



Canadian Society for International Health A Canadian Voice for Global Health

La Société Canadienne de Santé Internationale

HIV/AIDS Small Grants Fund 2000-2008



As part of the operationalization of its HIV/AIDS Action Plan, the Canadian International Development Agency contracted CSIH to manage the implementation of the HIV/AIDS Small Grants Fund (SGF). The SGF sought to increase collaboration between Canada and developing countries or countries-in-transition, encourage the development of innovative, cost-effective, knowledge-based approaches to address the pandemic, and increase the quantity and quality of HIV/AIDS programming. The SGF provided funding to non-governmental organizations (NGOs) or AIDS service organizations (ASOs) that had experience in HIV/AIDS programming in Canada but not overseas, or to NGOs or academic institutions that had development programming experience but necessarily in HIV/AIDS.

CSIH managed all aspects of the SGF, from coordinating the small grants application, review, and selection processes; to overseeing and monitoring the implementation of the small grants; to administering fund's finances. CSIH also provided cross-cutting capacity building to the small grants recipients and fostered networking among them. During the first phase of the Fund, CSIH provided funding for twelve 12-month small grants of \$50,000 each. During the second phase, it provided funding for seventeen 18-month small grants of \$75,000 each. During the third phase, the twenty small grants received \$100,000 each over a 24-month period. The latter two phases placed a stronger emphasis on institutional capacity building on a wide range of topics, including sustainable fund-raising strategies, proposal writing, programme management, governance issues, HIV/AIDS mainstreaming, the application of information and communication technologies (ICTs), and gender. The capacity building component, implemented by the Interagency Coalition for AIDS and Development, included networking between participants and reporting on lessons learned. Each of the small grants adapted an innovative approach to HIV/AIDS, such as cross-sectoral approaches that linked HIV/AIDS to non-health sectors such as education or labour, or worked with non-traditional populations such as women, children, or orphans. The focus of the SGF Phase II was information and communication technologies, while the focus of Phase III was gender.

Phase I Small Grants

AIDS Calgary Awareness Association - India
AIDS Vancouver - Mexico
Canadian AIDS Society - Belarus
The Black Coalition for AIDS Prevention - Guyana
Université de Montréal - Madagascar
Canadian Human Rights Foundation - Malaysia
Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network - Namibia
Centre hospitalier affilié universitaire de Québec - Bénin
International Council of AIDS Service Organizations - Southern Africa
Mount Saint Vincent University - Jamaica

Phase II Small Grants

AIDS Committee of Toronto - Brazil
Asian Society for the Intervention of AIDS - Philippines
Alberta Community Council on HIV - Mexico
CEGEP de Jonquière - Mauritania
Dalhousie University - Suriname
Lawrence Heights Community Health Centre - St. Kitts
The Marquis Project - Tanzania
McGill University - South Africa
Save the Children Canada - Bolivia
Tillicum Haus Native Friendship Centre - Swaziland
University of Ottawa Health Services - Gabon
University of Victoria - China
The Vancouver Area Network of Drug Users - India
World University Service of Canada - Botswana
Canadian AIDS Society - Belarus

The SGF proved to be very successful in encouraging the development of innovative, cost-effective approaches to HIV/AIDS programming. The mid-term and final reviews of the projects, as well as on-site monitoring, indicated that the Small Grants program provided a key opportunity for Canadian partners to make an impact at the local level in developing countries. Although small, these projects were visible to local, regional, and/or national authorities, and in some cases were seen as role models for larger-scale programming.

An external evaluation of the SGF noted the following results:

1. Overall, the SGF was a very cost effective program, in part due to the small size of projects, their rapid implementation, and the substantial value of in-kind contributions made by project partners and community stakeholders.
2. The Program supported exchange of knowledge and experience between Canadian and overseas organizations and the creation of innovative approaches to HIV/AIDS and new models of delivery that could be rolled-out across larger territories and applied to other contexts.
3. The Program benefited both Canadian and overseas organizations and their local populations by developing service delivery capacities and increasing awareness of global HIV/AIDS issues.
4. The Program was well perceived by Canadian ASOs/NGOs and generated good will towards CIDA.
5. CSIH's program management structure was more effective than delivery by CIDA.

Phase III Small Grants

African Medical and Research Foundation - Tanzania
Society of Rural Physicians of Canada - Pakistan
Daughters of Africa - Malawi
Canadian AIDS Treatment Information Exchange - Zambia & Tanzania
Asian Community AIDS Services - Thailand
Canada-Africa Partnership - Malawi
Oxfam Canada - Zimbabwe & Lesotho
Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association - Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, & Zambia
Niagara College - South Africa
Street Kids International - Kenya
Canadian Working Group on HIV and Rehabilitation - Cameroon
Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network - China
Canadian Nurses Association - Ethiopia
International Development Enterprises - Zambia
HealthBridge - Vietnam
The Caia Connection - Mozambique
Jeunesse du Monde - Burkina Faso & Cameroon



In October 2006, the Canadian Society for International Health has been awarded the Canadian International Cooperation Award for improvement of social infrastructure for their Public Health Strengthening in Guyana Project.

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