



# South Asia Field Epidemiology and Technology Network (SAFETYNET)

## Building Field Epidemiology Capacity in India, 2018-2023

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# Collaboration and innovation: Critical to build a well-trained field epidemiology workforce

### Background

- SAFETYNET is a non-profit association headquartered in Philippines and working in field epidemiology in South Asia and Western Pacific regions since 2009
- In 2014, Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA) set a target of having one trained field epidemiologist (FE) per 200,000 population to make the world safe from infectious disease threats
- In 2018, under GHSA, SAFETYNET was awarded a grant for building India's FE workforce by strengthening regional FE Training Networks (FETPs)

### Objective

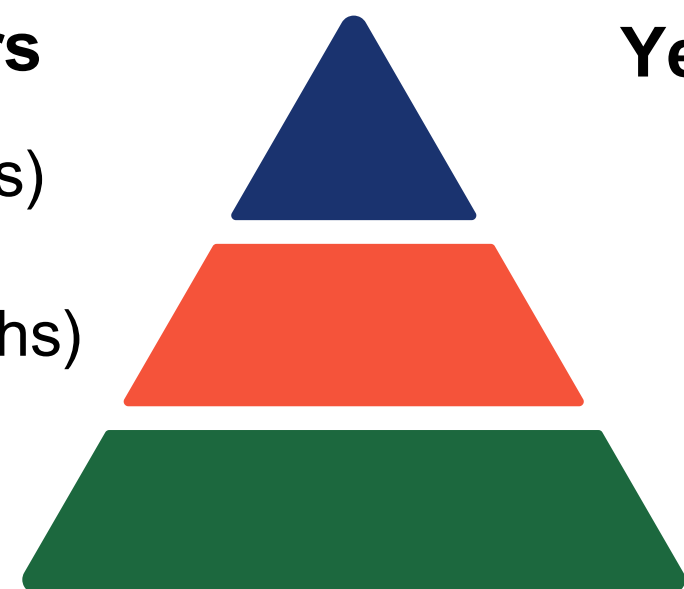
- To strengthen existing FETPs in India by building capacity in disease surveillance and outbreak response, scaling-up training and expanding the FETP network

### Description

#### Technical Support

##### FETP Training Tiers

- Advanced (24 months)
- Intermediate (9-15 months)
- Frontline (3 months)



##### Years supported

- (2018-2023)
- (2020-2023)
- (2018-2023)

Advanced Intermediate Frontline

#### Training in field epidemiology

Orientation sessions in field epidemiology	✓	✓	✓
Scientific writing workshops	✓	✓	✓
Mentor workshops	✓	✓	✓

#### Designing and conducting

Outbreak investigation	✓	✓	✓
Surveillance system evaluation/establishments	✓	✓	✓
Epidemiological studies	✓	✓	✓

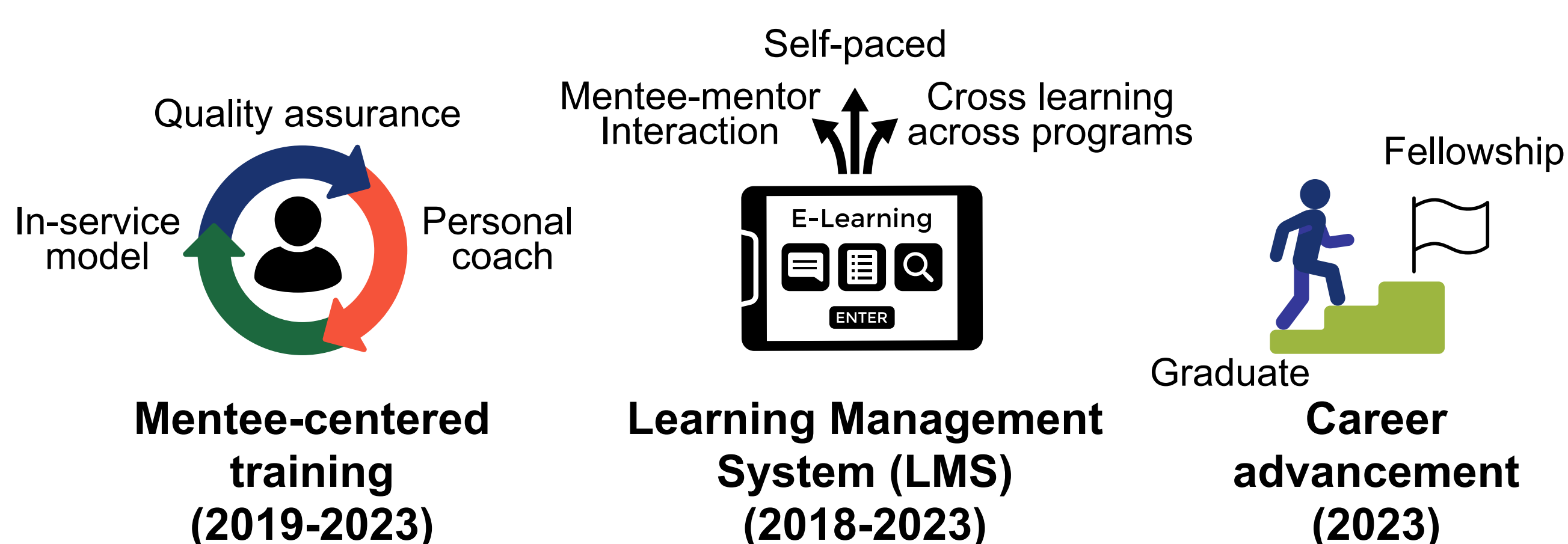
#### Writing and reviewing

Field investigation reports and presentations	✓	✓	✓
Conference abstracts	✓	✓	✓
Conference oral and posterior presentations	✓	✓	✓
Manuscripts	✓	✓	✓
Grant proposal	✓	✓	✓

#### Other Activities

- Collaboration with multiple partners and institutions
- Advocacy in field placement sites
- Establishment of new FETP hubs
- Conducting FETP conferences in India
- Logistic support for conferences: Travel, registration, lodging
- Employing FETP graduates as mentors

#### Strengthening FETP through Innovation



### Outcomes

#### Technical Support



Number of FETP Cohorts supported



102 Outbreak Investigations  
70 Surveillance Evaluations  
14 Epidemiological Studies  
5 Mentor Workshops



6 Scientific Writing workshops

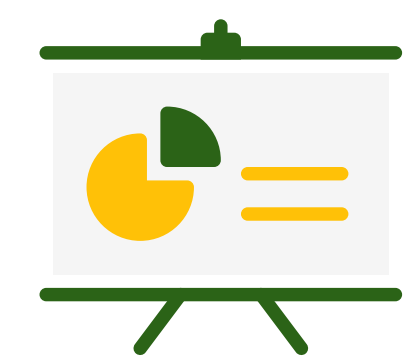
85 Participants

4 TEPHINET grants



59 Published Manuscripts

176 Accepted Abstracts



14 Conferences Supported

176 Oral and Poster Presentations

#### Other Activities



##### Collaboration

US CDC  
World Health Organization (WHO)  
National Institute of Epidemiology (NIE)



##### 12

Advocacy visits



##### 4

Intermediate hubs started



##### 2

Conferences Conducted



##### 8

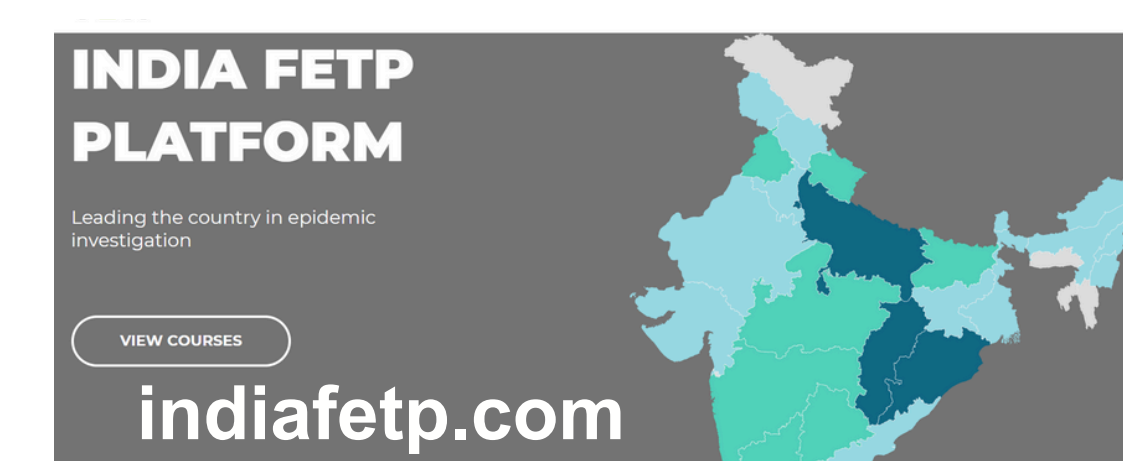
Graduates Hired

#### Accreditation, Innovation and Capacity Building of Team



Sep 2023

Advanced FETP received TEPHINET accreditation



2022

LMS functional

10

FETP Programs

35

Modules

302

Users Onboarded



Oct 2023

3 Fellows and 4 faculty enrolled

### Impact

- Developed a pool of trained mentors for FETP training
- Increased footprint of FETPs across India
- Southeast Asia region (SEAR)'s only country with accredited advanced FETP
- SEAR's first LMS for FETP with open source code, real-time tracking of deliverables
- SEAR's first Fellowship for FETP graduates

### Lessons, Challenges and Way forward

- Collaborating, innovation and investing in mentors build FE workforce and public health leadership
- Our challenges are scaling up while maintaining quality, advancing graduates' careers, and ensuring sustainability
- Focus areas include developing in-house fundraising capacity and a repository of resources in LMS for the SEAR

#### Additional Information

- <https://globalhealthsecurityagenda.org>
- <https://www.safetynet-web.org>
- <https://indiafetp.com/>

#### Author Information

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#### Acknowledgements

- CDC
- WHO, New Delhi, India
- Indian Council of Medical Research-NIE
- National Centre for Disease Control, India



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