

AIDS Trust Fund Annual Report 2021-22



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

AIDS Trust Fund Annual Report 2021-22

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Table of Contents

Introduction	4
Background	
Areas of financial support	
Membership and Terms of Reference	5
Summary of Meetings, Applications and Funding Approved	7
Meetings held for processing the applications in 2021-22	
Number of applications processed	
Summary of funding approved	
Applications and funding approved by high risk groups	
Audited accounts in 2021-22	
Completed projects / programmes in 2021-22	
Communication with Stakeholders	12
Visits to grantees	
Sharing session	
Annex Ia: Number of ALL approved projects and amount of funding by high risk groups	14
Annex Ib: Number of MSS approved projects and amount of funding by high risk groups	15
Annex Ic: Number of PPE approved projects and amount of funding by high risk groups	16



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 then Food and Health Bureau (currently known as 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 2021-22 Annual Report of the Fund summarises the work done related to the operation of the Fund in 2021-22.



Membership and Terms of Reference

Council for the AIDS Trust Fund

Chairperson: Dr LAI Sik-to, Thomas

Members: Mr NGAN Man-por
Dr LEE Man-po
Dr LEE Cheuk-kwong
Ms LEE Hoi Lun, Leonie (ex-officio Member from then Food and Health Bureau)

Secretary: Dr Anne CHEE

Ex-gratia Payment Sub-Committee

Chairperson: Mr NGAN Man-por

Members: Prof Albert LEE
Ms LIU Mei-ling, Rhoda

Secretary: Dr CHENG Leung Li, Nanley

Medical and Support Services Sub-Committee

Chairperson: Dr LEE Man-po

Members: Dr HO Sai-yin, Daniel
Dr HO King-man (till November 2021)
Dr TSANG Tak-yin, Owen
Prof TSE Shu-ki, Samson
Prof HUNG Fan-ngai, Ivan (till July 2021)

Secretary: Dr CHENG Leung Li, Nanley

Publicity and Public Education Sub-Committee

Chairperson: Dr LEE Cheuk-kwong

Members: Prof Albert LEE
Mr CHEUNG Tat-ming, Eric (till July 2021)
Mr TONG Tai-wai, Raphael, M.H. (till July 2021)
Prof SHIU Tak-ying, Ann (till August 2021)
Ms FONG Oi-wah, Rosa
Dr HO Sai-yin, Daniel
Dr NGAN Po-lun, Allan

Secretary: Dr CHENG Leung Li, Nanley



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” and “Recommended HIV/AIDS Strategies for Hong Kong 2022-2027” 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 2021-22

From 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022, 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 41 applications (additional ex-gratia payment: 23, MSS: 12 and PPE: 6) were processed by the Council, of which 32 applications (78%) were approved. Excluding the 23 applications for additional ex-gratia payments, 9 out of 18 (50%) applications were approved. Details of breakdown are at **Table 1**.

**Table 1: Number of applications processed by the Council
(from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022)**

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	8	4	0	12
Publicity and Public Education	0	1	5	0	6
Total	0	9	32	0	41

Summary of funding approved

The total funding amount approved for the 32 applications (additional ex-gratia payment: 23, MSS: 4 and PPE: 5) was around \$29.77 million (additional ex-gratia payment: \$8.37 million, MSS: \$5.50 million, PPE: \$15.90 million). Details of breakdown are at **Table 2**.

**Table 2: Number of applications and amount of funding approved by the Council
(from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022)**

Financial Year	2021-22	
	Number	Amount ^ (\$HK million)
Additional Ex-gratia Payment	23	8.37
MSS	4	5.50
PPE	5	15.90
Total	32	29.77

^ 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 2021 to 31 March 2022 by the six high risk groups recommended by ACA were shown at **Annexes Ia, Ib and Ic**.

From 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022, the amount granted for MSM projects / programmes topped the list at around \$8.15 million among all approved applications, followed by that for FSW and MCFSW projects/ programmes at around \$4.31 million (**Annex Ia**). Classifying by the nature of the projects / programmes, PLHIV was 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 2021-22

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 2021-22 are at **Table 3**.

Table 3: Information extracted from audited accounts of the Fund (2021-22)

Financial Year	2021-22 (HK\$'000)
Capital (\$) (a)	700,000
INCOME (\$)	
Interest on deposits and bank balances	334
Interest on placement with the Exchange Fund	3,761
Refund of grants	361
Other Income*	850
Total (b)	5,306
EXPENDITURE (\$) **	
Publicity and Public Education	16,020
Medical and Support Services	5,612
Ex-gratia Payment	8,372
Total (c)	30,004
Deficit for the year (b-c)	(24,698)
Accumulated Expenditure at end of year*** (d)	(602,375)
Fund Balance (\$) (a) - (d)	97,625

* 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 2021-22

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 292 R	Pre-exposure prophylaxis with on-demand versus daily TDF/FTC in MSM at high risk of HIV infection – a crossover study
MSS 299 R	Real-time, portable nanopore-type sequencing for rapid HIV genotyping and drug resistance monitoring
MSS 313 R	MSM aged 21 or below: How they different from their older counterparts in terms of HIV-related behaviours
MSS 316 PM	Empowerment and support services for people living with HIV (PLHIV)
MSS 321 R	Perception of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) use and its monitoring mechanism in men who have sex with men (MSM) - a qualitative study
MSS 326 R	A qualitative study of mobility-related HIV behavioral risk factors and sexual healthcare needs of African populations in Hong Kong
MSS 329 R	Behavioral Patterns of Online Sex-Seeking via Geosocial Networking Sites and Associations with Online-Initiated Risky Sexual Behaviors among Men Who Have Sex with Men in Hong Kong
MSS 334 PM	A holistic approach on HIV/AIDS Prevention, Care and Support Programme for Drug Abusers, SARDA (Spark Action 2.0 plus)
MSS 335 PM	POZ Life: Holistic Care and Inclusive Environment for People Living with HIV and People Around Them
MSS 338 R	Developing and testing an interactive internet-based intervention to reduce sexual harm of sexualised drug use ('chemsex') among men who have sex with men in Hong Kong
MSS 350 R	Sexual behavior under the COVID-19 pandemic among men who have sex with men in Hong Kong
MSS 351 R	Impact of COVID-19 on HIV testing behaviours among mem who have sex with men in Hong Kong
PPE 694 PM	Translating recommendations and findings into effective actions - maintaining Hong Kong's low HIV prevalence
PPE 698 PM	Integrated Community-Based Intervention for HIV /AIDS / STI Prevention and Care

PPE 700 PJ	“Holistic Health of HIV!” - HIV Intervention for MSM and PLHIV Services Programme, “Homo, Health and HIV!” of MSM HIV Intervention Project
PPE 701 PM	Our Garden
PPE 702 PM	Tailored HIV Combination Prevention for Female Sex Workers
PPE 703 PM	A Holistic Approach HIV/AIDS Prevention, Caring and Support Programme for Drug Abusers, SARDA - Phoenix Project 2.0 plus
PPE 705 PM	Mercury III - Intensive Support and Preventive Programme for AIDS and Blood Borne Disease
PPE 706 PM	Inside and Out: Building the community response to HIV by enhancing the link between HIV prevention, testing, treatment and care

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 May 2021 to the following two grantees:

1. Hong Kong AIDS Foundation Limited
2. AIDS Concern Foundation Limited



Visit to Hong Kong AIDS Foundation Limited



Visit to AIDS Concern Foundation Limited

Sharing session

A sharing session was held on 13 August 2021. 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 2022)

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 2021 - Mar 2022	Number of approved applications	3	2	1	1	1	4	0	0	12	23	35
	Amount approved for applications	\$8,151,174	\$4,308,910	\$1,524,198	\$1,410,484	\$504,876	\$5,500,572	\$0	\$0	\$21,400,214	\$8,371,500	\$29,771,714
Apr 2017 - Mar 2022	<i>Number of approved applications</i>	<i>47</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>110</i>	<i>122</i>	<i>232</i>
	<i>Amount approved for applications</i>	<i>\$85,694,157</i>	<i>\$28,681,127</i>	<i>\$9,252,815</i>	<i>\$8,791,026</i>	<i>\$2,130,195</i>	<i>\$38,462,410</i>	<i>\$1,323,053</i>	<i>\$9,695,190</i>	<i>\$184,029,973</i>	<i>\$43,573,500</i>	<i>\$227,603,473</i>
	<i>Resource allocation (%) ^</i>	<i>47%</i>	<i>16%</i>	<i>5%</i>	<i>5%</i>	<i>1%</i>	<i>21%</i>	<i>1%</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.

* 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 2022)

Target groups of applications		MSS (research)									MSS (non-research)	Total
		Research									Service	
		Six higher funding priorities areas						Others		Sub-total	People living with HIV	
		MSM	FSW/MCFSW	PWID	EM	TG	PLHIV	Multiple Target Groups*	Others			
Apr 2021 - Mar 2022	Number of approved applications	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	3	4
	Amount approved for applications	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,291,596	\$0	\$0	\$1,291,596	\$4,208,976	\$5,500,572
Apr 2017 - Mar 2022	<i>Number of approved applications</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>32</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>45</i>
	<i>Amount approved for applications</i>	<i>\$14,119,286</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$8,172,798</i>	<i>\$1,323,053</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$23,615,136</i>	<i>\$25,687,386</i>	<i>\$49,302,522</i>
	<i>Resource allocation (%)^</i>	<i>29%</i>	<i>0%</i>	<i>0%</i>	<i>0%</i>	<i>0%</i>	<i>17%</i>	<i>3%</i>	<i>0%</i>	<i>48%</i>	<i>52%</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).

Number of PPE approved projects and amount of funding by high risk groups (from 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2022)

Target groups of applications		PPE								Total
		Six higher funding priorities areas						Others		
		MSM	FSW/ MCFSW	PWID	EM	TG	PLHIV	Multiple Target Groups	Others #	
Apr 2021 - Mar 2022	Number of approved applications	3	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	8
	Amount approved for applications	\$8,151,174	\$4,308,910	\$1,524,198	\$1,410,484	\$504,876	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$15,899,642
Apr 2017 - Mar 2022	<i>Number of approved applications</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>65</i>
	<i>Amount approved for applications</i>	<i>\$71,574,872</i>	<i>\$28,681,127</i>	<i>\$9,252,815</i>	<i>\$8,791,026</i>	<i>\$2,130,195</i>	<i>\$4,602,227</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$9,695,190</i>	<i>\$134,727,451</i>
	<i>Resource allocation (%)^</i>	<i>53%</i>	<i>21%</i>	<i>7%</i>	<i>7%</i>	<i>2%</i>	<i>3%</i>	<i>0%</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 (3).