
Dr SIU Man-hong, Andrew
Dr TSANG Tak-yin, Owen
- Secretary: Dr LAU Tin-wai, Winnie

Publicity and Public Education Sub-Committee

- Chairperson: Prof LEE Tze-fan, Diana, J.P.
- Members: Mr CHEUNG Tat-ming, Eric
Ms KWONG Suk-chun, Victoria
Dr LEE Cheuk-kwong
Mr NGAN Man-por
Mr TONG Tai-wai, Raphael, M.H.
Dr TSANG Chiu-shun
- Secretary: Dr LAU Tin-wai, Winnie



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 (MSS) 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 (PPE) 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 programmes 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);
- (vi) Female sex workers (FSW) and their male clients (MCFSW)

Meetings held for processing applications in 2017-18

From 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018, 2 meetings of the Council and 6 meetings of the three Sub-Committees (i.e. Ex-gratia Payments: 1; Medical and Support Services (MSS): 2; and Publicity and Public Education (PPE): 3) were held.

Number of applications processed

During the period, a total of 73 applications (additional ex-gratia payment: 26, MSS: 31 and PPE: 16) were processed by the Council, of which 48 applications (66%) were approved. Excluding the 26 applications for additional ex-gratia payments, 22 out of 47 (47%) applications were approved. Details of breakdown are at **Table 1**.

**Table 1: Number of applications processed by the Council
(from 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018)**

Types of Applications	Applications Withdrawn	Applications Rejected	Applications Approved	Applications Approved Subject to Conditions	Total
Additional Ex-gratia Payment	0	0	26	0	26
Medical and Support Services	1	17	13	0	31
Publicity and Public Education	0	7	9	0	16
Total	1	24	48	0	73

Summary of funding approved

The total funding amount approved for the 48 applications (additional ex-gratia payment: 26, MSS: 13 and PPE: 9) was around \$60.84 million (additional ex-gratia payment: \$8.91 million, MSS: \$14.74 million, PPE: \$37.2 million). Details of breakdown are at **Table 2**.

Table 2: Number of applications and amount of funding approved by the Council (from 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018)

Financial Year	2017-18	
	No.	Amount ^ (\$HK million)
Additional Ex-gratia Payment	26	8.91
MSS	13	14.74
PPE	9	37.20
Total	48	60.84

Note: ^ 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.

Breakdown of applications and funding approved by high risk groups

A breakdown of applications and amount of funding approved from 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018 by the six high risk groups recommended by ACA are shown at **Annexes Ia, Ib and Ic**.

From 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018, the amount granted for MSM projects / programmes topped the list at \$22.16 million (**Annex Ia**). For MSS, the amount of granted for MSM topped the list of MSS research project grants at \$5.38 million (**Annex Ib**). For PPE, the amount granted for MSM project / programme topped the list of PPE grants at \$16.78 million (**Annex Ic**).

Audited accounts in 2017-18

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 2017-18 are at **Table 3**.

Table 3: Information extracted from audited accounts of the Fund (2017-18)

Financial Year	2017-18 (HK\$'000)
Capital (\$) (a)	700,000
INCOME (\$)	
Interest on deposits and bank balances	3,152
Interest on placement with the Exchange Fund	2,691
Refund of grants	504
Other Income*	217
Total (b)	6,564
EXPENDITURE (\$)***	
Publicity and Public Education	37,254
Medical and Support Services	14,797
Ex-gratia Payment	8,908
Total (c)	60,959
Deficit for the year (b-c)	(54,395)
Accumulated Expenditure at end of year**** (d)	(464,759)
Fund Balance (\$) (a) - (d)	235,241

* 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 2017-2018

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 227 R	The level of GFAP as a specific biomarker of neuroAIDS among Chinese patients
MSS 235 PM	Public Acceptance, Prevention, Care & Support, and Capacity Building for People at Risks and People living with HIV/AIDS
MSS 258 PJ	Support Fund for HIV/AIDS Patients and their Families
PPE 637 PM	Intensive Support and Preventive Programme for AIDS and Blood-borne Diseases
PPE 638 PM	In-House Testing! - Voluntary Counselling and Testing for HIV (VCT) in the GLBT Community Centre
PPE 644 PM	HIV prevention, support and community care programme for injecting drug users, SARDA
PPE 646 PM-Project 3	Integrated Community-Based Interventions for the Prevention
PPE 655 PM Project 2 & 4	Comprehensive Package for Young MSM and Young MSM newly infected with HIV
PPE 656 PM	"Translating recommendations and findings into effective actions – maintaining Hong Kong' slow HIV prevalence"
PPE 658 PM	Our Garden
PPE 659 PM	Young female sex workers peer education through internet media project
PPE 665 PJ	The Medicine Annual Quiz 2017 – Liberal Studies Cup on AIDS
PPE 667 PM	Inside and Out: Building the community response to HIV by enhancing the link between HIV prevention, testing, treatment and care
PPE 669 PM	Fight against HIV and STD, female sex workers take the leading role
PPE 672 PM	HIV Combination Prevention for Female Sex Workers



New Initiatives

Recommended HIV /AIDS Strategies for Hong Kong (2017-2021)

ACA has published the “Recommended HIV/AIDS Strategies for Hong Kong (2017-2021)” in May 2017. The Strategies set out the priority areas for further examination, and high risk groups that should be addressed. The Council agreed to follow the newly published strategies and to update the ATF Guidelines to address following priorities groups:

- (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);
- (vi) Female sex workers (FSW) and their male clients (MCFSW)

To extend the submission deadline for Audited Account

In the past, grantees needed to submit an Audited Account within two months from the date of completion or earlier termination of the project / programme. Requests were received from grantees to extend the submission deadline of Audited Account. After deliberation, the Council endorsed the recommendation of PPE and MSS Sub-committees and extended the submission of Audited Account from 2 months to within 6 months after the end date or termination of project /programme.

Projects targeted at People Living with HIV to be vetted by MSS Sub-committee

In order to streamline processing of application process, taking into account the ambit of PPE and MSS Sub-committees, applications targeted at People living with HIV (PLHIV) would be vetted by the MSS Sub-committee. NGOs could submit one MSS application targeted at PLHIV and one PPE application targeted at other high risk group(s) in the same round of application.

Review of ATF Guidelines Clause 59: Separate interest bearing bank account

Considering applicants from universities and the public sector would deposit the grant into their own general bank account, the Council endorsed to revise the ATF Guidelines clause 59 as follows:

“The requirement to keep a separate bank account does not apply to government departments, university and service providers in the public sector which may deposit the grant into their own general bank accounts”

Communication with Stakeholders

Visits to grantees

To monitor the performance of grantees and to facilitate information exchange between grantees and the Council, two visits were organised for the Council's Members and Secretariat in September 2017 and February 2018 to the following five grantees:

1. The Society for AIDS Care Limited
2. Gathering Point
3. A-Backup
4. Teen's Key
5. Hong Kong Association of the Deaf



Visit to Hong Kong Association of the Deaf



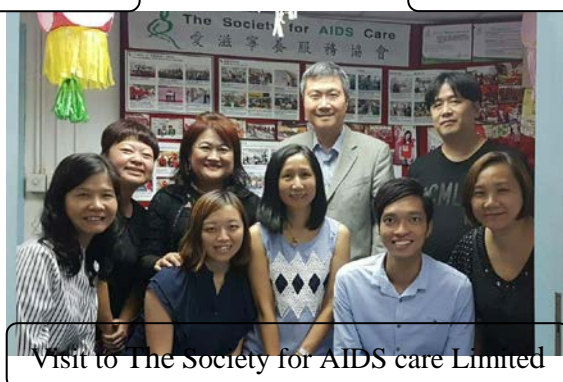
Visit to Teen's Key



Visit to A-Backup



Visit to Gathering Point



Visit to The Society for AIDS care Limited

Sharing session

A sharing session was held on 5 December 2017. The session served as 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.



ATF Sharing Session on 5 December 2017

Number of ALL approved projects and amount of funding by high risk groups (from 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018)

Applications		Six higher funding priority areas (Recommended HIV/AIDS Strategies for Hong Kong 2017 - 2021)						Others #	Sub-total	Additional EGP (PLHIV)	Total
		MSM	FSW/ MCFSW	PWID	EM	TG	PLHIV				
Apr 2017 - Mar 2018	<i>Number</i>	12	3	2	2	1	14	1	35	26	61
	<i>Amount approved</i>	\$22,164,393	\$6,380,195	\$3,133,829	\$2,239,233	\$310,101	\$13,960,698	\$3,745,782	\$51,934,230	\$8,908,000	\$60,842,230
	<i>Resource allocation (%) ^</i>	43%	12%	6%	4%	1%	27%	7%	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

Others include Prisoners (1)

^ 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.

Number of MSS approved projects and amount of funding by high risk groups (from 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018)

Applications		MSS (research)						MSS (non-research)	Total	
		Six higher funding priority areas (Recommended HIV/AIDS Strategies for Hong Kong 2017 - 2021)						Sub-total		People living with HIV
		MSM	FSW/ MCFSW	PWID	EM	TG	PLHIV			
<i>Apr 2017 - Mar 2018</i>	<i>Number</i>	3	0	0	0	0	9	12	2	14
	<i>Amount approved</i>	\$5,379,948	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4,897,908	\$10,277,856	\$4,460,564	\$14,738,420
	<i>Resource allocation (%)^</i>	37%	0%	0%	0%	0%	33%	70%	30%	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.

Number of PPE approved projects and amount of funding by high risk groups (from 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018)

Applications		PPE							Total
		Six higher funding priority areas (Recommended HIV/AIDS Strategies for Hong Kong 2017 - 2021)						Others #	
		MSM	FSW/ MCFSW	PWID	EM	TG	PLHIV		
<i>Apr 2017 - Mar 2018</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>21</i>
	<i>Amount approved</i>	<i>\$16,784,445</i>	<i>\$6,380,195</i>	<i>\$3,133,829</i>	<i>\$2,239,233</i>	<i>\$310,101</i>	<i>\$4,602,227</i>	<i>\$3,745,782</i>	<i>\$37,195,811</i>
	<i>Resource allocation (%)^</i>	<i>45%</i>	<i>17%</i>	<i>8%</i>	<i>6%</i>	<i>1%</i>	<i>12%</i>	<i>10%</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

Others include prisoners (1)

^ 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.