

DST/ MRC South African Population Research Infrastructure Network



Health and Demographic Surveillance System (HDSS) Nodes:



Partner Universities:





The South African Research Infrastructure Roadmap (SARIR)

The **SARIR** is a long-term and high-level strategic and systemic intervention to provide research infrastructure across South Africa's public research system.

The ultimate aim is to enhance science in the country.

13 wide-ranging RIs are included in the first iteration of **SARIR**



Humans and society

- **Health and Socio-demographic surveillance**
- *Digital language resources*



Earth and environment

- Marine and Antarctic Research Facility
- Biogeochemistry Platform
- *Terrestrial & Freshwater Environmental Observation*
- *Shallow Marine & Coastal Research*
- *Natural Sciences Collection Facility*



Materials and manufacturing

- Materials Characterisation
- Nano-micro manufacturing



Health, biological and food security

- *'Omics' Research Platform*
- Biobanks
- *Nuclear medicine research facility*



Energy

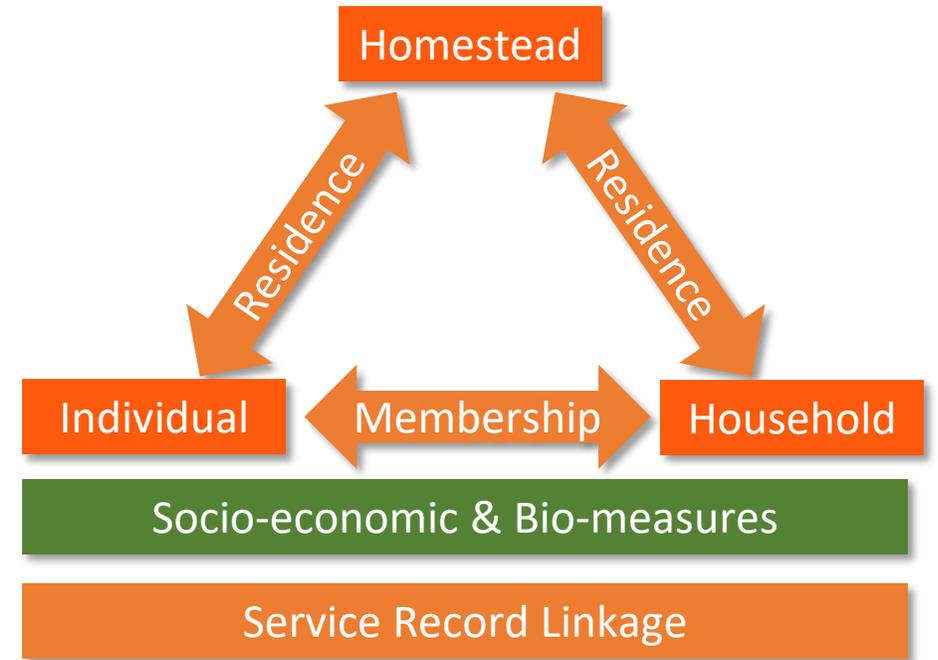
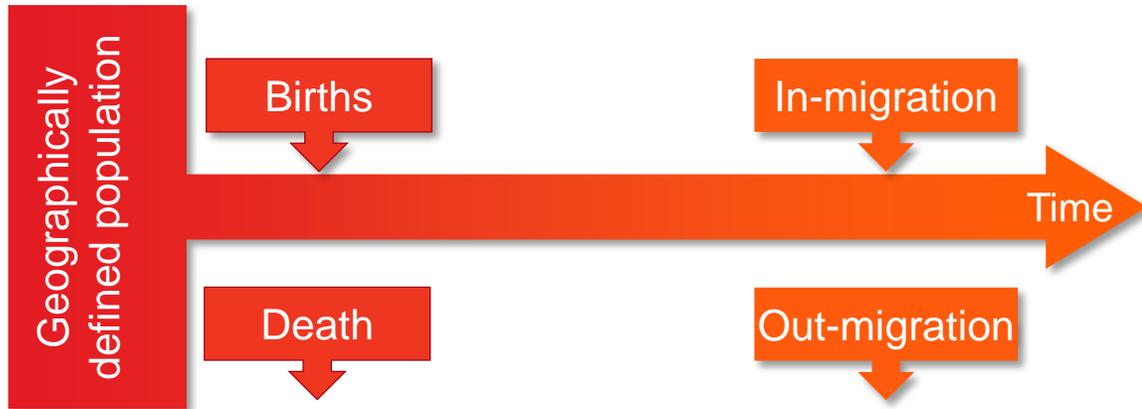
- Solar Research



SAPRIN Aims

- A platform for **intervention research and policy evaluation**
- **Accurately measure trends in health, population, social and economic indicators**
- **Calibration and validation of national datasets**
- Embedding **post-graduate training and research career development**

SAPRIN Protocol



Single Household Visit, DBS Collection, HIV ELISA



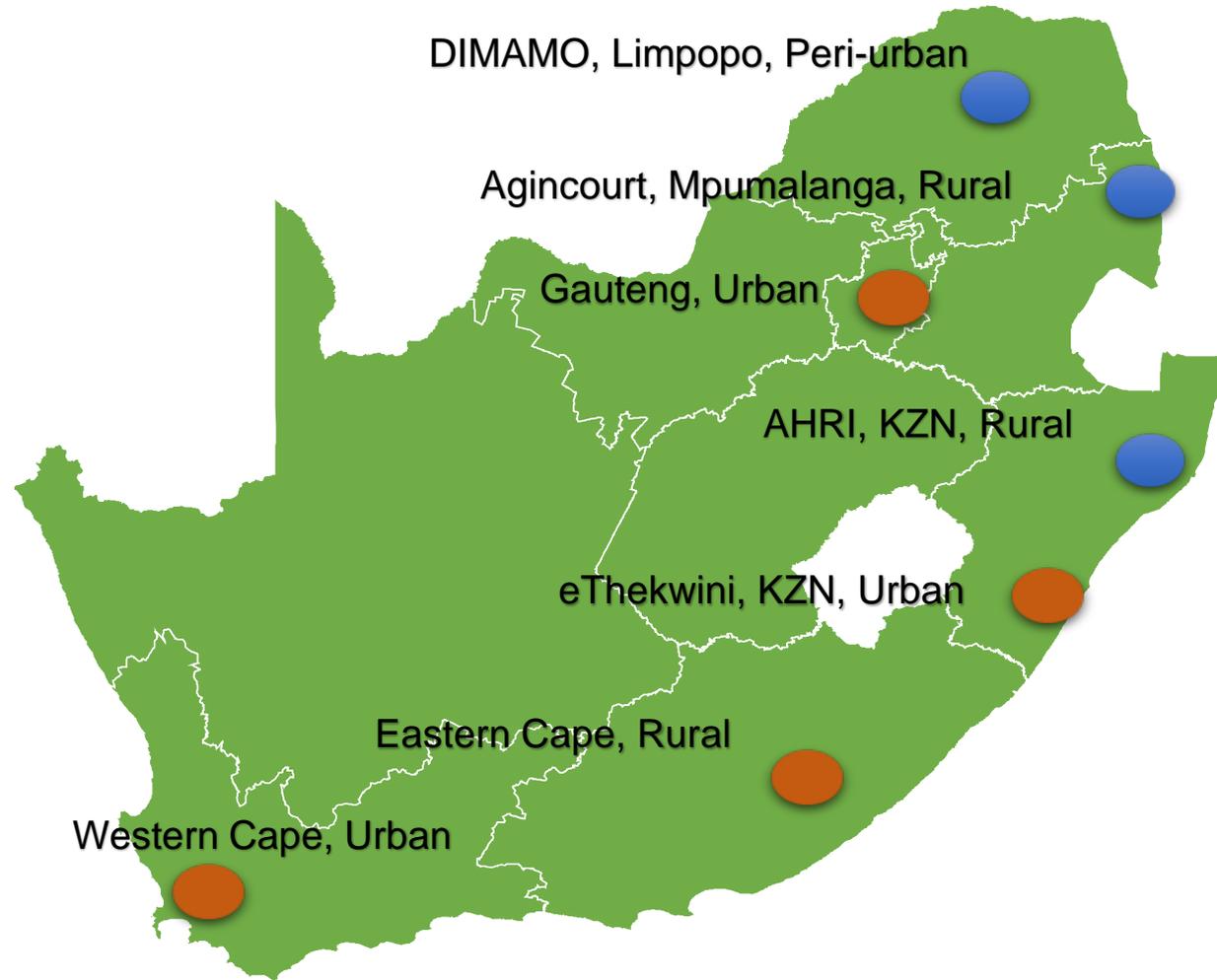
2x telephonic contact



Verbal autopsy visit



Expanding the SAPRIN Nodal Network



-  Existing Nodes
-  New Nodes to be developed

Request for Expression of Interest

- Aim:
 - To assess interest in and readiness of South African research organisations to establish and operate an HDSS node consistent with the SAPRIN standard protocol.
- Eligibility
 - Research organisations or consortia associated with a South African university or a national research council
- Submission
 - Deadline: 30 June 2019 18:00
 - Submit electronically to: Nosicelo.Mchiza@mrc.ac.za

What do we want to find out?

- Are there groups who:
 - Have an interest in hosting a SAPRIN node?
 - Possess a track record of population-based research?
 - Possess an existing relationship with and access to a community where the node will be based?
 - Can express a vision and strategy for the population-based research to be hosted by the node?
 - Have the experience and capability to manage the complex fieldwork and data management associated with longitudinal population surveillance?

What do we need from you?

- Your organization
 - Who are you?
- Statement of Interest and Experience
 - Why are you interested and what is your value proposition?
- Vision for the node
 - What specifically do you have in mind?
 - What is the gap between what you have and what is required for a SAPRIN node?

What next?

- This is not a request for proposal, so there will be no 'successful' applicants
- We will use the information obtained to craft one or more requests for proposals for additional SAPRIN nodes
- Submit your expressions of interest to:

Nosicelo.Mchiza@mrc.ac.za

Before 18:00 30 June 2019

Submitted Questions

1. Proposal length limits – are appendices allowed to supply extra information beyond the length limit?
 - Please place the gist of your response within the document complying with the length limitations. It is OK to add appendices with more detailed information
2. Are there any supporting documents required e.g CVs, university support letters etc?
 - Formal CVs or letters of support are not needed. A paragraph bio-sketch is fine for each member of the leadership
3. Under site leadership, does this refer to the site/node Director or applies generally to senior management at the site?
 - It applies to the team that will be responsible for hosting the node
4. Each node is required to have at least 100,000 individuals under surveillance. Is there an upper limit to this number? Will SAPRIN provide the additional funding for nodes that have >100 000 individuals?
 - There is no upper limit, but SAPRIN will only fund the implementation of the core protocol up to the limit of 100,000.
5. How real time is SAPRIN data i.e. when are nodes expected to submit data to SAPRIN and how long after submission is data made publicly available?
 - Within six months of the conclusion of data collection for the year, the data is available for access usually within the next six months. Of course this applies only to the core SAPRIN data elements and not to any site specific data.
6. Are there special data access and data analyses privileges for those in the network compared to public data access?
 - No, apart from the communities of practice workshops and support available to nodes only.

More Q & A

1. If an organisation does not have scope to host a node, but is broadly interested in supporting an organisation hosting a node in a particular area, should they submit a proposal?
 - We are primarily interested in organisations or collaborations that are interested and capable of hosting a node, but because this is primarily an information gathering exercise, we nevertheless welcome any relevant input.
2. When is the RFP expected to be published?
 - We want to start the process for the first node in 2020, which doesn't leave us much time to publish the RFA, so our intention is to publish it before the end of year.
3. Is an EOI mandatory to be considered for any subsequent RFA?
 - No, formal eligibility criteria to respond to an RFA will be published on the release of the RFA, but having submitted an REOI response will not be one of them.
4. Residents who are renting, are they also classified as a household?
 - Yes, without going into the details of SAPRIN household definition, one can enumerate more than one household living at a homestead or physical location, so households subletting are eligible for enumeration
5. Will applicants receive feedback on applications?
 - No, because this is not a formal request for application, there will not be individualized feedback on the REOI
6. What is the benefit of this expression of interest?
 - It allows SAPRIN to craft an optimal RFA, but also allows respondents to state their capabilities so that SAPRIN is aware of those when drawing up the RFA. Specifically, in addition to the funding available to conduct the surveillance, provision will be made for start-up costs. The information will allow us to assess the gap between current capabilities of respondents and general and specific requirement to run an HDSS.

More Q & A

1. Are there any experiences with SAPRIN with direct involvement of government health services with a node, or of working with Ward-based outreach teams
 - Some of the nodes have experience with working closely with public health care services, e.g. by placing research staff in their facilities and/or linking to health records data. There isn't any node with extensive experience in working with ward-based outreach teams.
2. What would you anticipate being the resource available per site in any RFA?
 - SAPRIN uses a detail costing model for the standard protocol that has been validated over several years at the existing nodes. Each node get a fixed allocation based on the components of the standard protocol they implement, which covers the cost of delivering those components.
3. Please will existing HDSS be asked to align their definition of concepts to SAPRIN's definition... e.g. migration, residency, household?
 - Yes, the value of the network is dependent on the harmonizing the core concepts and standardizing the surveillance methodology – this enables us to pool data across nodes as well as simplifying the implementation of multi-node research studies.
4. Will SAPRIN be actively involved in staffing and implementation of new nodes?
 - Yes, SAPRIN will provide detailed guidance in setting up the node, but we do not get involved in the actual running of the node. We also have communities of practice in fieldwork, data management and community engagement where nodes can learn from and support each other.