

# **AIDS Trust Fund Annual Report 2018-19**



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

# **AIDS Trust Fund Annual Report 2018-19**

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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 remains the most effective way to combat the spread of HIV and AIDS.

This 2018-19 Annual Report of the Fund summarises the work done related to the operation of the Fund in 2018-19.

# 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.  
Dr LEE Cheuk-kwong  
Dr LEE Man-po  
Miss KWOK Wing-see, Grace (till October 2018)  
(ex-officio Member from Food and Health Bureau)  
Ms. LEE Hoi Lun, Leonie (October 2018 onwards)  
(ex-officio Member from Food and Health Bureau)  
Secretary: Dr. TO May-kei, Liza (till March 2019)  
Dr. LIN Wai-chi, Ada (March 2019 onwards)

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

Chairperson: Mr CHEUNG Hing-wah, B.B.S.  
Members: Mr LIU Wing-ting, Stephen, JP  
Mr NGAN Man-por  
Secretary: Dr LAU Tin-wai, Winnie

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

Chairperson: Dr LEE Man-po  
Members: Dr HO King-man  
Prof HUNG Fan-ngai, Ivan  
Dr SIU Man-hong, Andrew  
Dr TSANG Tak-yin, Owen  
Prof TSE Shu-ki, Samson  
Secretary: Dr LAU Tin-wai, Winnie

## **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  
Ms KWONG Suk-chun, Victoria (till August 2018)  
Mr NGAN Man-por  
Dr NGAN Po-lun, Allan  
Prof SHIU Tak-ying, Ann  
Mr TONG Tai-wai, Raphael, M.H.  
Dr TSANG Chiu-shun (till August 2018)  
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 fulfilment 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 2018-19

From 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019, 2 meetings 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 53 applications (additional ex-gratia payment: 26, MSS: 17 and PPE: 10) were processed by the Council, of which 40 applications (75%) were approved. Excluding the 26 applications for additional ex-gratia payments, 14 out of 27 (52%) applications were approved. Details of breakdown are at **Table 1**.

**Table 1: Number of applications processed by the Council (from 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019)**

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	0	9	8	0	17
Publicity and Public Education	0	4	6	0	10
<b>Total</b>	0	13	40	0	53

## Summary of funding approved

The total funding amount approved for the 40 applications (additional ex-gratia payment: 26, MSS: 8 and PPE: 6) was around \$37.98 million (additional ex-gratia payment: \$9.18 million, MSS: \$7.51 million, PPE: \$21.29 million). Details of breakdown are at **Table 2**.

**Table 2: Number of applications and amount of funding approved by the Council (from 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019)**

Financial Year	2018-19	
	No.	Amount ^ (\$HK million)
Additional Ex-gratia Payment	26	9.18
MSS	8	7.51
PPE	6	21.29
<b>Total</b>	40	37.98

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.

## Applications and funding approved by high risk groups

A breakdown of applications and amount of funding approved from 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019 by the six high risk groups recommended by ACA were shown at **Annexes Ia, Ib and Ic**.

From 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019, the amount granted for MSM projects / programmes topped the list at \$17.67 million (**Annex Ia**). For MSS, the amount of grant for MSM topped the list of MSS research project grants at \$2.44 million (**Annex Ib**). For PPE, the amount granted for MSM project / programme topped the list of PPE grants at \$15.23 million (**Annex Ic**).



## Audited accounts in 2018-19

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 2018-19 are at **Table 3**.

**Table 3: Information extracted from audited accounts of the Fund (2018-19)**

Financial Year	2018-19 (HK\$'000)
<b>Capital (\$) (a)</b>	<b>700,000</b>
<b>INCOME (\$)</b>	
Interest on deposits and bank balances	3,371
Interest on placement with the Exchange Fund	3,558
Refund of grants	353
Other Income*	1,281
<b>Total (b)</b>	<b>8,563</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE (\$)***</b>	
Publicity and Public Education	21,435
Medical and Support Services	7,550
Ex-gratia Payment	9,180
<b>Total (c)</b>	<b>38,165</b>
Deficit for the year (b-c)	(29,602)
Accumulated Expenditure at end of year**** (d)	(494,361)
<b>Fund Balance (\$) (a) - (d)</b>	<b>205,639</b>

\* 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 2018-2019

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 241 R	Behavioural surveillance surveys of the male clients of female sex workers population in Hong Kong
MSS 248 R*	Detection of HIV-1 minority drug-resistant and X4-topic variants by Next-Generation Sequencing to improve the prediction of clinical antiretroviral treatment outcome
MSS 249 R	A randomized controlled trial evaluating the efficacy of enhanced and standard versions of HIV testing and counselling (HTC) in reducing sexual risk behaviours, increasing HIV retesting rate and risk perception among men who have sex with men (MSM) in Hong Kong
MSS 260 R	Impact of Metabolic syndrome and Body Composition on Bone Mineral Density in HIV-infected individuals in Hong Kong
MSS 265 R	Prediction of Incident Active TB in PLHIV by Detection of Free-Circulating M. tuberculosis DNA in patient plasma: A Retrospective Longitudinal Study
MSS 277 R	Re-examining the cost-effectiveness of annual latent TB infection retesting for reducing the risk of TB reactivation among HIV diagnosed patients in the HAART era in Hong Kong
MSS 281 R	Hepatitis E virus infection in HIV-positive patients
MSS 284 R	Development of Low-Cost Genotyping Assay for Routine Clinical Detection of HIV-1 Integrase Inhibitor Resistance.
MSS 289 R	A comparative study to investigate the gut microbiota of HIV patients with metabolic syndrome
MSS 290 R	Glycaemic control, diabetic complications, and mortality in HIV-infected individuals with diabetes
PPE 646 PM	Integrated Community-Based Interventions for the Prevention
PPE 648 PM	Comprehensive HIV/STI Program with Sex Workers
PPE 655 PM	Project Touch
PPE 666 PM	Translating recommendations and findings into effective actions - maintaining Hong Kong's low HIV prevalence

PPE 675 PM*	Mercury III - Intensive Support and Preventive Programme for AIDS and Blood Borne Disease
PPE 680 PM	Our Garden



## **New Initiatives**

### **Review ATF Guidelines and Application Form**

In order to optimise fund usage, enhance the monitoring procedures and ensure timely processing applications, the Council for the AIDS Trust Fund reviewed the Medical and Support Services and Publicity and Public Education Application Guidelines (ATF Guidelines) and Application Form :-

#### **ATF Guidelines**

- i. There are two cycles for project submissions per year, the deadlines of which are the last working day of January and the last working day of July. (Clause 18)
- ii. Pricing standards setting out limits for the appropriate salaries for programme / project staff are listed at “Pricing Standards for Applications to ATF” in Annex. The proposed job title should strictly adhere to the “Pricing Standards for Applications to ATF”. Applicant should provide the job descriptions, number of staff, qualification requirements, and duration of employment for each proposed post in the application form. (Clause 50)
- iii. Grants cannot be used to create any permanent staff posts or recurrent financial commitments. Any staff engaged in approved programmes/projects must be recruited through an open and fair procedure. The Grantee should seek agreement from the staff for submitting their academic qualification to the ATF. Request for changes in human resources must be made in writing and submitted to the ATF Secretariat. Unauthorised changes in the human resources will lead to forfeiture or termination of grants. (Clause 53)
- iv. The Council may, in its absolute discretion and without prejudice to its accrued rights and actions against the Grantee, by giving 30 days’ written notice to the Grantee terminate the programme/project. The organisation will be barred from applying for the ATF for two years counting from the date of issuing letter to the organisation. After 2 years, the applicant could submit a report to address the concerns from the Council and provide evidence of enhancement for the organisation. The Council would consider to accept the new applications again on a case-by-case basis. (Clause 95)

#### **Application Form**

- v. The application form was updated, the officer in-charge and contact person would be required to fill in the name as shown on HKID.

# 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 July 2018 and January 2019 to the following four grantees:

1. Hong Kong AIDS Foundation
2. Society for the AID and Rehabilitation of Drug Abusers (SARDA)
3. Gay Harmony
4. Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong



Visit to Hong Kong AIDS Foundation



Visit to Society for the AID and Rehabilitation of Drug Abusers (SARDA)



Visit to Gay Harmony



Visit to Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong



## Sharing session

A sharing session was held on 11 January 2019. 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 11 January 2019

## Number of ALL approved projects and amount of funding by high risk groups (from 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2019)

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				
Apr 2018 - Mar 2019	Number of approved applications	11	2	0	1	1	4	0	19	26	45
	Amount approved for applications	\$17,671,235	\$4,282,466	\$0	\$1,420,528	\$351,477	\$5,071,540	\$0	\$28,797,247	\$9,180,000	\$37,977,247
Apr 2017 - Mar 2019	<i>Number of approved applications</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>54</i>	<i>52</i>	<i>106</i>
	<i>Amount approved for applications</i>	<i>\$39,835,628</i>	<i>\$10,662,661</i>	<i>\$3,133,829</i>	<i>\$3,659,761</i>	<i>\$661,578</i>	<i>\$19,032,238</i>	<i>\$3,745,782</i>	<i>\$80,731,477</i>	<i>\$18,088,000</i>	<i>\$98,819,477</i>
	<i>Resource allocation (%) ^</i>	<i>49%</i>	<i>13%</i>	<i>4%</i>	<i>5%</i>	<i>1%</i>	<i>24%</i>	<i>5%</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.

# Others include Prisoners (1).

## Number of MSS approved projects and amount of funding by high risk groups (from 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2019)

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)						Sub-total		People living with HIV
		MSM	FSW/ MCFSW	PWID	EM	TG	PLHIV			
Apr 2018 - Mar 2019	Number of approved applications	4	0	0	0	0	2	6	2	8
	Amount approved for applications	\$2,440,265	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,589,582	\$4,029,847	\$3,481,958	\$7,511,805
Apr 2017 - Mar 2019	<i>Number of approved applications</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>22</i>
	<i>Amount approved for applications</i>	<i>\$7,820,213</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$6,487,490</i>	<i>\$14,307,702</i>	<i>\$7,942,522</i>	<i>\$22,250,224</i>
	<i>Resource allocation (%)^</i>	<i>35%</i>	<i>0%</i>	<i>0%</i>	<i>0%</i>	<i>0%</i>	<i>29%</i>	<i>64%</i>	<i>36%</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.



## Number of PPE approved projects and amount of funding by high risk groups (from 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2019)

Target groups of applications		PPE							Total
		Six higher funding priorities areas (Recommended HIV/AIDS Strategies for Hong Kong 2017 - 2021)							
		MSM	FSW/ MCFSW	PWID	EM	TG	PLHIV	Others #	
Apr 2018 - Mar 2019	Number of approved applications	7	2	0	1	1	0	0	11
	Amount approved for applications	\$15,230,971	\$4,282,466	\$0	\$1,420,528	\$351,477	\$0	\$0	\$21,285,442
Apr 2017 - Mar 2019	<i>Number of approved applications</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>32</i>
	<i>Amount approved for applications</i>	<i>\$32,015,416</i>	<i>\$10,662,661</i>	<i>\$3,133,829</i>	<i>\$3,659,761</i>	<i>\$661,578</i>	<i>\$4,602,227</i>	<i>\$3,745,782</i>	<i>\$58,481,253</i>
	<i>Resource allocation (%)^</i>	<i>55%</i>	<i>18%</i>	<i>5%</i>	<i>6%</i>	<i>1%</i>	<i>8%</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.

# Others include Prisoners (1).