

# South African Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program (SAFELTP)

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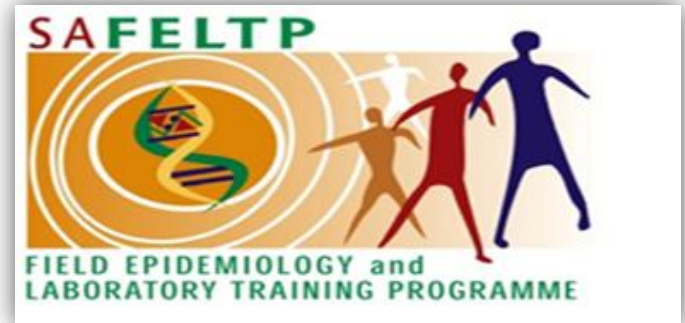
# South African Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program

- ❑ **Enhance South Africa's capacity to detect & respond to disease threats through training in applied epidemiology**
- ❑ **Two year program - mentor approach**
  - 25-30% classroom training & 70-75% field-based mentoring
  - MPH awarded by University of Pretoria
  - “Learn by doing”
    - Investigate disease outbreaks
    - Evaluate disease surveillance systems
    - Analyse large databases AND develop hypothesis-driven research for priority health conditions
- ❑ **Short courses in field epidemiology**
  - 3 months – 2 one week workshops
  - Basic in-service training



## Field Epidemiology (Disease Detectives) in SA

- ❑ **Unique in SA**
- ❑ **Commenced 2006**
- ❑ **Collaboration between:**
  - South African National Department of Health
  - National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD) of the National Health Laboratory Services (NHLS)
  - University of Pretoria, School of Public Health (UP)
  - US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention





## Short course

- In-service - one week workshop / tailored
- Basic Epidemiology: 2 one-week face- to-face workshops 2 -3 months apart

Short course	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Outbreak	19							
Lab QA (3 day)	54							
Lab QA (1 day)		320						
Short courses			50	68	75	28	51	48
Scientific Writing			22	13				
On-job training			30			30	35	8
Mentorship training								22
Total	73	320	102	81	75	58	86	78
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>873</b>							

# SAFELTP Enrolment, Completion and MPH Graduation – 2 year full time residency 2006-13

Year	Epi	Lab	Vet	Total	Outcome	
					Completion 2 yrs	MPH
2007	6	4		10	9	7
2008	5	4		9	9	9
2009	8	3	1	12	11	8
2010	6	4	1	11	9	8
2011	6	2	1	9	9	5
2012	3	2		5	na	na
2013	9	-	-	9	na	na
<b>Total</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>39</b>
Drop out=5						



# Progress and Highlights

Output	Sep 2012 – Aug 2013	Program Total
Outbreak Investigations	11	100
Surveillance System Evaluations	5	60
Large Database Analysis	7	53
Papers presented at conferences	17	78
Planned studies conducted	4	24
Publications in peer reviewed journals	8	43
Graduation rate	78%	83% (Sep 2013)



# Awards/Recognition

- Received the John Snow Award for Outbreak Investigation
- Best poster conference presentation
  - 2007 – AFENET, Kampala
  - 2008 – TEPHINET, Malaysia
  - 2010 – TEPHINET, South Africa
  - 2012 – PHASA/ RUDASA, Bloemfontein
  - 2013 – UP Faculty day
- Best oral conference presentation
  - 2008 – TEPHINET, Malaysia
  - 2009 – AFENET, Kenya
  - 2011 – AFENET, Tanzania



# FELTP at Work

Western  
Cape

**March 2012**

Investigation of antibiotic resistant bacteria among patients at hospital led to review/improvement of infection control practices

Free  
State

**February 2012**

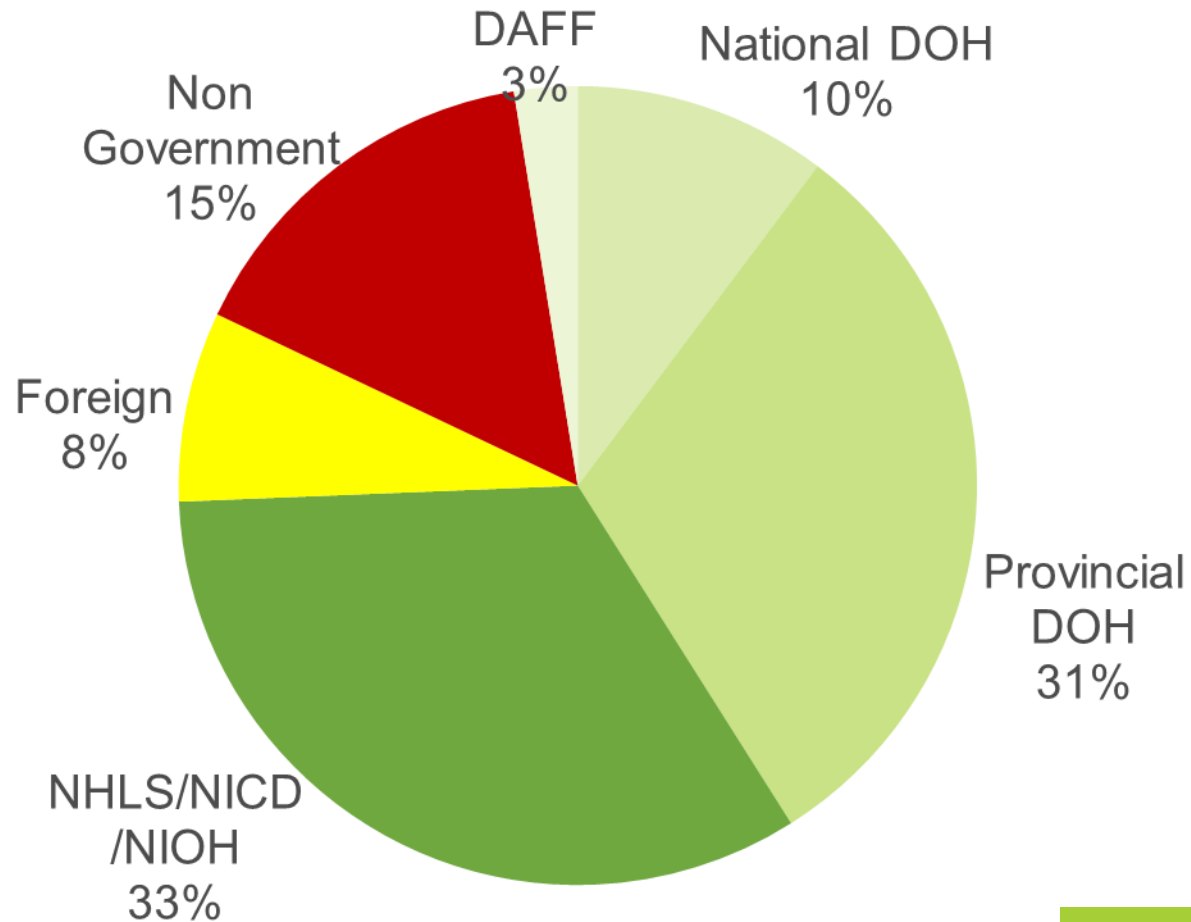
Investigation of diarrheal disease identified sewage contamination and inadequate chlorination at the reservoir.

In response, local government installed new water reticulation system at the water plant





# Employment of SAFELTP Graduates, 2013 (n=39)



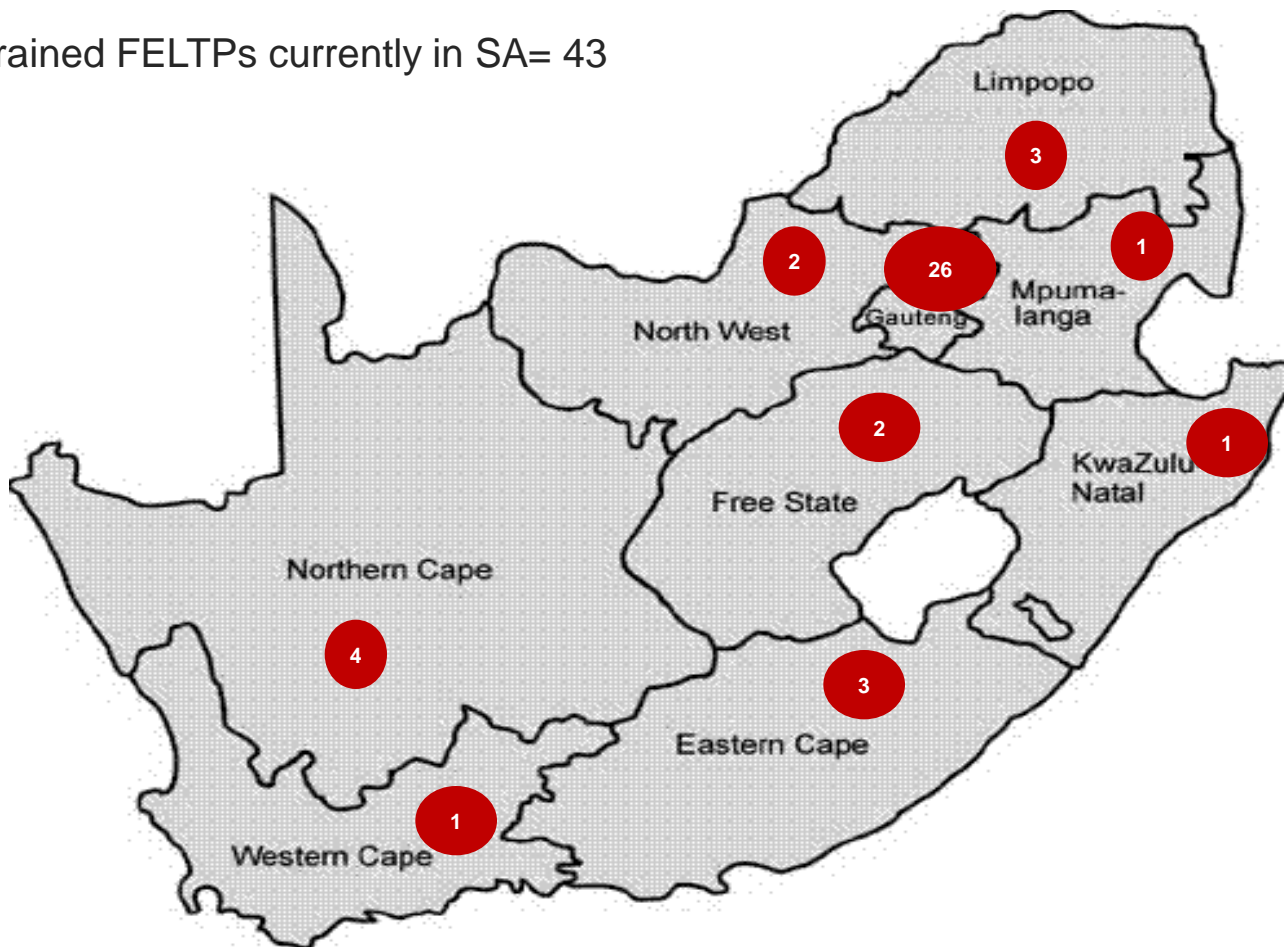
**Non government-** Health Systems Trust; Aurum Institute  
**DAFF-** Division of Agriculture,  
**NHLS/NICD/NIOH** - National Health Laboratory Systems/National Institute for Communicable Diseases and National Institute for Occupational Health

**Foreign countries-** Australia, Burkina Faso, Togo  
**DOH-** Department of Health



# Distribution of FELTP trainees in South Africa

Trained FELTPs currently in SA= 43



## Trained FELTPs in other countries

- Togo – 1
- Burkina Faso - 1
- Australia - 1



# SAFELTP Application Requirements

## Educational

- A medical, veterinary or dentistry degree ; OR
- A doctorate degree in a medical/health related field; OR
- A master's degree in a medical or health related field; OR
- An honours degree with at least 2 years' applicable work experience ; OR
- A 4-year bachelor's degree with at least 3 years' applicable work experience ; OR
- A 3-year bachelor's degree plus at least 5 years' applicable work experience (see below)
- Please note that a BTec degree does not fulfill the minimum educational requirements of the University of Pretoria and the SAFELTP.

## Work experience

- Professional experience in a health field or other fields relevant to health
- Experience of working in the public health system is desirable
- Applicants for the laboratory track should have working experience within a clinical or public health laboratory



## Challenges and Plans

- ❑ Raising profile of field epidemiology in SA
- ❑ Attracting medical graduates to the programme
- ❑ Expanding and ensuring sustainability of program within the re-engineered Primary Health Care system
- ❑ Deeper engagement with the DOH – funding proposal
- ❑ Increasing quantity, topic and rigor of investigations
- ❑ Assessing epidemiology skill capacity needs
- ❑ Exposure of residents to more outbreaks - engagement with provincial and district DOH



# QUESTIONS?

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