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# AIDS charity Life Ball raises RM6.08 mln

**VIENNA:** Vienna's glitzy AIDS charity Life Ball last weekend raised 1.5 million euros (RM6.08 million) for international and national HIV and AIDS projects, organisers said on Thursday.

This year's event on the square in front of the Austrian capital's neo-Gothic Town Hall and attended by former US president Bill Clinton and Hollywood actress Whoopi Goldberg was marred by heavy thunder storms and cloudbursts.

"If the weather had been better, the amount of money raised would probably have been even higher," commented organiser Gery Keszler.

Nevertheless, tens of thousands of gays, lesbians, drag queens and their friends, all dressed in outrageous costumes, paid between 75-150 euros for a ticket to the 18th annual fashion-show-cum-party event, aimed as a brilliant and dazzling pendant to Vienna's stiff and haughty Opera Ball much earlier in the year. — AFP

Also in Vienna, the 18th World AIDS conference, which runs until Friday, is being attended by some 25,000 experts, health professionals and policy makers. — AFP