



ANNUAL REPORT
NATIONAL INSTITUTE
FOR THE HUMANITIES
AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
2024



higher education
& training

Department:
Higher Education and Training
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



NATIONAL INSTITUTE
FOR THE HUMANITIES
AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

ACRONYMS

AI	Artificial Intelligence
AfCFTA	African Continental Free Trade Area
AFS	Annual Financial Statements
AG-SA	Auditor General South Africa
ANDC	Annual National Doctoral Conference
APP	African Pathways Programme
BTT	BRICS Think Tanks
BTTC	BRICS Think Tank Council
CASS	Chinese Academy of Social Sciences
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CFO	Chief Financial Officer
CMA	Centre for Mediation in Africa
CODESRIA	Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa
CPUT	Cape Peninsula University of Technology
DC-CUS	Decentred Critical University Studies
DHET	Department of Higher Education and Training
DIRCO	Department of International Relations and Cooperation
DUT	Durban University of Technology
FY	Financial Year
HEI	Higher Education Institution
HESTIL	Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation Institutional Landscape
HR	Human Resources
HSRC	Human Sciences Research Council
HSS	Humanities and Social Sciences
ICSSR	Indian Council of Social Science Research
IGD	Institute for Global Dialogue
ISCIA	Identities and Social Cohesion in Africa
MA	Master of Arts
MISTRA	Mapungubwe Institute for Strategic Reflection
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NIHSS	National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences
NMP	National Mentorship Programme

NMU	Nelson Mandela University
NRF	National Research Foundation
NSF	National Skills Fund
OERs	Open Educational Resources
PAA	Public Audit Act
PFMA	Public Finance Management Act
PhD	Doctor of Philosophy
REIPP	Renewable Energy Independent Power Producers
RU	Rhodes University
SA	South Africa
SABTT	South African BRICS Think Tank
SAHUDA	South African Humanities Deans' Association
SAIIA	South African Institute of International Affairs
SARChi	South African Research Chairs Initiative
SASEP	Southern African Society for Environmental Philosophy
SCM	Supply Chain Management
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SSAUF	Staffing South Africa's Universities Framework
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
SU	Stellenbosch University
TUT	Tshwane University of Technology
UCT	University of Cape Town
UFS	University of the Free State
UKZN	University of KwaZulu-Natal
UL	University of Limpopo
Unisa	University of South Africa
UNIVEN	University of Venda
UniZulu	University of Zululand
UP	University of Pretoria
UWC	University of the Western Cape
Wits	University of the Witwatersrand

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SECTION A

GENERAL INFORMATION



The NIHSS was formed after an extensive investigation and consultative process in 2010 and 2011 revealed that the humanities and social sciences (HSS) in South Africa were in great need of revitalisation and renewal to reverse declines in university enrolments, graduation rates, research output and funding. This investigation culminated in the HSS Charter of 2011 which recommended, among other things, that a national institute be established to enhance and support the HSS in South Africa and beyond, and to advise the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation on HSS matters.

Now in its ninth year, the NIHSS is a publicly funded organisation that works with higher education partners to fund, mentor and support over 420 PhD students and 60 postdoctoral research fellows, facilitate catalytic research within a post-apartheid and post-colonial frame, support international research collaborations and coordinate South Africa's academic contributions to BRICS, consisting of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

A STATUTORY BODY

The Institute was formally established on 13 December 2013 in terms of Section 38C of the Higher Education Act 101 of 1997. Its mandate, governance, functions, name and structures were set out in the NIHSS regulations contained in Government Gazette No 37118 of 5 December 2013. Other legislation that influences the NIHSS is the Skills Development Act 97 of 1998.

Although publicly funded, the NIHSS is not legally governed by the Public Finance Management Act 1 of 1999, as it is not listed

within National Treasury's schedule of public entities. However, the Institute has chosen to adopt certain prescripts of the PFMA for the purposes of best practice.

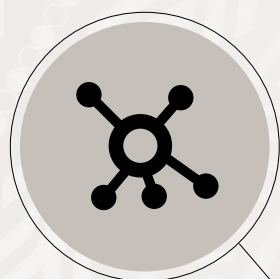
The NIHSS has two sources of funding. Its operational budget and South African BRICS Think Tank (SABTT) activities are fully funded by the Department of Higher Education and Training, while the National Skills Fund uses designated funds to support the Institute's academic programmes. These are the NIHSS Doctoral Schools and Scholarship Programme, Catalytic Research Projects, Humanities Hubs and Working Groups.

NIHSS MANDATE

The NIHSS's core mandate of funding and facilitating PhD programmes, catalytic research and international research collaborations was expanded in 2015 when it became the custodian of the SABTT, responsible for coordinating and managing South Africa's involvement in BRICS academic activities and fostering research collaborations between South Africa, other African countries and countries of the Global South.

VISION AND MISSION

The vision of the Institute is of a new HSS that is at the epicentre of scholarship, pedagogy, community practice and social responsibility in Africa. Complementing this vision is the NIHSS mission to redress existing deficits and to fund, coordinate and convene academic and research programmes, projects, collaborations and activities in the HSS disciplines within and through South African public universities.



SHARED GUIDING PRINCIPLES

When conceptualising, convening and implementing academic programmes and projects, the NIHSS adheres to five guiding principles:

1

Cooperation and the establishment of communities of scholarship

– The Institute works across organisational and disciplinary boundaries to establish communities of collaborating scholars.

2

Norms-driven internationalisation

– The NIHSS is open to dialogue with its Northern counterparts but focuses specifically on strengthening Africa-wide South-South collaborations.

3

Social responsibility and equity

– The Institute is mindful that research and development funded with taxpayers' money should have value to society and respond to the socio-economic problems that face South Africa and its citizens today.

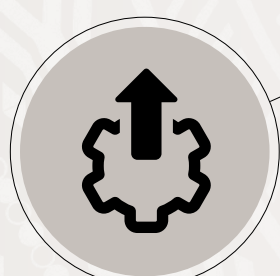
4

Functional differentiation as opposed to resource differentiation

– Rather than preserving a higher education and research system based on differentiation through resource inequality, the NIHSS provides opportunities to eradicate resource inequality and encourages differentiation in priorities and visions to cater for diversity.

5

Transformative relevance – The NIHSS works unrelentingly to open up new areas of research, which in turn have a multiplier effect on future research projects and serious transformative implications for the curriculum in the humanities and social sciences.



CORE ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES

The NIHSS creates value by enabling doctoral and postdoctoral scholarship, serving as a catalyst for change in research and facilitating international research collaborations:

1

Enabling PhD scholarship

This entails building capacity and growing the number of doctoral and postdoctoral fellows (via scholarships) in the HSS through:

- the NIHSS National Mentorship Programme
- the African Pathways Programme
- Mobility Grants

2

Serving as a catalyst for change in research

The Institute increases the scale and quality of HSS research outputs, fast-tracks research in new areas, strengthens previously neglected HSS disciplines and changes the way the HSS produce knowledge.

The vehicles for this are:

- Catalytic Research Projects
- Working Groups
- Professional Associations
- Humanities Hubs

3

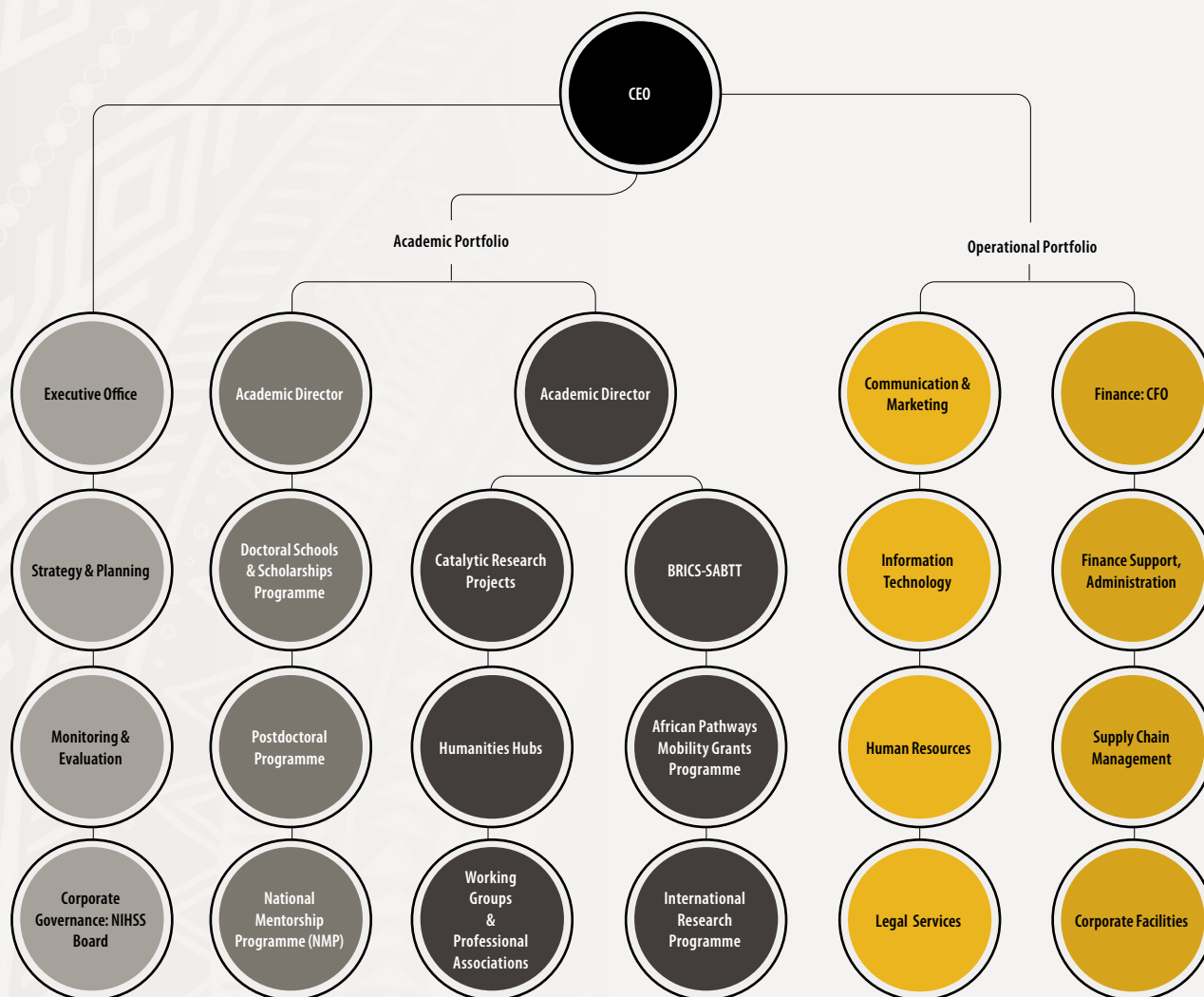
International research collaborations

The NIHSS forges collaborations on the continent and between developing economies, networking South African researchers with researchers in the Global South through the BRICS programme and other international collaborations.



INTERNAL VALUES





ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

The Institute's structure consists of three units: the Academic Portfolio, Operational Portfolio and the Executive Office.

- 1 The Academic Portfolio** is the largest organisational unit and is responsible for the Institute's academic, research and international programmes.
- 2 The Operational Portfolio** provides administrative, financial, supply chain management, information technology, marketing and communication, human resources and legal services.
- 3 The Executive Office** is responsible for strategy and planning, monitoring and evaluation and corporate governance support to the NIHSS Board.

All three units report directly to the Chief Executive Officer of the Institute, who is accountable to the Board for the performance of the NIHSS.

OPERATING CONTEXT

Change and fluidity are inherent characteristics of the South African higher education sector, which in many respects mirrors and often amplifies the dynamics in the broader society, particularly its persisting inequalities, polarisation and politicisation, extreme resource constraints and escalating pressure for fundamental change.

This operating context calls for considerable agility to navigate and the NIHSS is fortunate to possess that, not only by virtue of being a lean, young organisation but because its very establishment in 2013 was rooted in an understanding of a society in transition and the commitment to being part of its transformation. As an organisation that is itself already transformed, from the composition of its workforce to the research it supports, the scholars it funds and the debates it stimulates, the Institute is not an entity on the outside looking in but one grounded in the realities of a country – and continent – striving for equity and social justice.



NIHSS STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES





Dr Bonginkosi Blade Nzimande
Minister of Higher Education,
Science and Innovation



Mr Buti Manamela
Deputy Minister of Higher
Education, Science and Innovation



**higher education
& training**

Department:
Higher Education and Training
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

ACTING DIRECTOR'S NOTE

The 2023/24 financial year saw the Institute forge ahead with its ongoing transition. We began the year led by our former Chief Financial Officer and former Acting Chief Executive Officer, Mr Tumelo Mokoena, providing continuation of leadership following the departure of our previous CEO, Professor Sarah Mosoetsa, currently CEO of the Human Sciences Research Council and the interim Chairperson of the South African BRICS Think Tank (SABTT).

During the 2023/24 financial year, the Institute attained many milestones and navigated various challenges, and for this we have both Mr Mokoena and Prof Mosoetsa to thank. Prof Mosoetsa's continued role as SABTT Chair was of immense value in 2023/04 when South Africa assumed the BRICS Presidency and the SABTT hosted the 15th BRICS Academic Forum. Mr Mokoena, meanwhile, brought steadiness to what could have been a turbulent time for the Institute. Towards the end of the second quarter, Mr Mokoena resumed his position as Chief Financial Officer full time, and continued to support the Institute in his CFO role well after the end of the 2023/24 financial year. Mr Mokoena has since progressed to another role within the public sector, and we wish him continued success therein.

Despite operational constraints and the year's governance challenges, the Institute has endured. This steadfastness can be attributed to a strong team focused on supporting the mandate, upholding the values and principles and ensuring that the critical work of the Institute, and that of the seminal 2011 Charter for the Humanities and Social Sciences, is delivered.

Despite the challenges of not having a Board throughout the year, the Decadal Plan 2022 to 2032, the Strategic Plan for April 2022 to 2032, as well as the draft Annual Performance Plan for 2023/24 FY, all aided in direction and continuity as we progressed during the year. The existing systems, structures, policies and procedures within the organisation continue to guide us in the execution of the mandate and delivery of critical milestones.

The financial year delivered numerous highlights for the Institute that bear consideration.



Message from Acting
Director Ms. Auriel Niemack

EXCEEDING THE 500 GRADUATE MILESTONE

Our flagship programme, the Doctoral Programme, saw 48 NIHSS scholarship recipients completing their studies in 2023/24, resulting in 552 PhD graduates delivered since the Institute opened its doors over 10 years ago. Of the overall 810 students who were awarded scholarships under the NIHSS, this figure represents 68% throughput over the years of the Institute's existence.

This critical mass of doctoral graduates has changed the face of the HSS at public universities in South Africa: 69% of the South African doctoral students who have graduated to date through the NIHSS's partnership with the South African Humanities Deans' Association (SAHUDA) are black, and 61% are female and the average throughput of 68% for the past six years compares favourably with the standard throughput rate for PhD graduates in the HSS in South Africa.

These successes are due to our scholars' hard work, the diligence and support of the mentors appointed by the Institute to assist scholars on their doctoral journeys, and our longstanding partnership with SAHUDA. I am pleased to report that this year our mentors convened 72 regional doctoral workshops

designed to provide further learning and support for the doctoral scholars.

During the year, the Institute continued monitoring its first cohort of Masters students whose scholarships were awarded in the previous year, 2022/23, and the Institute has to date had 15 Masters students graduate with their MA degrees.

Our scholars and graduates also receive further support from their mentors and an opportunity to showcase their research at the Annual National Doctoral Conference (ANDC). The ninth ANDC was held in person on 1 and 2 November 2023 in partnership with SAHUDA and the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA) at the Birchwood Hotel and OR Tambo Conference Centre. This flagship initiative, targeting NIHSS-funded doctoral candidates, saw 86 abstract submissions and welcomed over 250 delegates across 27 parallel sessions, presenting more than 100 abstracts and papers that celebrated the diverse research within the humanities and social sciences.

The ANDC serves as a platform for fostering student-centred approaches to doctoral research development. It endeavours to nurture candidate collaboration, provide constructive engagement and contribute to the 2030 National Development Plan. The conference successfully achieved these objectives by showcasing research projects, encouraging peer feedback, strengthening regional programmes, establishing scholarly networks, honouring graduates, exposing alumni to career opportunities, and facilitating engagement among partners. Under the theme “BRICS and Africa: Partnership for Mutually Accelerated Growth and Sustainable Development”, the HSS Alumni Conference brought together NIHSS PhD graduates, offering a platform for constructive engagement and discourse.

THE 15TH BRICS ACADEMIC FORUM

As custodian of the South African BRICS Think Tank (SABTT), the NIHSS convened the 15th BRICS Academic Forum. This year's Academic Forum was the first physical meeting of the BRICS Academic Forum since the COVID-19 pandemic. It took place over four days, from 14-17 May 2023, at the Century City Conference Centre, Cape Town.

The BRICS Academic Forum responded to the needs and demands of the larger international community, particularly regarding growth, sustainable development and inclusion of the Global South in the world system. The theme of the 15th BRICS Academic Forum was also “BRICS and Africa: Partnership

for Mutually Accelerated Growth, Sustainable Development and Inclusive Multilateralism”.

In line with the 15th BRICS Academic Forum Recommendations, the SABTT also developed a BRICS Virtual Academy website to serve as an institutional repository for the BRICS Think Tank Council (BTTC) and overall BRICS documents. Many thanks to the departments of Higher Education and of Science and Innovation (DHET), as well as the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) for their support and contributions in making the Academic Forum successful.

ROBUST RESEARCH OUTPUTS ACROSS PROGRAMMES

As an example of the impact of the Institute's support for research in the HSS, I note that 40 research outputs were generated through Catalytic Research Projects, Working Groups, Humanities Hub, and international research collaborations. This is further reinforced by the 65 research outputs reported from our projects across programmes with our academic partners in Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) alliance. In addition to these stellar results, the growing impact of our doctoral fellows, alumni and postgraduate fellows in their increasing contributions to NIHSS-supported research continues to bear fruit. Their 114 outputs for the year exceed the 63 outputs of the previous year. We salute their dedication to ongoing academic excellence and contributions to further knowledge.

As the 2023/24 year drew to a close, the Institute hosted the ninth edition of the annual HSS Awards. Held once again at the University of Pretoria's Javett Art Centre and comprising 13 categories, such as fiction and non-fiction literature, the digital humanities, visual art, public performance, exhibition catalogues and musical compositions and arrangements, the Awards showcased the vibrancy and diversity of the range of intellectual and creative contributions across the HSS and Arts.

The Institute ended the year in a sound financial position, with an unqualified audit opinion from the Auditor-General. In a prolonged period of transition, I am glad for the prudent groundwork, decisions and support of our past leadership that we as an Institute can navigate by.

CONCLUSION

Academically, operationally and financially, the Institute performed well in 2023/24, given the constraints under which it has operated, and having met 34 out of 35 of the revised targets associated with our five strategic objectives for the year.

For these successes and milestones attained, my gratitude and appreciation are again extended to the Department of Higher Education and Training for its support and guidance, our partners at SAHUDA and CODESRIA, our research project leaders and collaborators across the higher education system, and most especially the entire team at the NIHSS for their unwavering commitment to the mandate of the Institute, as espoused in the 2011 Charter for the Humanities and Social Sciences.

Great strides continue to be made through the scholarship collaboration between the NIHSS and SAHUDA, aimed at growing the HSS within the South African borders, while our CODESRIA partnership supports the scholarships within the African continent, through the African Pathways Programme. From inception to date, the NIHSS has reported a total of 552 PhD graduations cumulatively, inclusive of South African and non-South African students. This is evidence yet again that the humanities and social sciences (HSS), through the NIHSS, is slowly and gradually being transformed. This is a definite positive impact on the state of academia within the HSS.

Funding for the 2023/24 financial year was received as follows:

- A total of **R39 862 000** was received from the DHET to fund our operational requirements as the NIHSS. The amount is inclusive of the BRICS programme funding, which is a project expenditure. This amount was received quarterly in four tranches and was recognised as revenue in full. For the current year, no amount was received from the National Skills Fund (NSF) to fund administration costs of projects.
- A total of **R220 540 000** was not yet approved by the DHET for programmes and project funding.
- Interest income of **R6 411 504** was received from investments and bank accounts.

The total revenue recognised for the 2023/24 financial year was therefore **R46 857 862**, which represents a decrease of **68%** from the previous year. This decrease was as a result of the non-receipt of project funding from the NSF for the 2023/24 financial year.

The expenditure on projects was as follows:

NIHSS scholarship programme

A total of **R17 976 500** was disbursed to NIHSS-funded PhD fellows within the participating South African public universities. This represents a decrease in disbursement of **46%** from the previous financial year. This was only for returning (renewed) students. No intake of new students was undertaken in the 2023/24 financial year.

A total of **R33 000** was disbursed to non-South African doctoral students funded through CODESRIA. This represents a decrease in disbursement of **83%** from the previous financial year. This was only for returning (renewed) students and there was no intake of new students in the current financial year.

Other significant projects supported during the period under review were:

- Catalytic Research Projects – a total of **R7 526 320** was funded, resulting in an increase of **301%** from the previous year.
- Humanities Hubs – a total of **R1 839 608** was committed for support, representing a decrease of **27%** from the previous year.
- BRICS Think Tank – a total of **R27 593 634** was funded, reflecting an increase of **111%** from the previous year.
- Working Groups – a total of **R5 095 500** was funded, reflecting a decrease of **10%** from the previous year.
- National Mentorship Programme – a total of **R4 300 000** was spent, which was the same expenditure as the previous year.
- Annual National Doctoral Conference – a total of **R8 858 965** was committed for this initiative, its aim being to create and foster student-centred approaches to doctoral research development, while also providing students with a platform and opportunity to present and showcase their research with fellow doctoral candidates.

Overall, total project expenditure decreased by **6%**. This is mainly due to a decrease in strategic objectives as recorded in the APP.

Audit outcomes

Given that the Institute is in its ninth year of existence, outstanding results have been achieved in terms of audit outcomes. The NIHSS obtained a clean audit outcome from the Auditor-General of South Africa for the fifth consecutive year from 2016/17 until 2020/21. An unqualified audit opinion was expressed for the 2021/22 financial year and a clean audit for the 2022/23 financial year. An unqualified audit opinion was expressed for the 2023/24 financial year. This highlights the effectiveness of all endeavours and commitments towards effective financial management and administration.

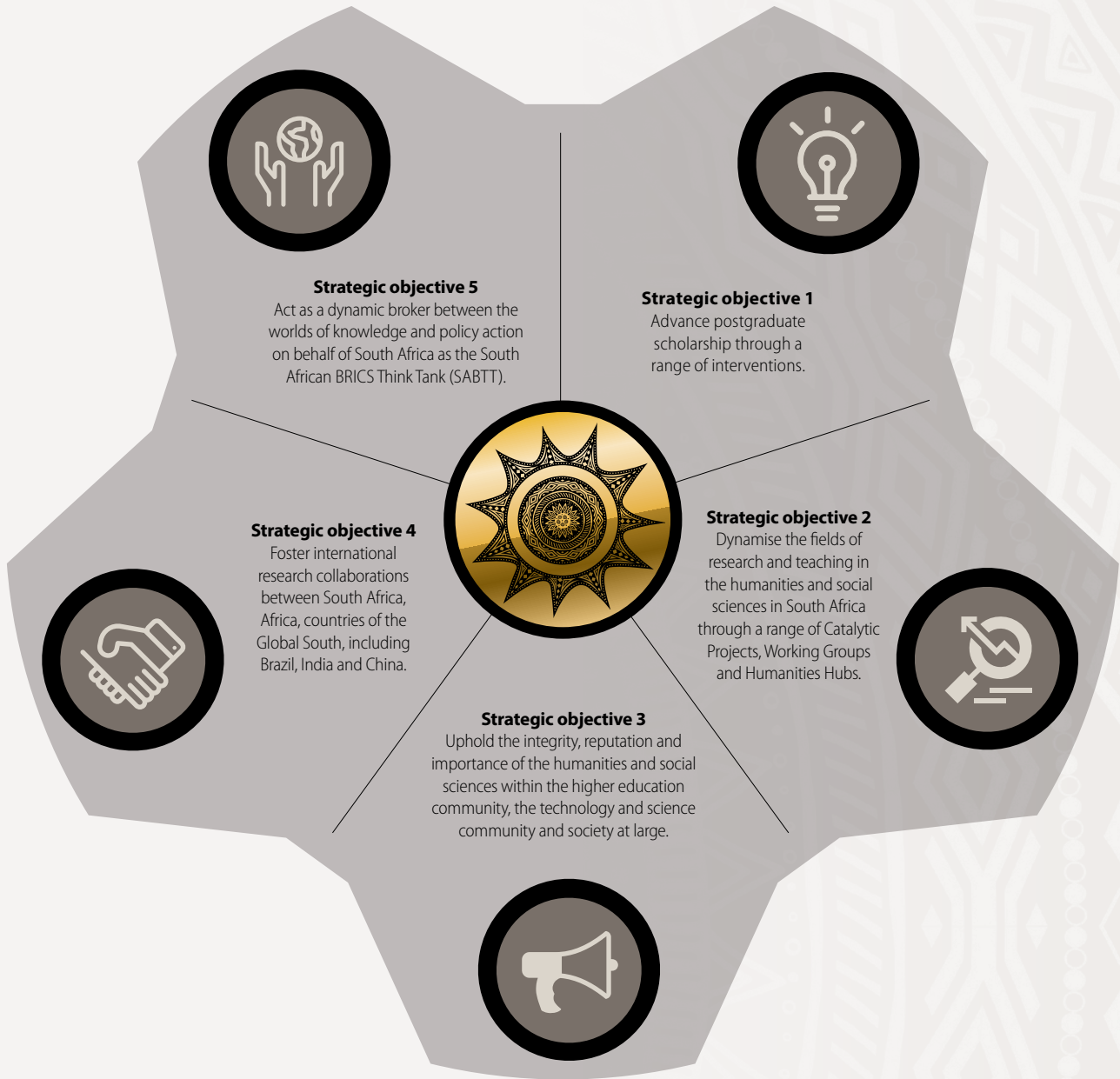
Operational challenges experienced

- Late disbursement of funding and lack of APP approval for projects continued to be a challenge in the 2023/24 financial year, which worsened as the funds for 2023/24 were not received by 31 March 2024. This created challenges in terms of disbursement to the beneficiaries. However, funds were committed accordingly by the end of the financial year.



SECTION B

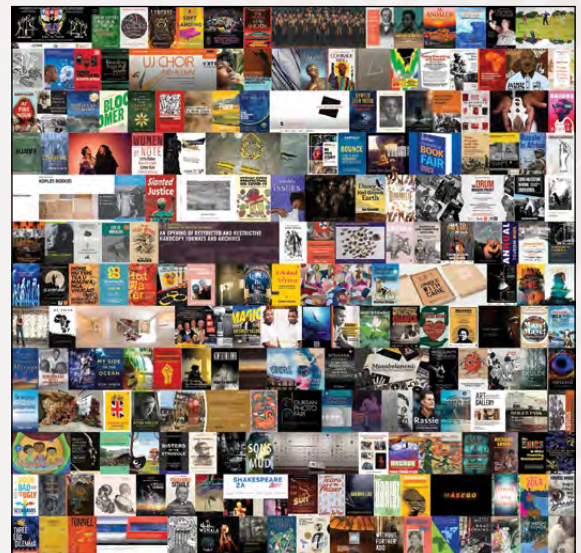
PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE
AND ADMINISTRATION



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES AND PERFORMANCE 2023/24

2023/24 was the second year of the Institute's Decadal Plan for 2022 to 2032. The essence of the Decadal Plan is to continue building on the NIHSS's successes in the first nine years of its existence while broadening and deepening its impact on scholarship and research in the humanities and social sciences and facilitating scholarly engagement nationally, regionally and internationally.

The strategic objectives and key performance indicators (KPIs) set for 2023/24 reflect this strategic intent.



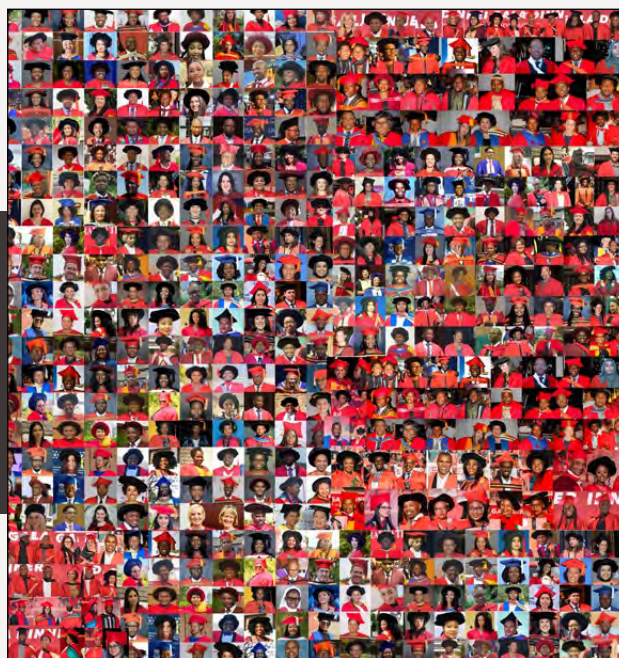
2023/24 HIGHLIGHTS

NIHSS SCHOLARSHIP GRADUATES

552

PhD students have graduated since the NIHSS opened its doors, including 55 who graduated during 2023/24.

A total of 128 doctoral candidates from previous cohorts were still busy with their studies.



DOCTORAL SCHOOLS

72 regional doctoral workshops co-hosted by mentors through the NIHSS to enhance the creativity and technical capacities of NIHSS-funded students.

48 The number of SAHUDA-funded PhD graduates, with a cumulative throughput of 57%

77% of the NIHSS-SAHUDA fellows who completed their studies were black and 65% were female.

12 mentors appointed during the year to support our Masters and PhD students outdid themselves by presenting 72 regional doctoral workshop – a major achievement considering the severe financial constraints that prevailed.

15 Of the inaugural group of 50 Masters students who received scholarships in the previous year, 15 successfully completed their studies in the current year.

TARGETS MET OR EXCEEDED

Of the **97%** of annual targets met, **48%** were exceeded

POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS

60 The number of postdoctoral fellowships monitored is at 60. Of these, 30 each were awarded in 2021/22 and 2022/23 and one in the year under review. Since South Africa has a critical shortage of postdoctoral expertise, these fellowships make a substantial contribution to high-level knowledge generation.

RESEARCH OUTPUTS GENERATED



114 Doctoral and postdoctoral fellows and alumni produced 114 research outputs and publications. Counting the 48 research outputs reported by leaders of the Catalytic Research Projects and Humanities Hub, the grand total was an impressive 168 outputs.

65 In addition, a further 65 research outputs were produced by the PAP and IBGS project leaders.

RESEARCH PROJECTS SUPPORTED



1

Professional Association Projects awarded

14

new Working Groups Projects funded



6

Professional Associations Projects monitored



11

events held to expand Global South research and scholarship



13

Catalytic Research Projects monitored



22

Seminars, workshops and conferences hosted



16

Working Groups Projects monitored



6

Humanities Hubs monitored

RESEARCH

21

conferences, workshops, colloquiums and similar events organised by NIHSS-funded project leaders and collaborators of Catalytic Research Projects, Working groups, Humanities Hubs and Professional Associations

ACADEMIC EVENTS SUPPORTED

BRICS

5

BRICS cluster projects and BRICS research institutes were monitored

12

SABTT Steering Committee meetings held.

10

SABTT forums held

STRATEGIC PROGRAMME INTERVENTIONS

Table 1. Performance overview for the 2023/24 financial year

Strategic Objective	No.	Key Performance Indicator (KPI)	Actual achievement 2022/23	Annual FY Target 2023/24	Revised Annual Target 2023/24	Actual YTD 2023/24	Actual Q1 2023/24	Actual Q2 2023/24	Actual Q3 2023/24	Actual Q4 2023/24	Actual Achievement %	Comment
1. Advance postgraduate scholarship in South African Universities	1.1	Number of new NIHSS-SAHUDA Masters scholarships awarded	50	50	0	0	-	-	-	0	NA	Target revised to 0
	1.2	Number of NIHSS- SAHUDA Masters scholarships monitored	N/A	50	45	46	1	48	-	46	102%	Revised annual target achieved and exceeded without adverse effects on the budget; monitoring has no financial implications hence no adverse effect on the budget.
	1.3	Number of new NIHSS-SAHUDA doctoral scholarships awarded	NA	100	0	0	-	-	-	0	NA	Target revised to 0
	1.4	Number of NIHSS funded South African doctoral students monitored	253	176	N/A	176	-	219	-	176	100%	Annual target achieved
	1.5	Through put rate on 84 funded SAHUDA PhDs by March 2024	74 (56% cumulative)	46 (55% cumulative)	N/A	48	10	11	12	15	104%	Annual target achieved and exceeded without adverse effects on budget; throughput has no financial implications hence no adverse effects on the budget
	1.6	Number of new NIHSS funded South African Post-Doctoral Research fellows awarded in the humanities and social sciences	30	30	1	2	-	1	1	0	200%	Revised annual target achieved and exceeded by 1, without adverse effects on the project budget
	1.7	Number of NIHSS funded South African post- doctoral fellows monitored in the humanities and social sciences	55	60	50	60	12	24	20	4	120%	Revised annual target achieved and exceeded without adverse effects on the budget; monitoring has no financial implications hence no adverse effect on the budget.

Strategic Objective	No.	Key Performance Indicator (KPI)	Actual achievement 2022/23	Annual FY Target 2023/24	Revised Annual Target 2023/24	Actual YTD 2023/24	Actual Q1 2023/24	Actual Q2 2023/24	Actual Q3 2023/24	Actual Q4 2023/24	Actual Achievement %	Comment
	1.8	Number of new NIHSS funded Writing Fellows awarded in the humanities and social sciences	0	5	0	NA	-	-	-	0	NA	Target revised to 0
	1.9	Number of new NIHSS Emeritus Writing Fellows awarded in the humanities and social sciences	2	2	0	NA	-	-	-	0	NA	Target revised to 0
	1.10	Number of Mentors appointed to support Doctoral Schools, and ultimately enhance the creativity and technical capacities of NIHSS Masters and Doctoral students	12	15	12	12	12	-	-	-	100%	Revised annual target achieved
	1.11	Number of regional doctoral workshops co-hosted by mentors through the NIHSS Doctoral schools to enhance the creativity and technical capacities of NIHSS-funded Masters and doctoral students	85	65	55	72	13	30	16	13	131%	Revised annual target achieved and exceeded through additional regional doctoral workshops co-hosted by mentors with no financial implications; hence no adverse effect on the budget.
	1.12	NIHSS-hosted Annual National Doctoral and HSS Alumni conferences as an innovation to advance postgraduate scholarship in South African Universities	2	2	N/A	2	-	-	2	-	100%	Annual target achieved
	1.13	Number of Research Outputs/Publications by doctoral fellows, postdoctoral fellows, and alumni contributing further to the HSS	72	45	N/A	114	7	36	6	65	253%	Annual target achieved and exceeded through additional research material produced by doctoral fellows, postdoctoral fellows, and alumni already funded by grants awarded, hence no adverse effects on the budget

STRATEGIC PROGRAMME INTERVENTIONS

Table 1. Performance overview for the 2022/23 financial year

Strategic Objective	No.	Key Performance Indicator (KPI)	Actual achievement 2022/23	Annual FY Target 2023/24	Revised Annual Target 2023/24	Actual YTD 2023/24	Actual Q1 2023/24	Actual Q2 2023/24	Actual Q3 2023/24	Actual Q4 2023/24	Actual Achievement %	Comment
2. Dynamise the fields of research and teaching in the humanities and social sciences in South Africa through a range of Catalytic Projects, Working Groups and Humanities Hubs	2.1	NIHSS Catalytic Research Projects monitored	28	10 monitored	N/A	13	2	10	1	-	130%	Annual target achieved and exceeded without adverse effects on budget; monitoring has no financial implications hence no adverse effect on the budget.
	2.2	NIHSS Humanities Hubs monitored	6	5 monitored	N/A	6	-	2	3	1	120%	Annual target achieved and exceeded without adverse effects on budget; monitoring has no financial implications hence no adverse effect on the budget.
	2.3	Number of new Working Groups awarded	5	20	12	14	11	-	3	-	116%	Revised annual target achieved and exceeded without adverse effects on the budget
	2.4	Number of Working Groups monitored	40	5	N/A	16	3	8	2	3	320%	Annual target achieved and exceeded without adverse effects on budget; monitoring has no financial implications hence no adverse effect on the budget.
	2.5	The number of research outputs in the humanities and social sciences produced by the Catalytic and Humanities Hubs	60	40	N/A	48	6	18	13	11	120%	Annual target achieved and exceeded through additional research material produced by research already funded by grants awarded, hence no adverse effects on the budget
	2.6	Number of conferences, workshops, colloquiums, and similar academic events organised by NIHSS-funded projects leaders and Collaborators	46	15	N/A	21	5	8	4	4	140%	Annual target achieved and exceeded through additional events from projects already funded by grants awarded, hence no adverse effects on the project budget

Strategic Objective	No.	Key Performance Indicator (KPI)	Actual achievement 2022/23	Annual FY Target 2023/24	Revised Annual Target 2023/24	Actual YTD 2023/24	Actual Q1 2023/24	Actual Q2 2023/24	Actual Q3 2023/24	Actual Q4 2023/24	Actual Achievement %	Comment
3. Uphold the integrity, reputation and importance of the Humanities and Social Sciences within the higher education community, the science and technology community and society at large	3.1	Number of new Professional Associations awarded	5	5	1	1	-	1	-	-	100%	Revised annual target achieved
	3.2	Number of Professional Associations monitored	10	5	N/A	6	2	3	-	1	120%	Annual target achieved and exceeded without adverse effects on the budget
	3.3	Number of NIHSS Annual Awards Ceremony held to recognise individuals within the higher education's community contribution to HSS	1	1	N/A	1	-	-	-	1	100%	Annual target achieved
4. Foster international research collaborations between South Africa, Africa, and countries of the Global South, including Brazil, India, and China	4.1	Number of SADC-Pan-African Pathways Residency Programme Initiatives awarded to promote the principle of norm-driven internationalisation and collaboration of institutions in the Global South	NA	5	0	0	-	-	-	-	NA	Target revised to 0
	4.2	Number of new NIHSS funded SADC Pan-African Pathways Post-Doctoral Fellows awarded in the humanities and social sciences	NA	30	0	0	-	-	-	-	NA	Target revised to 0
	4.3	Number of Pan-African Pathways Institutional Collaboration Programme grants awarded to promote the principle of norm-driven internationalisation and collaboration of institutions in the Global South	0	5	1	0	-	-	-	-	0%	Revised target not achieved
	4.4	Number of SADC-Pan-African mobility grant projects awarded to promote the principle of norm-driven Internationalization and collaboration of institutions in the Global South	NA	10	0	NA	-	-	-	-	NA	Target revised to 0

STRATEGIC PROGRAMME INTERVENTIONS

Table 1. Performance overview for the 2022/23 financial year

Strategic Objective	No.	Key Performance Indicator (KPI)	Actual achievement 2022/23	Annual FY Target 2023/24	Revised Annual Target 2023/24	Actual YTD 2023/24	Actual Q1 2023/24	Actual Q2 2023/24	Actual Q3 2023/24	Actual Q4 2023/24	Actual Achievement %	Comment
	4.5	Number of International, BRICS and Global South Residency Programme Initiatives awarded to promote the principle of norm – driven internationalisation and collaboration of institutions in the Global South	NA	5	0	NA	-	-	-	-	NA	Target revised to 0
	4.6	Number of International, BRICS and Global South Institutional Collaborative Programme Initiatives awarded to promote the principle of norm– driven internationalisation and collaboration of institutions in the Global South	NA	5	0	NA	-	-	-	-	NA	Target revised to 0
	4.7	Number of International, BRICS and Global South Mobility Grant Projects awarded to promote the principle of norm– driven internationalisation and collaboration of institutions in the Global South	10	10	0	NA	-	-	-	-	NA	Target revised to 0
	4.8	Number of dialogues, colloquiums, policy discussions hosted/ co-hosted and funded to expand the knowledge base of Global South research and scholarship	20	10	N/A	11	2	3	2	4	110%	Annual target achieved and exceeded through additional events from projects already funded by grants awarded, hence no adverse effects on the project budget
	4.9	Number of Research Outputs/Publications produced by the PAP and IBGS project leaders	22	15	N/A	65	10	37	7	11	433%	Annual target achieved and exceeded through additional research material produced by research already funded by grants awarded, hence no adverse effects on the budget

Strategic Objective	No.	Key Performance Indicator (KPI)	Actual achievement 2022/23	Annual FY Target 2023/24	Revised Annual Target 2023/24	Actual YTD 2023/24	Actual Q1 2023/24	Actual Q2 2023/24	Actual Q3 2023/24	Actual Q4 2023/24	Actual Achievement %	Comment
5. Act as a dynamic broker between the worlds of knowledge and policy action on behalf of South Africa as the South African BRICS Think Tank	5.1	Number of BRICS Cluster projects and BRICS Research Institutes monitored	15	5	N/A	5	4	1	-	-	100%	Annual target achieved
	5.2	Number of seminars, workshops, and conferences hosted/ co-hosted and funded	15	5	N/A	22	4	7	4	7	440%	Annual target achieved and exceeded through additional events from projects already funded by grants awarded, hence no adverse effects on the project budget
	5.3	Number of SABTT steering committee meetings (NIHSS, DHET, DIRCO)	12	12	N/A	12	4	3	3	2	100%	Annual target achieved
	5.4	Number of South African BRICS Think-tank Forums (Pre-academic forum, Academic forum & BTTC)	6	12	8	10	7	-	-	3	125%	Revised annual target achieved and exceeded without adverse effects on the budget



Strategic Objective 1

ADVANCE POSTGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP
THROUGH A RANGE OF INNOVATIONS



ADVANCE POSTGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP IN SOUTH AFRICAN UNIVERSITIES

Like any instrument of accountability, this report provides hard facts and figures – to demonstrate the role the NIHSS has played in the past year in fostering a vibrant academic community dedicated to addressing complex social challenges. Alongside those facts and figures, this document also brings in the voices and lived experiences of those who have carried out their academic or research work with the support of the Institute, or been co-creators in nurturing a new generation of academics.

When reflecting on their personal doctoral journey, one graduate writes, “My work is deeply rooted in advocating for social justice for people with disabilities in South Africa... Reflecting on my journey, I am profoundly grateful for the support and opportunities provided by the NIHSS scholarships. They have not only advanced my career but also empowered me to contribute to the important discourse on disability and social justice in South Africa,” says Dr Dane Isaac, recipient of both an NIHSS doctoral scholarship and postdoctoral fellowship, and currently a senior research specialist at the Human Sciences Research Council.

Dr Abigail Wiese, an NIHSS-funded postdoctoral research fellow at the SARChI Chair in Identities and Social Cohesion in Africa (ISCIA), Nelson Mandela University, has this to say about her fellowship experience between April 2022 and April 2024:

“I thoroughly enjoyed being a fellow at ISCIA. What a truly supportive, enlivening and rewarding space... During my tenure, I had five confirmed publications [and] have three more outputs in various final stages of publication. One of these chapter publications was also a co-authored article with a fellow NIHSS postdoc. I also participated in 14 national and international academic engagement activities, such as workshops for students, conferences and guest lectures.

“I would never have produced these outputs had I not been awarded this grant. This programme is an absolute lifeline to individuals with completed doctoral degrees and no university contracts post-submission of their thesis.”

Dr John Sokfa of the Centre for Mediation (CMA) at the University of Pretoria, says the NIHSS’s decision to fund five postdoctoral fellowships was nothing short of “miraculous”. It was a “much-celebrated” development that ignited one accomplishment after another in the way of peace-building and mediation initiatives.

Furthermore, Dr Sokfa states that “Together with colleagues, we have expanded and enabled excellent research projects and practices, and our partnerships with academics, practitioners and local communities in South Africa and internationally have grown significantly. With support from embassies, we have designed outstanding impact and action research projects, one of which we have been leading in collaboration with traditional



Professor Prof Edith Dinong Phaswana delivers the keynote address at the ANDC Gala Dinner.

leaders in rural Eastern Cape.” He believes that this, and more, such as his appointment as a National Geographic Explorer for 2024, working on cultural technologies of peace-making, was possible because NIHSS funding contributed to creating “the right and conducive environment”.

There are literally hundreds of other up-and-coming academics who, through their participation in the NIHSS’s Masters, Doctoral and Postdoctoral Programmes, are applying the critical thinking, problem-solving and scholarly networking skills they have acquired to address our society’s most intractable challenges – from racism and sexism and other forms of “othering” to roadblocks in land reforms, political violence and societal attitudes towards disability.

Since the Institute’s inception, we have awarded a total of 810 doctoral scholarships, 50 masters scholarships and 94 postdoctoral fellowships, predominantly to black and/or female academics. During the year under review, the NIHSS had a cumulative number of 552 doctoral graduates and 15 masters graduates. Their contribution to knowledge creation is substantial, as is evident from the impressive tally of 114 research outputs our doctoral fellows, postdoctoral fellows and alumni delivered during the year. This was more than double the previous year’s output and two-and-a-half times higher than the target of 45 outputs set for 2023/24.

PERFORMANCE IN 2023/24

Heartfelt congratulations are due to the 55 NIHSS-funded doctoral students and 15 funded masters students who completed their studies during the year under review.

Of the 55 doctoral candidates who completed or graduated in 2023/24, 48 were part of the joint PhD programme that NIHSS runs in partnership with the South African Humanities Deans’ Association (SAHUDA) and seven were non-South African students funded by the NIHSS in partnership with the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA).

Furthermore, of the 48 NIHSS-SAHUDA doctoral candidates who completed or graduated during the year 37 were black, seven (7) coloured, one (1) Indian and one (1) white, while 65% were female, compared to 52% in the previous year. The latter marks a notable shift towards greater gender inclusivity and a more equitable academic culture in higher education.

Counting the 55 new doctoral graduates, a grand total of 552 PhD graduates, through NIHSS scholarships since the inception of the Institute, have joined the ranks of our country’s most highly-qualified scholars.

Meanwhile, 128 doctoral candidates from the remaining scholarship cohorts were still continuing with their studies during the year – meaning there are more completions to look forward to.

Coming up behind them are our scholarship students in the NIHSS Masters Programme, which was introduced in the previous financial year, and is a cornerstone of our strategy to build a robust academic community and ensure a steady flow of scholars into higher tiers of research and academic contribution.

Altogether 45 active MA students were engaged deeply with their studies in 2023/24. In addition to the 15 candidates who completed their studies during the year, a further 13 reached the milestone of submitting their theses for examination.

While the Institute was not able to award any new masters or doctoral scholarships in 2023/24, we redoubled our efforts to optimise the prospects of success of the current scholarship holders, primarily through the National Mentorship Programme and the Annual National Doctoral Conference.

NIHSS NATIONAL MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME

This programme is led by highly esteemed senior academics who use their experience and expertise to mentor, host regional workshops and contribute in other NIHSS academic events, for the benefit of NIHSS-funded masters and doctoral students. They also work with various academics and public higher education institutions where NIHSS-funded students are registered, assisting in capacity development.



In 2023/24, we appointed 12 Mentors, two of whom were Roving Mentors and 10 Regional Mentors providing capacity development in their respective regions. In regions where there are high numbers of NIHSS-funded students, such as Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal and the Western Cape, two Mentors per region were assigned to share mentoring responsibilities, as shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1: 2023/24 NIHSS Mentors

MENTOR	INSTITUTION	REGION
Prof Kishore Raga	Nelson Mandela University	Eastern Cape
Prof Ingrid Palmary	University of Johannesburg	Gauteng (UJ, UP, TUT)
Prof Glenrose Velile Jiyane	University of Zululand	KwaZulu-Natal (UNIZULU, DUT)
Prof Johannes Smit	University of KwaZulu-Natal	KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN)
Prof Luvuyo Dondolo	University of South Africa	Unisa, Free State and North-West (UNISA)
Prof Floretta Boonzaier	University of Cape Town	Western Cape (UCT)
Prof Diana Gibson	University of the Western Cape	Western Cape (UWC, SUN, CPUT)
Prof Theodore Petrus	University of the Free State	Unisa, Free State and North-West (UFS, NWU)
Prof Frederick Hendricks	Roving Mentor	Roving Mentor (WC, KWZN, EC)
Prof Nhlanhla Maake	Roving Mentor	Roving Mentor (GP, NC, Unisa, Free State and North-West)
Prof Mpsanyana Makgahlela	University of Limpopo	Northern Corridor
Prof Malose Langa	University of the Witwatersrand	Gauteng (Wits)

Our Mentors exceeded expectations, in providing the necessary support to doctoral candidates and masters students. Collectively, they conducted 72 regional workshops for doctoral and masters students, significantly above the target set for the annual target of 55 workshops. What is more, this was achieved without any additional financial outlay beyond what had been budgeted.

Most of the workshops were on topics such as research methodology and how to publish articles from their thesis. However, masters and doctoral studies can be extremely demanding, not only intellectually, but also psychologically. The mentorship programme also incorporated mental and wellness workshops to maintain and enhance candidates' well-being throughout their academic journey.

The Eastern Cape Region, hosted a workshop on "Well-being: Engaging the barriers towards completion of an MA/PhD qualification". Similarly, the region known as Unisa, Free State and North-West hosted a workshop on "Mastering your mind and emotions for writing-up". The above-mentioned regions hosted health and wellness workshops to cater for the students' well-being.



Dr Georgina Moloantsoa one of the Graduates sharing her PhD journey at the Humanities and Social Science Alumni Conference Gala Dinner 2023.

In all, 19 public universities from across South Africa participated in the NIHSS-SAHUDA programme, as shown in Figure 2.

The University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) had the highest number of active students at 23, followed by the following universities: University of Cape Town (UCT), University of Johannesburg (UJ), University of the Witwatersrand (Wits) and University of the Western Cape (UWC).

That said, "historically disadvantaged universities" are rapidly growing their share of NIHSS-funded students, particularly the universities of Zululand, Venda and Fort Hare. This reflects the concerted effort the NIHSS has been making since the independent review panel of 2020, which highlighted the need for a more equitable distribution of scholarships across South African public universities.

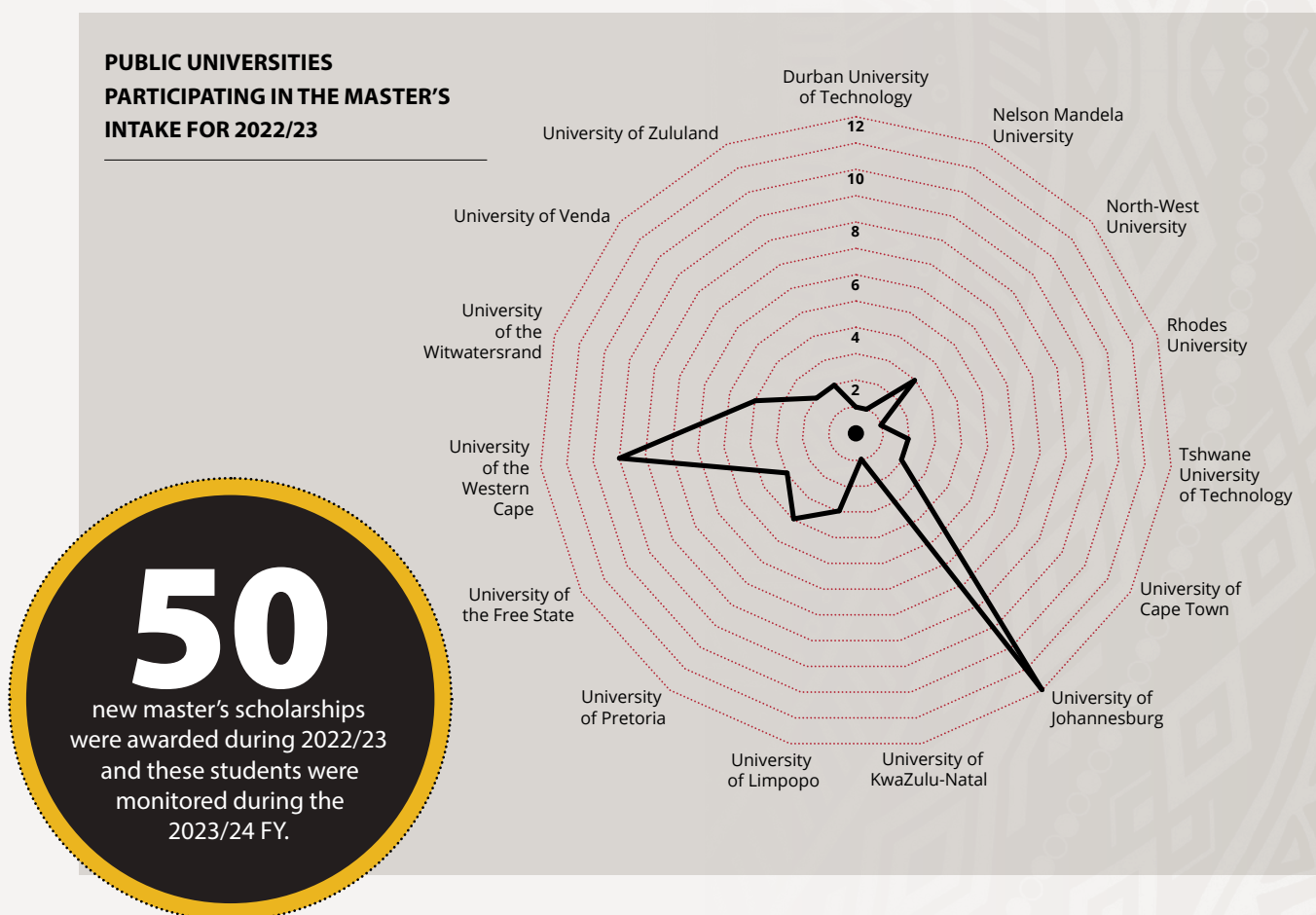
When it came to completions in 2023/24, Wits had the highest number, nine (9) completions, closely followed by UKZN at seven (7). The full overview of completions is shown in Figure 3. Please note that various factors contribute to the completion rate of each university and that the numbers vary each year. The completion rates illustrated in the graph are purely for 2023/24.

Figure 2: 19 public higher education institutions participated in the NIHSS's programmes in 2023/24

1	Nelson Mandela University
2	Rhodes University
3	University of Fort Hare
4	Tshwane University of Technology
5	University of Johannesburg
6	University of Pretoria
7	University of South Africa
8	University of the Witwatersrand
9	Durban University of Technology
10	University of KwaZulu-Natal
11	University of Zululand
12	University of Limpopo
13	University of Venda
14	North-West University
15	University of South Africa
16	University of the Free State
17	Stellenbosch University
18	University of Cape Town
19	University of the Western Cape



Figure 3: Doctoral completion rates at participating universities





POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

The Postdoctoral Fellowship Programme provides opportunities for PhD graduates to further sharpen their academic and research skills and pursue their research. The broad research areas on which fellows focus investigate key issues of interest to the Global South, such as multilateralism and indigenous knowledge systems. During the year, the NIHSS monitored 60 existing funded postdoctoral fellowships in the HSS.

Budgetary constraints meant the NIHSS could award only two new postdoctoral fellowships in 2023/24. These went to Dr Wanelisa Albert of the University of the Western Cape and Minga Mbweck Kongo of the University of Cape Town.

Table 2 lists the names and institutions of the postdoctoral fellows monitored during the year.

Table 2: Postdoctoral Research Fellows monitored in 2023/24

NO.	FULL NAME	INSTITUTION
1	Dr Marlie Holtzhausen	University of Pretoria- Centre for Mediation in Africa
2	Dr Quraysha Ismail Sooliman	University of Pretoria- Centre for Mediation in Africa
3	Dr Sokfa John	University of Pretoria- Centre for Mediation in Africa
4	Dr Chenai Munyaka	University of Pretoria- Centre for Mediation in Africa
5	Dr Bianca Parry	University of Pretoria- Centre for Mediation in Africa
6	Dr Danille Bester	Stellenbosch University- AVReQ
7	Dr Melanie Cilliers	Stellenbosch University- AVReQ
8	Dr Anell Daries	Stellenbosch University- AVReQ
9	Dr Joy Joseph	Stellenbosch University- AVReQ
10	Dr Veeran Naicker	Stellenbosch University- AVReQ
11	Dr Mnqobi Ngubane	University of Johannesburg-Centre for Sociological Research & Practice
12	Dr Siphe Zantsi	University of Johannesburg-Centre for Sociological Research & Practice
13	Dr Thabisile Mtshali	University of Johannesburg- Centre for Sociological Research and Practice

NO.	FULL NAME	INSTITUTION
14	Dr Nolwazi Cynthia Dlamini	University of Johannesburg- Centre for Sociological Research and Practice
15	Dr Zaakirah Jeeva	University of Johannesburg- Postgraduate School
16	Dr Evans Netshivhambe	University of Johannesburg- Postgraduate School
17	Dr Noluthando Phungula	University of Johannesburg- Postgraduate School
18	Dr Alexandre Lenferna	Nelson Mandela University-Identities & Social Cohesion in Africa
19	Dr Busisiwe Lujabe	Nelson Mandela University-Identities & Social Cohesion in Africa
20	Dr Marthie Momberg	Nelson Mandela University-Identities & Social Cohesion in Africa
21	Dr Abigail Wiese	Nelson Mandela University-Identities & Social Cohesion in Africa
22	Dr Joseph Maleke Sethabela	Nelson Mandela University-Identities & Social Cohesion in Africa
23	Dr Jennalee Donian	Nelson Mandela University-Identities & Social Cohesion in Africa
24	Dr Mvuzo Ponono	Nelson Mandela University-Identities & Social Cohesion in Africa
25	Dr Moses Moyo	University of Cape Town- Centre for African Studies
26	Dr Sidney Netshakhuma	University of Cape Town- Centre for African Studies
27	Dr Evans Shoko	University of Cape Town- Centre for African Studies
28	Dr Simphiwe Tsawu	University of Cape Town- Centre for African Studies
29	Dr Hayley Roberts	University of Cape Town- Centre for African Studies
30	Dr Bukiwe Ntwana	University of Cape Town- Research Office
31	Dr Klara van Wyk	University of Cape Town- Research Office
32	Dr Maria Geustyn	University of Cape Town- Research Office
33	Dr Muhammed Cassim	University of Cape Town- Research Office
34	Dr Vongani Nkuna	University of Cape Town- Research Office
35	Dr Rosette Vuninga	University of Cape Town- Research Office
36	Dr Shafieka Moos	University of Cape Town- Research Office
37	Dr Simone Peters	University of Cape Town- Research Office
38	Dr Lireko Qhobela	University of Cape Town- Research Office
39	Dr Lebogang Mokwena	University of the Western Cape- Centre for Humanities Research
40	Dr Dane Isaacs	University of the Western Cape- Centre for Humanities Research
41	Dr Cleo Beth Theron	University of the Western Cape- Centre for Humanities Research
42	Dr Kim Gurney	University of the Western Cape- Centre for Humanities Research
43	Dr Samuel Dominic Sadian	University of the Western Cape- Centre for Humanities Research
44	Dr Shanleigh Roux	University of the Western Cape- Centre for Humanities Research
45	Dr Wanelisa Albert	University of the Western Cape- Centre for Humanities Research
46	Dr Iona Ingrid Gilburt	University of the Western Cape- Centre for Humanities Research
47	Dr Michelle Smith	University of the Western Cape- Centre for Humanities Research
48	Dr Zakeera Docrat	University of the Western Cape- Centre for Humanities Research
49	Dr Stephanie Alcock	University of the Witwatersrand- Neurosciences Research Lab
50	Dr Michelle Leal	University of the Witwatersrand- Neurosciences Research Lab
51	Dr Johanna Beukes	University of the Witwatersrand- Neurosciences Research Lab
52	Dr Aarifah Gardee	University of the Witwatersrand- School of Education
53	Dr Dale Langsford	University of the Witwatersrand- School of Education
54	Dr John Simango	University of the Witwatersrand- School of Education
55	Dr Daniel Mlambo	Tshwane University of Technology- School of Education
56	Dr Matefu Lefty Mabela	Tshwane University of Technology- School of Education
57	Dr Glory Mable Chiloane	Tshwane University of Technology- School of Education
58	Dr Hundzukani Portia Khosa	Tshwane University of Technology- School of Education
59	Dr Magdeline Matsie Mokonyane	Tshwane University of Technology- School of Education
60	Dr Kgomotso Mushugi	Tshwane University of Technology- Arts & Design



2023 Best Paper winners (Left to Right, joined by Ms Ignatia Madalane from the NIHSS in centre), Dr Chuma Maxwele, Dr Sizwe Dlamini, Mr Respect Mlambo and Ms Sandisiwe Mapine

ANDC AND ALUMNI CONFERENCES

The Annual National Doctoral Conference (ANDC) aims to create and foster student-centred approaches to doctoral research development, while also providing them with a platform to present their research with fellow doctoral candidates in a nurturing environment that facilitates networking and collaboration.

The 2023/24 ANDC drew more than 200 delegates, including SAHUDA members, NIHSS Mentors, friends of the Institute and the NIHSS doctoral candidates. The conference had 27 thematic sessions running parallel.

A popular highlight was the Authors Encounter Sessions, promoting recent HSS publications by African scholars, writers and thinkers, sharing their experiences of their publishing journeys. The Encounter Sessions hosted Prof Siphokazi Magadla, author of *Guerillas and Combative Mothers: Women and the Armed Struggle in South Africa*, and Sue Nyathi, author of *An Angel's Demise*.

One of the requirements for attending the conference was the submission of an abstract or full paper. As a result, delegates submitted 86 abstracts and 25 full papers. All full papers were reviewed by an external panel, which submitted their recommendations for the Best Paper awards to the Conference Organising Committee.

The Best Paper winners were Chuma Maxwele of Nelson Mandela University, whose topic was economic complexity in Sub-Saharan Africa; Sizwe Dlamini from Wits University, who wrote about asyndetic sentence patterns in the novels of EDM Sibiya; Sandisiwe Mapine from Wits University, who wrote about black celebrity autobiography; and Respect Mlambo from the

University of Venda, whose topic was the syntactic functions of interjections in Xitsonga.

The poor must have a share in the gains of economic complexity

In his study, Chuma Maxwele investigates the impact of economic complexity and economic indicators on the composite index of economic growth rate and GDP per capita (economic indicators index) in Sub-Saharan African (SSA) countries for the period 1996 to 2019.

Chuma asserts that the results of the study “demonstrate that economic complexity, foreign direct investment, inflation and population growth have a negative and significant impact on the economic index”.

Conversely, “government expenditure demonstrates a positive and significant effect on the economic indicator.

Furthermore, economic complexity remains sensitive to the economic index because it targets certain geographical areas in SSA. Therefore his study suggests that “policies must be put in place to ensure that the poor have a share in the gains of economic complexity”.

How Sibiya uses pace, rhythm and flow in his novels

In his study, Sizwe Dlamini set out to critically appraise EDM Sibiya's artistic use of asyndeton in his novels. The findings highlight that the use of this device contributes to “the creation of a steady reading pace, rhythm and flow when the novels are read”.

Additionally, “this was proven to be instrumental in enhancing the overall comprehension and quality of the text.



The Humanities and Social Sciences Alumni Executive Committee
Left to Right,
Dr Steven Phiri,
Dr Refiloe epere and
Thembelihle Makhanya

“The discussion of asyndeton is observed according to the following syntactic features: asyndeton in sentences separated by full stops, and asyndeton in sentences separated by commas”.

In his findings, Sizwe states that “asyndeton is artistically employed to enhance the reading of the novels”.

Celebrity autobiography and how it unlocks capital

Sandisiwe Mapine’s study analyses 16 black South African celebrities’ autobiographies published between 2000 and 2020. Her focus is on “how autobiography provides a platform for black South African celebrities such as Bonang Matheba and Basetsana Kumalo to influence public discourse and unlock forms of social, cultural and economic capital”.

Framed by theories of celebrity capital, she conducted a content, discourse and narrative analysis on the packaging and content of two texts: *From A to B* by Bonang Matheba (2017) and *Bassie: My Journey of Hope* by Basetsana Kumalo (2019).

She concludes her study by stating that “a former beauty queen, socialite and television producer have used their autobiographies to unlock different and often intersecting, forms of capital in their entrepreneurial journeys”.

Furthermore, they successfully harness autobiographical life writing to consolidate, promote and position their business interests and carefully curated brands and legacies.

Exploring the role language plays in bribery negotiations

Respect Mlambo’s study sought to comprehend the role played by language in bribery negotiations by exploring the indirect language used by bribe negotiators in Lesotho.

Additionally, he asserts that Indirect language is one of the linguistic strategies accessible to speakers, playing a significant role as a resource used to protect unethical behaviour from being revealed and punished by courts of law.

He recommends that “since bribery is a crime committed through the use of language, linguists schooled in conversational analysis, semantics and pragmatics should be hired by courts of law to semantically and pragmatically interpret language-related crimes such as bribery”.

2023/24 HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES (HSS ALUMNI CONFERENCE)

The 2023/24 HSS Alumni Conference ran concurrently with the ANDC and had the newsworthy theme of “BRICS and Africa: Partnership for Mutually Accelerated Growth and Sustainable Development”.

Using this opportunity to the full to present their postdoctoral academic work, NIHSS alumni submitted 129 full papers, which were externally reviewed.

Three papers were selected as the best. These were Dr Danille Arendse’s study exploring feelings of race and national identity across South Africa and the United States; Dr Mampoi Mabena’s work titled “I hear the cry, but I do not see the tears: indirectness in bribery negotiations”; and Dr Rosette Vuninga’s study on the rebirth of Kivu Music, in the context of the (re)emergence of Eastern Congo music in the post-Mobutu era.

RESEARCH OUTPUTS

The Institute is delighted with the bumper crop of research outputs received from NIHSS doctoral candidates, alumni and postdoctoral fellows in 2023/24. Collectively, our call for outputs produced 114 research outputs, more than 70% higher than the target set for the year.

Details of these 114 research outputs are as follows.

1. Ayorinde, O., Moshugi, K. and Olusoji, S. 2023. Forum Afrika. *Musik & Ästhetik*. Jahrgang, Heft 106, pp. 76-88. DOI: https://www.musikundaesthetik.de/article/99.120205/mu-27-2-76_
2. Mtshali, L.T. 2023. The Prominence of the Amalgamation of Land Reform and Agriculture for Rural Development in South Africa. *Journal of Nation-building & Policy Studies*, Vol 7(1), pp. 71-84. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.31920/2516-3132/2023/v7n1a4>
3. Isaacs, D., Groenewald, C., and Moolman B., 2023. Stuttering and social change: Moving Towards a Critical Disability Studies Approach in South Africa. *The Palgrave Handbook of Global Social Change* pp. 1–21. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-87624-1_267-1
4. Momberg, M. 2023. Apartheid then and now- where are we heading? The case of Israel. *Stellenbosch Theological Journal*, Vol 9 (3), pp 1-19. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.17570/stj.2023.v9n3.a1>
5. Holtzhausen, M. and Wielenga, C. 2023. A relational approach to human development in a crisis: perspectives from two case studies in South Africa during COVID-19. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/21665095.2023.2213844>
6. Jeeva, Z., Cilliers, J. and Gumbo, T. 2023. A review of some of the criteria used in land demarcation processes. *Town and Regional Planning*, 82, pp. 51-60. DOI: 10.38140/trp.v82i.7116.
7. Ismail Sooliman, Q. 2023. Expert Conversations with Women Social Partners- Filmed conversations produced between March-May 2023. Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0_z0_D_nuLc&list=PLUtrAN_Y2tYqr2S0Vh6mFTYEy___1MU4P
8. Gilbert, I. 2023. A machine in the loop: the peculiar intervention of artificial intelligence in writer's block, *New Writing*, DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/14790726.2023.2223176>
9. Nkealah, N. and Simango, J. 2023. Using critical pedagogy in English education: Disjunctures between pre-service teachers' preparation and opportunities for implementation. *Journal of Education*. Issue 90. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.17159/2520-9868/i90a04>
10. Simango, J. 2023. The Paradox of Freedom and Fear in Athol Fugard's *My Children! My Africa!* Imbizo. UNISA Press. DOI: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4433-1680>
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Strategic Objective 2

DYNAMISE THE FIELDS OF RESEARCH AND TEACHING IN THE HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES IN SOUTH AFRICA THROUGH A RANGE OF CATALYTIC PROJECTS, WORKING GROUPS AND HUMANITIES HUBS



Participants and attendees at the Advancing Critical University Studies Across Africa Conference, University of Ghana, 11- 13 October 2023

Over the years, the NIHSS and its community of researchers have honed their abilities to make maximum use of limited resources, often producing more research outputs than anticipated, holding more academic events than anticipated and disseminating the results of their research more effectively and accessibly to wider audiences. This track record continued to be sustained in 2023/24 across all the key performance indicators set for this strategic objective.

In fact, the Institute succeeded in meeting and exceeding its targets for all six key performance indicators. By far the best result was our performance in the monitoring of Working Groups, where we overperformed by 320%, followed by the number of academic events held, where we exceeded the target by 140%. For the remaining KPIs, we managed to exceed the targets by between 116% and 140%.

Critically, all of this was achieved within the funds allocated for research initiatives under this strategic objective.

The available funds were put to very good use in conducting HSS research activities with impact, relevance, sustainability considerations and the progressive values of diversity, equity, inclusivity under the broad banner of social justice.

In the remainder of this section we report on our effectiveness in dynamising research and teaching in the HSS through our support for Catalytic Research Projects, Humanities Hubs, Working Groups and professional associations.

Collectively, all these participants delivered 48 research outputs, consisting of books, journal articles, and creative outputs.

CATALYTIC RESEARCH PROJECTS

CATALYTIC RESEARCH PROJECT: ADVANCING CRITICAL UNIVERSITY STUDIES

Project leader: Professor Andre Keet, holder of the Research Chair for Critical Studies in Higher Education Transformation, Nelson Mandela University

Perceptions of universities in crisis may put social justice possibilities further out of reach

The words “crisis” and “emergency” have become almost synonymous with the South African university system. The perception, arguably misplaced, is that the university is either in a state of emergency or is an emergency. If these perceptions are used to uncritically advance the dominance within higher education of techno-rationality – which is more often than not connected with corporate capitalism – the effect is to “place the social justice possibilities of the university at a distance from itself”.

This is according to the authors of a paper titled “Emergencies and techno-rationality: The tasks of decentred critical university studies” – one of numerous research outputs produced by Professor Andre Keet and his fellow project team members, who sought to use decentred critical university studies (DC-CUS) as the basis for imagining alternative conceptions of the state of the university.

Table 3: Catalytic Research Projects monitored in 2023/24

PROJECT TITLE	PROJECT LEADER AND UNIVERSITY
Indigenous Languages (The Development of African Languages for Scientific use) Forensic Linguistic Programme	Prof Monwabisi Raralara, University of the Western Cape
Fracking, climate change and communities	Prof Sadhana Manik, University of KwaZulu-Natal
Creative Research Lab: Art, Activism and Solidarity	Dr Refiloe Lepere, Tshwane University of Technology
Advancing Critical University Studies	Prof Andre Keet, Nelson Mandela University
Philosophy through Indigenous Knowledge in the Global South	Prof Veli Mitova, University of Johannesburg
Too late yet still quite early investigating the experiences of older early career academics in South African higher education	Prof Mlamuli Hlatshwayo, University of Johannesburg
Visibilising the hidden narrative of a liberation(s)hero, Revisiting the life of Nokukhanya Luthuli	Prof Puleng Segalo, University of South Africa
Illuminating labour tenants' struggles for farmland in South Africa Today	Dr Mngqobi Ngubane, University of Johannesburg
Currencies, colonial economies, and the making of the South African State: Studying Economic History in South Africa	Dr Laura Phillips, North-West University
Southern African Environmental Philosophy Conference	Dr Yolandi Coetser, North-West University
SA and Brazil African Film Festival: Mapping Curatorial Strategies for sustained collaboration and growth	Dr Ismail Mahomed, University of KwaZulu-Natal
Encyclopaedia of African Feminism	Dr Dikeledi Mokoena, University of Johannesburg
Research Project on Histories of Universities in South Africa	Prof Saleem Badat, University of KwaZulu-Natal



The authors posit that DC-CUS, with the decolonisation-Africanisation nexus at its core, offers a different space from which to critique crisis. "Here, the emphasis is on the twinned concepts of conviviality and incompleteness is particularly important," the authors of the paper write. They argue that this sustains both a view of "critique as a continued conversation and accentuates the importance of the deficiency of any particular argument".

In short, "... it is a call, a provocation for furthering a certain disposition towards the academy and critical thinking vis-à-vis techno-rationality – one through which southern knowledges, specifically African knowledges, could be engaged with in service of transformative, emancipatory futures."

The project team set out to build DC-CUS as a particular type of critical university studies. It was a project that crossed borders, both conceptually and geographically, bringing together researchers from institutions across the world.

For example, the core collaborators in hosting the ACUS Africa Conference in Ghana in October 2023 were the Nelson Mandela University and the Human Sciences Research Council in South Africa, the University of Ghana and Queens University in Belfast. Approximately 15 other universities from Brazil, Kenya, Uganda, the United Kingdom and Tanzania, among others, supported the event.



ACUSAFRICA
ADVANCING CRITICAL UNIVERSITY STUDIES ACROSS AFRICA

CONFERENCE

Charging towards critical canons of knowledge production in the African university

ANNOUNCEMENT

11-13 October 2023
University of Ghana
Accra, Ghana

The Advancing Critical University Studies Across Africa (ACUSAfrica) network is excited to announce its 2023 conference on the theme "Charging towards critical canons of knowledge production in the African university" to be held in Accra, Ghana from the 11th to the 13th of October.

It will be co-hosted by the University of Ghana, Queen's University Belfast, Nelson Mandela University and the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC), with funding support from the National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences (NIHSS).

**ACUSAfrica Colloquium
2023 Announcement on
11-13 October 2023.**

Capacity-building has been a key focus through the awarding of one master's and one doctoral scholarship and contract appointments for three research assistants.

Ultimately, the project, which is still under way, is to develop ideas to strengthen the field of de/centralised critical university studies as a key contribution to alternative studies of university transformation.

CATALYTIC RESEARCH PROJECT: TOO LATE YET STILL QUITE EARLY? INVESTIGATING THE EXPERIENCES OF OLDER EARLY CAREER ACADEMICS IN SOUTH AFRICAN HIGHER EDUCATION

**Project leader: Professor Mlamuli Hlatshwayo, Associate Professor, Ali Mazrui
Centre for Higher Education Studies, University of Johannesburg**

Older early career academics may be slipping through the cracks

Attracting and retaining early career academics is a major drive at public higher education institutions in South Africa, directly supported through various government policies and funding programmes.

This objective is explicitly set out, for instance, in the Staffing South Africa's Universities Framework (SSAUF), which includes the Universities Capacity Development programme. Other funding programmes for early career academics include the National Research Foundation's Black Academics Advancement Programme and Thuthuka bursaries – and, of course, the NIHSS's doctoral scholarships and postdoctoral fellowships.

However, there are gaps in these approaches – specifically when it comes to "older" early career academics.

As Prof Mlamuli Hlatshwayo points out, existing programmes for early career academics focus on senior undergraduate level and early postgraduate level. "The voices, narratives and experiences of older early career academics are often overlooked, misframed, misrecognised or not accounted for," he says.

His research project seeks to fill the gaps by exploring, detailing and theorising the experiences and narratives of older early career academics. Further, this work sets out to explore how these academics navigate their belonging in the university, the kind of support they need and what policy and funding solutions could be developed to address their needs.

To date, the project has recruited four postgraduate students to work on the project (one Masters and three PhD students), and built up an inclusive collaborative network from three universities, namely the University of Johannesburg, University of the Witwatersrand and the University of Fort Hare.

Research outputs so far include two articles, one on the Staffing South Africa's Universities Framework and the other on black women academics' experiences at a South African university. Several other articles are in the peer-review stage and there have also been an array of conferences, symposiums and workshops, such as the conversation held with early career academics on the NRF rating system at the University of Johannesburg in March 2024.



Conference delegates at the Inaugural Southern African Society for Environmental Philosophy (SASEP) Conference

CATALYTIC RESEARCH PROJECT: SOUTHERN AFRICAN SOCIETY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PHILOSOPHY – INAUGURAL CONFERENCE

Project leader: Dr Yolandi Coetzer, North-West University

Traditional ecological knowledge perspectives have human-nature reciprocity at their core

Ecological grief, or eco-grief, is fast emerging as a societal phenomenon. People all over the world are becoming aware of the rising levels of ecological destruction on planet Earth and loss, sorrow and grief are among their responses.

This is according to Emma Hay, Nelson Mandela University lecturer, in a paper at the inaugural conference of the Southern African Society for Environmental Philosophy. She proposed that eco-grief be approached from a traditional ecological knowledge perspectives, which have at their core a sense of reciprocity between human culture and wider nature.

The many other papers that raised environmental philosophy issues so often overlooked in conversations about the environment included materials contamination in the False Bay Critical Zone in the Western Cape, feminist environmental theories in combating gender-based violence in South Africa, climate denialism and an African conception of environmental and aesthetic appreciation, to mention a few.

In all, the inaugural conference, around 65 delegates registered for the conference from South Africa, Botswana, Canada, Denmark, the Netherlands, Nigeria and the United States. It was held at the Skukuza Camp of the Kruger National Park from 22 to 24 March 2024.

The programme consisted of 45 papers, two panel discussions and two keynote speeches, the first by Professor Lesley Green of the University of Cape Town, who spoke about why philosophy matters in environmental governance and referred to the failed impact assessments for Cabo Delgado's offshore gas projects in Mozambique.

The second keynote, on environmental vulnerability and the interdependence of ecological systems and human communities, was by Professor Kenneth Shockley of the University of Colorado in the United States.

Capacity-building was a crucial aspect of the establishment of the South African Society for Environmental Philosophy and the inaugural conference. Twelve postgraduate students and postdoctoral students were sponsored to attend the conference, and one MA student and two honours students were funded in 2023.



Lefifi Tladi and his artwork

HUMANITIES HUBS

Humanities Hubs are sites for the preservation of living heritages that are intrinsic elements of the South African landscape. These hubs use research and community outreach to promote the HSS among the broader public and communities.

During 2023/24, the NIHSS monitored six Humanities Hubs. The Hubs concerned were the Market Theatre Foundation; Javett Art Centre-University of Pretoria; Centre for Humanities Research at the University of the Western Cape; African Languages Literary Research Hub at Nelson Mandela University; Origins Centre Humanities Hub of the University of the Witwatersrand and the Jagger Library Humanities Hub at the University of Cape Town.

PROJECT TITLE: LEFIFI TLADI LABORATORY OF IDEAS:
COLLECTION RESCUE PROJECT

Humanities Hub: Javett Art Centre, University of Pretoria

Rescuing and restoring precious artworks by a revered South African artist

Exiled from South Africa in 1976 for his involvement in the Black Consciousness Movement, artist, poet and jazz singer Lefifi Tladi has produced a prolific body of artwork over a period of five decades. Much of it was created in Sweden, where he settled

and gained enormous respect for his work, which has been exhibited at some of Europe's most celebrated galleries.

Yet some of his earliest work, sadly, has for many years been stored in unfavourable conditions, in a facility in Montana in the north of Pretoria. Through this Collection Rescue project, Javett-UP will not only unpack, catalogue, restore and conserve this artistically, culturally and politically important trove of artworks, but use them to inspire and influence younger generations of South Africans through educational engagements.

Both the place and the timing of the Collection Rescue project are enormously important, said Lekgetho Makola, the then CEO of Javett-UP, in his report to the NIHSS in February 2024. "The educational engagements will form part of Javett-UP's engagements towards 2024, a critical year for the South African political landscape. It is expected that a large number of young first-time voters will be encouraged to vote as the country reflects on the last 30 years since the first democratic elections of 1994."

Tladi's work traverses music, literature, fine arts and performance and, being collaborative and transdisciplinary in nature, are critical examples in a post-Covid society that is challenged by the economic landscape that supports educational artistic work. "Co-creation is even more critical as a way of situating ourselves in the world and working towards a sustainable and caring working environment," Makola says.



Javett-UP CEO Mr. Lekgetho Makola (Left) During his visit to Amsterdam, NL, with Mr Lefifi Tladi (Right)

As for place, a close collaboration between Javett-UP in the heart of Tshwane and the university's Mamelodi Campus will ensure greater accessibility of the collection to communities that inspired Tladi's art.

The initiative entails several other collaborations: with the Ifa Lethu Foundation on a conservation project of the part of the collection stored at the Pretoria Museum; and with Another Road Map Africa Cluster platform to workshop the production of an educational workbook.

WORKING GROUPS

Working Groups consist of smaller groups of scholars who receive funding to establish interdisciplinary networks that foster dialogue and accelerate the production of research outputs and promote the integrity and excellence of the humanities and social sciences.

During the 2023/24 year, the NIHSS awarded and supported 14 new Working Groups and monitored the progress of 16 Working Groups projects, some of which have yielded impressive results.

WORKING GROUP TITLE: EARLY AFRICAN INTELLECTUALS AS COMPOSERS: PROTOTYPE TOWARDS THE DEVELOPMENT OF DIGITAL REPOSITORY

Working Group leader: Dr Thokozani Mhlambi, University of Cape Town

Music takes audiences back to the ancient kingdom of Umgungundlovu

Umgungundlovu was the capital city of King Dingane, the Zulu emperor in the 1830s. It was a site of fascination both for African communities and European settlers alike and its renown spread far and wide.

Today, music-lovers and scholars have been transported back to the heydays of King Dingane through the musical production *Hail to the King! A musical story*, which was written, performance and produced by Dr Thokozani Mhlambi.

The production, played by a full string ensemble and vocal consort, was performed for the first time at Theatre on the Square in Sandton, Johannesburg, on 20 August 2023.

Dr Mhlambi says *Hail to the King!* was the culmination of years of research, including a site visit to Umgungundlovu in KwaZulu-Natal and many hours combing through the works of historical African composers such as Professor Mzilikazi Khumalo and BP Tyamzashe.

"They were great composers in the African tradition, fusing the old and new, African and modern elements, towards a whole new sound," he says.

Apart from researching, producing and performing the production, Dr Mhlambi's Working Group is researching sound archives, transcribing compositions by important African composers, doing a digital mapping exercise and creating a platform for all future creative outputs.

The project, which combines intellectualism and creativity, commenced in May 2023 with a panel discussion in Durban on indigenous creative repertoires and how these can shape and influence music pedagogy today.

The panellists spoke in their home languages of isiZulu and isiXhosa, among others, delighting the audience members and enabling the speakers to capture the complexities of the topic in an accessible way.

Table 4: New Working Groups awarded in 2023/24

PROJECT TITLE	PROJECT LEADER AND INSTITUTE
UKZN Press' Postcolonial Histories and Socio-economic Alternatives Publications	Dr Phindile Dlamini, University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) Press
"S'obashaya Nagatye": Women and Sixty Years of the Armed Struggle in South Africa	Prof Siphokazi Magadla, Rhodes University
Prototype using the Early African Intellectuals as Composers as model	Dr Thokozani Mhlambi, University of Cape Town
History of the Congress of South African Students	Dr Tshepo Moloi, University of Johannesburg
Radio and Decolonisation in Africa	Prof Sekibakiba Lekgoathi, University of Witwatersrand
CEPD Archive	Mrs Gabriele Mohale, University of Witwatersrand
Publishing Grant	Ms Bridget Impey, Jacana Media
Critical reflections on the Zondo Commission in socio-political and historical context	Prof Mbongiseni Buthelezi, University of Johannesburg
Hidden Voices Series: Documenting the works of Buzetsheni Mdletshe Inyosi- Praise singer- Yesilo Samabandla Inkosi Uzwelithini Kabhekuzulu	Prof Nompumelelo Zondi, University of Pretoria
Towards Multi-Inter-Disciplinary Conference on African Perspectives 2023	Prof Rushiella Songca, Walter Sisulu University
South African Journal for the Humanities and Social Sciences	Mr Solani Ngobeni, Durban University of Technology
Publishing Grant	Mr Jeremy Wightman, Human Science Research Council (HSRC) Press
Publishing Grant	Ms Veronica Klipp, University of the Witwatersrand Press
Political Economy of Africa	Prof Amiena Bayat, University of the Western Cape



Table 5: Working Groups monitored in 2023/24

GROUP LEADER AND ORGANISATION	WORKING GROUP PROJECT
Omar Badsha, South African History Online	SAHO: Africa and the SA Liberation Struggle
Mr Mandla Mlangeni, University of the Witwatersrand	Oratorio of a Forgotten Youth
Dr Napjadi Letsoalo, University of South Africa	Multilingual and multicultural approach to language learning and communication
Mrs Gabriele Mohale, University of the Witwatersrand	CEPD Archive
Dr Siphiso Mahala, University of Johannesburg	Publication of Issue Four and Five of Imbiza Journal for African Writing
Prof Neo Lekgotla Laga Ramoupi, University of the Witwatersrand	Izingoma Zo Mzabalazo Esiquithini: Culture History of Robben Island Maximum Security Prison in South Africa, 1960-1991
Prof Nompumelelo Zondi, University of Pretoria	Hidden Voices Series: Documenting the works of Buzetsheni Mdletshe Inyosi-Praise singer- Yesilo Samabandla Inkosi Uzwelithini Kabhekuzulu
Mr Suresh Roberts, Thabo Mbeki Foundation	Publish a Book- "Future Harbours: Letters from President Thabo Mbeki", Edited and introduced by Ronald Suresh Roberts and Siyabulela Gebe"
Dr Kathryn Olsen, University of KwaZulu-Natal	Intersecting ideologies: A study of the interaction between music- making strategies (particularly but not exclusively Muskanda music), and spiritual belief systems in the context of institutionalised economic and legal platforms
Prof Siphokazi Magadla, Rhodes University	"S'obashaya Nagatye": Women and Sixty Years of the Armed Struggle in South Africa
Dr Phindile Dlamini, University of KwaZulu-Natal Press	UKZN Press' Postcolonial Histories and Socio-economic Alternatives Publications
Prof Luvuyo Dondolo, University of South Africa	New African Movement book project
Dr Tshepo Moloi, University of Johannesburg	History of the Congress of South African Students
Prof Rushiella Songca, Walter Sisulu University	Towards Multi-Inter-Disciplinary Conference on African Perspectives 2023
Dr Thokozani Mhlambi, University of Cape Town	Prototype using the Early African Intellectuals as Composers as model
Mr Jeremy Wightman, Human Sciences Research Council	Publishing grant



(Left to Right) Prof. Babalwa Magoqwana, Prof. Siphokazi Magadla, Prof Puleng Segalo and Dr Athabile Masola

WORKING GROUP TITLE: S'OBASHAYA NGAMATYE: WOMEN AND SIXTY YEARS OF THE ARMED STRUGGLE IN SOUTH AFRICA

Working Group leader: Prof Siphokazi Magadla, Rhodes University, in collaboration with Prof Babalwa Magoqwana (Nelson Mandela University), Dr Athambile Masola (University of Cape Town) and Prof Puleng Segalo of UNISA

Women combatants speak for themselves

This project is the first of its kind where women combatants in the armed struggle in South Africa speak for themselves. Writing in their own words about their lives in the struggle, the stories of the 17 women military veterans who participated have produced an award-winning book, *Guerrillas and Combative Mothers: Women and the Armed Struggle in South Africa*.

This powerful project and the book in which it culminated are remarkable for many reasons. As mentioned, they are the first of their kind. For another, the women literally wrote their own stories by hand during writing retreats held in September 2022 and April/May 2023. The hand-written work was then transcribed into 766 pages, which, after editorial feedback and revisions by the contributors, culminated in November 2023 with the final manuscript.

Three months later, at the 2024 Humanities and Social Sciences Awards, *Guerrillas and Combative Mothers: Women and the Armed Struggle in South Africa* was named as joint winner of the Best Non-Fiction Monograph category.

Although the writing, transcription and editing was completed within just six months, the project commenced in August 2021 with a colloquium for senior women veterans of the armed struggle and a number of senior scholars.

Among the veterans who attended the colloquium were South Africa's current Minister of Defence and Military Veterans Thandi Modiswe, the late Ambassador Lindiwe Mabuza, former Parliamentary Speaker Baleka Mbete, Ambassador Sankie Mthembu-Mahanyele, Ambassador Naomi Ribbon Mosholi and Professor Makhosazana Xaba.

Apart from the women veterans and the project team, other contributors included two MA students who provided administrative assistance at the writing workshops, a film student who photographed the workshops for the book,



Prof Siphokazi Magadla at HSS Awards 2024

and a psychologist who sees the military veterans pro-bono. The psychologist has written a chapter in the book about her experience of working with women military veterans and the kind of psychological support they need.

Finally, tribute must be paid to the conference facilitator, Professor Makhosazana Xaba, whose chapter on her methodology will be important for future researchers and Defence and Military Veterans to learn from. These methodologies may be uniquely suitable for writing support for women military veterans and other veterans of the anti-apartheid struggle.

HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR WORKING GROUP OUTPUTS

Of the 31 books published in the 2022/23 financial year, a total of 14 books were published through the partnerships between the NIHSS and book publishers in South Africa.

Jacana Media:

- Nthikeng Mohlele, *A Little Light*.
- Christopher Mlalazi, *Langabi: Season of Beasts*.
- Robert J. Balfour, *Mzala Nxumalo, Leftist Thought and Contemporary South Africa*.
- Buntu Siwisa, *Paperless*.
- Morabo Morojele, *Three Egg Dilemma*.

Wits University Press:

- Tendayi Sithole, *Black X, Liberatory Thought in Azania*.
- Malehoko Tshoaedi, Christine Bischoff and Andries Bezuidenhout, *Labour Disrupted Reflections on the Future of Work in South Africa*.

HSRC Press:

- Charman, Peterson and Govender, *Township Economy: People, Spaces and Practices*.
- Colin Darch and David Hedges, *Voice of Liberation: Samora Machel*.
- Christopher J. Lee, *Voice of Liberation: Alex La Guma*.

UKZN Press:

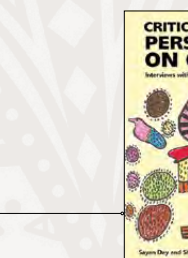
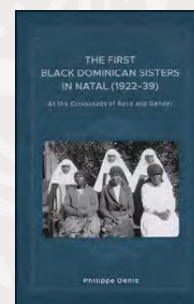
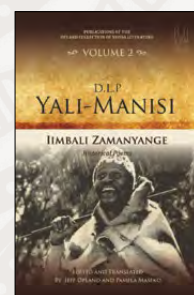
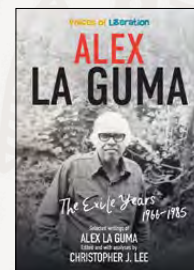
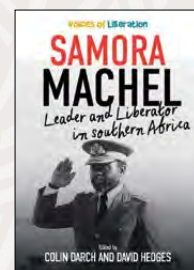
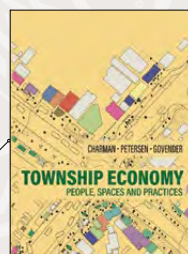
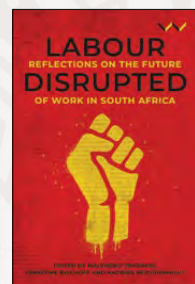
- Ashwin Desai and Goolam Vahed, *Durban's Casbah: Bunny Chows, Bolsheviks and Bioscopes*.
- Jeff Opland and Pamela Maseko, *D.L.P Yali-Manisi: Iimbali Zamanyange Historical Poems*.
- Philippa Denis, *The First Black Dominican Sisters in Natal (1922-39)*.

University of South Africa Press:

- Sayan Dey and Shankhadeep Chattopadhyay, *Critically Diverse Perspectives on Covid-19: Interviews with a Varied Range of South Africans*.
- A Patel, P Mthembu and M Hlashwayo, *South Africa confronts the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) Era: Challenges, Pathways and Possibilities*.

MISTRA:

- Heidi Brooks, Rekgotsofetse Chikane and Shauna Mottiar, *Protest in South Africa: Rejection, Reassertion, reclamation*.



List of total research outputs of Catalytic Research Projects, Humanities Hubs, Working Groups and professional associations

Books:

1. Nthikeng, M. 2023. A Little Light: Stories. Johannesburg: Jacana Media.
2. Desai, A, and Vahed, G. 2023. Durban's Casbah: Bunny Chows, Bolsheviks and Bioscopes. KwaZulu-Natal. UKZN Press.
3. Morojele, M. 2023. Three Egg Dilemma. Johannesburg: Jacana Media.
4. Opland, J and Maseko, P. 2023. Jonas Ntsiko: Hadi Wseluhlangeni Collected Writings (1873-1916). KwaZulu-Natal: UKZN Press.
5. Masoga, M. A., Nojiyeza, I. S., Shokane, A. L., Erasmus, I. T., and Mensah, JC. 2023. Humanities and Social Sciences Perspectives on COVID-19: A Vista of Shame. Cape Town: Africa Century Editions (ACE) Press.
6. Mlalazi, C. 2023. Langari: Seasons of Beasts. Johannesburg: Jacana Media.
7. Dey, S & Shankhadeep Chattopadhyay, S. 2023. Critically Diverse Perspectives on Covid-19: Interviews with a Varied Range of South Africans. Pretoria: University of South Africa Press.
8. Siwisa, B. 2023. Paperless. Johannesburg: Jacana Media
9. Mahala, S. 2023. Imbiza Journal for African Writing.
10. Mahashe, T. 2023. -defunct context: ambivalence to important work. Cape Town: defunct context.
11. Balfour, R. 2023. Mzala Nxumalo: Leftist Thought and Contemporary South Africa. Johannesburg: Jacana Media.
12. Patel, A., Mthembu, P and Hlatshwayo, M. 2023. South African confronts the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) Era. Pretoria: University of South Africa Press.
13. Denis, P. 2023. The black Dominican Sisters in Natal (1922-39): At Crossroads of Race and Gender. KwaZulu-Natal: University of KwaZulu-Natal Press.
14. Tshoaedi, M., Bischoff, C and Bezuidenhout, A. 2023. Labour Disrupted: Reflections on the Future of Work in South Africa. Johannesburg: University of Witwatersrand Press.
15. Ndlovu, S.,M. 2023. ANC Today Letters: The Ideas and Thoughts of President Thabo Mbeki Volume 1, 2001-2004. Johannesburg: Skotaville.
16. Charman A, Petersen L and Govender T. 2024. Township Economy: People, Spaces and Practices. Cape Town: HSRC Press.
17. Christopher J. Lee (Ed.) 2024. Voices of Liberation: Alex La Guma –The Exile Years: 1966–1985. Cape Town: HSRC Press.
18. Colin Darch and David Hedges (Eds). 2024. Voices of Liberation: Samora Machel – Leader and Liberator in Southern Africa. Cape Town: HSRC Press.
19. Mohaamed., S, Ngoma., A and Baloyi., B. 2023. The Evolving Structure of South Africa's Economy: Fault Lines and Futures. MISTRA
20. Mazibuko-Mokoena., Z and Pogue., T. 2024. Why Innovations Love or Die: South Africa's innovation system. MISTRA.
21. Brooks., H, Chikane., R and Mottiar., S. 2023. Protest in South Africa: Rejection, reassertion, reclamation. MISTRA.
22. Nchabeleng, L. 2023. Gendered Challenges: For Equal Access to Healthcare Services in Resource-Limited Settings. KwaZulu-Natal: Reach Publishers.
23. Mushonga., M, Aerni-Elessner., Twala., C and Magaiza., G. 2023. Migration, Borders, and Borderlands: Making National Identity in Southern African Communities. London: Lexington Books.
24. Sithole, T. 2024. Black X: Liberatory Thought in Azania. Johannesburg: University of Witwatersrand Press.

Journal articles:

1. Zhou, S & Utete, R. 2023. Evaluation of the efficiency in delivery of government services to ameliorate the COVID-19 pandemic in the King Cetshwayo District in South Africa: Recipients' perspectives. Cogent Social Sciences, 9:1, 2228061, DOI: 10.1080/23311886.2023.2228061

2. Makhanya, B, T. 2023. The Gendered Role of Social Work as a Social Construct: A Call for Critical Discourse. *Gender & Behaviour*, 21:2. 21559 – 215666
3. Mlalazi, S and Eidsvik, E. 2023. Fracking, Bildung and a Lack of Democratic Citizenship in Communities: What can South Africa Learn from Poland?. *Alternation* 30,1: 193 – 212.
4. Dube-Xaba, Z and Mncube, D. 2023. Fracking and Tourism in the Northern Drakensberg: Perspectives of Tourism Business Operators. *Alternation*, 30,1: 213 – 237.
5. Chatira- Muchopa, B., Risiro, J and Singh-Rana, T. 2023. 'This is our house, we deserve to know': Potential Impacts of Fracking on Habitat and Livelihoods in the Drakensberg, South Africa. *Alternation*, 30,1: 173 – 192.
6. Sibanda, A., Buthelezi, N., Pupane., Malahlela, T. 2023. Livelihood Concerns of the amaZizi on the Proposed Fracking in the Drakensberg. *Alternation*, 30,1: 154 – 172.
7. Mlangeni, P, M and Lepere, R. 2023. Healing the healer: Recipes of self-care. *Drama Therapy Review*, 9, 1: 177–189.
8. Hlatshwayo, M., N. 2023. Are we there yet? An intersectional take on Black women academics' experiences in a South African university. *Journal of Education*, 92. <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1950-5952>
9. Makhanya, T and Mfishi Z. 2023. Prior and During COVID-19: The experiences of Social Work Students on the use of blended and Remote Learning at a South African university. *Social work/Maatskaplike werk*, 59 (3):201-223.
10. Valmont, L and Erasmus, A. Southern African Histories under the theme of Oral/Aural: Pastness and Sound as Medium and Method. *Kronos*, 49:1. ISSN 0259-01900
4. Lepere R and Selulu N. 2023. Kitchen Stories in Ellipses Online Journal 5. <https://ellipses2022.webflow.io/article/kitchen-stories>
5. Kumalo, S. 4 September 2023. Black Archive Visual Podcast.. Understanding the Function of Aesthetics in-situ. (15) Understanding the Function of Aesthetics in-situ Part 2 - YouTube [Podcast]
6. Kumalo, S. 11 September 2023 Curating the Archive – Black Story Telling through Art Practice. (15) Curating the Archive – Black Story Telling through Art Practice - YouTube [Podcast]
7. Kumalo, S. 18 September 2023. Memory, Archive, and Imagery – Capturing the Zeitgeist. (15) Memory, Archive, and Imagery – Capturing the Zeitgeist Part 1 - YouTube [Podcast]
8. Kumalo, S. 2 October 2023. Black Archive Visual Podcast. Language, Literacy and Responsive Knowledge Development- YouTube [Podcast].
9. Kumalo, S. 9 October 2023. Black Archive Visual Podcast. Contested Spaces and Meanings in Design and Architectural Curricula and Theory - YouTube [Podcast].
10. Kumalo, S. 30 October 2023. Black Archive Visual Podcast. Re-imagining the Humanities and Social Sciences using African Languages- YouTube [Podcast].
11. Kumalo, S. 2 November 2023. Music, Consciousness, and Resistance—Historical and Contemporary Deposits into the Archive - YouTube [Podcast].
12. Kumalo, S. 3 November 2023. Post-Colonial, Decolonial, or Anti-Colonial Struggles? Conceptually clarifying Epistemic Resistance - YouTube [Podcast].

Creative outputs:

1. Mlangeni, M, and Amandla Freedom Ensemble. 2023. Oratorio of a Forgotten Youth. [CD].
2. South African Society for Environmental Philosophy. <https://www.sasep.africa> [Website].
3. Inaugural IHSP-SA Housing and Human Settlements International Seminar. 2023. [Conference Proceedings]
13. Ngcobo, G. 2023. Handle with care: An Exhibition of Selected Works from the South32 Art Collection [Catalogue].
14. Haffajee. 2023. Pan-Africanism in the 21st Century. [Catalogue]

Table 6: Academic events held

CONFERENCES, COLLOQUIUMS AND WORKSHOPS	PROJECT LEADER AND INSTITUTION
Walter Sisulu University hosted a multi-inter-transdisciplinary conference titled “Africa Transformation Perspective” on 19-21 April 2023.	Prof Rushiella Songca
Dr Refiloe Lepere hosted festival titled New Works Reading Festival on 22 April 2023.	Dr Refiloe Lepere
Jacana Media in collaboration with Love Books hosted a book launch for the title “Three Egg Dilemma” on 25 May 2023.	Ms Bridget Impey
The Amandla Freedom Ensemble hosted a concert titled Oratorio of a Forgotten Youth at the Wits Great Hall on 27 May 2023.	Mr Mandla Mlangeni
Defunct context hosted an exhibition titled Event Horizon II on 1 and 2 June 2023.	Dr Tebogo Mahashe
The Market Theatre Laboratory performed a play at the National Arts Festival titled Think Tank: The Dope Shop meets the Art Spaza on 28 June 2023.	Ms Tshiamo Sibande
The University of KwaZulu-Natal Press hosted a book launch for a title Durban's Casbah: Bunny Chows, Bolsheviks and Bioscopes by Ashwin Desai and Goolam Vahed on 30 June 2023.	Dr Phindile Dlamini
Prof Sekibakiba Lekgoathi of the University of Witwatersrand hosted a workshop on Radio and Decolonisation in Africa on 2-3 August 2023.	Prof Sekibakiba Lekgoathi
Dr Thokozani Mhlambi hosted a musical production titled Hail to the King! A Musical Story on 20 August 2023.	Dr Thokozani Mhlambi
The Centre for Creative ARTS hosted the 44th Durban International Film Festival with the theme Suncoast Cinecentre on 20-30 July 2023.	Dr Ismail Mahomed
The South African Society for Research in Music hosted the 17th Annual Conference on 25-27 August 2023.	Dr Carina Venter
The Market Theatre Laboratory hosted the second think tank with the theme Connected Circles curated by Boitumelo Motsoatsoe on 17 September 2023.	Ms Tshiamo Sibande
Dr Refiloe Lepere of Tshwane University of Technology hosted a symposium titled NEXXUS a collaborative exploration Symposium on 17 August- 28 September 2023.	Dr Refiloe Lepere
ACUSAfrica held a conference titled Charging towards critical canons of knowledge production in the African university on 11-13 October 2023.	Prof Andre Keet
The Market Theatre Laboratory hosted a Theatre Think Tank titled Simapunapuna on 26 October 2023.	Ms Tshiamo Sibande
Jacana Media hosted a book launch for the title Paperless on 26 October 2023.	Ms Bridget Impey
defunct context pavilion prototype 2 u406 hosted an exhibition titled Ground Stories between 11, 13, 18 October 2023.	Dr Tebogo Mahashe
The South African Humanities Deans Association hosted the 2nd Biennial conference on 25-27 October 2023.	Prof Rose Maoto
The Market Theatre Laboratory hosted a Think Tank titled Zwakalang: Spotlighting Community Theatre on 21 March 2024.	Ms Tshiamo Sibande
The Theatre Laboratory hosted a Think Tank titled Where Are Your Papers?! On 24 January 2024.	Ms Tshiamo Sibande
Southern African Society for Environmental Philosophy (SASEP) Inaugural Conference on 22-24 March 2024.	Dr Yolandi Coetser



Strategic Objective 3

UPHOLD THE INTEGRITY, REPUTATION AND IMPORTANCE OF THE HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES WITHIN THE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMUNITY, THE TECHNOLOGY AND SCIENCE COMMUNITY AND SOCIETY AT LARGE



Humanities deans at the SAHUDA and NIHSS Biennial Conference 25-27 October 2023. Co-hosted by University of Limpopo and University of Venda.

Of all the tools and skills at the disposal of academics and researchers in the humanities and social sciences, one of the most powerful is the art of asking important questions. It is by asking and engaging with the crucial questions of the day – and of tomorrow – that complexities can be demystified, stereotypes challenged and urgently needed conversations stimulated.

The humanities and social sciences (HSS) has an important part to play in asking the critical questions, informing the public and simplifying concepts that may not be broadly accessible to citizens. Yet to fulfil this role in full, the HSS must be seen, heard, noticed, respected, ethically impeccable and considered both credible and authoritative.

For the NIHSS, the strategic objective of upholding the integrity, reputation and importance of the HSS is best served by participating in the professionalisation of research and academic practice in HSS disciplines, as well as by contributing to curriculum reform and, most importantly, promoting collaboration, not only within the HSS but, most importantly, with our counterparts in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields.

In 2023/24, in the South African context, the Institute contributed to the goals of professionalisation and collaboration in two key ways. These entailed supporting the work and effective functioning of HSS professional associations and, through the annual National HSS Awards, recognising outstanding individuals in the higher education community for their contributions to the HSS.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

The role that certain professional associations play in Southern Africa in professionalising research and best practice cannot be overestimated. Such associations provide training and development, promote scholarly networks, facilitate collaboration and dialogues within and across disciplines, and in many cases publish highly regarded academic journals.

In supporting professional associations, the NIHSS's model is to allocate funding for their annual or biennial conferences, special academic publishing projects and capacity-building for masters or doctoral students.

During 2023/24, owing to financial constraints, the Institute only had the resources to award new funding to one professional association, the South African Humanities Deans' Association (SAHUDA).

We also continued to monitor the progress of projects awarded to five other professional associations through funding awarded in preceding years, as shown in Table X.

SAHUDA a strategic partner for 10 years

SAHUDA has had a strategic relationship with the NIHSS for the past 10 years. Together, the two bodies have collaborated closely in advancing research, scholarship and academic excellence in the humanities and social sciences at South African public universities.



Prof Pamela Maseko, Executive Dean of the Humanities at Nelson Mandela University and President of the (SAHUDA) at the Biennial Conference 25-27 October 2023.

Table 7: Professional associations monitored in 2023/24

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION	GRANT HOLDER
African Humanities Association	Prof Fred Hendricks
Institute of Human Settlement Practitioners South Africa (IHSP-SA)	Prof Sijekula Mbanga
International Consortium of Social Development's (ICSD) African branch	Prof Lauren Graham
South African Education Research Association (SAERA)	Prof Labby Ramrathan
South African Humanities Deans' Association (SAHUDA)	Prof Rose Maoto
South African Society for Research in Music (SASRIM)	Dr Carina Venter

Key collaborative initiatives over the years have included the NIHSS-SAHUDA Masters and doctoral scholarships, the Annual National Doctoral Conference, the Annual HSS Alumni Conference, the SAHUDA-NIHSS Biennial Conference and the NIHSS-SAHUDA Roving Mentorships.

In 2023/24, SAHUDA's ongoing collaboration with the Institute thrived. The NIHSS provided funding opportunities for Masters and doctoral scholarships and postdoctoral fellowships, the recipients of which benefited from the mentors who supported them, including the two NIHSS-SAHUDA National Roving Mentors, Professors Nhlanhla Maake and Fred Hendricks. They alternated in attending SAHUDA's quarterly meetings, where they gave feedback and alerted the Deans to any concerns.

The two organisations continued to collaborate in the dissemination of research funding grant calls, focusing on strategic themes of the NIHSS and seeking to establish national, African and BRICS research networks.

From 25 to 27 October 2023, the SAHUDA-NIHSS Biennial Conference was co-hosted by the universities of Venda and Limpopo. The conference, which 150 delegates attended, was held under the theme, "Humanity's imminent crisis: An urgent call for the restoration of peace, stability and well-being".

Central to the conference was the need to respond to the question as to what role Africa can play in maintaining global peace, especially in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic and the increasing tensions between some countries.

An important message conveyed during the conference was that the emergence of decoloniality and indigenisation discourses could emerge as prospects for the restoration of humanity's peace, stability and well-being.

9TH HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES AWARDS



2024 Humanities and Social Science Awards Judges

The task of creating post-apartheid and post-colonial forms of scholarship, creative production and digital humanities outputs is a monumental one. And it is a task to which some of the finest, most innovative and most socially responsive minds in the broader HSS community are applying themselves.

In celebration of the contribution of these outstanding individuals, whether through the performing arts, poetry, musical composition, digital innovation or literature, the NIHSS in 2015 initiated the annual Humanities and Social Sciences Awards: Book, Creative Collection and Digital Contribution Awards.

As the awards have grown in stature and prestige, the number of submissions has increased markedly. In 2023/24, we received a total of 217 entries, consisting of 63 fiction entries, 82 non-fiction entries, 55 creative contributions and 17 digital humanities entries.

The judges had a mere 45 days to review all the submissions ahead of the ninth instalment of the HSS Awards ceremony, which was held on 14 March 2024 at The Javett Art Centre, University of Pretoria.

In the words of Professor Nhlanhla Maake, who has served on the judging panel for nine consecutive years: “Over the years, the harvest across genres has been increasingly determinedly, exhibiting the tenaciousness of South African belle lettres.” Concurring, fiction judge Dr Diana Ferrus commented that the growth in entries was indicative of the

confidence the HSS creative intellectual community has in the awards.

It is not only the quantity of entries that has surged, but also the variety and creativity of the material submitted. More than one judge in the different categories observed that many boundaries had been pushed.

INNOVATION, DEPTH AND IMAGINATION

“We saw strong submissions in the visual arts that pushed boundaries between images as images, and images as text, or text as an elaboration of the imaginary world”, commented Dr Andile Khumalo. “The same was also observed in theatre, where the body and not the voice formed the focal point within which the story is narrated, pushing boundaries between stage theatre or theatre of the mind (radio)”.

In the fiction category, Ms Sukoluhle Nyathi, a first-time judge and a 2023 Award winner in that category, observed genres such as “magical realism and speculative fiction” taking shape in the South African literary scene.

Similarly, Prof Sikhumbuzo Mngadi found a depth of engagement with familiar themes such as the alienation of the individual in a changing society, the tensions between traditional and contemporary ways of life, meditations on mortality and self-reflective reconstructions of the apartheid past.



Deliberations of esteemed judges at the 2024 HSS Adjudication process.

However, a number of the judges lamented the paucity of submissions in indigenous African languages. For the 2024 Awards, only 15 submissions were received in languages other than English.

This state of affairs elicited a heartfelt appeal from Prof Tshinetsé Raphalalani to those who do not write in their mother tongues. “I want to appeal to our African writers to consider writing their works in indigenous African languages to be on par with English.”

Prof Nthambeleni Netshisaulu was in agreement. “Let’s all encourage our African languages since we think in, see with, dream with, are angry in, happy in, in touch with, feel in, marry in, learn in our mother tongue which is our language.”

AND THE WINNERS ARE

In all, 21 awards were presented across 16 categories. These included two new categories, namely for best emerging author in fiction and for best emerging artist/curator in creative collection and digital humanities.

The 21 winners are as follows:

The Best Non-Fiction Edited Volume Award was claimed by Sabata-Mpho Mokae and Brian Willan, who compiled *Revisiting Sol Plaatje's Mafeking Diary: Reconsideration and Restoration* (Jacana Media). Written in English during the South Africa

War of 1899-1902, the book reveals much about the young Solomon Plaatje and his world view prior to his emergence as a public figure.

There were joint winners for the Best Non-Fiction Monograph subcategory. The winning titles were *Durban's Casbah: Bunny Chows, Bolsheviks and Bioscopes* by Ashwin Desai and Goolam Vahed; and Siphokazi Magadla's *Guerrillas and Combative Mothers: Women and the Armed Struggle in South Africa*, both titles published by UKZN Press.

Durban's Casbah sees Desai and Vahed return to the streets of their childhood, known colloquially as the Casbah, the non-white part of Durban, which came into being in the early 20th century. Despite a barrage of racist attempts to hem it in and smash it to the ground, the Casbah, with its alleyways, snooker saloons and markets, survived.

Guerrillas and Combative Mothers is based on 40 life histories of women who participated in the armed struggle against apartheid from 1961 to 1994 and their lives in a democratic South Africa. Centring women's agency, commitment, beliefs and actions, the book details the various ways in which women came to be politicised and the circumstances that led them to join the armed struggle inside South Africa and in exile.

The Best Non-Fiction Biography award went to joint winners,



Humanities and Social Science Awards 2024 Winners

Moses Seletisha (for *Eto la Mofaladi*, Matete Publishing) and Joel Cabrita (*Written Out: The Silencing of Regina Twala*, Wits Press).

The winner of the Best Fiction Novel was Craig Higginson for *The Ghost of Sam Webster* (Picador Africa), while Best Fiction Poetry was taken by Pieter Odendaal's *Ontaard* (Tafelberg).

Dawn Garisch claimed the award for Best Fiction Short Stories for *What Remains* (Karavan Press). Meanwhile, Best Fiction Edited Volume went to Joanne Hichens and Karina M Szczurek's *Fluid: The Freedom to Be* (Tattoo Press)

Meanwhile, the Best Fiction Emerging awards went to Ashti Juggath for *Peaches and Smeets* (Modjaji Books) and Frankie Murrey for *Everyone Dies* (Karavan Press)

Turning to the Creative Collection categories of the awards, the winners were:

Best Visual Biography was awarded to Alette Schoon and Hleze Kunju for their documentary film, *Intellectual Giants of the Eastern Cape*. It was conceptualised to inspire young people from the Eastern Cape to consider themselves as part of a long tradition of intellectualism.

Best Musical Composition/Arrangement was shared by joint winners Vuma Levin (*The Past is Unpredictable, Only the Future is Certain*) and Sibusiso Mashiloane for *Music from my People*.

Gabi Ngcobo's *Handle With Care* and Dylan McGarry and Boudina McConnachie's *Our Ocean is Sacred, You Can't Mine Heaven* were joint winners of the Best Exhibition Catalogue.

The award for Best Digital Humanities Project for Community Engagement went to Dylan McGarry and Mpume Mthombeni's *Indlela Yokuphila: The Soul's Journey*.

Best Digital Humanities Visualisation or Infographic was awarded to *Ellipses: Issues 4: Architectures of the South: Bruising, Healing, Remembering, Returning and Repairing* (Zen Marie, Catalina Mejia Moreno, Huda Tayob, Oluwarotimi Randle, Tamara Tesoriero and Tegan Bristow).

Amberleigh du Plessis took the award for Best Visual Art for *The-Used-to-Be-Normal-Eight-Tentacled-Octopus*.

Best Public Performance went to Reshma Chhiba, Anusha Pillay and Panna Dulabh for *Bhumi | Earth*. Best Emerging Artist/Curator was won by Amogelang Maledu and Kamyar Bineshtarigh's *Koples boek(e)*.

If the state of a nation lies in the quality of its intellectuals and the work they produce, then, as the 2024 National HSS Awards demonstrated, South Africa is arguably in better shape than many would have us believe.



Strategic Objective 4

FOSTER INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH
COLLABORATIONS BETWEEN SOUTH AFRICA,
AFRICA, COUNTRIES OF THE GLOBAL SOUTH,
INCLUDING BRAZIL, INDIA AND CHINA



BRICS Academic Review, Issue 7

By collaborating on research and development projects across areas of critical mutual importance, scholars in nations with similar challenges, aspirations and world views can accelerate advancements for collective and global benefit and, in the process, utilise scarce resources for maximum impact.

The impact of collaborative research is all the greater when scholars pursue a robust interdisciplinary approach towards problem-solving, with the humanities and social sciences (HSS) in conversation with the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) disciplines. The NIHSS, in its Decadal Plan for 2022 to 2032, explicitly acknowledges the importance of incorporating the knowledge and insight of the HSS into research and innovation in the STEM sciences.

This year, 2023/24, is only the second year of our Decadal Plan, but already we are starting to see the researchers within the NIHSS's national and international networks undertake collaborative research that lends itself to interdisciplinarity between the HSS and the STEM sciences. The Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) is an example of a phenomenon that lends itself to this meeting of the sciences – and is indeed an important theme of our current international research interests and collaborations. At least two of the projects on which we report in this section concern the transformation of the education sector through knowledge and skills development powered by artificial intelligence (AI) or other emerging technologies such as language-processing advancements.

Other topics on our international research agenda that are best approached through interdisciplinarity are climate change and its challenges. Here again, the NIHSS is supporting research that investigates the impact of climate change on Global South tourism, and other research examining carbon trading among BRICS countries, as well as climate change in BRICS nations beyond the Paris Agreement and the United Nations' Agenda 2030.

Then there is the just energy transition, where NIHSS-supported research is generating important insights on lessons learnt in the BRICS countries, such as South Africa's Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Programme.

Yet another crucial research theme of our international research agenda in 2023/24 was recovery from the devastation of the Covid-19 pandemic, not only on the economies of Global South nations but on the havoc it wrought on the resilience of small businesses, emerging entrepreneurs and, most importantly, young people caught up in a global disaster at a most valuable stage of their development.

Meanwhile, we continued to support our ongoing international research on sustainable development and inclusive multilateralism, real reform of global governance institutions and the deepening of economic and trade cooperation between and among BRICS countries, as well as within Africa through the unlocking of trade opportunities



Participants at the SABTT hosted African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Roundtable on 04 August 2023

through the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement. Some intriguing research has been emerging on South Africa's maritime interests and BRICS cooperation in the maritime domain.

We are also cognisant of the need to build capacity and knowledge among HSS researchers on research interdisciplinarity, international collaborative networks through which to pursue their research, and skills required to navigate the rapidly shifting research and innovation terrain in South Africa, Africa and the Global South.

PERFORMANCE IN 2023/24

While our strategic objective of fostering international research collaborations was originally intended to consist of nine key performance indicators, budgetary constraints compelled the NIHSS to focus on the two indicators with the greatest potential for societal impact and the advancement of our research agenda.

The first of these two indicators centred on expanding the knowledge base on Global South research and scholarship through the hosting and co-hosting of dialogues, colloquiums and policy discussions. In all, 11 such events were held during the year, one more than targeted (see Table X). The reason we were able to meet and exceed the target was that the events were funded from grants previously awarded, meaning that no additional financial outlay was required.

Table 8 below shows lists the 11 events held in 2023/24 to expand the knowledge base of Global South research and scholarship.

The other indicator on which we concentrated our energies and resources was in the generation of resource outputs and publications by the project leaders of the Pan-African Pathways Programme and the International, BRICS and Global South Initiatives. For this indicator, the project leaders were required to produce 15 research outputs but succeeded in delivering 65 research outputs – an achievement of 443%.

This overachievement can be attributed to two main factors. First, additional research was generated from material produced by research that had already been funded. Second, a considerable number of outputs in the form of papers for presentation and policy briefs were prepared for academic events leading up to the 15th BRICS Academic Forum 2023. This was hosted in Cape Town on 14 to 17 May 2023, ahead of the BRICS Heads of State Summit on 22 to 24 August 2023 and was the third time South Africa was hosting the Heads of State Summit and the BRICS Academic Forum.

The full list of 65 outputs produced through NIHSS-supported funding in 2023/24 is shown in Table 9. As the list demonstrates, many of the outputs focused on topics of relevance to the BRICS and other Global South countries, and were prepared by researchers from various BRICS countries (with South African team leaders, given the NIHSS's involvement).

Table 8: Number of dialogues, colloquiums, and policy discussions hosted/co-hosted and funded to expand the knowledge base of Global South research and scholarship

No.	ACADEMIC DATE AND EVENT	PROJECT LEADER AND INSTITUTION
1	24 May 2023 A Discussion on JUNX with author Tshidiso Moletsane with Marzia Milazzo and Shameema Sarang	Prof Victoria Collis-Buthelezi, University of Johannesburg
2	12 -14 June 2023 The 3rd Kigali Global Dialogue with Observer Research Foundation in Kigali, Rwanda	Observer Research Foundation co-hosted with NIHSS-SABTT
3	3-7 July 2023 BRICS Research Institute Capacity Development Fellows Writers Retreat	Prof Fulufhelo Netswera, Durban University of Technology
4	10 August 2023 17th Helen Joseph Memorial Lecture, with Dr Mlambo-Ngcuka. "An inter-generational struggle for gender equality".	Prof Victoria Collis-Buthelezi, University of Johannesburg
5	24 August 2023 Public Lecture with her Excellency Anielle Francisco da Silva. "A diasporic perspective towards education and South-South cooperation".	Prof Victoria Collis-Buthelezi, University of Johannesburg
6	9 October 2023 Workshop between CEDERJ Consortium and South African Delegation led by Prof Rampersad	Prof Renitha Rampersad, Cape Peninsula University of Technology
7	10 October 2023 Workshop between Fiocruz and South African Delegation led by Prof Rampersad	Prof Renitha Rampersad, Cape Peninsula University of Technology
8	10 October 2023 Workshop between Petrobras University and South African Delegation led by Prof Rampersad	Prof Renitha Rampersad, Cape Peninsula University of Technology
9	24 November 2023 COP28 and the Just Transition Agenda: What role for BRICS+ and BASIC?	Ms Elizabeth Sidiropoulos, South African Institute of International Affairs
10	2 December 2023 Global Blackness Summer School. "For wholeness. Black being well".	Prof Victoria Collis-Buthelezi, University of Johannesburg
11	6 February 2024 Navigating the future: South Africa's maritime interests and the imperative for strategic development	Prof Maxi Schoeman, University of Pretoria

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Opportunities for deep collaboration on climate change between South Africa and Brazil

In the hotly contested climate change arena, developing countries have contributed the least to greenhouse gas emissions but are shouldering the heaviest burden of climate change impact. Several NIHSS-related studies that were under way during the year have the potential to provide important shared learnings for how BRICS and other developing economies shape their own transitions, while helping to shape the global climate and governance architecture.

One such study, running from November 2022 to October 2024, focuses on Brazil and South Africa and is expected to provide fresh insights into the interconnectedness of their climate change responses regarding instruments of trade, technology, social protection and financing.

Titled "BRICS and the just transition: Partnerships between South Africa and Brazil", this project is a collaboration involving the South African BRICS Think Tank, the NIHSS, the South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA) and the latter's Brazilian partner institute, the Institute of Applied Economic Research.

The timing of the project is critical because of the leadership roles that both Brazil and South Africa, as BRICS countries, will be playing in the G20 group in 2024 and 2025. Brazil will chair the G20 in 2024 and South Africa in 2025.

"Their leadership roles in the G20 and BRICS create an opportunity for deep coordination between them regarding the specific agendas of each of the groupings, also considering that the BRICS is an important caucus within the G20," writes SAIIA on its website. "This project is designed to take advantage of this alignment of presidencies to focus on climate change and related economic cooperation."

Foreign dependence on renewable energy resources counter some just energy transition principles

The principles of a just energy transition include encouraging local job creation in the renewable energy sector – yet South Africa's renewable energy independent power producers (REIPPs) are highly dependent on foreign manufacturers and resources.

This is one of the points made in an article published in the *South African Journal of International Affairs*, as part of a study funded by the NIHSS on economic growth opportunities linked to renewable energy adoption in BRICS.



Kigali Global Dialogue (Left to right) Dr Samir Saran, President, Observer Research Foundation; Prof Sarah Mosoetsa, SABTT Interim Chair & CEO, Human Sciences Research Council; Ms Velina Tchakarova, Founder, For a Conscious Experience; Mr Jovan Ratkovic, Senior Fellow, Agora Strategy Institute, Serbia and Montenegro; and Ambassador Sujan Chinoy, Director-General, Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses

In the abstract to their article, “Fostering a just energy transition: Lessons from South Africa’s REIPP Procurement programme, the authors note that although South Africa has increased its power procurement targets and relaxed some regulatory requirements in order to address the energy crisis, the long-term policy framework is not yet clear.

“Sustainably expanding renewable energy generation depends on a clear policy framework which plots the transition from coal and develops local manufacturing and skilling capacities,” write the authors, from the HSRC and the University of Limpopo.

Having conducted a case study review of two South African wind farms, they proceed to examine how REIPPs can shift their reliance on foreign equipment manufacturers and skilled resources to local providers, fostering a sustainable and inclusive just energy transition.

‘Disruptive influences’ of AI could benefit developing countries

While some Western AI experts and media headlines have warned against continued AI development, the discussion on the future of AI has excluded an important possibility: how the disruptive influences of AI could be used to benefit the developing world and countries such as the BRICS bloc.

“Forward-thinking academics might recognise the opportunity that has emerged,” writes Mr Krish Chetty of the Human Sciences Research Council in a policy brief titled “Transforming the

education sector through AI-powered knowledge diffusion and skills development in BRICS”.

“If leveraged appropriately, AI could catalyse growth and development and democratise access to knowledge,” writes Chetty. “Several hurdles for the BRICS, related to the bloc’s digital divide, must be overcome to leverage these technologies and overcome existing knowledge access barriers.”

Of particular concern is skills misalignments: the education sector has not kept up with the pace of technological advancements. “South Africa’s Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) system is struggling to respond to this phenomenon and will likely experience a worsening of this issue, given the acceleration of AI,” the author says.

The BRICS have recognised this challenge, having introduced the BRICS TVET Cooperation Alliance and BRICS skills competition to address skills misalignment and promote skills development.

The paper proposes that the BRICS PartNIR Innovation Centre (BPIC) should coordinate the development of a BRICS Large Language Model (LLM) to tackle the skills challenges that BRICS nations face. An LLM of this kind would serve as a conduit for knowledge sharing, connect the business sector with the education sector, and foster an education system that can adapt to the ever-changing needs of business.

Table 9: 65 research outputs produced in 2023/24

No.	RESEARCH OUTPUT PRODUCED	PROJECT LEADER AND INSTITUTION
1	Prinsloo, C. 2023. Geopolitical Turmoil: BRICS Economic Windfall?. Johannesburg. SAIIA	Mr Cyril Prinsloo, South African Institute of International Affairs
2	Chetty, K. 2023. Transforming the Education sector through AI-Powered Knowledge Diffusion and Skills Development in BRICS.	Mr Krish Chetty, Human Sciences Research Council
3	Netswera, F. and Ntshebe, N .2023. Strengthening Post-Pandemic Socio-Economic Recovery.	Prof Fulufhelo Netswera, Durban University of Technology
4	Siswana, B 2023. BRICS and Africa: Partnership for Mutually Accelerated Growth, Sustainable Development and Inclusive Multilateralism. 15 th BRICS Academic Form.	Dr Babalwa Siswana, National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences
5	Chetty, K 2023. Transforming the Education sector through AI-Powered Knowledge Diffusion and Skills Development in BRICS. Leveraging BRICS Strengths To Transform Education and Skills Development for the Future. 15 th BRICS Academic Forum.	Mr Krish Chetty, Human Sciences Research Council
6	Sidiropoulos, E. 2023. Developing A Partnership Towards an Equitable Just Transition. 15 th BRICS Academic Forum.	Ms Elizabeth Sidiropoulos, South African Institute of International Affairs
7	Naidu, S. 2023. Strengthening Multilateralism: Working Toward Real Reform of Global Governance Institutions. BRICS and Africa: Partnership for Mutually Accelerated Growth, Sustainable Development and Inclusive Multilateralism. 15 th BRICS Academic Forum.	Ms Sanusha Naidu, Institute for Global Dialogue
8	Netswera, F. 2023. Strengthening Post-Pandemic Socio-economic Recovery. BRICS and Africa: Partnership for Mutually Accelerated Growth, Sustainable Development and Inclusive Multilateralism. 15 th BRICS Academic Forum.	Prof Fulufhelo Netswera, Durban University of Technology
9	Schoeman, M. 2023. Mainstreaming the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda in BRICS: Turning a challenge into an opportunity. BRICS and Africa: Partnership for Mutually Accelerated Growth, Sustainable Development and Inclusive Multilateralism. 15 th BRICS Academic Forum.	Prof Maxi Schoeman, University of Pretoria
10	Ncwadi, R. 2023. BRICS AND Trade-Unlocking Opportunities Through the African Continental Free Trade Area. BRICS and Africa: Partnership for Mutually Accelerated Growth, Sustainable Development and Inclusive Multilateralism. 15 th BRICS Academic Forum.	Prof Ronney Ncwadi, Nelson Mandela University
11	BRICS Academic Review 2023. BRICS and Africa: Partnership for Mutually Accelerated Growth, Sustainable Development, and Inclusive Multilateralism. Issue 7.	National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences
12	SABTT 2023. Policy Reflections XV BRICS Think Tank. South Africa 2023.	National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences
13	Tshikovhi, N., Netswera, F. and De Conti, B. 2023. Climate Change, Entrepreneurship, Local Development in BRICS Nations During and After COVID-19, African Journal of Inter/Multidisciplinary Studies, 51, pp. 1–3. DOI: https://doi.org/10.51415/ajims.v5i1.1267	Prof Fulufhelo Netswera, Durban University of Technology
14	Mugano, G. and Dorasamy, N. 2023. SMEs and Economic Development in Africa. 1st edition. Routledge. ISBN 9781032536934	Prof Fulufhelo Netswera, Durban University of Technology
15	Tshikovhi, N., Santos, A., Zou, X., Netswera, F., Yarygina, I.Z. and Divi, S. 2023. COVID-19 and Climate Change in BRICS Nations Beyond the Paris Agreement and Agenda 2030. Routledge. ISBN 9781032597430	Prof Fulufhelo Netswera, Durban University of Technology
16	Netswera, F. 2023. BRICS Research Institute, Durban University of Technology. www.bricsri.co.za . Creative output.	Prof Fulufhelo Netswera, Durban University of Technology
17	Sidiropoulos, E. 2023. BRICS Research Institute, South African Institute for International Affairs. https://saiia.org.za/project/brics-and-the-just-transition/ . Creative output.	Ms Elizabeth Sidiropoulos, South African Institute of International Affairs
18	Schoeman, M. 2023. BRICS cooperation and activities in the maritime domain. Research Brief	Prof Maxi Schoeman, University of Pretoria
19	Schoeman, M. and Marggraff, D. 2023. Developments in the Indo-Pacific since late 2022: new strategies and increased militarisation. Research Brief.	Prof Maxi Schoeman, University of Pretoria
20	Schoeman, M. and Marggraff, D. 2023. Understanding ITLOS – perspectives from Judge-elect Thembile Joyini. Research Brief.	Prof Maxi Schoeman, University of Pretoria
21	Schoeman, M. and Ramachela, T. 2023. Africa, the Law of the Sea, and the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea. Research Brief.	Prof Maxi Schoeman, University of Pretoria
22	Schoeman, M., Wu, Y. and Marggraff, D. 2023. BRICS and Global Order. Research Brief.	Prof Maxi Schoeman, University of Pretoria

No.	RESEARCH OUTPUT PRODUCED	PROJECT LEADER AND INSTITUTION
23	Schoeman, M. and Marggraff, D. 2023. Post BRICS Roundtable. Research Brief.	Prof Maxi Schoeman, University of Pretoria
24	Wu, Y. 2023. Global Order and the Embodiment of (BRICS) Expansion. Op-ed	Prof Maxi Schoeman, University of Pretoria
25	Ventura, R.V., Fernandes, E., Tshikovhi, N., and Sucheran, R. 2023. BRICS inbound and outbound tourism versus socio-economic indicators. GeoJournal of Tourism and Geosites, 48(2spl), 733–740. DOI: https://doi.org/10.30892/gtg.482spl07-1073	Prof Fulufhelo Netswera, Durban University of Technology
26	Zhang, F., Zhao, R., Yang, Y. and Zou, X 2023. Carbon Trading in BRICS Countries: Challenges and Recommendations. Journal of Economics and Public Finance, 9, 3: 127-139. DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.22158/jepf.v9n3p127	Prof Fulufhelo Netswera, Durban University of Technology
27	Theron, L.C., Cockcroft, K., N. Annalakshmi, N., Rodgers, J. G., Akinduyo, T. E. and Fouché, A. 2023. Emerging adult resilience to the early stages of the COVID-Pandemic: A systematic scoping review. Child Psychiatry and Human Development, https://doi.org/10.1007/s10578-023-01585-y	Prof Linda Theron, University of Pretoria
28	Annalakshmi, N., Gayathry, V. and Kishor, C. 2023. Family adversity, perception of neighborhood, and victimization by community predict positive and negative outcomes among emerging adults affected by COVID-19. IAHRW International Journal of Social Sciences Review, 112, 189-196.	Prof Linda Theron, University of Pretoria
29	Chetty, K., Davids, Y.D., Kanyane, M., Madzivhandila, T., Moosa, T., and Ndaba, L. 2023. Fostering a just energy transition: Lessons from South Africa's Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme, South African Journal of International Affairs, DOI: 10.1080/10220461.2023.2229293	Mr Krish Chetty, Human Sciences Research Council
30	Theron, L., Ungar, M., Cockcroft, K. and Fouché, A. 2023. Multisystemic resources matter for resilience to depression: Learning from a sample of young South African adults. Qualitative Health Research, 33(10), 828–841. https://doi.org/10.1177/10497323231182906	Prof Linda Theron, University of Pretoria
31	Mosoetsa, S. 2023. Outcomes of the 2023 BRICS Academic Forum: Fostering Cooperation and Advancing Research.	Prof Sarah Mosoetsa, Human Sciences Research Council and South African BRICS Think Tank
32	Chetty, K. 2023. Transforming the Education sector through AI-Powered Knowledge Diffusion and Skills Development in BRICS	Mr Krish Chetty, Human Sciences Research Council
33	Annalakshmi, N., Gayathry, V. and Deepak Kumar, S. 2023. Personal resources associated with resilience to COVID-19 challenges among emerging adults in India. Indian Journal of Positive Psychology, 14(2), 130-137.	Prof Linda Theron, University of Pretoria
34	Zhang, J., Zou, X. and Mukhia, A. 2023. Reconsidering India's climate diplomacy and domestic preferences with a two-level approach. International Journal of Climate Change Strategies and Management. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1108/IJCCSM-07-2022-0088	Prof Fulufhelo Netswera, Durban University of Technology
35	Lissovolik, Y. 2023. On the criticality of lower BRICS import tariffs for members of the AfCFTA. Policy Brief	NIHSS-SABTT
36	Bhagchandka, A. 2023. BRICS and COVID: Navigating a Sustainable Post-Pandemic Recovery. Policy Brief	NIHSS-SABTT
37	Chetty, K. 2023. Transforming the Education sector through AI-Powered Knowledge Diffusion and Skills Development in BRICS. Policy Brief.	NIHSS-SABTT
38	Sengupta, A. 2023. Leveraging Technology To Strengthen Education And Skills Development For Future: Cases From India. Policy Brief.	NIHSS-SABTT
39	Ncwadi, R. 2023. BRICS and trade-unlocking opportunities through the African Continental Free Trade Area. Policy Brief.	NIHSS-SABTT
40	Qingxin, L., Ya, T. 2023. Deepening China-South Africa Economic and Trade Cooperation. Policy Brief.	NIHSS-SABTT
41	Jiang, T. 2023. Multilateralism and Global Governance from the BRICS Perspective: An Investigation of Academic Literature of the BRICS countries. Policy Brief.	NIHSS-SABTT
42	Mosoetsa, S. 2023. Outcomes of the 2023 BRICS Academic Forum: Fostering Cooperation and Advancing Research. Policy Brief.	NIHSS-SABTT
43	Yarygina, I. 2023. Public-Private Partnership as a basis for strengthening BRICS post pandemic Recovery. Policy Brief.	NIHSS-SABTT
44	Li, J., Chen, F. Huang, Y. and Ma, C. 2023. Building Platforms for BRICS Vocational Education and Skills Training, Advancing High-quality BRICS Partnership on the New Industrial Revolution. Policy Brief.	NIHSS-SABTT

No.	RESEARCH OUTPUT PRODUCED	PROJECT LEADER AND INSTITUTION
45	Kuznetsov, A. 2023. Prospects of BRICS cooperation in R&D and higher education. Policy Brief.	NIHSS-SABTT
46	Suri, N. 2023. Real reform of the multilateral system starts- starting with the UNSC. Policy Brief.	NIHSS-SABTT
47	Zhao, L. 2023. Strengthen International Regulatory Cooperation among BRICS for greater social and economic development in the post pandemic era. Policy Brief.	NIHSS-SABTT
48	Netswera, F. and Ntshebe, N. 2023. Strengthening post pandemic socioeconomic recovery. Policy Brief.	Prof Fulufhelo Netswera, Durban University of Technology
49	Damodaran, S. and Sitas, A. 2023. Maps of Sorrow: Migration and Music in the Construction of Precolonial AfroAsia. New Delhi: Tulika Books. 4 research chapters.	Prof Brett Pyper, University of the Witwatersrand
50	Schoeman, M., Marggraff, D. and Willima, D. 2023. South Africa's Judge's appointment to the ICJ signals commitment to upholding International Law and sustainable ocean governance. Research Brief.	Prof Maxi Schoeman, University of Pretoria
51	Makhanya, T. 2023. Foregrounding the Philosophy of Maat In Social Work Education and Practice: Umuntu Ngumuntu Ngabantu. In: Mayaka, B. Adeleke, O. and van Breda, A (Eds). The Ubuntu Practitioner: Social Work Perspectives. International Federation of Social Workers: Rheinfelden, Switzerland.	Dr Thembelihle Makhanya, University of Mpumalanga
52	Masuku, M and Makhanya, T. 2023. Ubuntu Philosophy and Decolonisation: Interpretation of Inclusivity in Higher Education. In Maguvhe, M.O and Masuku M.M. Using African Epistemologies in Shaping Inclusive Education Knowledge. Palgrave Macmillan: Switzerland.	Dr Thembelihle Makhanya, University of Mpumalanga
53	Tshikovhi, N., More, K. and Cele, Z. 2023. Driving Sustainable Growth for Small and Medium Enterprises in Emerging Urban–Rural Economies. Sustainability 2023, 15, 15337. https://doi.org/10.3390/su152115337	Prof Fulufhelo Netswera, Durban University of Technology
54	De Conti, B., and Villen, P. 2023. Emancipatory movements in Latin America: challenges and impetus arising from the historical formation of the region, Third World Quarterly, 44:10, 2318-2334, DOI: https://doi.org/10.1080/01436597.2023.2231854	Prof Fulufhelo Netswera, Durban University of Technology
55	Makhanya, T. 2023. Indigenisation of social work education and practice: A call for deconisation in South African Higher Education. Bulletin. Social Work History Network. London.	Dr Thembelihle Makhanya, University of Mpumalanga
56	Zou, X. 2023. Urban Sustainable Development in East Asia: Understanding and Evaluating Urban Sustainable Trends in China and Japan. Singapore: Springer Nature. doi: https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-99-7015-5	Prof Fulufhelo Netswera, Durban University of Technology
57	Griesel, H., Blake, R., Marggraff, D. and Schoeman, M. 2024. Ocean Regions Programme Colloquium Report. Colloquium report.	Prof Maxi Schoeman, University of Pretoria
58	SABTT 2024. BRICS Virtual Academy website. https://bricsthinktankcouncil.org/ . Creative output	NIHSS-SABTT
59	Schoeman, M. and Marggraff, D. 2024. From a "BRICS-Centric" to a "BRICS-Infused" world order. Op-ed no. 2.	Prof Maxi Schoeman, University of Pretoria
60	Schoeman, M. and Ramachela, T.J. 2024. Piracy and Armed Robbery of Migrants and Refugees: A Case of Failing Securitisation in the Mediterranean Sea.	Prof Maxi Schoeman, University of Pretoria
61	Qwatekana, Z. and Tshikovhi, N. 2024. Tourism Under Siege: Impact of Climate Change on the Global South Tourism Sector. Future Tourism Trends 1, 19-31. Doi: http://doi.org/10.1108/978-1-83753-244-520241002	Prof Fulufhelo Netswera, Durban University of Technology
62	Yarygina, I. 2024. BRICS in Global Economy and Finance (Monograph) Joint publication of MGIMO Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia, National Committee for BRICS Research, University of World Civilizations	Prof Nirmala Gopal, University of KwaZulu Natal
63	Petidis, P. and Marggraff, D. 2024. Locating the BRICS in the EU's vision: A case for cooperation over competition. Policy paper #153/2024.	Prof Maxi Schoeman, University of Pretoria
64	Schoeman, M. and Marggraff, D. 2024. Navigating the future: South Africa's Maritime interest and the imperative for strategic development. Policy Brief.	Prof Maxi Schoeman, University of Pretoria
65	Bhoola, S., Chetty, D., Moolakkattu, J., Ngcobo, N and Chathukulam, J. 2024. A Comparative Overview of Elements of Political Economy of Urban Governance in the Global South: The Cases of Ethekwini Municipality (South Africa) and Cochin Municipality (India). Journal of Economic and Social Development (JESD) – Resilient Society 11, 1: 114-129.	Dr Bhoola Sheetal, University of Zululand



Strategic Objective 5

ACT AS A DYNAMIC BROKER BETWEEN THE
WORLDS OF KNOWLEDGE AND POLICY ACTION
ON BEHALF OF SOUTH AFRICA AS THE SOUTH
AFRICAN BRICS THINK TANK (SABTT)



Mr Videira Pedro, Commercial attach, Embassy of Angola; Mr Ashok Babu, Consulate General of India in Cape Town; Mr Aleksei Malenko, Consul General of Russia in Cape Town; HE Minister Dr BE Nzimande, South Africa; HE Mr Muhammad Haruna Manta, High Commissioner, Nigeria; Mr Samal Edeke Erupe, Second Secretary: Political, High Commission of Kenya

If there is one event that most tangibly illustrates what it means to be a “dynamic broker between the worlds of knowledge and policy action”, that event was the 15th BRICS Academic Forum held in Cape Town from 15 to 17 May 2023.

Hosted by the NIHSS and the SABTT, it was the first large-scale, in-person gathering of BRICS Think Tank representatives since the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic. The forum brought together approximately 100 experts, scholars, diplomatic envoys from African countries, university staff and students, and officials from South Africa’s Department of Higher Education and Training and the Department of International Relations and Cooperation.

The 15th BRICS Academic Forum was also extraordinary because it was here that some of the most invigorating and innovative proposals in the history of the BRICS were raised and debated, such as the currencies that BRICS members should use to trade with each other and regional partners, and the expansion of BRICS amid growing interest from countries across continents in joining.

Just as exhilarating were the discussions on artificial intelligence and language processing in improving the quality of people’s lives, the need for comprehensive research-based reviews of BRICS’ countries’ progress towards the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and, crucially, the proposed establishment of the BRICS Virtual Academy to foster closer research and academic collaboration among the BRICS nations.

A key function of the annual BRICS Academic Forum is to formulate its academic recommendations for the consideration of the BRICS Summit of heads of state. Nine priority policy recommendations emanating from the 15th BRICS Academic Forum were submitted on the following topics:

- Strengthening multilateralism and reforming global governance institutions
- Strengthening peace and security processes
- Strengthening post-pandemic economic recovery and the 2030 Agenda
- Climate challenges for BRICS countries
- Developing a partnership towards an equitable just transition and the African agenda on science, technology and innovation
- Transforming education, innovation and skills development for the future
- Unlocking opportunities through the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement
- The New Development Bank and BRICS financing
- People-to-people exchanges in the spheres of culture, tourism and sport, among others.

The recommendations and proposals were duly submitted ahead of the Summit of heads of state, held in Johannesburg from 22 to 24 August 2023. That event made world headlines, particularly for the announcement made that the BRICS heads of state was formally welcoming four new members into its ranks, namely Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran and the United Arab Emirates, with effect from 1 January 2024.



Members of the BRICS Think Tanks Council, and representatives from DIRCO, at the 15th BRICS Academic Forum. (Left to Right) Dr Jin Xin, China Council for BRICS Thinktank Cooperation; Ambassador Anil Sooklal, the then South African BRICS Sherpa, DIRCO; Dr Vyacheslav Nikonov, National Committee on BRICS Research; DIRCO Deputy Minister Alvin Botes; Prof Sarah Mosoetsa, SABTT; Dr Samir Saran, ORF; and Dr Fabio Soares, IPEA

The 15th BRICS Academic Forum was a momentous occasion for the NIHSS and SABTT for two reasons. One is that the proposals and recommendations submitted to summits of heads of state require deep, collaborative intellectual exploration before being tabled. If a proposal is accepted, the scholarly work intensifies to ensure that implementation has the necessary intellectual underpinnings.

The NIHSS, which is the permanent host of the SABTT, is an integral part of the academic infrastructure of the BRICS. The overall BRICS Think Tank Council directs the research and academic agenda of BRICS and country BRICS Think Tanks carry it out, working together with networks of researchers to generate the knowledge that will ultimately result in policy action. The NIHSS will be intimately involved in coordinating the South African contributions towards the vast amount of complex research to be done, together with other BRICS researchers, to give further substance to the proposals.

In 2024, it will be the turn of the Russian Federation to hold the BRICS chairship. We are committed to supporting the Russian Federation's 16th BRICS Academic Forum and all activities during its chairship.

SOUTH AFRICA'S PARTICIPATION AT THE 15TH BRICS ACADEMIC FORUM

South Africa's Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation, Dr Blade Bonginkosi Nzimande, gave the opening address at the Academic Forum. "The 15th BRICS Academic

Forum provides us with another opportunity to strengthen our relations and reaffirms our values in an ever unfortunately polarised global order."

Touching on the priority of unlocking opportunities through the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement, Dr Nzimande commented that the BRICS needed to pay particular attention to developing countries and their needs in order to meet the commitment to a more equitable, inclusive and just global system.

He urged BRICS researchers to "scrutinise the illicit flows of finance and funds from the African continent to the developed countries".

Professor Sarah Mosoetsa, Interim Chairperson of the SABTT and CEO of the Human Sciences Research Council, led the South African delegation. She later reflected on the success of the 15th BRICS Academic Forum in strengthening research collaboration among the BRICS.

"During the 2023 Academic Forum, the BRICS took a major step forward towards fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange. As part of the proposal to establish a BRICS Virtual Academy, the BRICS Think Tank Council identified urgent policy research areas to drive sustainable development and further cooperation among the BRICS nations," she said.

Areas where urgent policy research is needed include BRICS currencies, expansion of BRICS, the impact of AI and other



BRI project leader
Prof Fulu Netswera
with scholars
from the 2nd
Postgraduate Forum,
16-18 August 2023.

Table 10: Speakers representing South Africa and their topics

SESSION TOPIC	SPEAKER REPRESENTING SOUTH AFRICA
Developing a partnership towards an equitable just transition	Ms Elizabeth Sidiropoulos, South African Institute of International Affairs
Leveraging BRICS strengths to transform education and skill development for the future	Mr Krish Chetty, Human Sciences Research Council
BRICS and trade – Unlocking opportunities through the African Continental Free Trade Area	Prof Ronney Ncwadi, Nelson Mandela University
Strengthening post-pandemic socio-economic recovery	Prof Fulufhelo Netswera, Durba University of Technology
Strengthening multilateralism: Towards a meaningful participation of women in peace processes	Prof Maxi Schoeman, University of Pretoria
Strengthening multilateralism: Working toward real reform of global governance institutions	Ms Sanusha Naidu, Institute for Global Dialogue
The attainment of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development	Dr Babalwa Siswana, National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences

emerging technologies and the importance of effective implementation of BRICS declarations.

In addition, Prof Mosoetsa said, research would be needed on ways to measure and expedite member countries' progress against the SDGs. "Through comprehensive reviews, BRICS scholars and researchers can identify areas that require innovative and cooperative measures to drive sustainable development and improve the wellbeing of their nations and the global community."

The NIHSS-SABTT fielded a strong delegation of scholars (see Table 10) to represent South Africa in delivering presentations during the 15th BRICS Academic Forum, the theme of which was

"BRICS and Africa: Partnership for mutually accelerated growth, sustainable development and inclusive multilateralism". This theme echoed the overall theme for South Africa's BRICS chairship in 2023.

BRICS RESEARCH INSTITUTE/BRICS CLUSTER PROJECTS IN 2023/24

BRICS Research Institute and BRICS Cluster Projects are meant to develop initiatives that contribute towards a better and safer world order through peaceful diplomacy and multilateralism. Through the BRICS cluster funded projects and the BRICS Research Institutes (BRI) housed within various public universities, the NIHSS continues to play a vital role in organising



Participants and attendees at a BRI Public Lecture on 2 August 2023. (Left to Right) Prof Sarah Mosoetsa, SABTT; Ms Norma Zondo, UKZN; Prof Nirmala Gopal, UKZN; Ms Sooklal; Prof Anil Chattergoon, UKZN; Ambassador Sooklal, DIRCO; and Mrs Sooklal.

Table 11: BRICS Research Institute and BRICS Cluster projects monitored

BRICS RESEARCH INSTITUTE AND BRICS CLUSTER PROJECTS MONITORED	PROJECT LEADER AND INSTITUTION
BRICS Shaping Climate Governance and the Just Transition: Partnership between India and South Africa.	Ms Elizabeth Sidiropoulos, South African Institute of International Affairs
BRICS security system as an essence of fruitful cooperation.	Prof Nirmala Gopal, University of KwaZulu-Natal
Seeing the Sea: Promoting BRICS maritime cooperation for sustainable development and security in Africa.	Prof Maxi Schoeman, University of Pretoria
Growth and Sustainability of Livelihoods in the BRICS Countries: Knowledge Sharing in Social Justice, Governance, Multilateralism.	Prof Fulufhelo Netswera, Durban University of Technology
China-South African cultural cooperation: Towards dynamism and equity in cultural engagements, cultural trade and soft power	Prof Brett Pyper, University of the Witwatersrand

joint-research, networking and exchange programs with a view of addressing the five research focus areas outlined in the BRICS Long-Term Strategy, which are:

- Promoting cooperation for economic growth and development,
- The maintenance of peace and security,
- Social justice, sustainable development and quality of life,
- Political and economic governance, and
- Achieving progress by sharing knowledge and innovation.

The clusters are research networks across higher education institutes, the BRICS Research Institute projects are singular

projects housed with a HEI or research institute. Their primary focus is to engage in research endeavours in any one of the BRIC countries (Brazil, Russia, India or China) and in comparison with South Africa, through holding seminars and workshops, publishing books and journal articles and policy briefs and fostering research networks at South African public universities and relevant institutions across the African continent and BRIC countries. Four BRI projects were monitored during the year. Of note are two of these new BRI projects and the vast international networks of research collaborators.

During 2023/24, four BRI projects were monitored and one BRICS Cluster project was also monitored. These are shown in table 11.

NUMBER OF SEMINARS, WORKSHOPS, AND CONFERENCES HOSTED/ CO-HOSTED AND FUNDED

Engagement on BRICS cluster projects and other related academic matters occurred throughout the 2023/24 in the form of seminars, workshops and conferences. While five such events were planned, 21 were hosted, as shown in Table 12 below.

Table 12: BRICS academics seminars, workshops and conferences in 2023/24

NO	ACADEMIC DATE AND EVENT	PROJECT LEADER AND INSTITUTION
1	12 April 2023 BRICS Expansion	Ms Elizabeth Sidiropoulos, South African Institute of International Affairs co-hosted with NIHSS-SABTT
2	25 April 2023 Just Energy Transition and BRICS, from a BRICS perspective: Developing a partnership towards an Equitable Just Transition.	Hosted by NIHSS-SABTT
3	31 May 2023 Addressing Africa's Impending Debt and Trade Crisis amidst AFCFTA implementation: Strategies for inclusive Development.	Prof Fulufhelo Netswera, Durban University of Technology
4	5 June 2023 BRICS Expansion workshop.	Prof Fulufhelo Netswera, Durban University of Technology
5	14 June 2023 Sudan Crisis and Violence against Women	Prof Nirmala Gopal, University of KwaZulu Natal
6	21 June 2023 Brazil-South Africa Climate and the Just Transition Dialogue Platform	Ms Elizabeth Sidiropoulos, South African Institute of International Affairs
7	01-03 August 2023 BRICS Civil Summit	NIHSS-SABTT co-hosted
8	2 August 2023 The Role of BRICS in Shaping the Evolving Geopolitical, Security, Economic and Financial Architecture in Multipolar World	Prof Nirmala Gopal, University of KwaZulu Natal
9	4 August 2023 The African Continental Free Trade Area: Unlocking opportunities	NIHSS- SABTT
10	16-18 August 2023 The Second Postgraduate Forum	Prof Fulufhelo Netswera, Durban University of Technology
11	28 September 2023 Strengthening Multilateralism: Towards A Meaningful Participation of Women in Peace Processes	Hosted by NIHSS-SABTT
12	11 October 2023 An Emerging Southern Climate and Energy Agenda: Reflections on the BRICS Summit, Africa Climate Summit, and G20 Summit	Ms Elizabeth Sidiropoulos, South African Institute of International Affairs
13	19 October 2023 Post Pandemic Socio-Economic Recovery and the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda – Progress and Pitfalls	Hosted by NIHSS-SABTT
14	16 November 2023 Leveraging BRICS Strengths to Transform Education and Skills Development for the Future	Hosted by NIHSS-SABTT
15	20-21 November 2023 Ocean Regions in an Era of Global Transformation: Second Colloquium	Prof Maxi Schoeman, University of Pretoria
16	8 March 2024 The Cyber Threat Landscape	Prof Nirmala Gopal, University of KwaZulu Natal
17	12 March 2024 A BRICS-Infused World Order	Prof Maxi Schoeman, University of Pretoria
18	14 March 2024 BRICS+ Dialogue New World Order	Prof Fulufhelo Netswera, Durban University of Technology
19	20 March 2024 Emerging Technologies and Trends	Prof Nirmala Gopal, University of KwaZulu Natal
20	26 March 2024 Russian Soul or Russian background through nature and artifacts in the frame of internationalisation	Prof Nirmala Gopal, University of KwaZulu Natal
21	27 March 2024 Organised Labour and the Just Transition: Emerging insights from Brazil and South Africa	Ms Elizabeth Sidiropoulos, South African Institute of International Affairs



SECTION C

HUMAN RESOURCES AND
ADMINISTRATION



We have entered the 2023/24 financial year in a period of transition following the resignation of the former CEO, Prof Sarah Mosoetsa. This had a huge impact on the organisational structure as this position could not be filled due to governance requirements, however, we have mitigated the situation by implementing the change management strategy throughout the financial year. This intervention has assisted employees to transition smoothly and to stay focused to ensure that the work of the NIHSS proceeded as expected in accordance with the set targets. Employees demonstrated their ability to adjust and adapt, ensuring that both day-to-day and strategic activities continued, and our PhD students and research partners could still rely on high levels of support. The high-performance culture of the NIHSS team was also demonstrated by the excellent delivery of the world-class event, BRICS Academic Forum 2023. Like all other years, we continued our commitment to training and development for staff.

The NIHSS's staff complement was at 28 as at 31 March 2024, a decrease from the previous year's 29 employees. The overall staff turnover was 3.51%.

STAFF TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

In total, the Institute invested R683 390 in staff training and development in 2023/24, equating to 3.01% of total expenditure. This was significantly lower than the previous year's training expenditure of R1 627 064, which amounted to 6.69% of total expenditure.

This investment included the awarding of nine bursaries to staff members to allow them to further their studies part time. The emphasis was on academic programmes that contribute directly to the service line, area of specialisation and current responsibilities of employees, as well as any future responsibilities that have been identified.

We have also done a number of group workshop sessions focusing on building a high-performance team as we navigated through change management during this transition period.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

We continued to strengthen our general compliance on health and safety in the year under review. As a result, the NIHSS once again received a letter of good standing from the Department of Labour acknowledging full compliance with the Compensation for Occupational Injuries and Diseases Act 130 of 1993 (COIDA).

HR OVERSIGHT STATISTICS

Table 13: 2023/24 personnel cost per salary band

Level	Personal expenditure (R)	Personnel expenditure as % of personnel cost	Number of employees	Average cost per employee (R)
Top management	5 178 949	23%	3	1 726 316
Senior management	-	0%	0	-
Professionally qualified	2 665 291	12%	3	888 430
Skilled, technical and academically qualified	8 886 699	39%	12	740 558
Semi-skilled	5 238 669	23%	8	654 834
Unskilled	758 514	3%	3	252 838
Total	22 728 122	100%	29	

* This number includes staff members who have left the organisation but were paid during their tenure.

Table 14: 2023/24 staff training expenditure

Programme	Total expenditure	Staff training expenditure	As % of total expenditure	Number of employees	Average cost per employee
Staff training	22 728 122	683 390	3,01%	29	23 565

Table 15: Employment and vacancies as at 31 March 2024

Level	2023/24 approved posts	2023/24 number of employees	2023/24 vacancies	% of vacancies
Top management	2	3	1	50.00%
Senior management	6	0	6	100%
Professionally qualified	9	3	6	66.67%
Skilled	12	12	0	0.00%
Semi-skilled	8	8	0	0.00%
Unskilled	3	3	0	0.00%
Total	40	29		

Table 16: Employment changes during 2023/24

Level	Employment at 31 March 2023	Appointments	Terminations	Employment at 31 March 2024
Top management	1	2	0	3
Senior management	0	0	0	0
Professionally qualified	4	0	1	3
Skilled	14	0	0	14
Semi-skilled	7	1	0	8
Unskilled	3	0	0	3
Total	29	0	1	28

Table 17: Reasons for employee turnover for the 2023/24 financial year

Reasons	Employment at 31 March 2024
Dismissals	1
Contract non-renewal	0
Resignations	0
Separation agreement	0
Total	1

Table 18: Labour relations: Misconduct and disciplinary action

Nature of disciplinary action	Number
Verbal warning	0
Written warning	0
Final written warning	0
Dismissals	1
Total	1

EQUITY TARGETS AND EMPLOYMENT EQUITY STATUS

There was a slight increase in the proportion of women to men among the Institute's employees. Women accounted for 64% of the staff in 2023/24, compared with 62% in 2022/23.

In terms of employee race profile, 26 (92.86%) staff members were black, one (3.57%) was white and one (3.57%) coloured (Figure 5).

Figure 4: Gender profile of NIHSS employees (2014/15-2023/24)

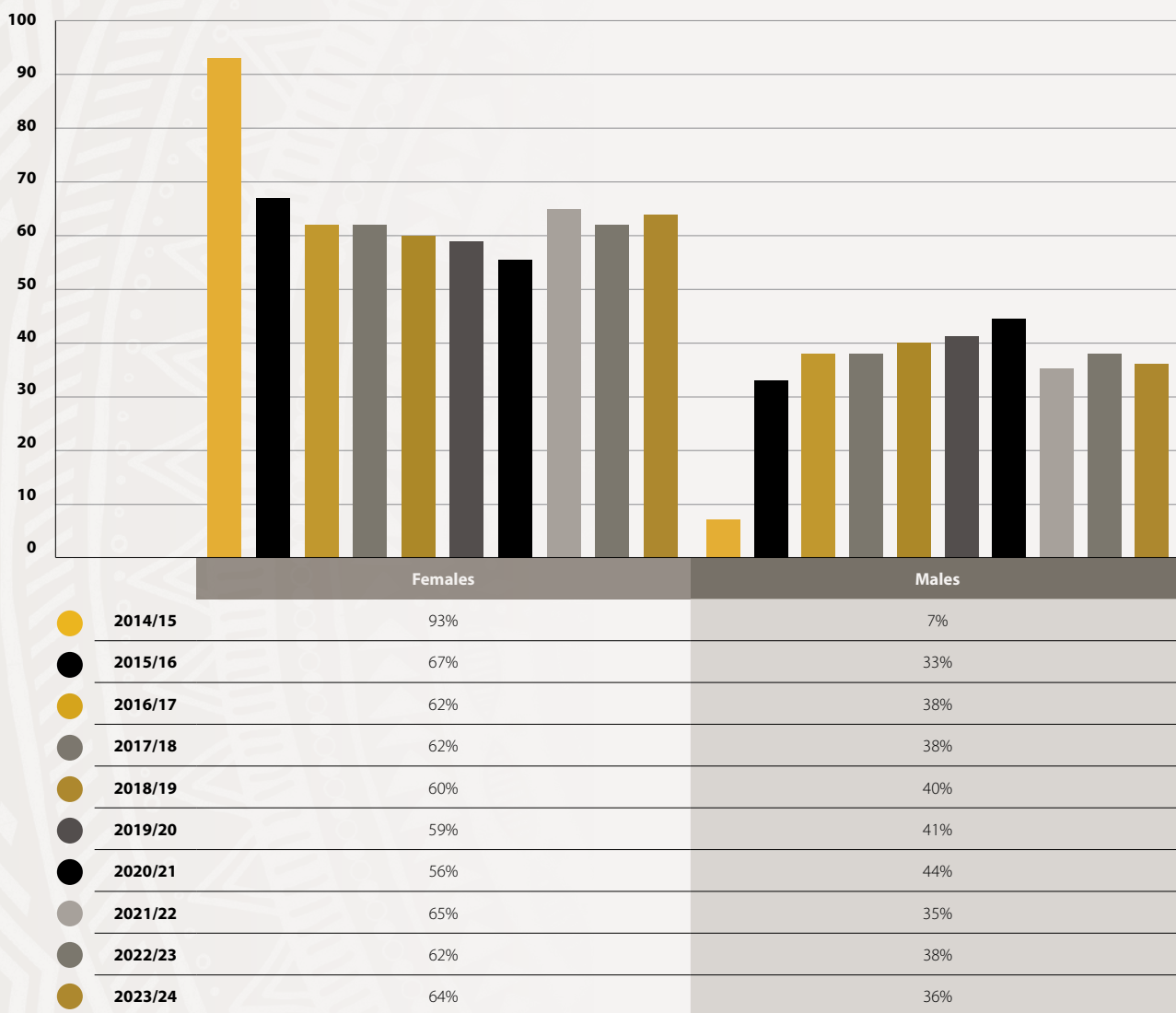
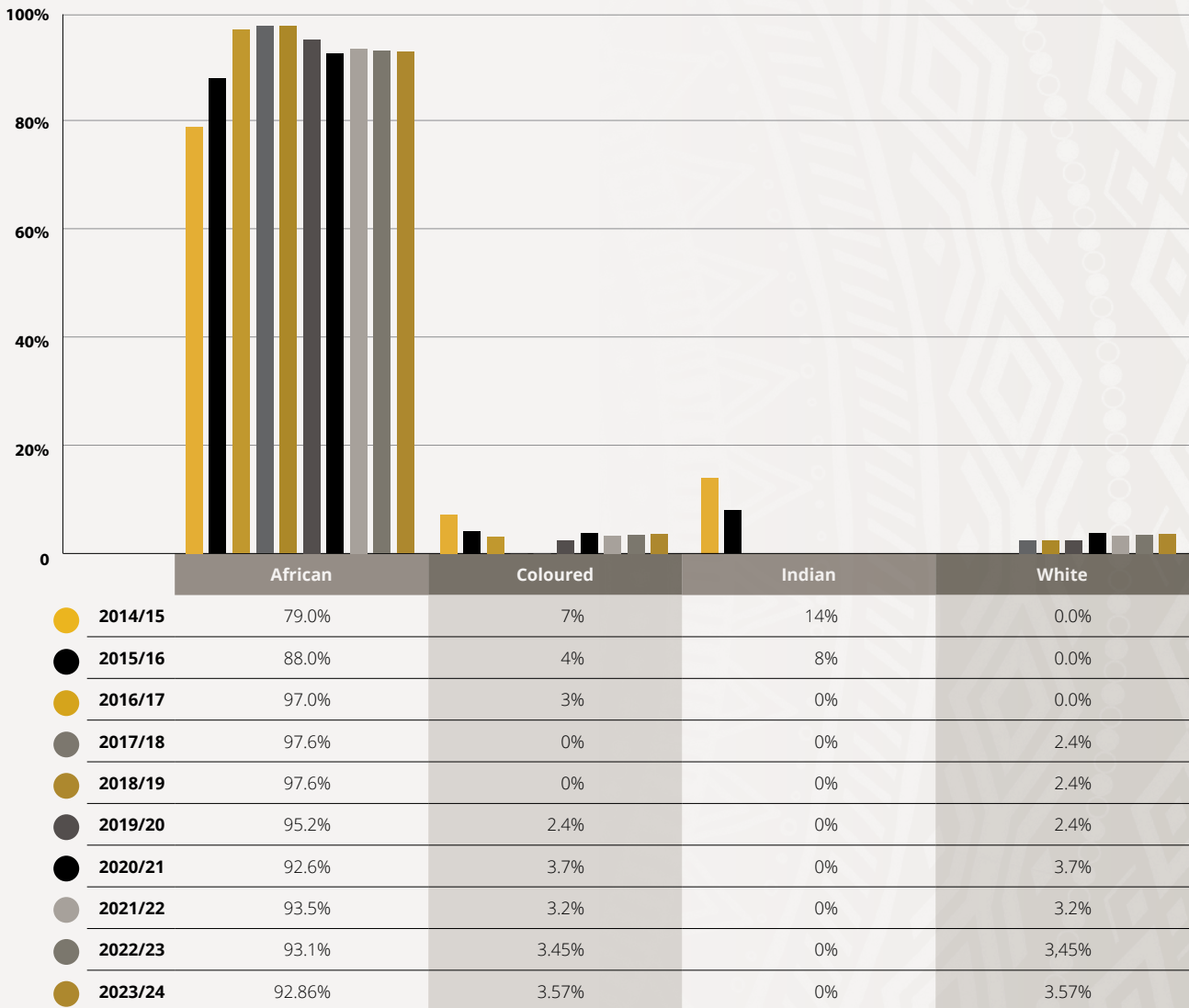


Figure 5: Race profile of NIHSS employees (2014/15 – 2023/24)

The NIHSS strives to build and maintain an organisational culture that is responsive to the needs of stakeholders, including employees, while also embodying accountability and responsibility and an appreciation of high ethical standards. As

evidenced by the significant investment the Institute makes in training and development for employees at all levels, the NIHSS's skills profile is equal to the task of serving the HSS scholarly community in South Africa and beyond.



SECTION D

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE



NIHSS Staff with the founding CEO of the NIHSS and the CEO of the HSRC Prof Sarah Mosoetsa at the HSS Awards 14 March 2024

NIHSS GOVERNANCE

As a steward of public funds, the National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences (NIHSS) maintains a steadfast commitment to ethical leadership, robust internal controls and effective governance structures.

NIHSS BOARD AND TRANSITION

As of the reporting period, the NIHSS is still in a transitional phase following the conclusion of the previous Board's term on 30 June 2022. Since then, we have not appointed a new board. Recognising the critical role of governance in our operations, we are currently in the interim phase of appointing a new board. This interim board will play a crucial role in facilitating the transition process and ensuring continuity, stability and effective leadership.

RISK MANAGEMENT AND ASSESSMENT

After the Board's term ended, the Risk Management Framework, which was implemented in the 2020/21 financial year, together with the Risk Register, was monitored by management in the 2023/24 financial year. The previously approved policies serve as a

structure and guidelines for decision-making, ensuring the proper utilisation of the Institute's resources. The Institute has approved policies on ICT, governance, fraud prevention, conflict of interest, finance and supply chain management, among others.

INTERNAL CONTROLS

Internal committees, such as the ICT Steering Committee and the Risk Committee, have quarterly meetings to ensure the upholding of rigorous governance standards and compliance with legislative and regulatory requirements, ensuring transparency and accountability in all operations.

The internal auditors are responsible for assessing key controls for adequacy and effectiveness. Internal audit aids in the assessment of significant organisational risks and the review of the adequacy of internal control systems, providing assurance regarding the adequacy and effectiveness of internal financial controls and systems.

Internal audit operates under a formal mandate, in full compliance with the International Professional Practices Framework for Internal Audit (Standards), and uses leading risk-based and integrated methodologies.

As in previous years, the NIHSS outsourced the internal audit function to an independent firm, Nexia SAB&T (SAB&T). SAB&T's mandate is supported by unrestricted access to the Chief Financial Officer.

The duties of SAB&T as the internal auditors during the year under review were as follows:

- Implement the third year of the Annual Internal Audit Plan (part of the three-year Coverage Plan approved by the Audit and Risk Committee during the 2022/23 financial year). This includes any special tasks or projects, as appropriate, requested by the Audit and Risk Committee and executive management.
- Provide a professional internal audit capability with sufficient knowledge, skills and experience to meet the requirements of the NIHSS;
- Keep management informed of emerging trends and successful practices in internal auditing; and
- In the event of suspected significant fraudulent activities within the organisation, assist in the investigation of such activities and notify management and the Audit and Risk Committee of the findings.

During the 2023/24 financial year, internal audit activities included a financial management review of ICT vulnerability, a review of performance information and core functions, a follow-up of external and internal audit findings and a compliance review.

The evidence obtained from the audits performed for the 2023/24 financial year indicated that the processes and related systems of internal controls require improvements in the areas reviewed. These improvements are necessary to provide reasonable assurance that the NIHSS's goals and objectives in these areas will be achieved efficiently and effectively.

The results of these audit activities have been discussed with management and appropriate action plans developed to mitigate the risks.

EXTERNAL AUDIT

The Auditor-General South Africa (AGSA) is the external auditor, responsible for independently auditing and reporting on the NIHSS annual financial statements and performance information.

COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS AND REGULATIONS

The previous Board established governance structures and frameworks to assist the Institute's compliance with legislative and regulatory requirements, as well as corporate governance best practices. To the extent possible, the NIHSS complied with applicable laws and regulatory frameworks during the period under review. Where instances of non-compliance were detected and/or observed, corrective measures were implemented.

FRAUD AND CORRUPTION

The NIHSS maintains a robust Fraud Prevention Plan, including the implementation of a fraud and ethics hotline in the 2021/2022 financial year. The Fraud Prevention Plan continued to be monitored by management in the 2023/24 financial year, underscoring its commitment to ethical conduct and zero tolerance for fraud. The plan is integral to promoting transparency and applies to any fraud, or suspected fraud, involving employees, consultants, vendors, contractors, outside agencies and any other parties in a business relationship with the Institute. It also provides internal mechanisms for the detection and reporting of fraudulent activities through the relevant governance structures and regulatory bodies. Details of the reported fraud cases in the previous financial years are contained in Note 34 of the Annual Financial Statements.

MINIMISING CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Three main processes have been implemented to reduce conflicts of interest that may arise within the Supply Chain Management (SCM) portfolio. These relate to employees joining the Institute, suppliers doing business with it and staff members involved in tender or bid processes.

On joining the NIHSS, employees receive induction on the Institute's Code of Ethics and Business Conduct, as well as on its core values of ubuntu, teamwork, excellence, accountability, integrity, creativity and respect.

All suppliers conducting business with the NIHSS must sign a declaration of interest form (SBD04 form), whereby they declare any conflict of interest they might have in the procurement process concerned.

All SCM officials and staff members involved in bid specification, evaluation and adjudication are required to sign a declaration of interest form for all tenders undertaken by the Institute.

During the period under review, no instances of conflict of interest were declared. Should any cases be declared in future, the individual will not participate in the procurement process concerned.



SECTION E

STAKEHOLDER RELATIONS



15th BRICS Academic Forum, South Africa, 2023

Healthy stakeholder relationships are a prerequisite for the Institute's ability to carry out its mandate of enhancing and supporting the humanities and social sciences (HSS). It is through the continued acceptance and cooperation of our key stakeholders that the Institute has succeeded in establishing itself as a credible, authoritative facilitator of HSS development.

In strengthening and deepening the connections with different stakeholder groups, the Institute makes use of a range of channels and platforms. These include workshops, colloquiums, dialogues, conferences, book launches and other events, tailored to the needs of stakeholders groups and designed to foster value-adding, cohesive relationships.

Key stakeholder groups that influence or are influenced by the NIHSS include partners such as SAHUDA, CODESRIA, public universities, think tanks and professional associations, as well as the Institute's community of master's and doctoral fellows, postdoctoral fellows, mentors and researchers participating in or leading our Catalytic Research Projects, Humanities Hubs, Working Groups and international collaborations.

In each stakeholder relationship, there are specific deliverables that the NIHSS works towards.

Table 19: Stakeholders and related NIHSS deliverables

Stakeholder	Deliverables
South African doctoral and master's students	The Institute provides funding and academic support for students undertaking HSS doctoral and master's studies.
African Pathways Programme students	The NIHSS works with partners such as CODESRIA to enable non-South African HSS doctoral students to study at public universities in South Africa.
Postdoctoral research fellowships	Increased funding for HSS postdoctoral research fellows contributes to the academic growth of emerging academics and researchers.
Doctoral alumni	Through opportunities such as the annual HSS Alumni Conference, alumni network, share ideas, explore future collaborations and receive support for their transition to the next phases in their careers.
Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET)	The DHET provides funding for the Institute's operations. For the purposes of accountability and transparency, the NIHSS: • conducts comprehensive reporting at agreed levels; • carries out performance monitoring in terms of the NIHSS mandate; • provides policy advice on matters related to the HSS; • advises the Minister of Higher Education and Training and Government on HSS-related matters; • Promotes increased and guided academic discourse about the crucial social issues that face South African citizens (thus helping to influence the character of the South African community and contributing to the creation of a more humane, responsible and just society).
Doctoral Schools mentors	These highly experienced, respected HSS academics provide support for NIHSS-funded students on their master's and doctoral journeys.
NIHSS employees	In attracting and retaining high-calibre employees, the NIHSS strives to offer: • favourable working conditions; • support for staff enrolled for studies; and • Opportunities to develop their careers, community leadership and academic growth.
Funders	Potential partnerships for ad hoc projects in line with agreed upon service levels
Higher education institutions (HEIs)	The Institute contributes to the status and reputation of HSS faculties at HEI institutions by funding research through Catalytic Research Projects and Working Groups and by providing funding and academic support for master's and doctoral students. In turn, HEIs administer NIHSS scholarships and research funding through their internal financial processes.
National Skills Fund (NSF)	The NSF funds all the NIHSS's award projects (including the African Pathways Programme scholarship.
South African Humanities Deans' Association (SAHUDA)	SAHUDA and the NIHSS collaborate in the screening of applications for Doctoral Schools and the Scholarships Programme through panel reviews.
Non-governmental organisations (NGOs)	The NIHSS seeks to enter into mutually beneficial partnerships for ad hoc projects in line with agreed upon service levels.
South African citizens	The NIHSS strives to: • demonstrate social responsibility and societal responsiveness; • offer informed perspectives to help address the socio-economic challenges facing South Africa and her citizens; • provide advice to civil society bodies on HSS-related matters; and • stimulate increased and guided public discourse about the crucial social issues facing citizens, to help build a better South Africa for all.
BRICS partner countries	Through the SABTT, the Institute engages with other official think tanks from the BRICS countries.
Department of International Relations and Cooperation	The NIHSS fosters a close working relationship between the SABTT and government to align the SABTT with government policy.
BRICS Think Tank Council (BTTC), a network of five official think tanks from the BRICS countries	The NIHSS responsible for the coordination and management of all SABTT activities in relation to the BTTC.
SA Parliament	As and when required, the Institute provide sound and independent policy advice on HSS matters.



Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS)

- CASS is a Chinese research institute and think tank, focused on the social sciences, policymaking and philosophy. Through this partnership, CASS and the NIHSS fund and oversee collaborative research between South African and Chinese researchers in the HSS.



South African Humanities Deans' Association (SAHUDA)

- SAHUDA comprises the Deans of Humanities at South African public universities;
- It is a strategic NIHSS partner who played an instrumental part in initiating the Institute
- SAHUDA and the NIHSS collaborate in awarding and monitoring scholarships for PhD studies.

Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA)

- CODESRIA is a pan-African research organisation that partners the NIHSS in:
- awarding scholarships for full-time non-South African PhD students based at South African universities.
 - Awarding mobility grants to South African researchers and postgraduate students pursuing collaborations and scholarship within the African continent.



Indian Council for Social Science Research (ICSSR)

- The ICSSR is the national body overseeing research in the social sciences in India.
- It is a key international NIHSS partner and jointly funds collaborative research between India and South Africa.

KEY PARTNERSHIPS

Maintaining sound relationships with all key stakeholders and partners enables the NIHSS to elevate HSS scholarship and research in South Africa and further afield through focused and effective collaboration and cooperation.





SECTION F

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS



NIHSS Staff with the founding CEO of the NIHSS and the CEO of the HSRC Prof Sarah Mosoetsa at the HSS Awards 14 March 2024.

REPORT OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL TO THE MINISTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND INNOVATION ON THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

REPORT ON THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. I have reviewed the financial statements of the National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences (NIHSS) set out on pages 93 to 127, which comprise the statement of financial position as at 31 March 2024, statement of financial performance, statement of changes in net assets, cash flow statement and statement of comparison of budget and actual amounts for the year then ended, as well as notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

Conclusion

2. Based on my review, nothing has come to my attention that causes me to believe that the financial statements do not present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences 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 Higher Education Act 101 of 1997.

Responsibilities of the accounting authority for the financial statements

3. The accounting authority is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with GRAP and the requirements of the Higher Education Act 101 of 1997, and for such internal control as the accounting authority determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.
4. In preparing the financial statements, the accounting authority is responsible for assessing the institute's ability to continue as a going concern; disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern; and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the appropriate governance structure either intends to liquidate the institute or to cease operations or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Responsibilities of the auditor-general for the audit of the financial statements

5. My responsibility is to express a conclusion on the accompanying financial statements. I conducted my review in accordance with the International Standard on Review

Engagements (ISRE) 2400 (Revised), *Engagements to review historical financial statements*. The standard requires me to conclude on whether anything has come to my attention that causes me to believe that the financial statements, taken as a whole, are not prepared in all material respects in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework. This standard also requires me to comply with relevant ethical requirements.

7. A review of financial statements in accordance with ISRE 2400 (Revised) is a limited assurance engagement. I am required to perform procedures, primarily consisting of making inquiries of management and others within the auditee, as appropriate, and applying analytical procedures, and evaluating the evidence obtained.
8. The procedures performed in a review engagement are substantially less than those performed in an audit conducted in accordance with International Standards on Auditing. Accordingly, I do not express an audit opinion on these financial statements.

REPORT ON THE ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

8. In accordance with the Public Audit Act 25 of 2004 (PAA) and the general notice issued in terms thereof, I must audit and report on the usefulness and reliability of the reported performance information against predetermined objectives for the selected material performance indicators presented in the annual performance report. The accounting authority is responsible for the preparation of the annual performance report.
9. The institute did not have an approved annual performance plan that defined the performance planned for the year, as required higher education act, section 381 2(d). Without the plan, the annual performance report is of little value as it does not account for performance against predetermined objectives.

REPORT ON COMPLIANCE WITH LEGISLATION

10. In accordance with the PAA and the general notice issued in terms thereof, I must audit and report on compliance with applicable legislation relating to financial matters, financial management and other related matters. The accounting authority is responsible for the institute's compliance with legislation.
11. I performed procedures to test compliance with selected requirements in key legislation in accordance with the Auditor-General South Africa (AGSA) findings engagement methodology. This engagement is not an assurance engagement. Accordingly, I do not express an assurance opinion or conclusion.
12. Through an established AGSA process, I selected requirements in key legislation for compliance testing that are relevant to the financial and performance management of the institute, clear to allow consistent measurement and evaluation, while also sufficiently detailed and readily available to report in an understandable manner. The selected legislative requirements are included in the annexure to this auditor's report.
13. I did not identify any material non-compliance with the selected legislative requirements.

INTERNAL CONTROL DEFICIENCIES

14. I considered internal control relevant to my engagement on the financial statements, annual performance report and compliance with applicable legislation; however, my objective was not to express any form of assurance on it.
15. The matter reported below is limited to the significant internal control deficiency that resulted in the finding on the annual performance report included in this report.
16. The institute did not have a governing board as required by the Higher Education Act. This absence hindered its ability to effectively engage with the Department of Higher Education and Training for approval of the institute's annual performance plan and budget which consequently resulted in the finding on the annual performance report, as reported above.

PROFESSIONAL ETHICS AND QUALITY CONTROL

17. I am independent of the institute in accordance with the *International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' International code of ethics for professional accountants (including International Independence Standards) (IESBA code)* as well as other ethical requirements that are relevant to my engagements in South Africa. I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements and the IESBA code.
18. In accordance with the International Standard on Quality Management 1, the AGSA maintains a comprehensive system of quality management that includes documented policies and procedures on compliance with ethical requirements and professional standards.

Auditor-General

Pretoria

30 June 2024



ANNEXURE TO THE AUDITOR'S REPORT

Compliance with legislation – selected legislative requirements

The selected legislative requirements are as follows:

Legislation	Sections or regulations
Higher Education Act 101 of 1997	Section 49S Section 49U
Prevention and Combating of Corrupt Activities Act 12 of 2004	Section 34(1)



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THE REPORTS AND STATEMENTS SET OUT BELOW COMPRISE THE AUDITED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PRESENTED TO THE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE:

Statement of Financial Position	93
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The audited annual financial statements set out on page 93, which have been prepared on the going concern basis, were approved by the Acting Director on 30 June 2024 and were signed on its behalf by:

Ms. Auriel Niemack
Acting Director, Office of the CEO

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

Figures in Rands	Notes	2024	2023
Assets			
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	3	2,375,366	3,248,477
Intangible assets	4	1,941,927	1,619,276
		4,317,293	4,867,753
Current assets			
Inventories	7	217,176	342,661
Receivables from exchange transactions	8	959,814	1,180,251
Prepayments	6	554,747	469,242
Cash and cash equivalents	9	47,507,745	134,037,955
		49,239,482	136,030,109
Total assets		53,556,775	140,897,862
Liabilities			
Current liabilities			
Finance lease obligation	10	-	118,568
Operating lease liability		581,166	848,079
Payables from exchange transactions	5	3,075,491	3,749,972
Trade and other payables from non-exchange transactions	11	3,623,756	9,725,035
Provisions	12	991,752	987,147
Bank Overdraft	9	66,516	70,778
Total liabilities		8,338,681	15,499,579
Net assets		45,218,094	125,398,283
Accumulated surplus		45,218,094	125,398,283
Total net assets		45,218,094	125,398,283

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE FOR YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2024

Figures in Rands	Notes	2024	2023
Revenue			
Revenue from exchange transactions			
Other income		24,358	958,548
Investment revenue	14	6,411,504	4,188,772
Total revenue from exchange transactions		6,435,862	5,147,320
Revenue from non-exchange transactions			
Transfer revenue			
Government grants and subsidies	15	40,422,000	142,417,103
Total revenue from non-exchange transactions		40,422,000	142,417,103
Total revenue from exchange transactions		6,435,862	5,147,320
Total revenue from non-exchange transactions		40,422,000	142,417,103
Total revenue	13	46,857,862	147,564,423
Expenditure			
Employee-related costs	16	(22,728,121)	(24,305,637)
Depreciation and amortisation	17	(1,529,494)	(2,257,533)
Lease rentals on operating lease and utilities	21	(3,419,876)	(3,450,777)
Loss on disposal of assets and liabilities		(59,429)	(64,434)
General expenses	19	(9,987,294)	(15,216,707)
Project expenses	18	(85,915,236)	(91,544,032)
Project administration fees	19	(3,826,370)	(3,954,165)
Total expenditure		(127,465,820)	(140,793,285)
Surplus (deficit) or the year		(80,607,958)	6,771,138

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

Figures in Rands	Notes	Accumulated surplus / deficit	Total net assets
Balance at 01 April 2022		25,810,331	25,810,331
Changes in net assets		118,440,072	118,440,072
Adjustment retained earnings		187,073	187,073
Net income (losses) recognised directly in net assets		118,627,145	118,627,145
Surplus for the year		6,771,138	6,771,138
Total recognised income and expenses for the year		125,211,210	125,211,210
Total changes		125,211,210	125,211,210
Restated* Balance at 01 April 2023		125,398,283	125,398,283
Changes in net assets			
Surplus for the year		(80,607,959)	(80,607,959)
Adjustment to retained earnings		427,770	427,770
Total changes		(80,180,189)	(80,180,189)
Balance at 31 March 2024		45,218,094	45,218,094

CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2024

Figures in Rands	Notes	2024	2023
Cash flows from operating activities			
Receipts			
Grants		40,550,186	145,054,401
Interest income		6,411,504	4,188,772
Other Income		24,358	-
		46,986,048	149,243,173
Payments			
Compensation of employees and Board members		(22,728,123)	(24,376,828)
Payment to suppliers		(20,003,801)	(21,073,738)
Project expenses		(89,741,606)	(95,498,191)
		(132,473,530)	(140,948,757)
Net cash flows from operating activities	20	(85,487,482)	8,294,416
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	3	(528,406)	(967,268)
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment	3	36,691	38,874
Purchase of other intangible assets	4	(546,749)	(974,616)
Net cash flows from investing activities		(1,038,464)	(1,903,010)
Cash flows from financing activities			
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		(86,525,946)	6,391,406
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		133,967,177	127,575,771
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	9	47,441,231	133,967,177

STATEMENT OF COMPARISON OF BUDGET AND ACTUAL AMOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2024

Budget on Cash Basis

Figures in Rands	Approved budget	Adjustments	Final budget	Actual amounts on comparable basis	Difference between final budget and actual	Reference
Statement of financial performance						
Revenue						
Revenue from exchange transactions						
Other income	-	-	-	24,358	24,358	
Interest received – investment -	-	-	-	6,411,504	6,411,504	30
Total revenue from exchange - transactions	-	-	-	6,435,862	6,435,862	
Revenue from non-exchange transactions						
Transfer revenue						
Government funding - operations	39,862,000	-	39,862,000	39,862,000	-	30
Government funding - projects	220,540,000	-	220,540,000	560,000	(219,980,000)	30
Total revenue from non-exchange transactions	260,402,000	-	260,402,000	40,422,000	(219,980,000)	
Total revenue	260,402,000	-	260,402,000	46,857,862	(213,544,138)	
Expenditure						
Operating Expenditure	39,862,000	-	39,862,000	37,724,215	(2,137,785)	30
Scholarships and Programmes	220,540,000	-	220,540,000	89,741,606	(130,798,394)	30
Total expenditure	260,402,000	-	260,402,000	127,465,821	132,936,179	
Deficit for the year	-	-	-	(80,607,959)	(80,607,959)	

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1. Presentation of audited annual financial statements

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with, and comply with, effective Standards of Generally Recognized Accounting Practice (GRAP) including any interpretations, guidelines and directives issued by the Accounting Standards Board. The implementation of new GRAP standards has not resulted in any change in accounting policy.

These financial statements have been prepared on an accrual basis of accounting and are in accordance with historical cost convention as the basis of measurement, unless specified otherwise.

A summary of the significant accounting policies, which have been consistently applied in the preparation of these financial statements, are disclosed below.

1.1 Presentation currency

These audited annual financial statements are presented in South African Rand, which is the functional currency of the NIHSS.

1.2 Going concern assumption

These audited annual financial statements have been prepared based on the expectation that the entity will continue to operate as a going concern for at least the next 12 months. A review process was conducted by a review panel as appointed by the Minister and assessed the mandate of the NIHSS with a recommendation send through to the Department in terms of its extension. During the review of the mandate, a budget was allocated and unapproved for the current year ended 31 March 2024. The Annual Performance Plan for the financial year ended 31 March 2025 has been submitted to the DHET. Furthermore, a budget vote has been approved for the NIHSS for the next 3 financial years (from 2022/23 to 2024/25 financial year) in terms of the Medium Term Expenditure Framework.

1.3 Property, plant and equipment

Property, plant and equipment are initially measured at cost.

The cost of an item of property, plant and equipment is the purchase price and other costs attributable to bring the asset to the location and condition necessary for it to be capable of operating in the manner intended by management. Trade discounts and rebates are deducted in arriving at the cost.

Recognition of costs in the carrying amount of an item of property, plant and equipment ceases when the item is in the location and condition necessary for it to be capable of operating in the manner intended by management.

Property, plant and equipment are depreciated on the straight-line basis over their expected useful lives to their estimated residual value.

Property, plant and equipment are carried at cost less accumulated depreciation and any impairment losses.

The useful lives of items of property, plant and equipment have been assessed as follows:

Item	Depreciation method	Average useful life
Furniture and fixtures	Straight-line	9 - 11 years
Office equipment	Straight-line	4 - 12 years
IT equipment	Straight-line	2 - 10 years
Office equipment - Project	Straight-line	4 - 12 years
Leasehold improvements	Straight-line	Over the lease term (3 -10years)

The entity assesses at each reporting date whether there is any indication that the entity expectations about the residual value and the useful life of an asset have changed since the preceding reporting date. If any such indication exists, the entity revises the expected useful life and/or residual value accordingly. The change is accounted for as a change in an accounting estimate.

Items of property, plant and equipment are derecognized when the asset is disposed of or when there are no further economic benefits or service potential expected from the use of the asset.

The gain or loss arising from the derecognition of an item of property, plant and equipment is included in surplus or deficit when the item is derecognized. The gain or loss arising from the derecognition of an item of property, plant and equipment is determined as the difference between the net disposal proceeds, if any, and the carrying amount of the item.

The entity separately discloses expenditure to repair and maintain property, plant and equipment in the notes to the financial statements (see note 3).

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Impairment of assets

Assets are annually assessed, by considering internal and external factors where there is an indication of impairment.

If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated at the higher of fair value less cost to sell and its value in use.

For the current financial year, indicators considered were assets which had a zero net book value. No external factors existed that indicated impairment of assets.

1.4 Intangible assets

An intangible asset is initially measured at cost.

Intangible assets are carried at cost less any accumulated amortisation and any impairment losses.

Amortisation is provided to write down the intangible assets, on a straight-line basis, to their residual values as follows:

Item	Depreciation method	Average useful life
Computer software, other	Straight-line	2 - 10 years

An assessment is done at each reporting period of whether there is any indication that the entity's expectation about the residual values and the useful lives of intangible assets have changed since the preceding reporting period. If any such indication exists, the expected useful lives and/or residual values are revised accordingly.

The gain or loss is the difference between the net disposal proceeds, if any, and the carrying amount. It is recognized in surplus or deficit when the asset is derecognized.

Where the carrying amount of an intangible asset is greater than its estimated recoverable service amount, it is written down immediately to its recoverable amount (i.e. impairment losses are recognized).

1.5 Financial instruments

A financial instrument is any contract that gives rise to a financial asset of one entity and a financial liability or a residual interest of another entity.

Initial recognition

The NIHSS recognizes a financial asset or a financial liability in its statement of financial position when the entity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Initial measurement

Financial assets and financial liabilities are measured at fair value plus, in case of a financial asset or financial liability not subsequently measured at fair value, transaction costs that are directly attributable to the acquisition or issue of financial instrument.

1.5.1 Financial assets

All financial assets of the NIHSS are categorized as Cash and cash equivalents, Receivables from exchange and non- exchange transactions. The classification depends on the nature and purpose of the financial assets and is determined at the time of initial recognition.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents are stated at their fair value, which is the amount of cash on hand at year-end.

Impairment of financial assets

Financial assets are assessed for indicators of impairment at each year end.

Financial assets are impaired where there is objective evidence that, as a result of one or more events that occurred after the initial recognition of the financial asset, the estimated future cash flows of the investment have been impacted. For financial assets carried at amortized cost, the amount of the impairment is the difference between the asset's carrying amount and the present value of estimated future cash flows, discounted at the original effective interest rate.

The carrying amount of the financial asset is reduced by the impairment loss directly for all financial assets with the exception of trade receivables where the carrying amount is reduced through the use of an allowance account. When a trade receivable is uncollectible, it is written off against the allowance account. Subsequent recoveries of amounts previously written off are credited against the allowance account. Changes in the carrying amount of the allowance account are recognized in the surplus or deficit.

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Derecognition

A financial asset shall be derecognized when the NIHSS realizes the contractual rights to benefits specified in the contract, the rights expire and the NIHSS surrenders those rights, or the NIHSS loses control of the contractual rights that comprise a financial assets. On derecognition, the difference between the carrying amount of the financial asset and the sum of the proceeds received shall be recognized in the net surplus or deficit for the period.

1.5.2 Financial liabilities

Financial liabilities include Trade and other payables from exchange and non-exchange transactions.

All financial liabilities of the NIHSS are classified as financial liabilities at amortized cost. The classification depends on the nature and purpose of the financial liabilities and is determined at the time of initial recognition.

Other financial liabilities

Other financial liabilities are initially measured at fair value, net of transaction costs.

Other financial liabilities are subsequently measured at amortized cost using the effective interest method, with interest expense recognized on an effective yield basis. The effective interest method is a method of calculating the amortized cost of a financial liability and of allocating interest expense over the relevant period. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash payments through the expected life of the financial liability or, where appropriate, a shorter period.

Derecognition

A financial liability is derecognized when the obligation specified in the contract is discharged, cancelled or expires. On derecognition, the difference between the carrying amount of the financial liability and the amount paid is included in the net surplus or deficit for the period.

Offsetting financial instruments

Financial assets and financial liabilities are offset if there is any intention to either settle on a net basis, or realize the asset and settle the liability simultaneously and a legally enforceable right to offset exists.

1.6 Tax

No provision has been made for taxation, as the NIHSS is exempt from income tax in terms of Section 10 (1) (cA) (i) of the Income Tax Act, 1962 (Act 58 of 1962).

1.7 Leases

A lease is classified as a finance lease if it transfers substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership. A lease is classified as an operating lease if it does not transfer substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership.

Finance lease refer to a contract that transfers the risk, rewards, rights and obligations incidental to ownership to the lessee and is recorded as a purchase of property, plant and equipment by means of long terms borrowing. All other leases are classified as operating leases.

Payments made under operating leases (leases other than finance leases) are charged to the Statement of Financial Performance on a straight-line basis over the period of the lease. When operating lease is terminated before the lease period has expired, any payment required to be made to the lessor by way of penalty is recognized as an expense in the period in which termination takes place.

Finance leases – lessee

Finance leases are recognized as assets and liabilities in the statement of financial position at amounts equal to the fair value of the leased property or, if lower, the present value of the minimum lease payments. The corresponding liability to the lessor is included in the statement of financial position as a finance lease obligation.

The discount rate used in calculating the present value of the minimum lease payments is the interest rate implicit in the lease.

Minimum lease payments are apportioned between the finance charge and reduction of the outstanding liability. The finance charge is allocated to each period during the lease term so as to produce a constant periodic rate of on the remaining balance of the liability. The finance charge is allocated to each period during the lease term so as to produce a constant periodic rate on the remaining balance of the liability. This has been disclosed under Note 10 of the Annual Financial Statements.

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Operating leases – lessor

Operating lease revenue is recognized as revenue on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

Initial direct costs incurred in negotiating and arranging operating leases are added to the carrying amount of the leased asset and recognized as an expense over the lease term on the same basis as the lease revenue.

The aggregate cost of incentives is recognized as a reduction of rental revenue over the lease term on a straight-line basis.

The aggregate benefit of incentives is recognized as a reduction of rental expense over the lease term on a straight-line basis.

Income for leases is disclosed under revenue in statement of financial performance.

Operating leases – lessee

Operating lease payments are recognized as an expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term. The difference between the amounts recognized as an expense and the contractual payments are recognized as an operating lease asset or liability.

1.8 Inventories

Inventories consist of consumables on hand at the reporting date and are measured at cost. An individual inventory item whose cost does not exceed R1 000 is recognized, on acquisition, in surplus or deficit.

Subsequently inventories are measured at the lower of cost and net replacement value.

1.9 Employee benefits

The cost of employee benefits is recognized during the period in which the employee renders the related service. Employee entitlements are recognized when they accrue to employees. A provision is made for the estimated liability as a result of services rendered by employees up to the reporting date.

Termination benefits are recognized and expensed only when the payment is made.

Liabilities for annual leave are recognized as they accrue to employees. The NIHSS recognizes the leave obligation during the vesting period based on the best available estimate of the

accumulated leave expected to vest. The liability is based on the total amount of leave days due to employees at year end and also on the total remuneration package of the employee. The leave liability is recognized as an accrual.

No provision has been made for retirement benefits as the NIHSS does not provide for retirement benefits for its employees.

1.10 Provisions and contingencies

Provisions are recognised when:

- the entity has a present obligation as a result of a past event;
- it is probable that an outflow of resources embodying economic benefits or service potential will be required to settle the obligation; and
- a reliable estimate can be made of the obligation.

The amount of a provision is the best estimate of the expenditure expected to be required to settle the present obligation at the reporting date.

Contingent liabilities are possible obligations whose existence will be confirmed by the occurrence or non-occurrence of an uncertain future event not wholly within the control of the NIHSS. Contingent liabilities are not recognized but are disclosed in the notes to these financial statements, unless the possibility of an outflow of resources embodying economic benefits or service potential is remote.

Contingent assets are possible assets that arise from past events, and whose existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the NIHSS. Contingent assets are not recognized in financial statements but disclosed in the notes to the financial statements where an inflow of economic benefits or service potential is probable.

1.11 Commitments

Commitments are disclosed where the NIHSS has, in the normal course of its operations, entered into a contractual agreement with third parties for project expenses which are yet due for payment.

Commitments are measured at the amount the entity would pay to settle the obligation to a third party at reporting date. Commitments are included in the disclosure note to these financial statements.

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1.12 Revenue from exchange transactions

Revenue from exchange transactions is recognized when it is probable that future economic benefits or service potential will flow to the NIHSS and these benefits can be measured reliably. Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable.

Interest income is accrued on a time proportionate basis, taking into account the principal outstanding and effective interest rate over the period to maturity.

1.13 Revenue from non-exchange transactions

Non-exchange revenue transactions result in resources being received by the NIHSS, usually in accordance with a binding arrangement.

When the NIHSS receives resources as a result of a non-exchange transaction, it recognizes an asset and revenue in the period that the arrangement becomes binding and when it is probable that the NIHSS will receive economic benefits or service potential and it can make a reliable measure of the resources transferred.

Where the resources transferred to the NIHSS are subject to the fulfilment of specific conditions, it recognizes an asset and a corresponding liability. As and when the conditions are fulfilled, the liability is reduced and revenue is recognized.

The asset and the corresponding revenue are measured on the basis of the fair value of the asset on initial recognition.

The following sources of receipts are considered revenue from non-exchange transactions:

Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) – operations funding

The MTEF (Medium Term Expenditure Framework – three-year rolling government budget) allocated funding received from the DHET.

The funding for the NIHSS operations is not conditional and revenue is recognised when the funds are received.

National Skills Fund (NSF)

The NSF funds all the NIHSS award projects (including the African Pathway scholarship).

The funds, from inception of the NIHSS until 31 March 2020, for the projects were conditional and revenue is only recognized to the extent that expenditure is incurred.

The funds from 1 April 2020 are not conditional and therefore revenue recognized in the period that the arrangement becomes binding.

1.14 Comparative figures

The NIHSS was established on 5 December 2013. The financial period for the 2022/23 financial year is over a 12 month period from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023.

Where there has been a change in accounting estimate to the extent that it gives rise to changes in assets and liabilities, or relates to an item of net assets, the change is recognized by adjusting the carrying amount of the related asset, liability or item of net assets in the period of the change. The comparative amounts are therefore not adjusted.

1.15 Fruitless and wasteful expenditure

Fruitless expenditure means expenditure which was made in vain and would have been avoided had reasonable care been exercised. All expenditure relating to fruitless and wasteful expenditure is recognized as an expense in the statement of financial performance in the year that the expenditure was incurred. The expenditure is classified in accordance with the nature of the expense, and where recovered it is subsequently accounted for as revenue in the Statement of Financial Performance.

1.16 Irregular expenditure

Irregular expenditure is expenditure other than unauthorized expenditure, incurred in contravention of or that is not in accordance with the NIHSS supply chain policy.

1.17 Budget information

The approved budget on accrual basis covers the fiscal period from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024.

These financial statements and the approved budget are on the same basis of accounting, therefore, a comparison of actual performance with budgeted amounts for the reporting period has been included in the statement of comparison of budget and actual amounts.

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1.18 Related parties

Parties are considered to be related if one party has the ability to control the other party or exercise significant influence over the other party in making financial and operating decisions or if the related party entity or another entity are subject to common control.

Where such a situation exists, the nature and type of transactions and relationships between parties are disclosed in the notes to these financial statements.

1.19 Events after reporting date

Events after reporting date are those events, whether favorable and unfavorable, that occur between the reporting date and the date when the financial statements are approved. Two types of events can be identified:

- those that provide evidence of conditions that existed at the reporting date (adjusting events after the reporting date); and
- those that are indicative of conditions that arose after the reporting date (non-adjusting events after the reporting date).

The NIHSS will adjust the amount recognized in the financial statements to reflect adjusting events after the reporting date once the event occurred.

The NIHSS will disclose the nature of the event and an estimate of its financial effect or a statement that such estimate cannot be made in respect of all material non-adjusting events, where non-disclosure could influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements.

1.20 Significant judgments and sources of estimation uncertainty

In preparing these financial statements, management is required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts represented in these financial statements and related disclosures. Use of available information and the application of judgement is inherent in the formation of estimates. Actual results in the future could differ from these estimates which may be material to these financial statements.

The following are the key assumptions concerning the future, and other key sources of estimation uncertainty at year end, that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year:

Estimation of useful lives and residual value

An assessment is done at each reporting period whether there is any indication that the entity's expectation about the residual values and the useful lives of property, plant and equipment and intangible assets have changed since the preceding reporting period. If any such indication exists, an estimation of the revised expected useful lives and/or residual values is done.

Impairment of assets

The NIHSS assesses its receivables for impairment at the end of each reporting period. In determining whether an impairment loss should be recorded in surplus or deficit, management makes judgements as to whether there is observable data indicating a measurable decrease in the estimated future cash flows from receivables.

Segment reporting

Management have assessed that the NIHSS operates as one segment both geographically and in service offering. Therefore, Management have not divided the financial information into different segments as required by GRAP 18.

1.21 Reserves

Any surplus funds at the end of the financial year are retained and utilized for project expenditure in the new financial year.

1.22 Reporting period

The reporting period for the 2023/24 financial year is over a 12 month period.

2. General information

The creation of the National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences (NIHSS) to dynamize these fields of study in South Africa's higher education system emerged out of a wide ranging consultative process inaugurated by the then Minister of Higher Education and Training, Dr Bonginkosi Blade Nzimande.

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

In 2010, the then Minister of Higher Education and Training appointed a task team to develop a Charter on humanities and social sciences. This was aimed at affirming the importance of humanities and social sciences as forms of scholarship. The final Report of the Charter was submitted to the Minister at the time on 4 August 2011. One of the key recommendations of the Report was the establishment of an institute for the promotion of humanities and social sciences.

Guided by the overwhelming support for the recommendations from the stakeholders across the entire cultural divide and the establishment of the institute in particular, the Minister then provided for establishment of the National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences (NIHSS) through the Government Gazette Notice No. 37118 on 5 December 2013.

The scope of the NIHSS is that of advancing and coordinating scholarship, research and ethical practice in the fields of the humanities and the social sciences within and through the existing public universities and those to be established or declared in future as public universities.

The functions of the NIHSS are to:

- a) provide services to the higher education sphere within the humanities and social sciences
- b) Advance learning within the specific scope or application of the Institute by ensuring collaboration, co-ordination or collaboration and co-ordination of the work of higher education institutions; and
- c) advise the Minister of Higher Education and Training on matters relating to its specific scope or application, or higher education generally

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

2. New standards and interpretations

2.1 Standards and interpretations issued, but not yet effective

At the date of authorization of these financial statements, there are standards and interpretations in issue but not yet effective. These include the following standards and interpretations that are applicable to the NIHSS and may have an impact on future financial statements:

Standard/ Interpretation:	Effective date:	Expected impact:
GRAP 104 - Financial Instruments	01 April 2025	The standard provides guidance on how an entity recognizes a financial asset or a financial liability in its statement of financial position when, and only when, the entity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument. The amendments to the standard are not effective as at end of financial year.
GRAP 1 - Presentation of financial statements (amended 2022)	To be determined by the Minister of Finance	In terms of the standard when preparing financial statements, management shall make an assessment of an entity's ability to continue as a going concern.

2.2 Standards and interpretations not yet effective or relevant

The following standards and interpretations that have been issued but are not yet effective are not applicable to the NIHSS and will not have an impact on future financial statements:

Standard/ Interpretation:	Effective date:	Expected impact:
GRAP 103 - Heritage assets	To be determined by the Minister of Finance	No significant impact on future disclosures
GRAP 105 on Transfer of Functions Between Entities Under Common Control (amended)	To be determined	No significant impact on future disclosures
IGRAP 22 on Foreign Currency Transactions and Advance Consideration	01 April 2025	No significant impact on future disclosures
GRAP 106 on Transfer of Functions Between Entities Not Under Common Control (amended)	To be determined	No significant impact on future disclosures
GRAP 107 on Mergers (amended)	To be determined	No significant impact on future disclosures

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

3. Property, plant and equipment

	2024			2023		
Figures in Rands	Cost / Valuation	Accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment	Carrying value	Cost / Valuation	Accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment	Carrying value
Furniture and fittings	3,451,417	(2,556,787)	894,630	3,451,418	(2,210,700)	1,240,718
Office equipment	1,513,468	(1,319,795)	193,673	1,507,905	(1,235,454)	272,451
IT equipment	2,097,481	(1,346,663)	750,818	1,987,704	(994,452)	993,252
Office equipment – Project	38,190	(35,417)	2,773	38,190	(35,006)	3,184
Leasehold improvements	4,686,010	(4,152,538)	533,472	4,520,827	(3,781,955)	738,872
Total	11,786,566	(9,411,200)	2,375,366	11,506,044	(8,257,567)	3,248,477

Reconciliation of property, plant and equipment - 2024

Figures in Rands	Opening balance	Additions	Disposals	Depreciation	Total
Furniture and fittings	1,240,718	-	-	(346,087)	894,630
Office equipment	272,451	7,500	(40)	(86,238)	193,673
IT equipment	993,252	355,723	(96,080)	(502,076)	750,818
Office equipment – Project	3,184	-	-	(411)	2,773
Leasehold improvements	738,872	165,183	-	(370,583)	533,472
Total	3,248,477	528,406	(96,120)	(1,305,395)	2,375,366

Reconciliation of property, plant and equipment - 2023

Figures in Rands	Opening balance	Additions	Disposals	Other changes, movements	Depreciation	Total
Furniture and fittings	1 383 233	293 160	(83 214)	-	(352 461)	1 240 718
Office equipment	476 744	14 500	(575)	-	(218 218)	272 451
IT equipment	717 976	673 858	(19 101)	(14 250)	(365 231)	993 252
Office equipment – Project	10 455	-	(417)	-	(6 854)	3 184
Leasehold improvements	1 054 439	-	-	-	(315 567)	738 872
Total	3 642 847	981 518	(103 307)	(14 250)	(1 258 331)	3 248 477

During the 2023/24 financial year, a total of R301 846 was incurred to repair and maintain various assets.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

4. Intangible assets

Figures in Rands	2024			2023		
	Cost / Valuation	Accumulated amortisation and accumulated impairment	Carrying value	Cost / Valuation	Accumulated amortisation and accumulated impairment	Carrying value
Computer software	1,989,979	(1,541,246)	448,734	1,711,265	(1,373,499)	337,767
Internally generated computer software	4,715,977	(3,222,785)	1,493,193	4,447,942	(3,166,434)	1,281,509
Total	6,705,956	(4,764,031)	1,941,927	6,159,207	(4,539,933)	1,619,276

The NIHSS has developed a Grant Management system internally during the financial years 2016/17 until 2023/24.

The cumulative expenses of developing the system have been recognised in the carrying amount of these intangible asset and the development is still ongoing.

Reconciliation of intangible assets - 2024

Figures in Rands	Opening balance	Additions	Amortisation	Total
Computer software	337,766	278,714	(167,747)	448,734
Internally generated computer software	1,281,508	268,035	(56,351)	1,493,193
Total	1,619,274	546,749	(224,098)	1,941,927

Reconciliation of intangible assets - 2023

Figures in Rands	Opening balance	Additions	Amortisation	Total
Computer software	343,816	193,445	(199,494)	337,767
Internally generated computer software	1,300,047	781,171	(799,709)	1,281,509
	1,643,863	974,616	(999,203)	1,619,276

5. Payables from exchange transactions

Figures in Rands	Notes	2024	2023
Trade payables		117,307	1,335,003
Trade accruals		2,247,900	1,657,563
Employees' payables - 13th cheque		68,783	100,250
Accrued leave pay		641,501	657,156
		3,075,491	3,749,972

The carrying amount of trade and payables approximates their fair value due to the relatively short-term maturity of these financial liabilities

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

6. Prepayments

Figures in Rands	Notes	2024	2023
Assets paid in advance		186,390	124,462
Rental paid in advance		334,278	308,091
Medical aid prepayment		34,079	36,689
Total		554,747	469,242

7. Inventories

Figures in Rands	Notes	2024	2023
Consumable stores		217,176	342,661
		217,176	342,661

8. Receivables from exchange transactions

Figures in Rands	Notes	2024	2023
Other debtors		461,621	852,532
Recoverable amount of fruitless and wasteful expenditure		498,193	327,719
		959,814	1,180,251

Included in Other Receivables is a balance of R365 069 which was awarded during 2022/23 in terms of a court case, for legal costs in favour of the NIHSS.

9. Cash and cash equivalents

Figures in Rands	Notes	2024	2023
Cash and cash equivalents consist of:			
Cash on hand		867	437
NIHSS Operating Bank Account		6,208,344	3,943,766
NIHSS NSF Bank Account		1,136,798	104,139,786
NIHSS Current Bank (NSF)		2,641,615	9,812,827
Investments		37,515,570	16,140,232
NIHSS Corporate Cheque Account		4,552	907
		47,507,746	134,037,955
		-	-
Credit Card		(66,515)	(70,778)
		47,441,231	133,967,177

10. Finance lease obligation

Figures in Rands	Notes	2024	2023
Minimum lease payments due			
- within one year		-	123,604
		-	123,604
less: future finance charges		-	(5,036)
		-	118,568
Present value of minimum lease payments		-	118,568

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Figures in Rands	Notes	2024	2023
Present value of minimum lease payments due			
- within one year		-	118,568

The Institute has entered into a finance lease agreement for the rental of 2 photocopying machines during the 2021/22 financial year. There are no annual escalation clauses associated with the leases. The leases have been accounted for in terms of GRAP 13. No provision has been made for the option to renew the leases on expiry. The lease agreement has come to an end on the 31 March 2024.

11. Trade and other payables from non-exchange transactions

Figures in Rands	Notes	2024	2023
Unspent conditional grants and receipts comprises of:			
Unspent conditional grants and receipts			
Deferred revenue**		802,453	1,362,453
Trade payables		2,470,053	8,004,248
Accruals		351,250	358,334
		3,623,756	9,725,035

** The trade payables relating to NSF (from inception of the NIHSS until 31 March 2020) has been accounted for as deferred revenue in line with GRAP 104. The funds for the projects (from inception of the NIHSS until 31 March 2020) are conditional and recognized as deferred revenue. Revenue is only recognized to the extent that expenditure is incurred.

12. Provisions**Reconciliation of provisions – 2024**

Figures in Rands	Opening balance	Additions	Utilised during the year	Reversed during the year	Total
Provision for incentive	987,147	991,752	(700,192)	(286,955)	991,752
	987,147	991,752	(700,192)	(286,955)	991,752

Reconciliation of provisions – 2023

Figures in Rands	Opening balance	Additions	Utilised during the year	Reversed during the year	Total
Provision for doubtful debts	859,599	-	-	859,599	-
Provision for incentive	928,717	987,147	(764,144)	(164,573)	987,147
	1,788,316	987,147	(764,144)	(1,024,172)	987,147

The provision relates to the following:

- Provisions for performance incentives which are expected to be paid out before the end of August 2024. These are performance based and are driven by the employees' performance evaluations

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

13. Revenue

Figures in Rands	Notes	2024	2023
Other income		24,358	958,548
Interest received – investment		6,411,504	4,188,772
Government grants and subsidies		40,422,000	142,417,103
		46,857,862	147,564,423

The amount included in revenue arising from exchanges of goods or services is as follows:

Figures in Rands	Notes	2024	2023
Other income		24,358	958,548
Interest received – investment		6,411,504	4,188,772
		6,435,862	5,147,320

The amount included in revenue arising from non-exchange transactions is as follows:

Figures in Rands	Notes	2024	2023
Transfer revenue			
Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) - Operations funding		39,862,000	30,655,348
National Skills Fund (NSF) - Unconditional		560,000	111,761,755
		40,422,000	142,417,103

14. Investment revenue

Figures in Rands	Notes	2024	2023
Interest revenue			
Investment revenue - interest		6,411,504	4,188,772

15. Government grants and subsidies

Figures in Rands	Notes	2024	2023
Operating grants			
Government grant		40,422,000	142,417,103

16. Employee-related costs

Figures in Rands	Notes	2024	2023
Basic		20,334,041	22,422,880
Performance incentives		910,133	822,574
Medical aid - company contributions		370,422	440,508
Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF)		61,005	63,931
Skills Development Levy (SDL)		208,226	214,492
Leave pay provision charge		(15,655)	(34,576)
Acting allowances		799,689	421,647
Provident fund - Employer contributions		60,259	59,106
Other deductions and payments withheld		-	(104,925)
		22,728,120	24,305,637

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

17. Depreciation and amortisation

Figures in Rands	Notes	2024	2023
Property, plant and equipment		1,305,395	1,258,331
Intangible assets		224,099	999,202
		1,529,494	2,257,533

18. Project expenses

Awards

Figures in Rands	Notes	2024	2023
Awards			
Catalytic Projects		7,526,320	1,872,663
Humanities Hubs		1,839,608	2,516,000
Awards		1,655,000	1,235,500
Evaluation Panels and Award Ceremony		9,353,886	7,093,649
Working Groups		5,095,500	5,658,373
Professional Associations		450,000	2,600,714
BRICS Think Tank		27,593,634	13,074,461
Skills Advisor		913,500	1,650,000
Covid-19 research		150,000	300,000
Emeriti Professors		4,300,000	4,300,000
Annual National Doctoral Conference		8,858,965	11,446,991
National and Regional workshops and seminars		169,323	1,322,681
Total awards		67,905,736	53,071,032
African Pathways (NSF-funded scholarships)		33,000	198,000
SAHUDA (NSF-funded scholarships)		17,976,500	33,275,000
Masters Programme		-	5,000,000
Total Scholarships		18,009,500	38,473,000

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

19. General expenses

Figures in Rands	Notes	2024	2023
Audit fees - external		913,721	1,824,396
Audit fees - internal		317,642	305,449
Advertising and promotion		252	119,264
Consulting Fees		816,095	936,786
Legal Fees		60,896	104,360
Bank charges		44,458	46,320
Cleaning		62,525	132,416
Insurance		319,553	260,828
Workshop Costs (operational)		2,078,659	3,868,590
Internet costs		12,524	5,693
Staff recruitment		-	170,003
Groceries		84,667	76,574
Postage and courier		-	11,198
Printing and stationery		426,195	629,353
Workmens compensation		54,516	64,291
Repairs and maintenance		506,130	301,846
Licenses		818,790	795,820
Security Expenses		1,967	1,524
Staff welfare		256,198	407,456
Subscriptions and membership fees		591,421	469,721
Telephone and fax		421,631	447,817
Staff Training		683,390	1,627,064
Travel & Accommodation		343,552	940,854
Staff refreshments		17,028	285,189
Small assets		9,421	19,620
Water and electricity		841,386	1,083,173
Rates and Taxes		154,193	102,960
Supplies and Services		145,448	93,101
Rental of equipment - finance costs		5,036	13,851
Board fees		-	71,190
		9,987,294	15,216,707

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Project administration fee

Figures in Rands	Notes	2024	2023
Doctoral Schools		837,137	1,252,207
Workshop costs – NSF		2,201,973	1,998,964
NSF project administration costs		787,260	702,994
		3,826,370	3,954,165

20. Net cash flows from operating activities

Figures in Rands	Notes	2024	2023
Surplus (deficit)		(80,607,961)	6,771,118
Adjustments for:			
Depreciation and amortisation		1,529,494	2,257,533
Gain on sale of assets and liabilities		59,429	64,434
Movements in operating lease assets and accruals		(385,481)	(87,034)
Increase in provisions relating to employee cost		(11,050)	23,854
Changes in working capital:			
Inventories		125,485	(32,669)
Receivables from exchange transactions		98,681	308,725
Payables from exchange transactions		(6,163,849)	(2,423,022)
Payables from non-exchange transactions		(560,000)	1,224,404
Retained earnings adjustment		427,770	187,073
		(85,487,482)	8,294,416

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

21. Commitments

Operating lease commitments - As lessee (expense)

Figures in Rands	Notes	2024	2023
Minimum lease payments due:			
• within one year		4,011,342	7,708,431
• in second to fifth year (inclusive)		-	4,011,342
		4,011,342	7,708,431

A new lease agreement was entered into for a five-year period beginning 1 April 2020 until 31 March 2025. The building is located on Erf 902, 24 St Andrews Road, Parktown.

Finance lease commitments - As lessee

Figures in Rands	Present value	Interest	Payment
Reconciliation of total future minimum lease payments and their present values:			
Due later than one year and not later than five years (non-current liabilities)	-	-	-
	-	-	-

The Institute has entered into a finance lease agreement for the rental of 2 photocopying machines during the financial year. There are no annual escalation clauses associated with the leases. The leases have been accounted for in terms of GRAP 13. No provision has been made for the option to renew the leases on expiry.

Project commitments

All Projects and African Pathway Programme scholarships are funded by the National Skills Fund (NSF).

The contract period ranges from 1 to 3 years for all projects.

Institution / Entity	Programme	Reference	Contractual value at 31 March 2023	New contracts for year ending 31 March 2024	Additional funding	Transfers/ Adjustments	Write backs	Expenditure for the year ending 31 March 2024	Contractual value at 31 March 2024
University Of Cape Town	Working Groups Programme	WGP22/1020	-	390,000	-	-	-	273,000	117,000
University of Johannesburg	Working Groups Programme	WGP22/1096	-	490,000	-	-	-	343,000	147,000
Market Theatre Foundation	Humanities Hubs Programme	00201712HUB_C	-	990,000	-	-	-	792,000	198,000
Javett Art Centre	Humanities Hubs Programme	00202102HUB_B	-	950,000	-	-	-	475,000	475,000
University of Fort Hare transferred to UNISA	Working Groups Programme	WGP21/1020	200,000	-	-	87,073	-	287,073	-
Wits University	Working Groups Programme	WGP21/1058	199,720	-	-	-	-	199,720	-
Wits University	Working Groups Programme	WGP22/1061	-	490,000	-	-	-	343,000	147,000
Walter Sisulu University	Working Groups Programme	WGP23/1001	-	200,000	-	-	-	200,000	-

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Institution / Entity	Programme	Reference	Contractual value at 31 March 2023	New contracts for year ending 31 March 2024	Additional funding	Transfers/ Adjustments	Write backs	Expenditure for the year ending 31 March 2024	Contractual value at 31 March 2024
Durban University of Technology	Working Groups Programme	WGP23/1002	-	500,000	-	-	-	350,000	150,000
University of Pretoria	Working Groups Programme	WGP23/1003	-	500,000	-	-	-	150,000	350,000
HSRC Press	Working Groups Programme	WGP23/1006	-	550,000	-	-	-	330,000	220,000
University of Western Cape	Working Groups Programme	WGP23/1007	-	330,000	-	-	-	165,000	165,000
Humanities and Social Sciences Alumni Association	Professional Associations Programme	PAP20/1017	300,000	-	-	-	-	-	300,000
University of South Africa	African Pathways Programme (APP)/ BRICS Teaching and Research Mobility Grant	BMG22/1044	218,000	-	-	-	-	87,200	130,800
University of Venda	African Pathways Programme (APP)/ BRICS Teaching and Research Mobility Grant	BMG22/1065	300,000	-	-	-	-	210,000	90,000
University of Mpumalanga	African Pathways Programme (APP)/ BRICS Teaching and Research Mobility Grant	BMG22/1066	300,000	-	-	-	-	120,000	180,000
Tshwane University of Technology	African Pathways Programme (APP)/ BRICS Teaching and Research Mobility Grant	BMG22/1072	40,000	-	-	-	-	40,000	-
Rhodes University	African Pathways Programme (APP)/ BRICS Teaching and Research Mobility Grant	BMG22/1073	40,000	-	-	-	-	40,000	-
North West University	African Pathways Programme (APP)/ BRICS Teaching and Research Mobility Grant	BMG22/1074	40,000	-	-	-	-	40,000	-
University of Kwazulu-Natal	African Pathways Programme (APP)/ BRICS Teaching and Research Mobility Grant	BMG22/1071	40,000	-	-	-	-	40,000	-
University of Cape Town	African Pathways Programme (APP)/ BRICS Teaching and Research Mobility Grant	AMG22/1080	240,000	-	-	-	-	192,000	48,000

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Institution / Entity	Programme	Reference	Contractual value at 31 March 2023	New contracts for year ending 31 March 2024	Additional funding	Transfers/ Adjustments	Write backs	Expenditure for the year ending 31 March 2024	Contractual value at 31 March 2024
University of Johannesburg	African Pathways Programme (APP)/ BRICS Teaching and Research Mobility Grant	AMG22/1034	299,200	-	-	-	-	239,360	59,840
Cape Peninsula University of Technology	African Pathways Programme (APP)/ BRICS Teaching and Research Mobility Grant	BMG22/1041	300,000	-	-	-	-	240,000	60,000
Durban University of Technology	Growth and sustainability of livelihoods in the BRICS countries: Knowledge sharing in social justice governance multilateralism	BRI22/1215	3,000,000	-	-	-	-	2,000,000	1,000,000
University of Western Cape	Mentorship Programme	NMP2023/24-01 (NMP/1043)	-	350,000	-	-	-	350,000	-
University of Johannesburg	Mentorship Programme	NMP2023/24-01 (NMP/1038)	-	350,000	-	-	-	350,000	-
University of Limpopo	Mentorship Programme	NMP2023/24-01 (NMP/1042)	-	350,000	-	-	-	350,000	-
University of Cape Town	Mentorship Programme	NMP2023/24-01 (NMP/1037)	-	350,000	-	-	-	350,000	-
University of South Africa	Mentorship Programme	NMP2023/24-01 (NMP/1030)	-	350,000	-	-	-	350,000	-
University of Free State	Mentorship Programme	NMP2023/24-01 (NMP/1041)	-	350,000	-	-	-	350,000	-
University of Zululand	Mentorship Programme	NMP2023/24-01 (NMP/1032)	-	350,000	-	-	-	350,000	-
Prof Fred Hendrick	Mentorship Programme	NMP2023/24-02	-	400,000	-	-	-	400,000	-
Prof Nhlanhla Maake	Mentorship Programme	NMP2023/24-01	-	400,000	-	-	-	400,000	-
Wits University	Mentorship Programme	NMP2023/24-01 (NMP/1031)	-	350,000	-	-	-	350,000	-
Nelson Mandela University	Mentorship Programme	NMP2023/24-01 (NMP/1040)	-	350,000	-	-	-	350,000	-
University of Kwazulu-Natal	Mentorship Programme	NMP2023/24-01 (NMP/1034)	-	350,000	-	-	-	350,000	-
Thabo Mbeki Foundation	Working Groups Programme	WGP/2020/08	120,000	-	-	-	120,000	-	-
Nelson Mandela University	Humanities Hubs Programme	00201709HUB_B	200,000	-	-	-	-	200,000	-
University of Cape Town	Humanities Hubs Programme	00202101HUB	600,000	-	-	-	-	-	600,000

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Institution / Entity	Programme	Reference	Contractual value at 31 March 2023	New contracts for year ending 31 March 2024	Additional funding	Transfers/ Adjustments	Write backs	Expenditure for the year ending 31 March 2024	Contractual value at 31 March 2024
Centre for Humanities Research, Univ western Cape	Humanities Hubs Programme	00201710HUB_C	95,000	-	-	-	-	-	95,000
University of the Witwatersrand	Humanities Hubs Programme	00201708HUB_C	-	745,216	-	-	-	372,608	372,608
Bstyle Media	Consultancy Agreement		8,754	-	-	-	8,754	-	-
University of Mpumalanga	Working Groups Programme	WGP19/1148	170,000	-	-	-	170,000	-	-
Institute for Global Dialogue	BRICS Joint NIHSS-CASS Research Project	BC01/2019/06	100,000	-	-	-	-	-	100,000
University of Witwatersrand	BRICS Joint NIHSS-CASS Research Project	BC01/2019/03	299,460	-	-	-	-	199,640	99,820
University of Johannesburg	BRICS Joint NIHSS-CASS Research Project	BC01/2019/04	299,400	-	-	-	-	-	299,400
University of the Free State	BRICS Joint	BC01/2019/01	300,000	-	-	-	-	-	300,000
Rhodes University	BRICS Joint NIHSS-CASS Research Project	BC01/2019/05	98,400	-	-	-	-	-	98,400
University of Limpopo	Brics Academic Cluster	BC01/2020/10	60,000	-	-	-	-	-	60,000
Institute for Global Dialogue	Brics Academic Cluster	BC01/2020/02	60,000	-	-	-	-	-	60,000
University of Pretoria	Brics Academic Cluster	BC01/2020/01	179,340	-	-	-	-	-	179,340
University of Venda	BRICS Joint NIHSS-ICSSR Research Project	JNI20/1033	178,800	-	-	-	-	119,200	59,600
University of Pretoria	BRICS Joint NIHSS-ICSSR Research Project	JNI20/1009	59,951	-	-	-	-	59,951	-
University of KwaZulu-Natal	BRICS Joint NIHSS-ICSSR Research Project	JNI20/1026	180,000	-	-	-	-	177,300	2,700
North-West University	BRICS Joint NIHSS-ICSSR Research Project	JNI20/1017	178,056	-	-	-	-	-	178,056
University of KwaZulu-Natal	BRICS Joint NIHSS-ICSSR Research Project	JNI20/1047	59,460	-	-	-	-	-	59,460
Tshwane University of Technology	Joint International Collaboration Research Project	JNI20/1010	57,200	-	-	-	-	-	57,200
Rhodes University	Joint International Collaboration Research Project	JNI21/1060	118,400	-	-	-	-	118,400	-
Wits University	Joint International Collaboration Research Project	JNI21/1036	118,120	-	-	-	-	118,120	-
Wits University	Working Groups	WGP20/1075	96,000	-	-	-	-	-	96,000
Rhodes University	Working Groups	WGP21/1088	360,000	-	-	-	-	-	360,000

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Institution / Entity	Programme	Reference	Contractual value at 31 March 2023	New contracts for year ending 31 March 2024	Additional funding	Transfers/ Adjustments	Write backs	Expenditure for the year ending 31 March 2024	Contractual value at 31 March 2024
The Hani Legacy	Working Groups	WGP21/1044	114,634	-	-	-	-	-	114,634
Unisa	Working Groups	WGP21/1031	82,980	-	-	-	82,980	-	-
Nelson Mandela University	Working Groups	WGP21/1107	189,208	-	-	-	-	-	189,208
Wits University	Working Groups Programme	WGP21/1131	840,000	-	-	-	-	-	840,000
University of Zululand	Working Groups Programme	WGP21/1049	199,888	-	-	-	-	-	199,888
Winnie Madikizela Mandela Memorial	Working Groups Programme	WGP21/1138	377,574	-	-	-	-	-	377,574
University of Fort Hare	Working Groups Programme	WGP22/1003	55,000	-	-	-	-	-	55,000
University of South Africa	Working Groups Programme	WGP22/1001	260,000	-	-	-	-	260,000	-
South African BRICS Youth Association (SABYA)	Working Groups Programme	WGP21/1005	50,000	-	-	-	-	50,000	-
Rhodes University	Working Groups Programme	WGP22/1099	-	300,000	-	-	-	210,000	90,000
Wits University	Working Groups Programme	WGP22/1064	-	490,500	-	-	-	490,500	-
Jacana Media	Working Groups Programme	WGP22/1008	-	373,000	-	-	-	373,000	-
University of Johannesburg	Working Groups Programme	WGP22/1067	-	440,000	-	-	-	308,000	132,000
University of Pretoria	Working Groups Programme	WGP23/1003	-	500,000	-	-	-	350,000	150,000
University of Kwazulu-Natal (Press)	Working Groups Programme	WGP22/1006	-	499,000	-	-	-	349,300	149,700
Wits University-Press	Working Groups Programme	WGP23/1004	-	100,000	-	-	-	60,000	40,000
South African Humanities Deans Association (SAHUDA)	Professional Associations Programme	PAP20/1016	500,000	-	-	-	-	-	500,000
South African Humanities Deans' Association	Professional Associations Programme	PAP23/1001	-	-	-	-	-	450,000	-
Wits University	Brics Academic Cluster	BC01/2020/04	849,000	-	-	-	-	519,600	329,400
University of Zululand	Brics Academic Cluster	BC01/2020/09	300,000	-	-	-	-	-	-

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Institution / Entity	Programme	Reference	Contractual value at 31 March 2023	New contracts for year ending 31 March 2024	Additional funding	Transfers/ Adjustments	Write backs	Expenditure for the year ending 31 March 2024	Contractual value at 31 March 2024
University of Western Cape	Catalytic Research Programme	CRP20/1101	400,000	-	-	-	-	400,000	-
University of Kwazulu-Natal	Catalytic Research Programme	CRP20/1020	240,000	-	-	-	-	240,000	-
University of Limpopo	Catalytic Research Programme	CRC21/1016	150,000	-	-	-	-	-	150,000
University of Free State	Catalytic Research Programme	CRC21/1010	150,000	-	-	-	-	150,000	-
University of Kwazulu-Natal	Catalytic Research Programme	CRP22/1055	1,000,000	-	-	-	-	800,000	200,000
North West University	Catalytic Research Programme	CRP22/1090	940,000	-	-	564,000	-	1,128,000	376,000
University of Johannesburg	Catalytic Research Programme	CRP22/1095	1,000,000	-	-	-	-	600,000	400,000
Tshwane University of Technology	Catalytic Research Programme	CRP22/1071	1,000,000	-	-	-	-	600,000	400,000
North West University	Catalytic Research Programme	CRP22/1014	1,000,000	-	-	-	-	800,000	200,000
Nelson Mandela University	Catalytic Research Programme	CRP22/1074	1,000,000	-	-	-	-	600,000	400,000
Nelson Mandela University	Catalytic Research Programme	CRP22/1100	721,150	-	-	-	-	576,920	144,230
University of Johannesburg	Catalytic Research Programme	CRP22/1105	1,000,000	-	-	-	-	600,000	400,000
University of South Africa	Catalytic Research Programme	CRP22/1050	909,000	-	-	-	-	545,400	363,600
University of Johannesburg	Catalytic Research Programme	CRP22/1017	1,000,000	-	-	-	-	600,000	400,000
University of Johannesburg	Catalytic Research Programme	CRP22/1093	1,000,000	-	-	-	-	600,000	400,000
University of Pretoria	South African BRICS Think Tank Academic Research Cluster Grants: Economic and Development	BRI22/1216	2,646,600	-	-	-	-	1,764,400	882,200

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Institution / Entity	Programme	Reference	Contractual value at 31 March 2023	New contracts for year ending 31 March 2024	Additional funding	Transfers/ Adjustments	Write backs	Expenditure for the year ending 31 March 2024	Contractual value at 31 March 2024
University of Kwazulu-Natal	BRICS Security system as an essence of fruitful cooperation	BRI22/1076	2,892,000	-	-	-	-	1,928,000	964,000
South African Institute of International Affairs	BRICS Shaping climate governance and the just transition: Partnership between India and South Africa	BRI22/1232	2,969,074	-	-	-	-	1,979,383	989,691
David Niddrie	National skills project initiative		3,388,500	-	-	-	3,388,500	-	-
Total			36,737,869	13,587,716	-	651,073	4,070,234	30,154,075	16,752,349
Non-contract expenditure[^]			-	-	-	-	-	37,751,662	-
Total			-	-	-	-	-	67,905,737	-

[^] These are operational expenses incurred to support the NSF projects that do not fall under a contract.

Scholarships (African Pathways)	Contractual value at 31 March 2023	New contracts for year ending 31 March 2024	Additional funding	Transfers/ Adjustments	Write backs	Expenditure for the year ending 31 March 2024	Contractual value at 31 March 2024
African Pathways Programme	-	33,000	-	-	-	33,000	-
Total	-	33,000	-	-	-	33,000	-

Scholarships (SAHUDA)	Contractual value at 31 March 2023	New contracts for year ending 31 March 2024	Additional funding	Transfers/ Adjustments	Write backs	Expenditure for the year ending 31 March 2024	Contractual value at 31 March 2024
Doctoral Scholarship Programme	36,425,000	3,306,500	800,000	-	75,000	17,976,500	22,480,000
Total	36,425,000	3,306,500	800,000	-	75,000	17,976,500	22,480,000

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

22. Contingencies

Contingent liabilities

2023/24

No possible obligation was identified during the 2023/24 financial year. 2022/23

2022/23

No possible obligation was identified during the 2022/23 financial year.

Contingent assets

2023/24

NSF project funding

A possible asset of R220 540 000 exists due to funding for project for 2023/24 not yet received as at the end of the financial year. As at 2023/24 financial year-end, all submissions for funding had been made to DHET and therefore the asset is contingent upon finalisation of the process with DHET as well as

approval of Annual Performance Plan(APP). The APP was not yet approved as at 2023/24 financial year end.

2022/23

NSF project funding

A possible asset of R109 435 708 exists due to NSF funding for project for 2021/22 not yet received as at the end of the financial year. As at 2021/22 financial year-end, all submissions for funding had been made to NSF and therefore the asset is contingent upon finalisation of the process by NSF as well as conclusion and signing of the 2021/22 contract between NSF and NIHSS. The contracting was not yet finalised during 2022/23 financial year.

Scholarships defaults

A possible asset of R297 000 exists due to scholarship beneficiaries who could possibly have defaulted in terms of their contractual agreements with the institute. As at financial year-end, a further investigations were still ongoing for students with contractual obligation and therefore the asset is contingent upon finalisation of the process.

23. Related parties

Relationship

Member	Refer to members' report note
Controlling entity	Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET)
Entities under common control:*	NSF
Members of key management	Auriel Niemack
	Tumelo Mokoena
	Hlanzekile Mbokazi

****The DHET has a number of institutions and entities which reports to it, including universities, TVET colleges and SETAs. For the year under review, the NIHSS did not transact with any of those entities, except universities. All transactions with the universities have been disclosed under Note 22 Project Commitments. The nature of the transactions with universities is grants awarded to student for studies.**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Related party balances

Figures in Rands	2024	2023
Loan accounts - Owning (to) by related parties		
Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET)	-	-
Amounts included in Trade receivable (Trade Payable) regarding related parties		
National Skills Fund	802,453	1,362,453
Commitments with related parties		
National Skills Fund	-	-

All related party balances and transactions to DHET include the transfer to/from the National Skills Fund

Transactions made to organisations associated with Board members **

Figures in Rands		2024	2023
Entities associated with Board members	Associating Board members		
University of Cape Town	Prof Aristides Sitas	-	3,788,413
University of KwaZulu-Natal	Prof Nhlanhla Mkhize	-	4,742,225
Mapungubwe Institute for Strategic Reflection (MISTRA)	Ms Luli Callinicos	-	380,000
University of Venda	Dr Bernard Nthambeleni and Prof Sarah Mosoetsa (former CEO)	-	876,000
Durban University of Technology	Dr Rene Smith	-	2,885,000
University of Johannesburg	Ms Nolwazi Mamorare	-	8,067,989
Human Sciences Research Council	Ms Jacomien Rousseau, Ms Maleshini Naidoo and Fiona Tregenna (from 1 November 2021)	-	60,000
Department of Labour	Prof Sarah Mosoetsa (former CEO)	-	64,291
University of the Witwatersrand ***	Dr Rene Smith (from 1 January 2022) and Prof Sarah Mosoetsa (CEO)	-	8,957,153
Total		-	29,821,072

** These transactions are between the NIHSS and the entities that are associated with Board members/CEO.

All transactions above occurred under terms that were no more favourable than those available in similar arm's length dealings.

Related party transactions

Figures in Rands	2024	2023
Interest paid to (received from) related parties		
Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET)	39,862,000	30,655,348
National Skills Fund	560,000	111,761,755
Total	40,422,000	142,417,103

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Remuneration of management

Remuneration - Board members

2023

Name	Board fees	Total
Prof Aristides Sitas	4,646	4,646
Prof Fiona Tregenna	7,338	7,338
Ms Luli Callinicos	3,669	3,669
Prof Nhlanhla Mkhize	7,338	7,338
Dr Rene Smith	6,288	6,288
Ms Maleshini Naidoo	4,317	4,317
Mr Thapelo Molapo	8,315	8,315
Ms Nolwazi Mamorare	7,338	7,338
Mr Ignatius Makgoka	10,934	10,934
Prof Sphiwe Mini	11,007	11,007
Total	71,190	71,190

The Board consists of members appointed in terms of the Government Gazette 37118. Remuneration is paid to members. NIHSS has remunerated members of the Board for attending Board and subcommittee meetings as disclosed above.

The Board term came to an end on 30 June 2022 after being extended by the DHET post 31 March 2022. The Department is currently in the process of appointing a new Board for the Institute.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**Management class: Executive management
2024**

Name	Basic salary	Bonuses and performance related payments	Total
Chief Executive Officer	2,671,715	120,311	2,792,026
Executive Manager	1,164,380	56,097	1,220,477
Executive Manager	1,328,436	54,782	1,383,218
	5,164,531	231,190	5,395,721

2023

Name	Basic salary	Bonuses and performance related payments	Total
Chief Executive Officer	1,505,213	126,905	1,632,118
Chief Executive Officer – Secondment payment to Wits University	1,162,628	-	1,162,628
Chief Financial Officer	2,404,766	113,180	2,517,946
Executive Manager	1,070,296	43,809	1,114,105
Executive Manager	1,091,779	21,850	1,113,629
	7,234,682	305,744	7,540,426

The key management group consists of the Acting Director(Office of the CEO), CFO and Executive Managers.

During the financial year the Executive Manager was appointed as the Acting Director in the office of the CEO

24. Change in accounting estimate**Property, plant and equipment**

The useful lives of computer equipment, leasehold improvements and computer software are as follows:

	Average useful life	Depreciation rates
Furniture and fittings	9-11 years	9% - 11%
Office equipment	4-12 years	33.33% - 20%
IT equipment	2-12 years	25% - 50%
Computer software	4-10 years	50% - 100%
Leasehold improvements	3-10 years	33.33% - 20%

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

An assessment was done during the 2023/24 reporting period to ascertain whether there is any indication that the entity's expectation about the residual values and the useful lives of property, plant and equipment and intangible assets have changed since the preceding reporting period. Such an indication did exist for a few items of computer equipment, leasehold improvements and computer software and the useful lives revised as follows (only on those specific items):

	Average useful life	Depreciation rates
Office equipment	Extended by 1 more year	33.33% - 50%
Computer equipment	Extended by 1 more year	25% - 50%
Computer software	Extended by 1 more year	50% - 100%
Leasehold improvements	Extended by 1 more year	25% - 33.33%
Internally generated computer software	Extended by 1 more year	33.33% - 50%

The revised useful lives had the following effect on the carrying amounts of the assets:

	Average useful life	Amounts
Office equipment	Increase in carrying amount	125 427
Computer equipment	Increase in carrying amount	62 457
Computer software	Increase in carrying amount	2 773
Leasehold improvements	Increase in carrying amount	214 385
Internally generated computer software	Increase in carrying amount	276 702
Office equipment - projects		1 052 389
Total		1 734 133

The effect on the current and future periods will be a decrease in the depreciation charge of R1 734 133 in the current period and an equal increase in the depreciation charge of R1 734 133 over the next period.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

25. Risk management

The focus of risk management in the NIHSS is on identifying, assessing, managing and monitoring all known forms of risk across the NIHSS. While operating risk cannot be fully eliminated, management endeavours to minimize it by ensuring that the appropriate infrastructure, controls, systems and ethics are applied throughout the NIHSS and managed within predetermined procedures and constraints.

As the NIHSS acquires finance from DHET and does not have borrowed funds, it does not have major exposure to credit, liquidity, interest and market risk.

Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the NIHSS will not be able to meet its financial obligations as they fall due. Ultimate responsibility for liquidity risk management rests with the DHET, which has built an appropriate liquidity risk management framework for the management of the NIHSS' short, medium and long term funding and liquidity management requirements. The liquidity risk as pertains to the finance lease is minimal and therefore has not been included in the analysis.

2023/24	6 months or less	6-12 months	1-2 years
Payables from exchange transactions	3,075,491	-	-
2022/23	6 months or less	6-12 months	1-2 years
Payables from exchange transactions	3,832,71	-	-

Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk that one party to a financial instrument will cause a financial loss for the other party by failing to meet an obligation. Credit risk arises from cash and cash equivalents, and deposits with banks and financial institutions, as well as outstanding receivables and committed transactions. For banks and financial institutions, only highly reputable financial institutions are used and funds are invested in short-term deposits and call accounts. As such, the NIHSS is not exposed to significant credit risk related to the risk or loss of interest earned on cash and cash equivalents.

2023/24

The ageing of receivables from exchange transactions:	Gross	Impairment	Total
Not past due*	959,814	-	959,814
<i>*Not past due is defined as when a counterparty has failed to make a payment when contractually due. As such, the receivable as relates to the recovery of legal costs are not past due.</i>			
The ageing of receivables from non-exchange transactions:	Gross	Impairment	Total
Not past due	-	-	-
The ageing of cash and cash equivalents	Gross	Impairment	Total
Not past due	47,507,746	-	47,507,746
	47,507,746	-	47,507,746

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

2022/23

The ageing of receivables from exchange transactions:	Gross	Impairment	Total
Not past due*	803,125	-	803,125
Past due for greater than 1 year	377,126	-	377,126
	1,180,251	-	1,180,251

*Not past due is defined as when a counterparty has failed to make a payment when contractually due. As such, the receivable as relates to the recovery of legal costs are not past due.

The ageing of receivables from non-exchange transactions:	Gross	Impairment	Total
Not past due	-	-	-
The ageing of cash and cash equivalents	Gross	Impairment	Total
Not past due	134,037,955	-	134,037,955
	134,037,955	-	134,037,955

Market risk

No significant events occurred during the year in the market that NIHSS is aware of.

Interest rate risk

The NIHSS has limited exposure to interest rate risk. NIHSS' cash and cash equivalents are subject to interest rate risk for the portion of interest received. The interest rate risk is limited as funds are invested with one of the four major banks and this is assessed annually. The funds are invested in short-term deposits and call accounts and as such, the NIHSS is not exposed to significant interest rate risk related to fluctuations in the interest rate for interest earned or charged cash and cash equivalents. The amount of cash and cash equivalents as well as interest earned has been disclosed on the face of the Statement of Financial Position as well as Note 9.

26. Going concern

These financial statements have been prepared based on the expectation that the NIHSS will continue to operate as a going concern for at least the next 12 months. In prior years a review process was conducted by a review panel as appointed by the Minister and assessed the mandate of the NIHSS with a recommendation send through to the Department in terms of its extension. During the review of the mandate, a budget was allocated and approved for prior year as well as current year ended 31 March 2024. The Annual Performance Plan for the financial year ended 31 March 2025 has been submitted to the DHET. Furthermore, a budget vote has been approved for the NIHSS from 2022/23 to 2024/25 financial years in terms of the Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF).

27. Events after the reporting date

No event after reporting date was identified during the 2023/24 financial year.

28. Fruitless and wasteful expenditure

Figures in Rands	Notes	2024	2023
Opening balance as previously reported		327,719	329,519
Add: Fruitless and wasteful expenditure identified - current		173,175	-
Less: Amount recovered - current		(2,700)	(1,800)
Closing balance		498,194	327,719

Fruitless and wasteful expenditure is presented inclusive of VAT.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

2023/24

The opening balance of fruitless and wasteful expenditure relates to fraudulent transactions that were done by a former staff member in the 2016/17 financial year. The former employee has been paying back the funds owed from the 2017/18 financial year to date. Also included is an amount of R177 069 which was as a result of a cyber crime that occurred prior year (The matter is still under investigation with SAPS) as well as penalty to an amount of R32 658 as result of late payment of the PAYE, sdl and UIF during the fourth quarter of the 2021/22 financial year.

An erroneous payment of R29 712.70 was made to a former employee of the NIHSS in the prior year. Steps were taken to recover the funds from the relevant employee and the institute is considering other avenues in having the matter resolved. During the financial year an employee committed theft where tablets to the value of R143 462 were stolen from the premises of the institute. The matter is under investigation.

2022/23

The opening balance of fruitless and wasteful expenditure relates to fraudulent transactions that were done by a former staff member in the 2016/17 financial year. The former employee has been paying back the funds owed from the 2017/18 financial year to date. Also included is an amount of R177 069 which was as a result of a cyber crime that occurred prior year (The matter is still under investigation with SAPS) as well as penalty to an amount of R32 658 as result of late payment of the PAYE, sdl and UIF during the fourth quarter of the 2021/22 financial year.

29. Irregular expenditure

There was no irregular expenditure incurred during the 2023/24 financial year.

30. Budget differences

Differences between budget and actual amounts basis of preparation and presentation

Item	Reason
Investment revenue	Amount relates to actual interest earned on current and investment accounts.
Government funding	The full allocation of funding for operations(including BRICS funding) was received during the financial year. Of the total allocated budget of R220 540 000 for the 2023/24 no funding has been received for the financial year.
Operational expenditure	General expenses were incurred during the financial year and in line with budget. The amount over budget was financed from interest investment as well as rollover funds from prior year.
Project expenses	The NIHSS did not receive 2023/24 funding from the NSF, for project expenditure. As such, the expenditure is below budget. Projects were funded from reserves.

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