

AIDS Trust Fund Annual Report 2019-20



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

AIDS Trust Fund Annual Report 2019-20

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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 2019-20 Annual Report of the Fund summarises the work done related to the operation of the Fund in 2019-20.



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
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.

Members: Prof Albert LEE
Mr LIU Wing-ting, Stephen, J.P.
Mr NGAN Man-por

Secretary: Dr LAU Tin-wai, Winnie (till June 2019)
Dr YU Wing-man, Joan (June 2019 onwards)

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 LAU Tin-wai, Winnie (till June 2019)
Dr YU Wing-man, Joan (June 2019 onwards)

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
Dr NGAN Po-lun, Allan
Prof SHIU Tak-ying, Ann
Mr TONG Tai-wai, Raphael, M.H.

Secretary: Dr LAU Tin-wai, Winnie (till June 2019)
Dr YU Wing-man, Joan (June 2019 onwards)



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 2019-20

From 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020, 1 meeting of the Council and 4 meetings of the 3 Sub-Committees (i.e. Ex-gratia Payments: 1; Medical and Support Services (MSS): 1; and Publicity and Public Education (PPE): 2) were held.

Number of applications processed

During the period, a total of 48 applications (additional ex-gratia payment: 24, MSS: 17 and PPE: 7) were processed by the Council, of which 40 applications (83%) were approved. Excluding the 24 applications for additional ex-gratia payments, 16 out of 24 (67%) applications were approved. Details of breakdown are at **Table 1**.

**Table 1: Number of applications processed by the Council
(from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020)**

Types of Applications	Applications Withdrawn	Applications Rejected	Applications Approved	Applications Approved Subject to Conditions	Total
Additional Ex-gratia Payment	0	0	24	0	24
Medical and Support Services	0	8	9	0	17
Publicity and Public Education	0	0	7	0	7
Total	0	8	40	0	48

Summary of funding approved

The total funding amount approved for the 40 applications (additional ex-gratia payment: 24, MSS: 9 and PPE: 7) was around \$49.57 million (additional ex-gratia payment: \$8.79 million, MSS: \$13.24 million, PPE: \$27.54 million). Details of breakdown are at **Table 2**.

**Table 2: Number of applications and amount of funding approved by the Council
(from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020)**

Financial Year	2019-20	
	Number of applications	Amount (\$HK million) (Note)
Additional Ex-gratia Payment	24	8.79
MSS	9	13.24
PPE	7	27.54
Total	40	49.57

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 2019 to 31 March 2020 by the six high risk groups recommended by ACA were shown at **Annexes Ia, Ib and Ic**.

From 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020, the amount granted for MSM projects / programmes topped the list at \$16.42 million (**Annex Ia**). For MSS, the amount of granted for MSM topped the list of MSS research project grants at around \$1.84 million (**Annex Ib**). For PPE, the amount granted for MSM project / programme topped the list of PPE grants at \$14.58 million (**Annex Ic**).

Audited accounts in 2019-20

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 2019-20 are at **Table 3**.

Table 3: Information extracted from audited accounts of the Fund (2019-20)

Financial Year	2019-20 (HK\$'000)
Capital (\$) (a)	700,000
INCOME (\$)	
Interest on deposits and bank balances	3,408
Interest on placement with the Exchange Fund	2,766
Refund of grants	1,411
Other Income*	1,465
Total (b)	9,050
EXPENDITURE (\$) **	
Publicity and Public Education	27,624
Medical and Support Services	13,293
Ex-gratia Payment	8,792
Total (c)	49,709
Deficit for the year (b-c)	(40,659)
Accumulated Expenditure at end of year*** (d)	(535,020)
Fund Balance (\$) (a) - (d)	164,980

* 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 2019-20

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 243 R	Characterization of the pattern and trends of HIV spread among newly diagnosed patients in Hong Kong
MSS 262 R	Exploration of the harm reduction effects of methadone treatment in Hong Kong
MSS 274 R	A pilot needs assessment of men who have sex with men (MSM) who obtain pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) in Bangkok, Thailand and use it in Hong Kong ("PrEP tourists")
MSS 276 R	An exploratory study of pharmacologic measure of Tenofovir diphosphate and Emtricitabine triphosphate in dried blood spots as adherence testing for monitoring pre-exposure prophylaxis
MSS 301 PM	Public acceptance, prevention, care & support, and capacity building for people at risks and people living with HIV/AIDS
MSS 302 R	A modelling study for assessing the effect of expanded HCV testing and direct-acting antiviral therapy on the HCV epidemic among HIV-positive MSM in Hong Kong
PPE 681 PM	Maintaining Low Prevalence -- HIV Combination Prevention for Female Sex Workers
PPE 682 PM	Integrated Community-Based Interventions for the Prevention
PPE 683 PM	Comprehensive HIV/STI Program with Sex Workers
PPE 684 PM	SARDA Comprehensive HIV/AIDS Prevention and Caring Scheme for Drug Users
PPE 686 PM	Translating recommendations and findings into effective actions – maintaining Hong Kong's low HIV prevalence
PPE 687 PM	Inside and Out: Building the community response to HIV by enhancing the link between HIV prevention, testing, treatment and care
PPE 692 PJ	"Holistic Health of HIV!" - HIV Intervention for MSM and PLHIV Services Programme
PPE 695 PM	Our Garden



New Initiatives

Review of ATF Guidelines

In order to optimize fund usage, enhance the monitoring and auditing procedures, the Council for the AIDS Trust Fund reviewed the Medical and Support Services and Publicity and Public Education Application Guidelines (ATF Guidelines):-

- i. The auditor must express an opinion as to whether the Grantee has complied with, in all material respects, the requirements set by the Government, that:- 1) books and records are proper to prove the funded programme / project is carried out according to the grant agreement; and 2) income and expenditure account is proper; and 3) the salary of ATF supported staff complied with the requirements of minimum academic / qualification as stated in the "Pricing Standards for applications to ATF"; and 4) double funding support of item, including salary of staff, from other funding source has not occurred; and 5) all other terms and conditions as specified in the Grant Agreement, the Application Guidelines and the Government's requirements, directions and orders relating to the programme/project prescribed or made in writing during the duration of the programme/project have been satisfied. (Clause 74)

- ii. Grantees must indemnify and pay their own auditors. Should the auditing of a ATF grant incur extra cost (in terms of auditors' remuneration), the extra cost may be claimed on a reimbursement basis from the ATF (not as part of the grant for the programme/project) with a ceiling of \$8,000 for project, and \$16,000 for programme, subject to approval by the Council. (Clause 77)

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 2019 to the following two grantees:

1. Hong Kong AIDS Concern Foundation Limited
2. Community Health Organisation for Intervention, care and Empowerment Limited (CHOICE)



Visit to Hong Kong AIDS Concern Foundation Limited



Visit to Community Health Organisation for Intervention, care and Empowerment Limited (CHOICE)

Sharing session

A sharing session was held on 7 January 2020. 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.



Number of ALL approved projects and amount of funding by high risk groups (from 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2020)

Target groups		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 2019 - Mar 2020	Number of approved applications	9	3	2	1	1	5	2	1	24	24	48
	Amount approved for applications	\$16,420,152	\$5,617,379	\$2,517,861	\$1,914,501	\$963,741	\$10,077,983	\$1,323,053	\$1,943,006	\$40,777,676	\$8,792,000	\$49,569,676
Apr 2017 - Mar 2020	Number of approved applications	32	8	4	4	3	23	2	2	78	76	154
	Amount approved for applications	\$56,255,780	\$16,280,040	\$5,651,690	\$5,574,262	\$1,625,319	\$29,110,221	\$1,323,053	\$5,688,788	\$121,509,153	\$26,880,000	\$148,389,153
	Resource allocation (%) ^	46%	13%	5%	5%	1%	24%	1%	5%	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).

Others include Prisoners (2).

Number of MSS approved projects and amount of funding by high risk groups (from 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2020)

Target groups		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*			
Apr 2019 - Mar 2020	Number of approved applications	3	0	0	0	0	0	2	5	5	10
	Amount approved for applications	\$1,835,769	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,323,053	\$3,158,822	\$10,077,983	\$13,236,805
Apr 2017 - Mar 2020	<i>Number of approved applications</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>32</i>
	<i>Amount approved for applications</i>	<i>\$9,655,982</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$6,487,490</i>	<i>\$1,323,053</i>	<i>\$17,466,524</i>	<i>\$18,020,505</i>	<i>\$35,487,029</i>
	<i>Resource allocation (%)^</i>	<i>27%</i>	<i>0%</i>	<i>0%</i>	<i>0%</i>	<i>0%</i>	<i>18%</i>	<i>4%</i>	<i>49%</i>	<i>51%</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.

* EM and PLHIV (1); MSM, FSW, MCFSW and TG (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 PPE approved projects and amount of funding by high risk groups (from 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2020)

Target groups		PPE							Total
		Six higher funding priorities areas (Recommended HIV/AIDS Strategies for Hong Kong 2017 - 2021)						Others #	
		MSM	FSW/ MCFSW	PWID	EM	TG	PLHIV		
Apr 2019 - Mar 2020	Number of approved applications	6	3	2	1	1	0	1	14
	Amount approved for applications	\$14,584,383	\$5,617,379	\$2,517,861	\$1,914,501	\$963,741	\$0	\$1,943,006	\$27,540,871
Apr 2017 - Mar 2020	<i>Number of approved applications</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>46</i>
	<i>Amount approved for applications</i>	<i>\$46,599,799</i>	<i>\$16,280,040</i>	<i>\$5,651,690</i>	<i>\$5,574,262</i>	<i>\$1,625,319</i>	<i>\$4,602,227</i>	<i>\$5,688,788</i>	<i>\$86,022,124</i>
	<i>Resource allocation (%)^</i>	<i>54%</i>	<i>19%</i>	<i>7%</i>	<i>6%</i>	<i>2%</i>	<i>5%</i>	<i>7%</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 (2).