



**Addendum**  
to the  
**Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf)**  
**Annual Performance Plan**  
**2020/21**

Date of Tabling July 2020



**science & innovation**

Department:  
Science and Innovation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA









## Official Sign-Off

It is hereby certified that this revised Annual Performance Plan:

- Was developed by the management of the Academy of Science of South Africa under the guidance of [Name of the Executive Authority]
- Takes into account all the relevant policies, legislation and other mandates for which the Academy of Science of South Africa is responsible.
- Accurately reflects the Impact, Outcomes and Outputs which the Academy of Science of South Africa will endeavour to achieve over the period 2020/21.

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Bo Nginkosi Emmanuel Nzimande Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation	



## ANNEXURE A: REVISION TO ANNUAL PERFORMANCE PLAN (APP) 2020/1

### INTRODUCTION

The government's response in containing the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic which was first reported in South Africa on 5 March 2020, led to the introduction of several regulatory interventions framed from them in accordance with the Disaster Management Act (2002) which came into effect in the form of lockdown regulations on 26 March 2020. The pandemic has placed a huge national burden on our health system with concomitant dire social and economic challenges. To date, the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in over 350 000 confirmed positive cases of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, and close to 5 000 deaths, with these numbers still increasing.

As with other disasters, the main casualties are the poor. In addition, the different levels of lock down have resulted in higher unemployment rates, closure of some businesses, and complex socio-economic challenges. Government's pledging of a R500 billion social relief and economic relief package to support various initiatives during this challenging period has led to budget adjustments across government departments and subsequently public entities.

The purpose of re-tabling this revised APP is to (1) incorporate ASSAf's interventions in response to the pandemic, and (2) re-align our targets to the adjusted 2020/21 budget allocation in response to the DPME Circular 2 of 2020. Since it was not necessary to change the outcomes in the 2020/1 – 2024/5 Strategic Plan (SP), we are not tabling a revised SP currently.

### ASSAf's response to the pandemic

Through its membership of outstanding scientists from across the disciplines, Academy members continue to play a vital role in various governmental committees that have been set up to advise government on effective ways of dealing with the pandemic.

ASSAf has the convening power to draw from a pool of expertise that includes epidemiologists, vaccinologists, and infectious disease experts to assist in the management of health emergencies facing government. Social scientists and humanities scholars should also form part of these advisory structures. Psychologists need to advise on the far-reaching mental health costs of the pandemic following extreme forms of isolation. Sociologists need to advise on the efficacy of social distancing in human settlements marked by inequality. Anthropologists need to advise on meaningful rituals of mourning when numbers are restricted for funeral attendance and family members cannot touch loved ones in their final moments. Economists must advise on how to enfranchise workers such as the self-employed. Social work academics are needed to advise on managing family distress including the rise in domestic violence and the social effects of lockdown on children and the



elderly. Political scientists must advise on the norms that should govern the relationship between government and its citizens in emergency conditions. Ethicists must advise on issues of stigmatisation and other ethical issues raised when dealing with the pandemic. Historians of pandemics can advise on lessons learnt that could be invaluable in making sense of the crisis and its likely course--for example, the impact of the so-called Spanish Flu of 1918 when some cities or countries opened prematurely. In partnership with the medical scientists, government would benefit from such an inclusive, multidisciplinary approach to **science advice** that can only strengthen the leadership response to the pandemic.

ASSAf's ongoing activities within all the strategic outcomes described in the APP (summarised in Revised Table 6); Outcome 1 (Independent, authoritative and influential scientific advice), Outcome 2 (Science Engagement), Outcome 3 (Mobilising Knowledge), Outcome 4 (Facilitating Partnerships), and Outcome 5 (Scholarship Support) will be more focus-driven to ensure expeditious attention to COVID-19 pandemic while ensuring transformation (Outcome 6: Supporting transformation).

It is critical for ASSAf to use its **strategic partnerships** within the SADC region as well as other African partnerships to focus on the effects of the pandemic in a regional African context. Through the **exchange of scientific ideas and the sharing of support**, the pandemic offers a strategic opportunity for bolstering regional cooperation in fighting the pandemic. ASSAf, through its valuable and productive partnerships with African scientists affiliated with NASAC, the African Academy of Sciences (AAS), TWAS-SAREP and ISC ROA could play a leading role in connecting scientists from across the African region to fortify a continental response to the pandemic in line with the vision of the African Union.

This will be achieved through the activities outlined in Outcome 2 (Science Engagement).

There is an indispensable connection between **science and public trust**. In the face of a pandemic, with all the fear and uncertainty of a novel virus, the credibility of governmental authority depends more than usual on winning the trust of the public. And there is no better way of maintaining that public trust than by speaking with one voice on the authority of **evidence-based science** and employing remedies in the pandemic that uphold the values of our Constitution.

This will be achieved through the activities outlined in Outcome 2 (Science Engagement) and disseminated through established portals of communication described in Outcome 3 (Mobilising Knowledge). ASSAf will work closely with the Science Communication teams at the DSI and the NRF (SAASTA), the HSRC, SAMRC Department of Basic Education (DBE) and DHET, and other partners to ensure collaboration for maximum benefit when advancing similar objectives (Outcome 4



(Facilitating Partnerships).

ASSAf commits to bringing together the multidisciplinary expertise of its membership in driving the **outcome-based activities** in the ongoing service of supporting government in these challenging times. However, some of the original operational plans have had to be modified to compensate for restricted travel and in person engagements during these uncertain times. Changes to the output, output indicators and targets are highlighted in blue boxes in the revised Tables 6 (previously on p. 38) and Table 7 (previously p.43).



Revised Table 6. Outcomes, Outputs, Performance Indicators and Targets (modifications highlighted in red in blue boxes)

Outcome 1: Independent, authoritative and influential scientific advice								
Outputs	Output Indicators	Audited/Actual performance			Estimated performance	MTEF Period		
		2017/18	2018/19	2019/20		2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>consensus studies</li> <li>proceedings and other reports</li> <li>policy-makers booklets</li> </ul>	number of consensus studies	3	7	2	2	2	2	2
	number of proceedings and other reports	5	4	3	3	3	3	3
	number of policy-makers booklets	0	0	1	<i>Ad hoc</i>	<i>Ad hoc</i>	<i>Ad hoc</i>	<i>Ad hoc</i>
	Statements		2	2	2	2	2	2
Outcome 2: Science Engagement								
Outputs	Performance Indicators	Audited/Actual performance			Estimated performance	MTEF Period		
		2017/18	2018/19	2019/20		2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>public lectures</li> <li>workshops</li> </ul>	Number of Lectures	3	5	8	4	4	4	4



<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• conferences</li><li>• newsletters</li></ul>	Number of Workshops/ Conferences	3	3	2	1	1	1	1
	Number of Newsletters	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
	Number of Media Releases	20	20	4	4	4	4	4



Outcome 3: Mobilising Knowledge								
Outputs	Performance Indicators	Audited/Actual performance			Estimated performance	MTEF Period		
		2017/18	2018/19	2019/20		2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• publication of the SAJS</li> <li>• publication of Quest science magazine</li> <li>• electronic catalogues of ASSAf's publications archived for public use</li> <li>• visibility, accessibility and searchability of SA research outputs</li> </ul>	Number of issues of SAJS published	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
	Number of issues of Quest published	4	4	2	4	4	4	4
	Repository (electronic catalogue of all publications)	13	13	9	Ongoing addition of information on the ASSAf webpage when published			
	Number of new journal titles on SciELO SA open access platform*	7	5	4	2	2	2	2
Outcome 4. Facilitating Partnerships								
Outputs	Performance Indicators	Audited/Actual performance			Estimated performance	MTEF Period		
		2017/18	2018/19	2019/20		2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ASSAf activities among national, regional and international partners</li> </ul>	Number of strategic partnerships (eg. MoUs)	0	4	1	1	1	1	1





**Outcome 5: Scholarship Support**

Output	Performance Indicators	Audited/Actual performance			Estimated performance	MTEF Period		
		2017/18	2018/19	2019/20		2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• collaborations with- and strengthening of- African science academies</li> <li>• development of young scientists</li> <li>• rewarding excellence of scholars</li> </ul>	Number of activities supported with other African Academies	3	3	2	2	2	2	2
	Number of young scientist activities supported	2	4	2	2	2	2	2
	Number of ASSAf Gold Medals awarded	1	2	1	1	1	1	1
	Biennial Humanities Book Award	1	0	0	1	-	1	-

**Outcome 6: Supporting transformation**

Output	Performance Indicators	Audited/Actual performance			Estimated performance	MTEF Period		
		2017/18	2018/19	2019/20		2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To transform the Membership of the Academy</li> <li>• To promote women and</li> </ul>	Proportion of black Members	18/163 (30%)	8/170 (30%)	N/A	Growth by 2% of total black Members	Growth by 2% of total black Members	Growth by 2% of total black Members	Growth by 2% of total black Members



gender in science	Proportion of women Members;  Proportion of women scholars on Committees and journal peer review panels	17/140 (26%)	8/147 (26%)	N/A	Growth by 2% of total number of women  40%	Growth by 2% of total number of women  40%	Growth by 2% of total number of women  40%	Growth by 2% of total number of women  40%
	National academies, Young academies and GYA growth	2	4	0	2	2	2	2



Revised Table 7: Indicators, Annual and Quarterly Targets

Output Indicators	Annual Target	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
<b>Outcome 1: Independent, authoritative and influential scientific advice</b>					
<b>Indicator: Disseminated publications and journal articles</b>					
Number of consensus studies	2		1		1
Number of proceedings and other reports	3	1	1	1	
Number of policy-makers booklets	As requested				
Number of statements	2		1		1
<b>Outcome 2: Science engagement</b>					
<b>Indicator: Public interest and awareness of science and the value of evidence-based research</b>					
Number of public lectures	4	1	1	1	1
Number of workshops and conferences	1			1	
Number of newsletters	4	1	1	1	1
Number of media releases	4	1	1	1	1
<b>Outcome 3: Mobilising knowledge</b>					
<b>Indicator: Strengthened interaction and access to ASSAf knowledge resources</b>					
Number of SAJS publications	6	1	2	1	2
Number of Quest publications	4	1	1	1	1
New journal titles on SciELO platform	2		1		1
Institutional repository and website	varied	All publications			
<b>Outcome 4: Facilitating partnerships</b>					
<b>Indicator: Strengthened and newly created national, Pan-African and international partnerships</b>					
Number of new activities	1		1		
Number of new MOUs	1		1		



<b>Outcome 5: Scholarship support</b>					
<b>Indicator: Developed capacity and capacity amongst young scientists and women scientists</b>					
Number of young scientist activities supported	2		1		1
Number of activities supported for women	2		1		1
Number of ASSAf Gold Medals awarded	2			1	1
Biennial Humanities Book Award	1			1	
<b>Outcome 6: Supporting transformation</b>					
<b>Indicator: Organisational and Membership transformation with respect to inclusion across gender, race, disciplines and institutions.</b>					
Percentage of black Members	2% of total p.a		1%		1%
Percentage of women	2% of total p.a.		1%		1%

## Programme Resource Considerations

In the adjusted 2020/1 budget allocation, ASSAf's budget was cut by 10% of the amount approved earlier (revised Table 9; previously published on p.51). ASSAf has mitigated against this deficit by cancelling all overseas travel and national travel for as long as we can execute our engagements virtually. In addition, face to face meetings for ASSAf Council activities, presidential round tables and other lectures, its annual general meeting and awards will be accomplished virtually. We have judiciously restricted our expenditure items administered in the Governance and Administration Programme to fixed expenditure items (salaries, infrastructure, compliance related expenses) and conservatively projected expenses for other consumable items. Most of the programme driven activities in the Science Advisory Programme and Liaison Programme are funded externally. There is very little maneuverability for new activities unless they can be done virtually with no publication costs. Further planning for future activities will be considered for the academy to remain sustainable.

### Revised Table 9: Adjusted budget allocation for 2020/1

SUMMARY OF THE REVISED PROJECTED BUDGET FOR 2020/2021				
DETAILS			2020/21	2020/21
			Approved Projected budget	Revised Projected budget
		Note	R	R
<b>Revenue from non-exchange transactions - Government funding</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>37 895 432</b>	<b>30 010 335</b>
	Income/DSI - Baseline		27 898 000	25 108 000
	Income/DSI - Contract Funding		9 997 432	4 902 335
<b>Revenue from non-exchange transactions - International funding</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>977 820</b>	<b>968 392</b>
	Income/International Development Research Centre		977 820	968 392
<b>Revenue from non-exchange transactions - Local funding</b>		<b>3</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>519 561</b>
	Income/Medical Research Council		-	150 000
	Income/Janssen Pharmaceutical (Pty) Ltd		-	369 561
<b>Revenue from exchange transactions</b>		<b>4</b>	<b>1 644 000</b>	<b>1 744 000</b>
	Interest Received		1 200 000	1 200 000
	Membership Fees		104 000	104 000
	Cohort Secretarial Services		40 000	40 000
	Income From Publications - Quest/Advertising		300 000	300 000
	Income From Publications - Sajs/Advertising		-	100 000
<b>Total projected revenue</b>			<b>40 517 252</b>	<b>33 242 288</b>
<b>Total projected expenditure</b>			<b>40 517 252</b>	<b>33 242 288</b>
	Governance & Administration Programme		11 957 037	11 137 713
	Science Engagement and Strategic Partnerships (Liaison) Programme		13 514 306	8 541 556
	Science Advisory Programme		5 797 553	4 929 533
	Scholarly Publishing and Public Resources (Scholarly Publishing) Programme		9 248 356	8 633 486
			<b>0</b>	<b>-</b>

#### Notes:

1. The revised figures presented under note 1; 2 and 3 are confirmed income.
2. The revised figures presented under note 4 are internal estimates which are subject to change.
3. NB: There is a possibility of some external funding, they will be brought in once confirmations/contracts have been received.



## Impact of the reduction in the budget

Although the COVID-19 pandemic offers opportunity to reset and reshape organisations in a more sustainable way, we cannot survive for a long period of time without economic activity and the creation of financial value.

ASSAf's mandate and outcomes is focused on serving society.

ASSAf has appealed on numerous occasions, in the past, to the DSI and other forums, to reconsider the baseline allocation to ASSAf.

It is evident that ASSAf has operated under stringent financial constraints in the past to meet the target and achieve the mandate of the organisation.

ASSAf has grown and strengthened its financial stability, through external funding agreements, in partnership and collaboration with other organisations and business partners.

The reduction in baseline funding, following on the COVID- 19 pandemic, will undoubtedly put further pressure on the organisation to maintain activities as we did in the past and it will become near impossible to maintain the same number of activities and events.

Although the impact negatively effects the numbers, ASSAf's mandate remains focused in the activities we undertake.



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