

SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL SURVEY OF RESEARCH AND EXPERIMENTAL DEVELOPMENT

KEY SECTOR RESULTS AND TRENDS

NOT-FOR-PROFIT SECTOR R&D AT A GLANCE 2020/21



The not-for-profit sector plays an important role tackling the structural causes of social challenges facing the country. In addressing these challenges, and through collaboration, NPOs conduct R&D critical to the needs of South Africa. R&D expenditure in NPOs has increased significantly in the past decade, from R170 million in 2011/12 to R1.568 billion in 2020/21. The majority of R&D spending was in the medical and health sciences, particularly infectious diseases with a focus on tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS, and malaria, which are key health challenges in South Africa. NPOs rely heavily on foreign funds, with approximately 65% of R&D funding coming from abroad.

FACT SHEET NO. 46



Science and Innovation
Statistics South Africa



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THE BIG PICTURE



South Africa's **gross domestic product (GDP)** in **2020/21** was **R 5 521.075 BILLION**



In **2020/21**, **0.61%** of **GDP** was spent on **R&D**



Real gross domestic expenditure on R&D (GERD) grew from



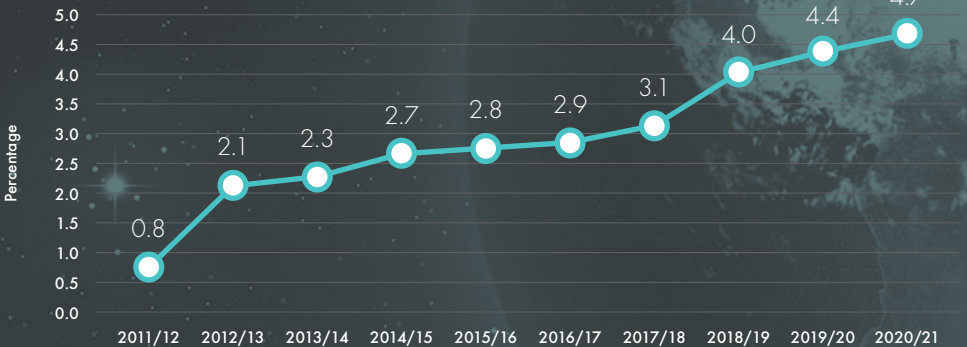
to a maximum of **R 34.328 BILLION** in 2017/18

Since 2017/18 it has **decreased each year** to a low of



The NPO sector's share of GERD increased from 0.8% in 2011/12 to 4.7% in 2020/21.

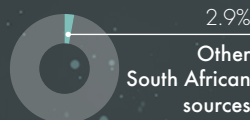
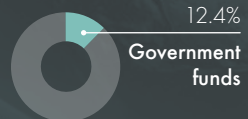
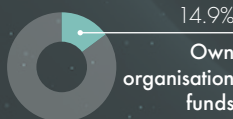
% NPO expenditure (2011/12 to 2020/21)



Investment by foreign funders was the largest contributor to total NPO R&D funding.



Sources of NPO R&D funding in 2020/21 were:



Note:
Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding

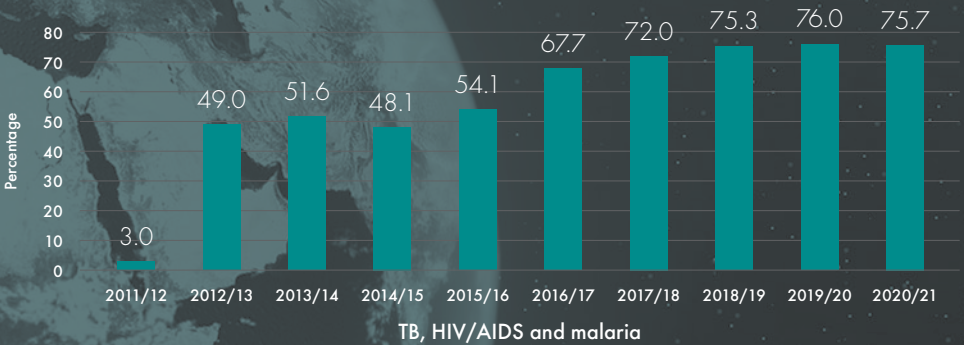
R&D SPENDING PATTERNS



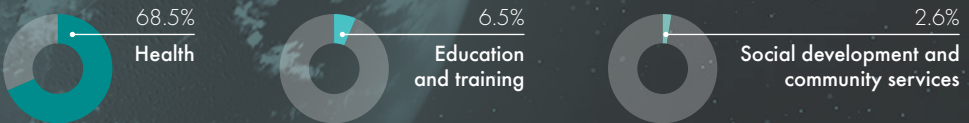
The largest share of NPO R&D investment was in the medical and health sciences field, specifically in TB, HIV/AIDS and malaria.



The share of TB, HIV/AIDS and malaria R&D increased steadily from 2011/12 till 2019/20:



Areas benefitting from NPO R&D included (but were not limited to):



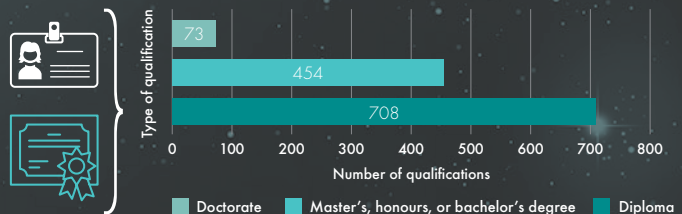
R&D PERSONNEL



Women constituted **68.8%** of the **1 795** R&D personnel in the NPO sector



Qualifications of women working in NPO R&D:



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:

<https://hsrc.ac.za/divisions/centre-for-science-technology-and-innovation-indicators/>

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