

# SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL SURVEY OF RESEARCH AND EXPERIMENTAL DEVELOPMENT 2017/18

## KEY SECTOR RESULTS AND TRENDS



South Africa's not-for-profit organisations perform R&D critical to the needs of civil society. This fact sheet shows that NPO R&D expenditure, in 2017/18, was largely concentrated within health research: more than 70% of total R&D investment was focussed on diseases such as TB, HIV/AIDS, and malaria. Notably, over 70% of NPO R&D is funded by foreign donors. Nearly 70% of R&D personnel in NPOs were women in 2017/18.

## FACT SHEET NO. 20

# THE BIG PICTURE



THE VALUE OF  
**SOUTH AFRICA'S GROSS  
DOMESTIC PRODUCT  
(GDP) IN 2017/18**



**R 4 653.579  
BILLION**

THE SHARE OF **GDP  
SPENT ON R&D**



**0.83%**

SOUTH AFRICA'S  
**ANNUAL R&D  
SPEND INCREASED  
FROM:**

**R 21.041  
BILLION**  
IN 2008/09

**R 38.725  
BILLION**  
IN 2017/18

THE **NOT-FOR-PROFIT  
SECTOR'S SHARE** OF  
THE **TOTAL R&D SPEND**  
ALSO **INCREASED FROM:**

**1.1%**  
IN 2008/09



**3.1%**  
IN 2017/18

## SOURCES OF R&D FUNDING 2017/18



SOUTH AFRICAN  
**NPO R&D  
IS LARGELY  
FOREIGN-  
FUNDED:**

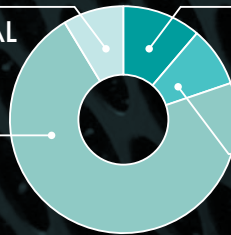
### TOTAL FUNDING BREAKDOWN:

OTHER LOCAL  
SOURCES  
**8.6%**

FOREIGN  
SOURCES  
**71.2%**

GOVERNMENT  
SOURCES  
**11.7%**

OWN FUNDS  
**8.5%**



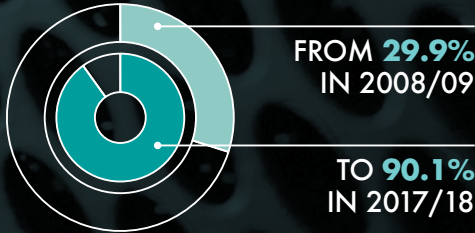
BETWEEN **2007/08** AND **2017/18**, INVESTMENT  
BY **FOREIGN FUNDERS** WAS BY FAR THE **LARGEST  
CONTRIBUTOR TO TOTAL NPO R&D FUNDING**



# R&D SPENDING PATTERNS IN 2017/18



THE NPO SECTOR'S R&D SPENDING IN THE NATURAL SCIENCES, ENGINEERING, AND TECHNOLOGY HAS CHANGED DRAMATICALLY:



## THE LION'S SHARE?

R&D IN THE **MEDICAL AND HEALTH SCIENCES**



SPECIFICALLY, R&D ON **TUBERCULOSIS (TB), HIV/AIDS AND MALARIA** **72.0%**



**13.2%** OF R&D SPEND WAS IN **BIOTECHNOLOGY**



# R&D PERSONNEL IN 2017/18



**WOMEN MADE UP 68.0% (1184) OF THE TOTAL R&D WORKFORCE IN NPOs:**



DOCTORAL DEGREE

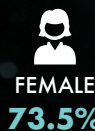
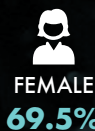


MASTER'S, HONOUR'S OR BACHELOR'S DEGREE



DIPLOMA

## R&D PERSONNEL BY OCCUPATION



**RESEARCHERS**  
**24.4%**

**TECHNICIANS**  
**39.0%**

**OTHER PERSONNEL**  
**36.6%**

# BEHIND THE NUMBERS

The annual South African National Survey of Research and Experimental Development (R&D Survey) is conducted by the Centre for Science, Technology and Innovation Indicators (CeSTII) at the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC), on behalf of the Department of Science and Innovation (DSI). R&D statistics are collected in terms of the Statistics Act No. 6 of 1999, and are quality assured by Statistics South Africa. Data collected through the Survey, and its historic data series, helps to inform decision-makers on investment planning, policy making, advocacy, and research in South Africa. Data also adds to benchmarking and performance comparisons with our international counterparts.

Access previous survey reports: <http://www.hsrc.ac.za/en/departments/CeSTii/reports-cestii>

Data and analysis for this publication was prepared by Atoko Kasongo and Kgabo Ramoroka in February 2020.

## CONTACT US

Dr Glenda Kruss (Executive Head)	021 466 8086	<a href="mailto:gkruss@hsrc.ac.za">gkruss@hsrc.ac.za</a>
Dr Neo Moloŋja (Survey Lead)	021 466 7818	<a href="mailto:nmoloŋja@hsrc.ac.za">nmoloŋja@hsrc.ac.za</a>
Natasha Saunders (Sector Lead)	021 466 7886	<a href="mailto:nsaunders@hsrc.ac.za">nsaunders@hsrc.ac.za</a>

## CONNECT WITH US



ENGAGE WITH US ON TWITTER @HSRC\_CeSTII



FOLLOW US ON LINKEDIN



SEE US ON INSTAGRAM



FIND US ON FACEBOOK