

AIDS Trust Fund Annual Report 2022-23



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

AIDS Trust Fund Annual Report 2022-23

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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 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 2022-23 Annual Report of the Fund summarises the work done related to the operation of the Fund in 2022-23.



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
Mr CHONG Kwok Wing, Gordon (ex-officio Member from Health Bureau)

Secretary: Dr Anne CHEE

Ex-gratia Payment Sub-Committee

Chairperson: Mr NGAN Man-por

Members: Prof Albert LEE (till July 2022)
Dr HO King-man
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
Prof TSANG Tak-yin, Owen
Prof TSE Shu-ki, Samson
Dr WONG Chi-wai, William

Secretary: Dr CHENG Leung Li, Nanley

Publicity and Public Education Sub-Committee

Chairperson: Dr LEE Cheuk-kwong

Members: Prof Albert LEE
Ms FONG Oi-wah
Dr HO King-man (till March 2023)
Dr HO Sai-yin, Daniel
Dr NGAN Po-lun, Allan
Miss SUN Hau-kei

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 2022-23

From 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023, 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 42 applications (additional ex-gratia payment: 22, MSS: 11 and PPE: 9) were processed by the Council, of which 35 applications (83%) were approved. Excluding the 22 applications for additional ex-gratia payments, 13 out of 20 (65%) applications were approved. Details of breakdown are at **Table 1**.

**Table 1: Number of applications processed by the Council
(from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023)**

Types of Applications	Applications Withdrawn	Applications Rejected	Applications Approved	Applications Approved Subject to Conditions	Total
Additional Ex-gratia Payment	0	0	22	0	22
Medical and Support Services	0	6	5	0	11
Publicity and Public Education	0	1	8	0	9
Total	0	7	35	0	42

Summary of funding approved

The total funding amount approved for the 35 applications (additional ex-gratia payment: 22, MSS: 5 and PPE: 8) was around \$51.10 million (additional ex-gratia payment: \$7.88 million, MSS: \$8.22 million, PPE: \$35 million). Details of breakdown are at **Table 2**.

**Table 2: Number of applications and amount of funding approved by the Council
(from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023)**

Financial Year	2022-23	
	Number	Amount ^ (\$HK million)
Additional Ex-gratia Payment	22	7.88
MSS	5	8.22
PPE	8	35.00
Total	35	51.10

^ 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 2022 to 31 March 2023 by the six high risk groups recommended by ACA were shown at **Annexes Ia, Ib and Ic**.

From 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023, the amount granted for MSM projects / programmes topped the list at around \$18.95 million among all approved applications, followed by that for FSW and MCFSW projects / programmes at around \$8.53 million (**Annex Ia**). Classifying by the nature of the projects / programmes, PLHIV was the main 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 2022-23

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 2022-23 are at **Table 3**.

Table 3: Information extracted from audited accounts of the Fund (2022-23)

Financial Year	2022-23 (HK\$'000)
Capital (\$) (a)	700,000
INCOME (\$)	
Interest on deposits and bank balances	3,043
Interest on placement with the Exchange Fund	0
Refund of grants	1,790
Other Income*	2,831
Total (b)	7,664
EXPENDITURE (\$)***	
Publicity and Public Education	35,108
Medical and Support Services	7,964
Ex-gratia Payment	7,884
Total (c)	50,956
Deficit for the year (b-c)	(43,292)
Accumulated Expenditure at end of year**** (d)	(645,667)
Fund Balance (\$) (a) - (d)	54,333

* 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 2022-23

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 291 R	Incidence and progression of fatty liver disease and liver fibrosis in newly diagnosed HIV-infected individuals initiating anti-retroviral therapy
MSS 307 R	Regular self-sampled STI/HIV testing and its association with infection risks in men who have sex with men
MSS 317 PM	POSITIVE Prevention – Healthy Living Project
MSS 332 PM	Public acceptance, prevention, care & support, and capacity building for people at risks and people living with HIV/AIDS
MSS 337 R	Awareness, acceptability, and effects of HIV treatment as prevention among men who have sex with men at risk of and living with HIV
PPE 710 PM	Project Touch: HIV Prevention and Sexual Health Enhancement for Young MSM through Social Media, Empowerment and Peer Influence
PPE 713 PJ	【Multicultural Community Linking Project】 'Twitter Sex Education Editor' Online Support and Community Self-Assessment and Learning Proposal 2.0
PPE 718 PJ	Trinity Zero Heterotopia

Communication with Stakeholders

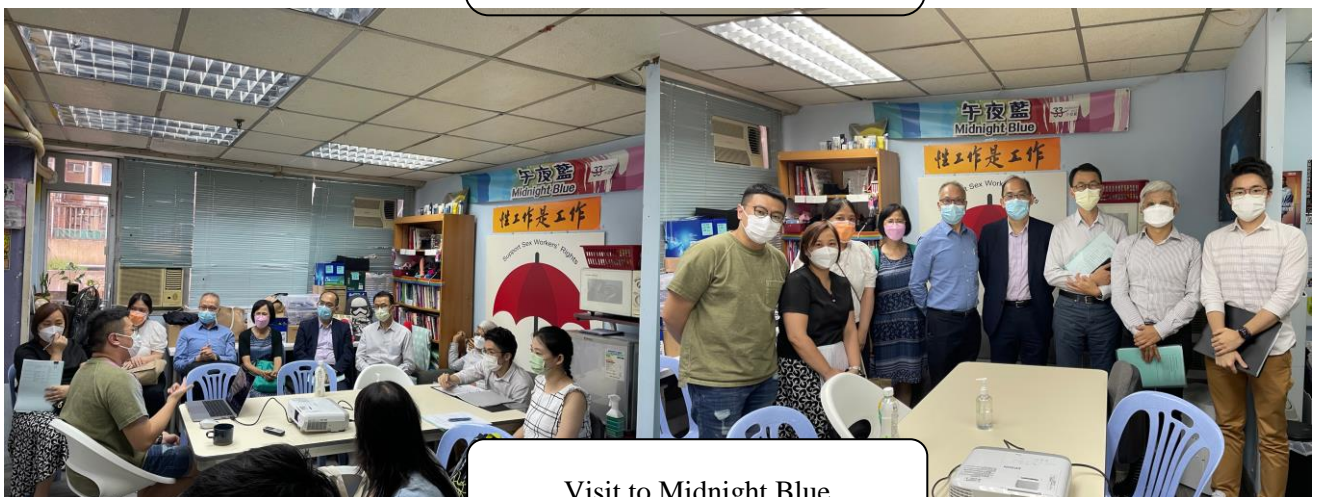
Visits to grantees

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 2022 to the following two grantees:

1. The Society of Rehabilitation and Crime Prevention, Hong Kong
2. Midnight Blue



Visit to The Society of Rehabilitation and Crime Prevention, Hong Kong



Visit to Midnight Blue

Number of ALL approved projects and amount of funding by high risk groups (from 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2023)

Target groups of applications		Six higher funding priorities areas						Others		Research	Sub-total	Additional EGP (PLHIV)	Total
		MSM	FSW/MCFSW	PWID	EM	TG	PLHIV	Multiple Target Groups*	Others #				
Apr 2022 - Mar 2023	Number of approved applications	11	3	1	1	1	3	0	1	0	21	22	43
	Amount approved for applications	\$18,948,360	\$8,526,758	\$2,158,214	\$2,084,244	\$538,087	\$7,280,550	\$0	\$3,685,954	\$0	\$43,222,167	\$7,884,000	\$51,106,167
Apr 2017 - Mar 2023	<i>Number of approved applications</i>	58	16	7	7	5	32	2	4	0	131	144	275
	<i>Amount approved for applications</i>	\$104,642,517	\$37,207,885	\$11,411,029	\$10,875,270	\$2,668,282	\$45,742,960	\$1,323,053	\$13,381,144	\$0	\$227,252,140	\$51,457,500	\$278,709,640
	<i>Resource allocation (%) ^</i>	46%	16%	5%	5%	1%	20%	1%	6%	0%	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 (4).

Number of MSS approved projects and amount of funding by high risk groups (from 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2023)

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)						Others		Sub-total	People living with HIV	
		MSM	FSW/ MCFSW	PWID	EM	TG	PLHIV	Multiple Target Groups*	Others			
Apr 2022 - Mar 2023	Number of approved applications	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	6
	Amount approved for applications	\$938,168	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$938,168	\$7,280,550	\$8,218,718
Apr 2017 - Mar 2023	<i>Number of approved applications</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>35</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>51</i>
	<i>Amount approved for applications</i>	<i>\$15,057,454</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>\$24,553,304</i>	<i>\$32,967,936</i>	<i>\$57,521,240</i>
	<i>Resource allocation (%)^</i>	<i>26%</i>	<i>0%</i>	<i>0%</i>	<i>0%</i>	<i>0%</i>	<i>14%</i>	<i>2%</i>	<i>0%</i>	<i>43%</i>	<i>57%</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 2023)

Target groups of applications		PPE								Total
		Six higher funding priorities areas						Others		
		MSM	FSW/ MCFSW	PWID	EM	TG	PLHIV	Multiple Target Groups	Others #	
Apr 2022 - Mar 2023	Number of approved applications	8	3	1	1	1	0	0	1	15
	Amount approved for applications	\$18,010,192	\$8,526,758	\$2,158,214	\$2,084,244	\$538,087	\$0	\$0	\$3,685,954	\$35,003,449
Apr 2017 - Mar 2023	Number of approved applications	38	16	7	7	5	3	0	4	80
	Amount approved for applications	\$89,585,064	\$37,207,885	\$11,411,029	\$10,875,270	\$2,668,282	\$4,602,227	\$0	\$13,381,144	\$169,730,900
	Resource allocation (%)[^]	53%	22%	7%	6%	2%	3%	0%	8%	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

Others include Prisoners (4).