

# **2023-2024**

A presentation to the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Health

15 October 2024

30 YEARS

OF DEMOCRACY AND HEALTH RESEARCH TRANSFORMATION IN SOUTH AFRICA







### SAMRC HISTORY AND HEALTH STATEMENT

The South African Medical Research Council recognises the catastrophic and persisting consequences of colonialism and apartheid, including land dispossession and the intentional imposition of educational and health inequities.

Acknowledging the SAMRC's historical role and silence during apartheid, we commit our capacities and resources to the continued promotion of justice and dignity in health research in South Africa.





### **SCOPE OF PRESENTATION**





### **ABOUT US**

### **OUR MANDATE**

The mandate of the South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC), in terms of the MRC Act 58, 1991 (as amended), is to improve the health and quality of life of South Africans. This needs to be realised through research, development, and technology transfer.

#### **OUR VISION**

Building a healthy nation through research, innovation and transformation

#### **OUR MISSION**

To advance the nation's health and quality of life and address inequality by conducting and funding relevant and responsive health research, capacity development, innovation, and research translation.

#### **OUR VALUES**



**Pioneering** 



**Partnering** 



Excellence

Integrity



Respect



Citizenship

### **SAMRC BOARD MEMBERS**



PROF JOHNNY MAHLANGU CHAIRPERSON



PROF BONGINKOSI CHILIZA DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON



PROF TRACEY NALEDI



DR ZINHLE MAKATINI



MS DORIS DONDUR



PROF BRUCE BICCARD



PROF LUFUNO MATHIVHA



PROF MOSA MOSHABELA (RESIGNED AUGUST 2023)





DR MZIWANDILE MADIKIZELA PROF EMMANUEL MUKWEVHO PROF RONELLE CAROLISSEN





PROF THANDISIZWE MAYUNDLA PROF TIMOTHY TUCKER





PROF EUNICE SEEKOE



ADV DOROTHY KHOSA



PROF TAHIR PILLAY



PROF GLENDA GRAY SAMRC PRESIDENT AND CEO

### FOREWORD BY THE BOARD CHAIR: PROF. MAHLANGU

- The SAMRC remains steadfast in fulfilling its mandate to enhance the health and well-being of South Africans through rigorous research, capacity building, innovation and technology transfer
- The SAMRC's commitment to operating lawfully, responsibly, ethically and with integrity is unwavering
- The SAMRC's good governance leads to the attraction of international funding for research, and we commit to spending South African taxpayers' money responsibly
- SAMRC welcomes the celebration of 30 years of democracy and the formation of the 7<sup>th</sup> Administration since 1994
- In July 2024, we bid farewell to Prof. Glenda Gray and welcomed Prof. Ntobeko Ntusi as the new SAMRC President and CEO
- Appreciation goes to Minister, Dep. Minister, PC on Health, NDOH staff, SAMRC staff and stakeholders for the support and contribution towards SAMRCS's successes

### **EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (UP TO 30 JUNE 2024)**



### **Prof Glenda Gray**

SAMRC President & CEO



### Prof Liesl Zühlke

Vice President Extramural Research & Internal Portfolio



#### Dr Michelle Mulder

Executive Director: Grants, Innovation and Product Development



#### Mr Sivuyile Ngqongwa, CA (SA)

Chief Financial Officer



#### Ms Ntoza Bam

Executive Director: Human Resources



### Mr Mzimhle Popo

Legal Counsel



### Dr Mongezi Mdhluli

Chief Research Operations Officer



### **Prof Angela Mathee**

Executive Director: Transformation

### **EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (FROM 1 JULY 2024)**



**Prof Ntobeko Ntusi** 

SAMRC President & CEO



### Prof Liesl Zühlke

Vice President Extramural Research & Internal Portfolio



#### Dr Michelle Mulder

Executive Director: Grants, Innovation and Product Development



#### Mr Sivuyile Ngqongwa, CA (SA)

Chief Financial Officer



#### Ms Ntoza Bam

Executive Director: Human Resources



### Mr Mzimhle Popo

Legal Counsel



### Dr Mongezi Mdhluli

Chief Research Operations Officer



### Prof Angela Mathee

Executive Director: Transformation

### A NOTE FROM THE FORMER PRESIDENT & CEO: PROF. GRAY

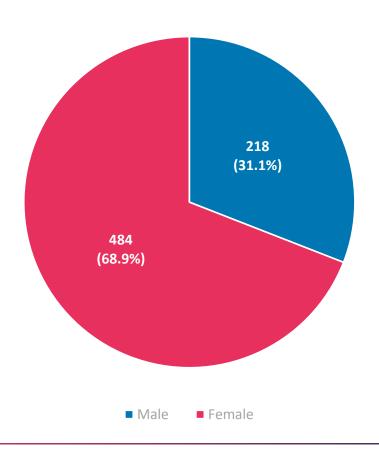
- I am honoured to present my final Annual Report for the SAMRC.
- The SAMRC's good performance reflects progress towards addressing key health challenges and advancing scientific knowledge in the quadruple BOD and health systems strengthening
- Through the DSIT, SAMRC is a project executing agency for the vaccine development project funded by the German Government (KfW)
- Signed MOA with Thermo Fischer to establish a Center of Excellence and training in molecular biology and life science
- Transformation, scientific advancement and leadership development are central to our vision
- Gratitude to the Minister, Dep Minister, PC on Health. SAMRC Board, Executive Management Committee, SAMRC staff and stakeholders for unwavering support
- I offer support and best wishes to the new SAMRC President & CEO, Professor Ntusi, in guiding the SAMRC towards even greater heights

## FORWARD LOOKING STATEMENT BY THE NEW PRESIDENT & CEO: PROF. NTUSI

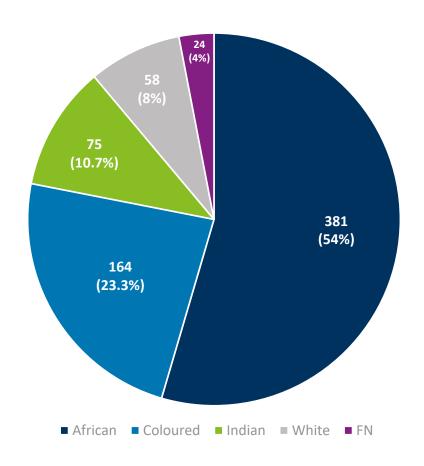
- The country's health is a significant part of economic development: healthy populations live longer; and are more productive.
- The draft Strategic Plan 2025/26 2029/30 confirms SAMRC's focus to:
  - deliver on quality research, high impact science and to ensure that health science flourishes
  - focus to fund research based on local development priorities and disease burden.
- Transformation in science remains an integral part of our strategy
- Partnerships across frontiers, North-South, South-East, South-South, remain critical in furthering our mission as we rollout the Strategic Plan
- As South Africa celebrates 30 years of democracy, the SAMRC reaffirms its commitment to promoting health equity, social justice, and evidence-based healthcare
- SAMRC is committed to working collaboratively with partners and stakeholders to address these challenges and build our nation's healthier, more equitable future
- We are grateful to the Minister, Dep Minister and NDOH for the support and looking forward to many more fruitful engagements
- To the SAMRC community, I am honoured to take on the role of the SAMRC President and CEO and look forward to working with our partners and talented team at SAMRC. Together, we will strive to make significant advancements in health research and address the pressing health challenges facing our nation



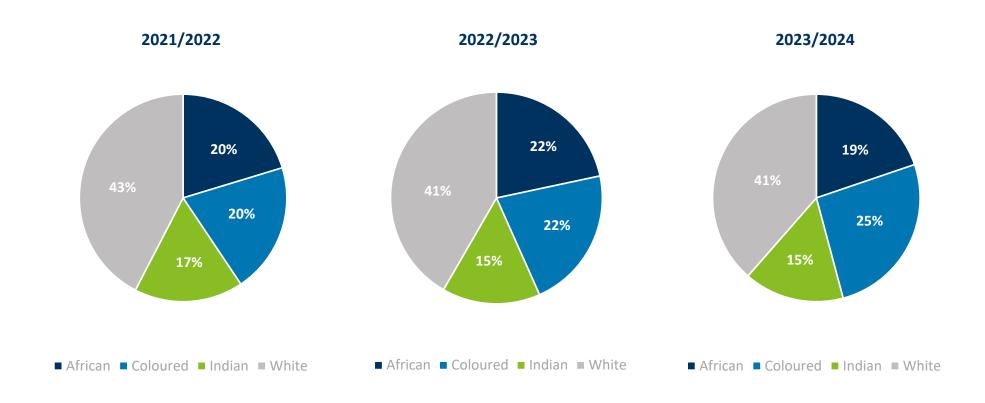
## **EMPLOYEES PROFILE BY GENDER ON 31 MARCH 2024:** TOTAL NUMBER = 702



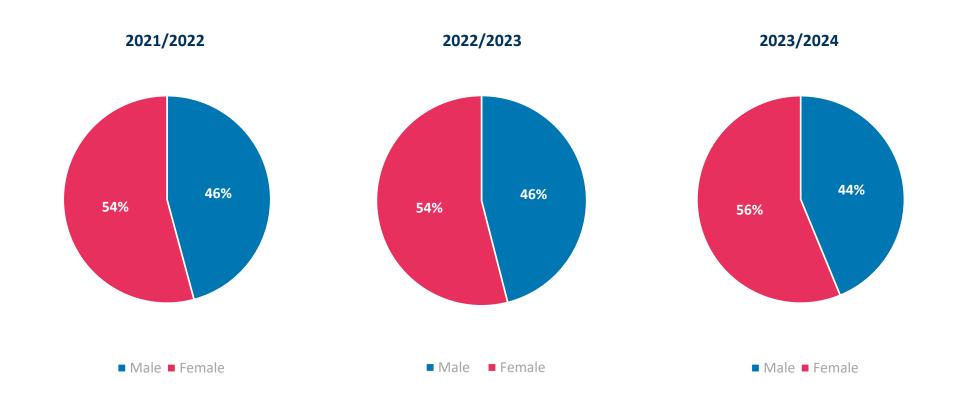
### **EMPLOYEES PROFILE BY RACE ON 31 MARCH 2024**



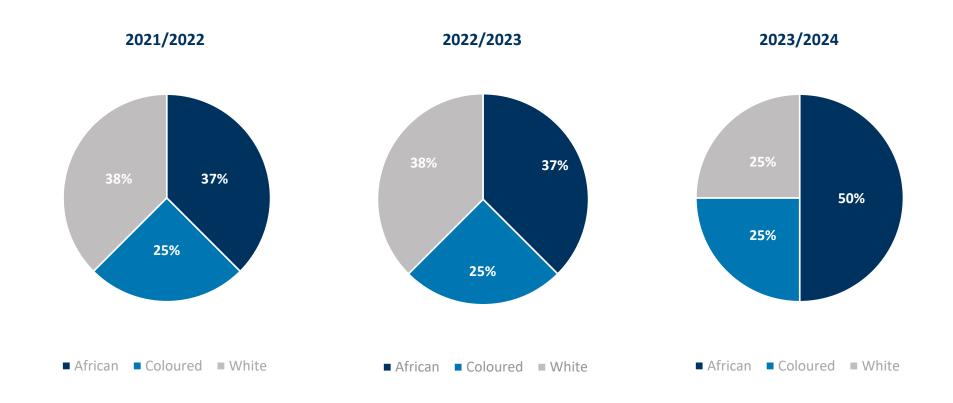
### **SENIOR MANAGEMENT BY RACE: 3-YEAR PERIOD**



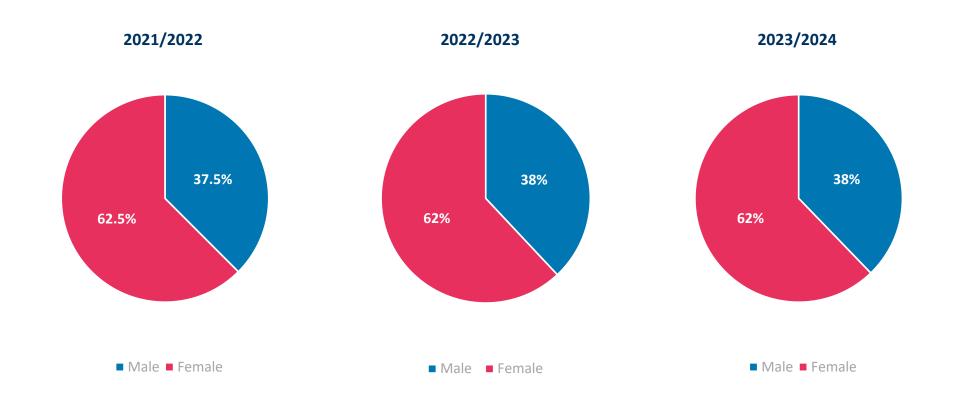
### **SENIOR MANAGEMENT BY GENDER: 3-YEAR PERIOD**



### **EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT BY RACE: 3-YEAR PERIOD**



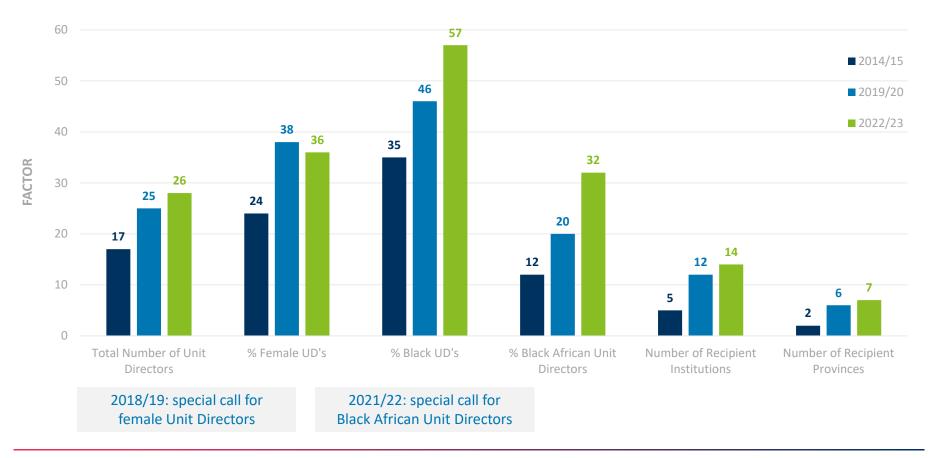
### **EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT BY GENDER: 3-YEAR PERIOD**





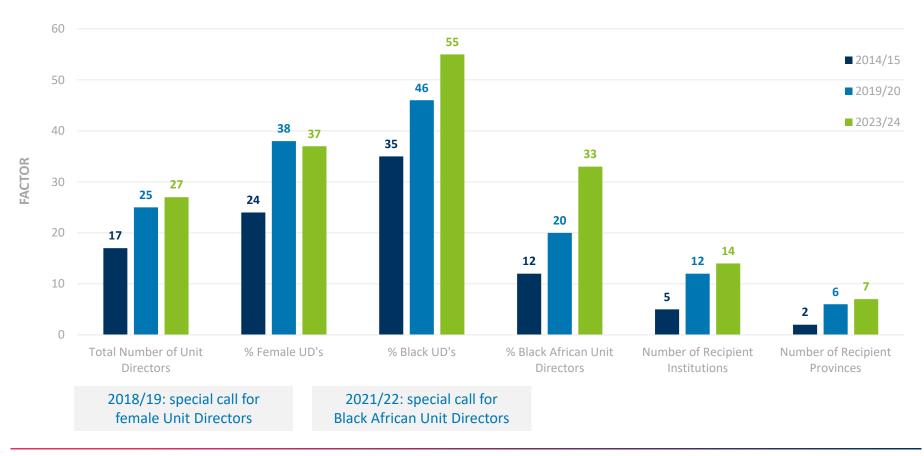
## **SUMMARY OF TRANSFORMATION OF SAMRC EXTRA-MURAL UNITS: 2014 – 2024**



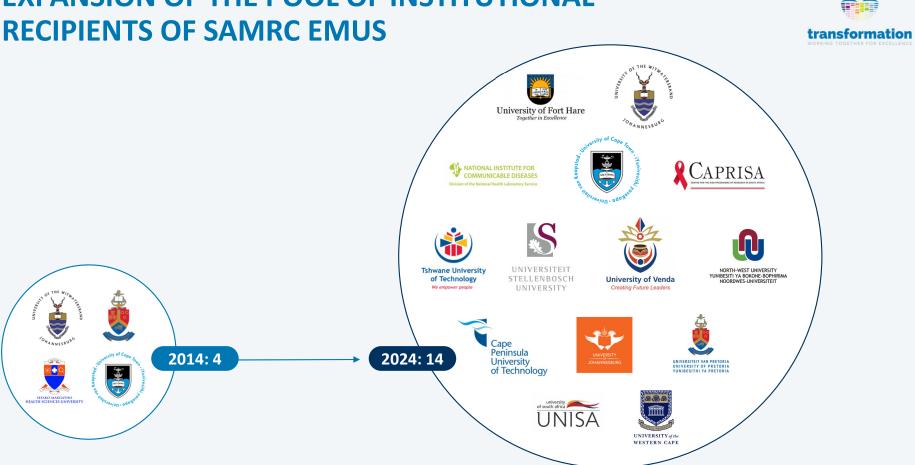


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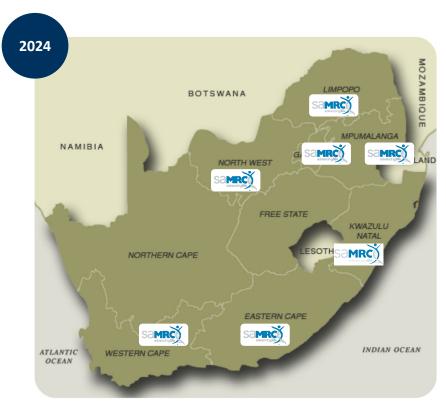
**EXPANSION OF THE POOL OF INSTITUTIONAL** 



### **LOCATION OF EMU'S BY PROVINCE**







### **INCREASE IN EMUS AT HDI'S: 2014 – 2024**

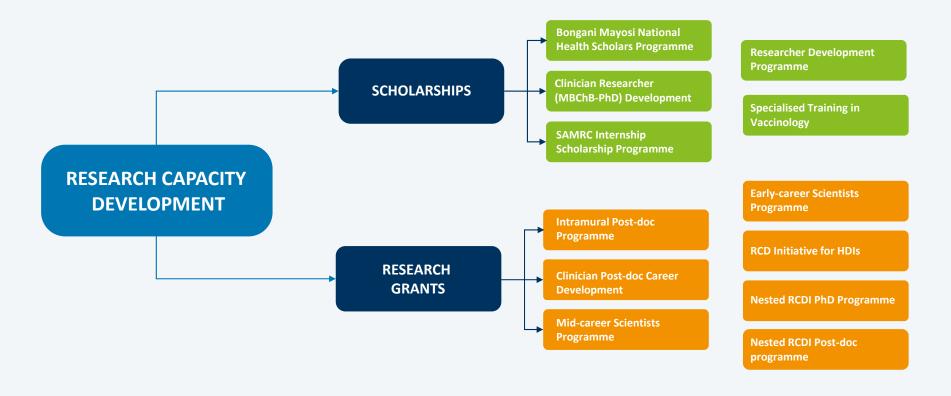






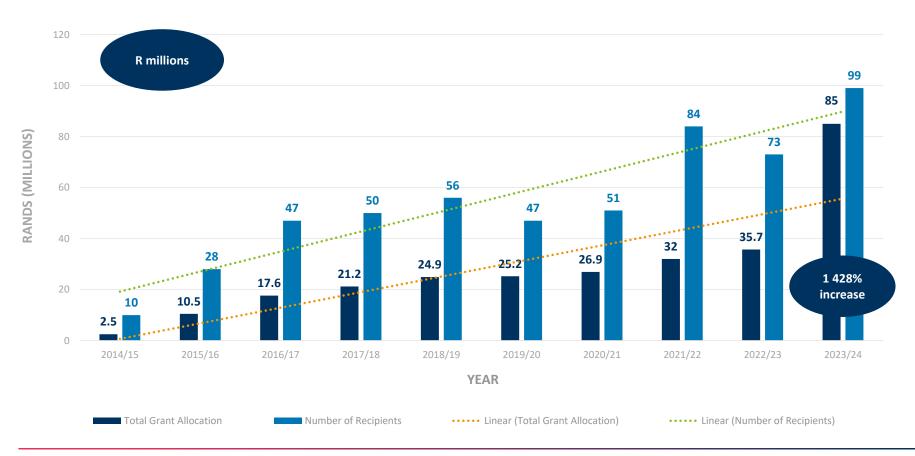
## SAMRC RESEARCH CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT | OUTLINE OF PROGRAMMES





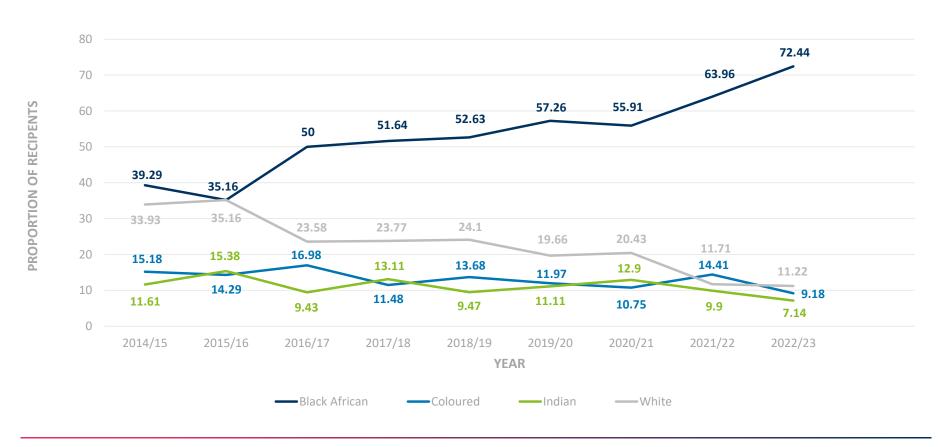
## **GROWTH IN RESEARCH GRANT FUNDING ALLOCATION & RECIPIENTS: 2014 – 2024**





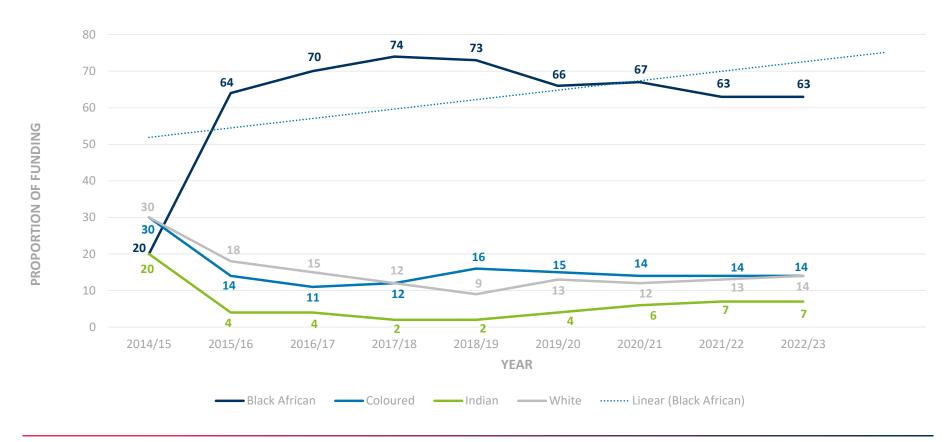
## SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS BY POPULATION GROUP





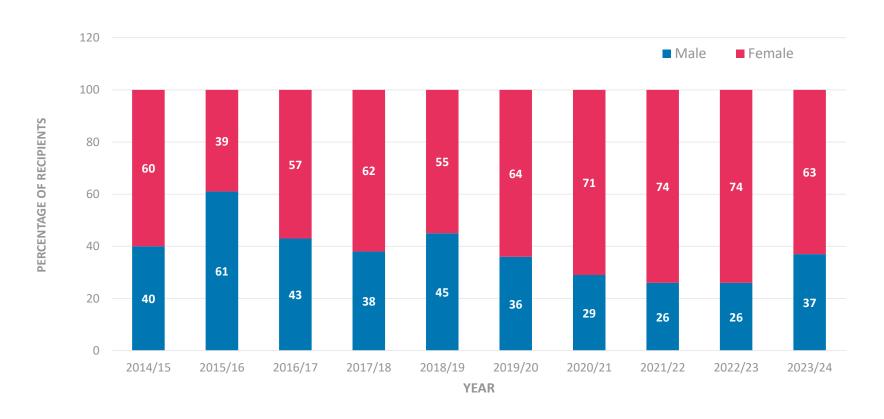
## NUMBER OF RECIPIENTS OF RESEARCH GRANT FUNDING BY POPULATION GROUP





## **GENDER OF RESEARCH GRANT AWARDEES:** 2014 – 2024





## **EXPANSION OF POOL OF INSTITUTIONAL RECIPIENTS OF SAMRC RESEARCH GRANTS: 2014 – 2024**





## INCREASE IN INSTITUTIONAL RECIPIENTS OF SAMRC RESEARCH GRANTS



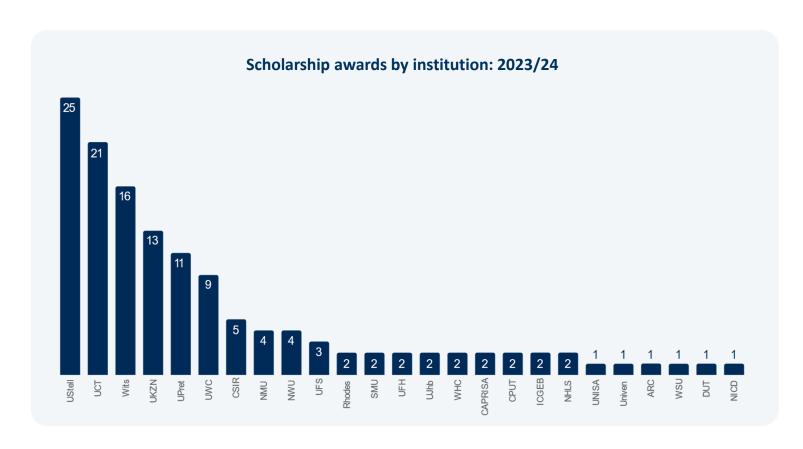


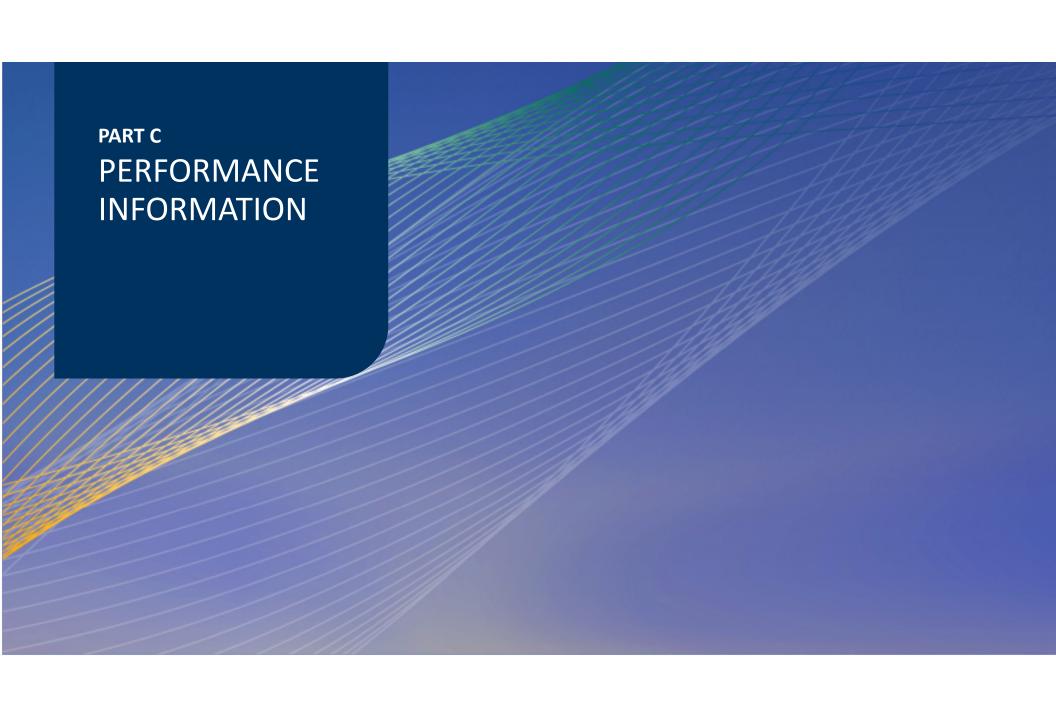


## OVERALL DISTRIBUTION OF SAMRC SCHOLARSHIPS BY ETHNIC GROUP AND GENDER



## OVERALL DISTRIBUTION OF SAMRC SCHOLARSHIPS BY INSTITUTIONS





## REPORT OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL TO PARLIAMENT ON THE SOUTH AFRICAN MEDICAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

### Report on the audit of the annual financial statements and basis for opinion

In my opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the South African Medical Research Council as at 31 March 2024 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the Standards of Generally Recognised Accounting Practice (GRAP) and the requirements of the Public Finance Management Act 1 of 1999 (PFMA).

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

### Report on the audit of the annual performance report

I did not identify any material findings on the reported performance information for the selected indicators.

### Report on compliance with legislation

I did not identify any material non-compliance with the selected legislative requirements.

### **Internal control deficiencies**

I did not identify any significant deficiencies in internal control.

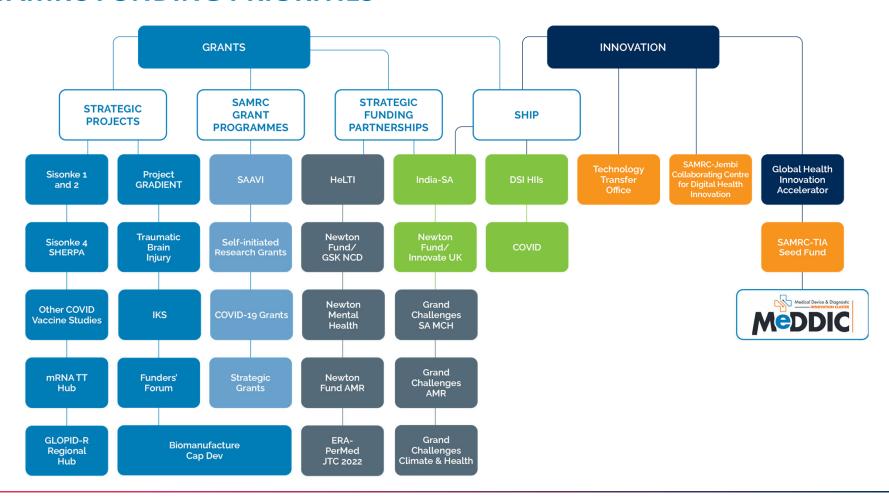
# **SAMRC PERFORMANCE INFORMATION**

| Programme  | Output Indicator  | SP Target<br>2020/21 –<br>2024/25 | APP 2022/23<br>Actual<br>Performance | APP 2023/24<br>Performance<br>Target | APP 2023/24<br>Actual Performance |
|--|---|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Administer health research effectively and efficiently in South Africa  | A clean audit opinion on the SAMRC from the Auditor-General                 | Clean Audit                       | Clean Audit                          | Clean Audit                          | Clean Audit                       |
|  | % of baseline budget spent on administration                                | 20%                               | 17%                                  | 20%                                  | 19%                               |
| 2. Lead the generation of new knowledge  | Accepted or published outputs by SAMRC affiliated and funded authors        | 3550                              | 1455                                 | 700                                  | 1 294                             |
|  | Accepted or published outputs by SAMRC grant-holders acknowledging of SAMRC | 930                               | 445                                  | 180                                  | 373                               |
|  | Accepted/published outputs by SAMRC-affiliated first and/or last author     | 1925                              | 775                                  | 300                                  | 646                               |
|  | Research grants awarded by the SAMRC  | 750                               | 174                                  | 160                                  | 221                               |
| 3. Support, through funding and other mechanisms, technology development and implementation, translation of research into policy and practice, and innovations in health and technology delivery to improve health | SAMRC new innovation and technology projects                                | 20                                | 20                                   | 4                                    | 26                                |
|  | SAMRC funded ongoing Innovation and technology projects                     | 150                               | 44                                   | 30                                   | 48                                |
|  | Innovation disclosures made by SAMRC intramural research and innovation     | 5                                 | 1                                    | 1                                    | 1                                 |

# **SAMRC PERFORMANCE INFORMATION**

| Programme   | Output Indicator   | SP Target<br>2020/21 –<br>2024/25 | APP 2022/23<br>Actual<br>Performance | APP 2023/24<br>Performance<br>Target | 2023/24<br>Actual Performance |
|---|--|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 4. Build human capacity for the long-term sustainability of the South African health research | Awards (scholarships, fellowships and grants) for MSc, PhD, Postdocs and Early Career Scientists                                   | 660                               | 171                                  | 150                                  | 184                           |
|   | Awards to female MSc, PhD, Postdocs and Early Career Scientists  | 488                               | 120                                  | 110                                  | 122                           |
|   | Awards to Black South African citizens and permanent resident MSc, PhD, Postdocs and Early Career Scientists classified as African | 495                               | 118                                  | 110                                  | 121                           |
|   | Awards to MSc, PhD, Postdocs and Early<br>Career Scientists from historically disadvantaged<br>institutions (HDIs)                 | 368                               | 60                                   | 80                                   | 68                            |
|   | MSc and PhD students graduated or completed  | 360                               | 93                                   | 85                                   | 120                           |
| 5. Translate new knowledge into policies and practices to improve health                      | Local or international policies, reports and guidelines that reference SAMRC research  | 27                                | 120                                  | 6                                    | 231                           |
|   | Reports and guidelines (co)produced by the SAMRC intramural researchers  | 25                                | 68                                   | 7                                    | 41                            |
|   | National or international bodies/committees that SAMRC employees serve   | 250                               | 205                                  | 50                                   | 202                           |
|   | Conferences, seminars and continuing development points workshops supported by the SAMRC   | 50                                | 73                                   | 10                                   | 92                            |

### **SAMRC FUNDING PRIORITIES**



### **OTHER MAJOR PROGRAMS**

- TB implementation
- NCDs
- Mental Health
- Anti-microbial Resistance



Medical Research Council



#### **Grand Challenges SA**

- MCAH
- Anti-microbial Resistance
- Infodemics
- Climate and Health

BILL & MELINDA GATES foundation

#### **SAMRC-TIA Seed Fund**



- Medical Devices & Therapeutics
- IKS / Plant-Based Medicines
- Medical Devices & Diagnostics

#### **Project GRADIENT**

 Genetic diversity in Africa & effect on drugs for TB and malaria





#### **Strategic Projects**

- NESHIE
- Traumatic Brain Injury
- IK-based Medicines
- Healthy Life Trajectories Initiative













#### **COVID**

- Wastewater surveillance
- COVID clinical studies
  - Vaccines
  - Therapeutics
  - Surveillance
  - Epidemiology
- COVID diagnostics
- Basic science
- Community engagement
- mRNA vaccine development & manufacture









### STRATEGIC RESEARCH INITIATIVES



South Africa-US Program for Collaborative Biomedical Research 18 joint SA-US projects



For the global development and delivery of antibiotic treatments for drug-resistant bacterial infections

3 projects funded



BRICS STI COVID response – 7 projects AMR diagnosis and treatment Simulation and big data analytics BRICS TB Research Network



Hosting agreement Co-funding for Malaria & HIV projects

### **OTHER**



Research partnership with India on HIV and TB



Partnership with Sweden on inequalities in health, health systems and health systems policies



Global research collaboration for infectious disease preparedness



Public research funding agencies addressing prevention and treatment of non-communicable diseases

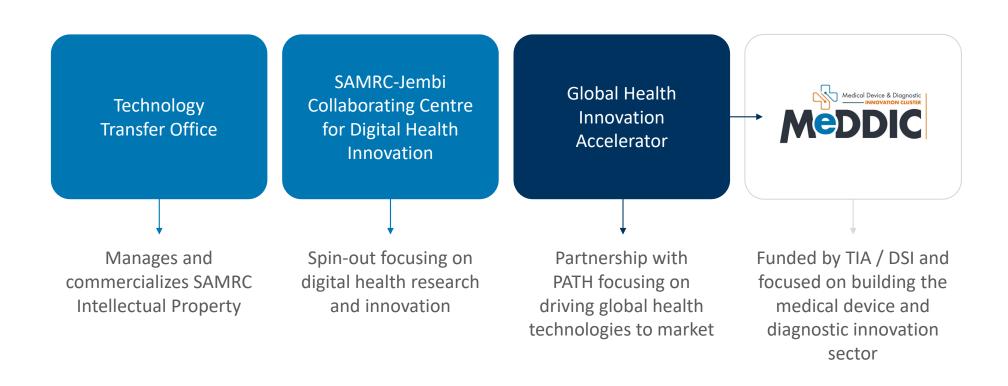


Partnership with the BGI to establish a genomics sequencing facility in Africa

#### **#ERAPerM**ed

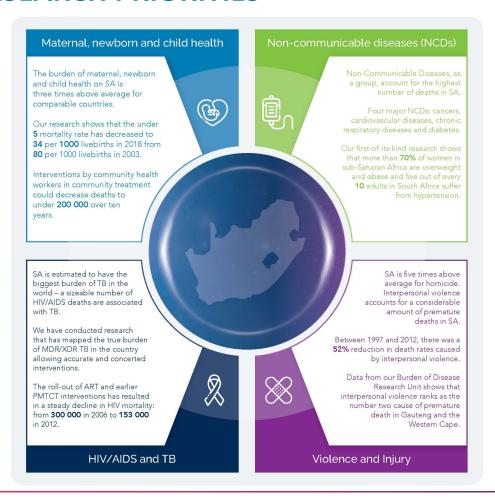
Participation in the EU-Africa Personalized Medicine Consortium and the Joint Transnational Funding Call 2022

# **SAMRC INNOVATION PROGRAMMES**





# **RESEARCH PRIORITIES**





### **HEALTH RESEARCH PRIORITIES – RESEARCH PROGRAMMES**

#### Our research priorities and programmes

Health Promotion and Disease Prevention
10 units

Maternal, Child and Women's Health 4 units

HIV/AIDS, TB and, Other Communicable Diseases
4 units

Health Systems
Strengthening
6 units

Public Health Innovation 4 units Biomedical Research 9 units

### SAMRC RESEARCH AND INNOVATION SUPPORT

#### **Intramural Research Units**

10 IMUs

Research focuses on the leading causes

of death in South Africa

- Baseline allocation
- Performance allocation
- Contract funding

#### **Platforms**

PUDAC BRIP

SAMRC Genomics Centre Malaria Research Group

- Baseline support
- Contract services
- Contract funding

#### **Strategic Research Initiatives**

Strategic partnerships
Designated Authority
(NRF, CDC, EDCTP)
SAMRC grant mechanisms
(Cancer centres and strategic projects)

#### **Extramural Research Units & Centres**

28 EMUs

Units at universities affiliated to the SAMRC centred around recognized experts

- Baseline allocation
- Performance allocation

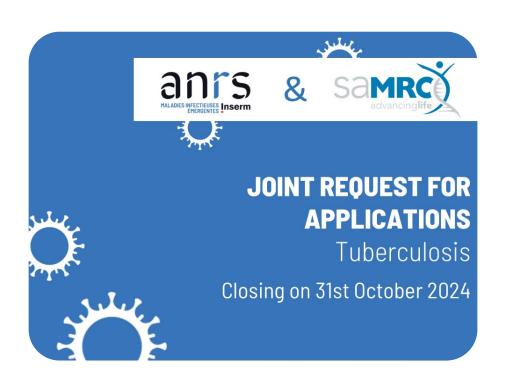
Centres: 2 Cancer; 10 HIV/TB

#### **Research Capacity Development**

Scholarships and career awards including PhD support, clinician awards, early- and mid-career investigator support, internships

#### **Grants Innovation & Product**

SAMRC grant mechanisms
Strategic projects
Strategic partnerships
Innovation grants
Innovation support mechanisms



### Partnership with ANRS on TB research

- SAMRC partnered with the ANRS-MIE (Agence Nationale du Recherche du SIDA, Maladies Infectieuses Emergentes) in France on TB research.
- ANRS-MIE has committed up to €2 million over three years to jointly support research in South Africa with a contribution from the SAMRC of up to R19.5 million.
- The partnership will focus on supporting research on TB, with some of the key research priorities being vaccines, transmission, sub-clinical TB, diagnostics and paediatric TB.

### Memorandum of Agreement with Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc

- To collaborate on establishing a Centre of Excellence and training programme in molecular biology and life sciences field in Africa.
- The purpose is to address the challenges faced by the African continent in upskilling graduates and laboratory personnel, particularly in the areas of practical applications and exposure to the latest technologies in molecular biology and life sciences.



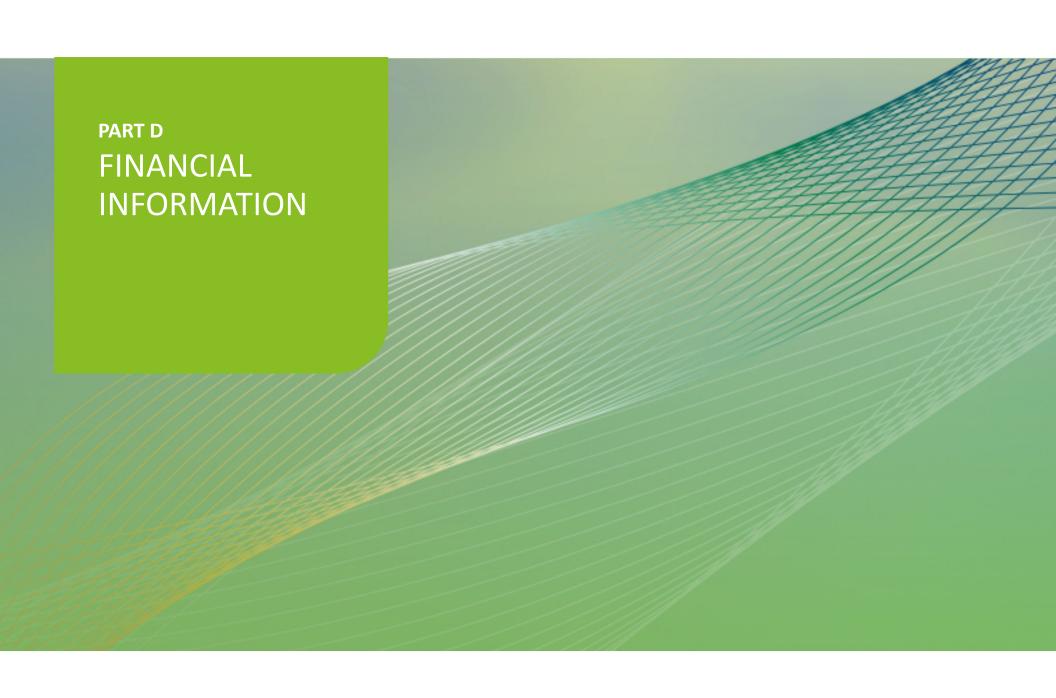


#### **BRILLIANT**

- BRinging Innovation to cLinical and Laboratory research to end HIV In Africa through New vaccine Technology (BRILLIANT) received funding of US \$45.6 million over 5 years by USAID (US Agency for International Development) through a Cooperative Agreement with the SAMRC as the lead organisation.
- Consortium consists of 8 African countries viz. South Africa, Nigeria, Kenya, Mozambique, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.
- Funding is for African institutions and scientists, to lead the discovery, design and testing of HIV vaccine candidates and will provide even more opportunities for scientists across sub- Saharan Africa to advance HIV vaccine research and development and leverage the lessons learned from decades of U.S. government investments.

# KfW Development Bank Investment in Vaccine R&D and Production – SAMRC Executing Agency

- DSI announced the conclusion of a financing agreement with Germany's KfW Development Bank to produce vaccines. Under the agreement the German government, through KfW, will provide South Africa with €20 million for vaccine production over a period of five years.
- The grant will be used to support the mRNA Technology Transfer Hub that South Africa is hosting for the World Health Organization as well as the South African vaccine manufacturing strategy, led by the DSI. The DSI is the recipient of the KfW financial support on behalf of the South African government and the SAMRC is the project executing agency.
- The programme will provide critical support to bolster vaccine research and development, including pre-clinical research, infrastructure and establishing a vaccine manufacturing industry in South Africa.



# **STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE 31 MARCH 2024**

| Descriptions           | 2023/24<br>R    | Variance<br>R | 2022/23<br>R    |
|------------------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Revenue                | 1 347 255 678   | 6,0%          | 1 270 637 434   |
| Other income           | 20 648 418      | -26,3%        | 28 030 495      |
| Operating expenses     | (1 451 905 870) | 8,9%          | (1 333 008 032) |
| Operating deficit      | (84 001 774)    | 144,6%        | (34 340 103)    |
| Investment income      | 62 795 287      | 47,6%         | 42 545 875      |
| Fair value adjustments | 211 431         | -157,5%       | (367 464)       |
| Finance costs          | (371 551)       | 26,7%         | (293 179)       |
| Deficit for the year   | (21 366 607)    |               | 7 545 129       |

#### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE – VARIANCES

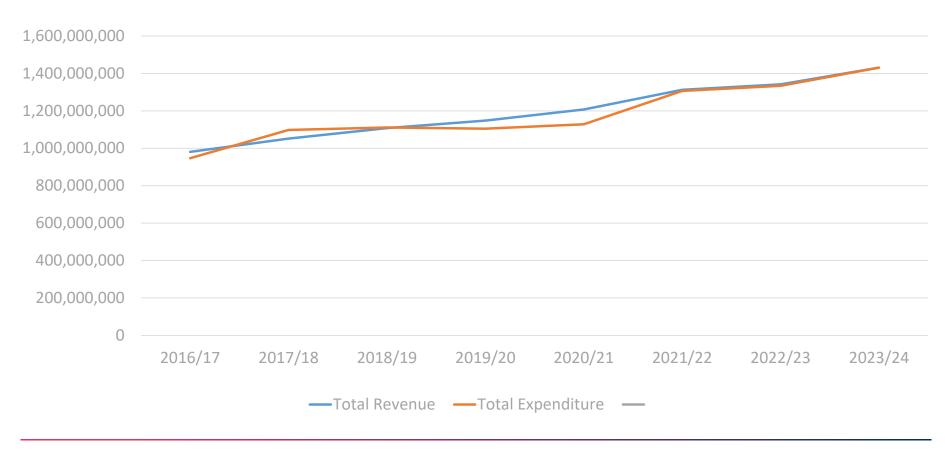
#### Total Income increased by 6,69% to R1 430m

- Baseline grant decreased by 2,49% to R660m
- Contract income increased by 15,8% to R686m
- Rental Income decreased by 6,8% to R6,2m
- Investment income increased by 48% to R62,6m
- Value of new research contracts awarded R678m

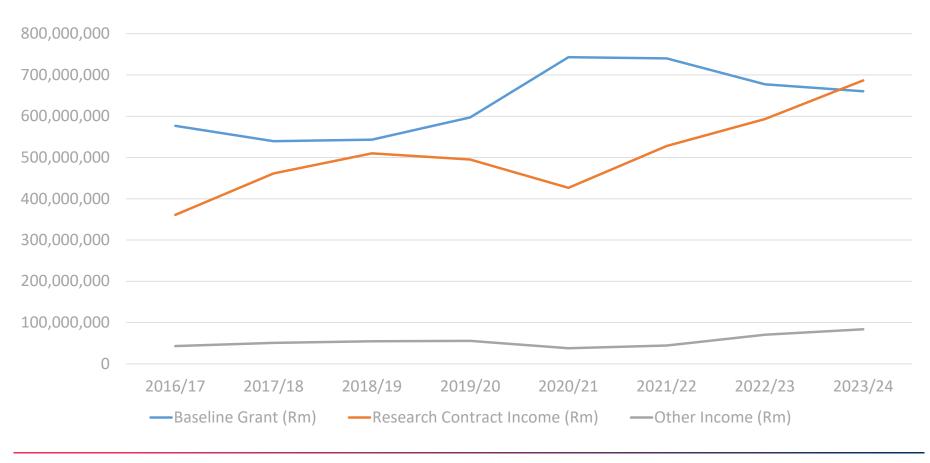
#### Expenses increased by 9% to R1 451m

- Travel costs increased by 27,5% to R57m
- Lab Costs decreased by 4,1% to R50m
- Staff costs increased by 14% to R551m
- Consulting costs increased by 9,9% to R15,7m
- Audit fees increased by 11,8% to R3,3m

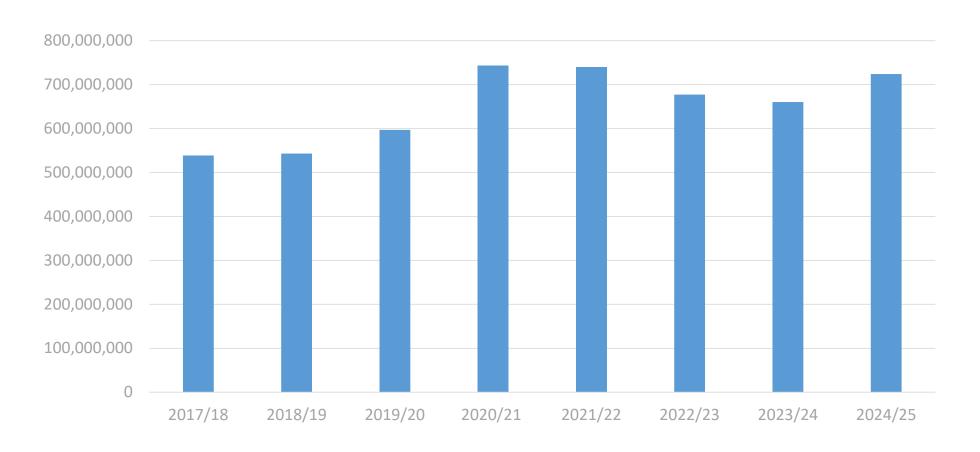
### **REVENUE VS EXPENDITURE**



### **REVENUE GROWTH**



# **BASELINE GRANT TRENDS (R EXCL. VAT)**





### **CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES AND CAMPAIGNS**

The SAMRC implemented several initiatives aimed at uplifting communities while promoting public understanding of science and healthy lifestyles.



# **CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES AND CAMPAIGNS**



# **CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES AND CAMPAIGNS**



# **SAMRC DIGITAL PLATFORMS**



**f**Facebook

X Twitter

in LinkedIn

130 million hits

for 2023/2024 financial year

107 thousands hits

for 2023/2024 financial year

247 thousands hits

for 2023/2024 financial year

970 thousands hits

for 2023/2024 financial year

