

How OUTA is funded

OUTA's funding journey from March 2012 to February 2025

Over the 14 years since OUTA's inception in March 2012, OUTA has generated donor support of R425 million. The table below shows that 65% of our support comes from individuals, while 30% is from business (largely from the small, medium, and micro enterprises (SMME) sector), with 5% from donor foundations which is usually allocated for spending on specific projects.

OUTA income breakdown for the 14-year period 2012/13 to 2024/25

	Total income (14 years)	Average per annum	% of total
Total donation income	R425 424 245	R30 387 446	100%
Individuals	R274 864 172	R19 633 155	64.6%
Business	R126 770 700	R9 055 050	29.8%
Other and donor foundations	R23 789 373	R1 699 241	5.6%

Two distinct funding eras

OUTA's revenue-generating strategies need to be seen in the light of the two distinct eras of the organisation's existence.

Four years (March 2012 to February 2016): The Opposition to Urban Tolling Alliance

The first four years from March 2012 to February 2016, when OUTA was funded largely by fleet industry organisations who set out to review the government's e-toll decision in the high court.

During this period, OUTA comprised an alliance of non-governmental organisations (NGOs): the South African Vehicle Renting and Leasing Association (SAVRALA); the Retail Motor Industry Organisation (RMI); the South African Travel Services Association (SATSA); the QuadPara Association of SA (QASA); and the South African National Consumer Union (SANCU). SAVRALA and its members (mainly the car rental industry) were the major funders of the early litigation cases during 2012 and 2013.

Unfortunately, their support ended in 2013, due to government pressure brought against their support of the anti-e-toll challenge.

Ten years since March 2016: The Organisation Undoing Tax Abuse

The period since March 2016 to date, represents the OUTA that went "beyond e-tolls", with a new memorandum of incorporation and name of Organisation Undoing Tax Abuse. This was when OUTA set out to become the broader anti-corruption and challenger of maladministration of taxpayers' funds. It was at the outset of this period in 2016, that OUTA introduced its crowd-funding model, focussed on driving support from individuals and SMMEs. Since 2022, larger corporate donors have begun to contribute to OUTA's work, signifying a growing realisation of the need to assist in defending South Africa's democracy from the destructive forces of corruption and maladministration. The organisation also secured funding from donor foundations, which was allocated to specific projects, the largest of these being approximately R14 million from the EU, to develop a Parliament performance and transparency dashboard (ParliMeter), between the years of 2024 and 2026.

Over the past ten years under its new MOI, OUTA has opened 350 projects and employed an average of 41 people per annum.

Project-specific funders

European Union

Co-funding OUTA's project – developing a Parliamentary Oversight Dashboard (ParliMeter) – under the EU's Enhancing Accountability and Transparency Programme (a project partnership between OUTA, the Parliamentary Monitoring Group and OpenUp)

The Social Justice Initiative

Funding for OUTA's Delinquent Director project

French Embassy Aid

Funding for WaterCAN's water quality map and data management platform upgrade

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS)

Funding for the printing of the *Tips for MPs* booklet as distributed during the 7th Parliament's MP induction, as well as funding the hybrid (in-person and online) Civil Society-Parliament Symposia held on 21 October and 17 November 2024

FUNDERS



COLLABORATORS



Performance and financial overview

29 projects

still in progress

11%

increase in operating expenses (excluding staff costs)

11%

decrease in deposit yields

R76 222

surplus for the year

Diversified funding and support

The 2025/26 produced a very similar financial performance to the prior year, with more growth in the corporate donor segment, compensating for a slight decline from our crowd funded income stream (individuals and SMMEs), who are feeling the weight of a tougher economic environment. Large companies are now realising the importance of donating to organisations that fight corruption and maladministration in South Africa, doing so through their corporate social investment (CSI) allocations. This also enables donors to obtain a partial tax relief, due to OUTA's section 18A Public Benefit status.

A year of focus and restructuring

OUTA's annual strategy review at the beginning of 2025, gave rise to OUTA's executive management and board decision that OUTA should extract itself from several non-core initiatives that it had undertaken over the past few years, which had grown in stature and were requiring additional resources. WaterCAN was the largest of these initiatives and was set up as a separate NGO in May 2025, which OUTA continued to provide limited funding and support throughout the year. We also closed our Link app initiative, which provided residents with digital notification of infrastructure issues to municipalities. Unfortunately, this app had a low uptake and was not meeting its targets and objectives.

Notable changes

- As with most CSOs, manpower remains our biggest expense, which came in at R29.4 million this year, which was 8% down on the prior year's manpower expenses (of R32 million), due to the retrenchment and restructure programme following its re-focused strategic intent.
- Our operating expenses excluding manpower, increased by 11% from R17.5 million to R19.4 million, due largely to higher expenditure on litigation projects and more work undertaken on the (EU-funded) ParliMeter project. This project will come to an end by September 2026.
- OUTA's provisions (largely for future litigation matters) are invested in fixed-term deposits, and generated a yield of R2.3 million, which was 11% down on the prior year, due largely to reduced interest rates from investment houses and banks during the reporting period.
- OUTA's surplus after provisions was slightly above breakeven at R76 222, which was in line with last year's surplus of R75 274.
- OUTA opened the year with 50 projects still in progress, which was a lot higher than past years and indicative of the amount of work being undertaken – due to the wider range of initiatives that OUTA had become involved in. We managed to close 45 projects throughout the year, while also opening 24 new projects, leaving us with 29 open projects carried over into the new year.



Financial year

2025/26

2024/25

R46.1 million

Donor income

R46.9 million

R14.2 million

Direct costs (including litigation provisions)

R13.5 million

R29.4 million

Employee costs

R32.0 million

R5.2 million

Admin and other operation costs

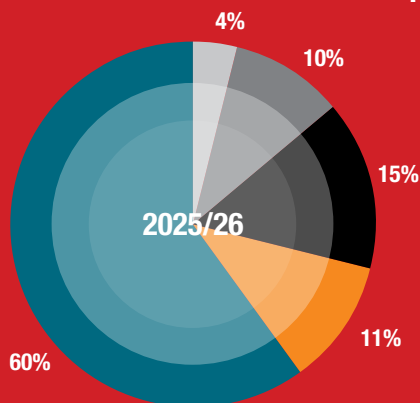
R3.9 million

R2.8 million

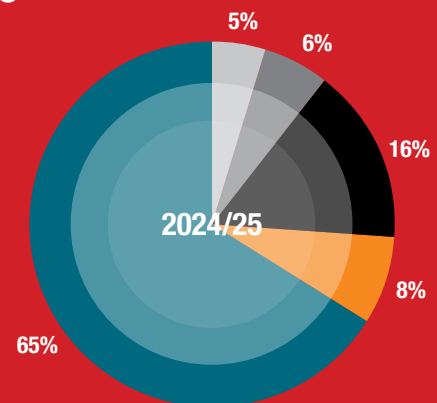
Other income

R2.6 million

Ratio of total expenditure



- Advocacy
- Litigation and provisions
- Other direct costs
- Admin and other operation expenses
- Employee costs



36

Head count (annual average)

44

24

Number of new projects

40

45

Number of closed projects

25

29

Number of open projects carried forward

50