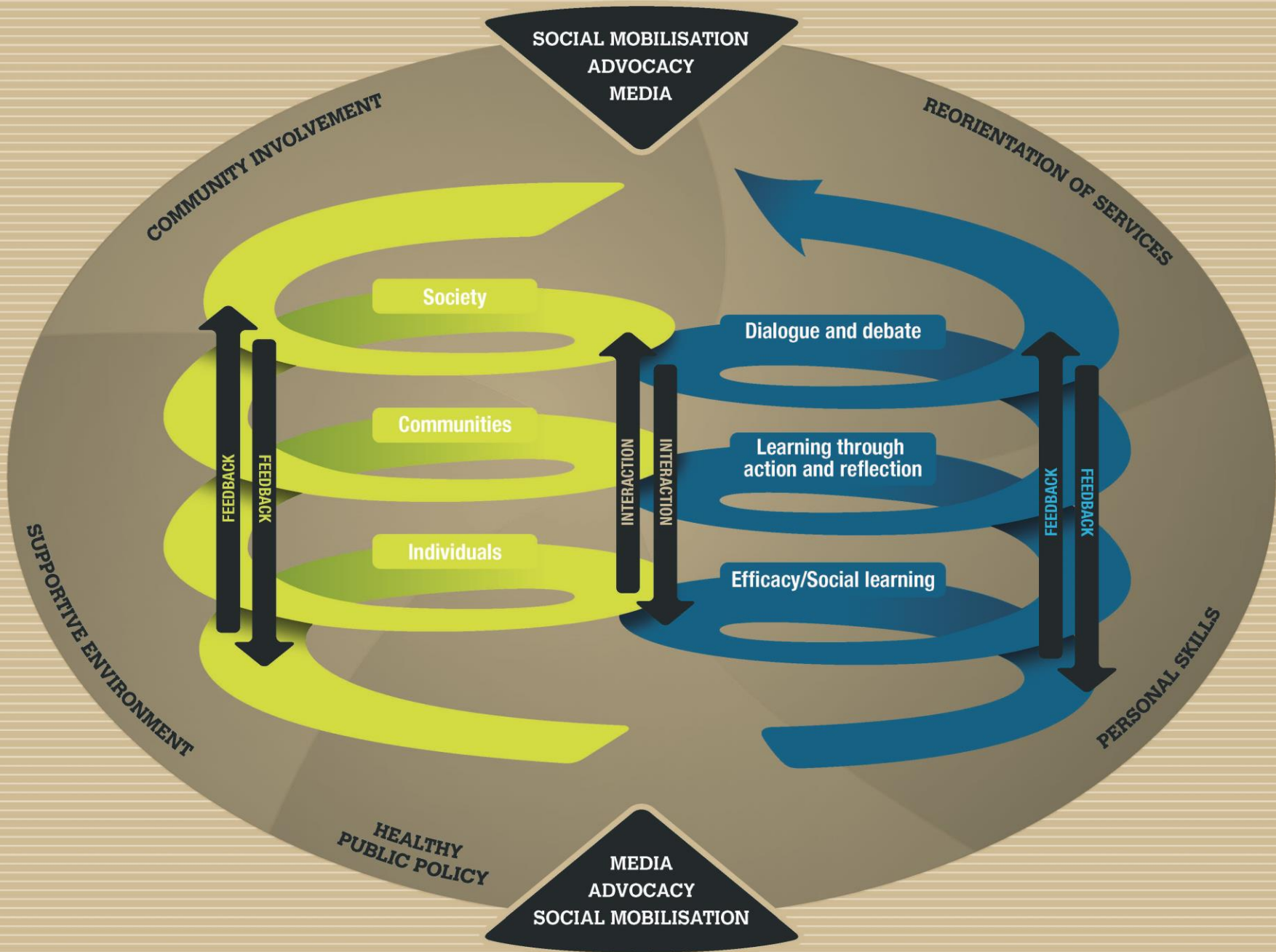


# Soul Buddyz Club Helps Make Children Safe

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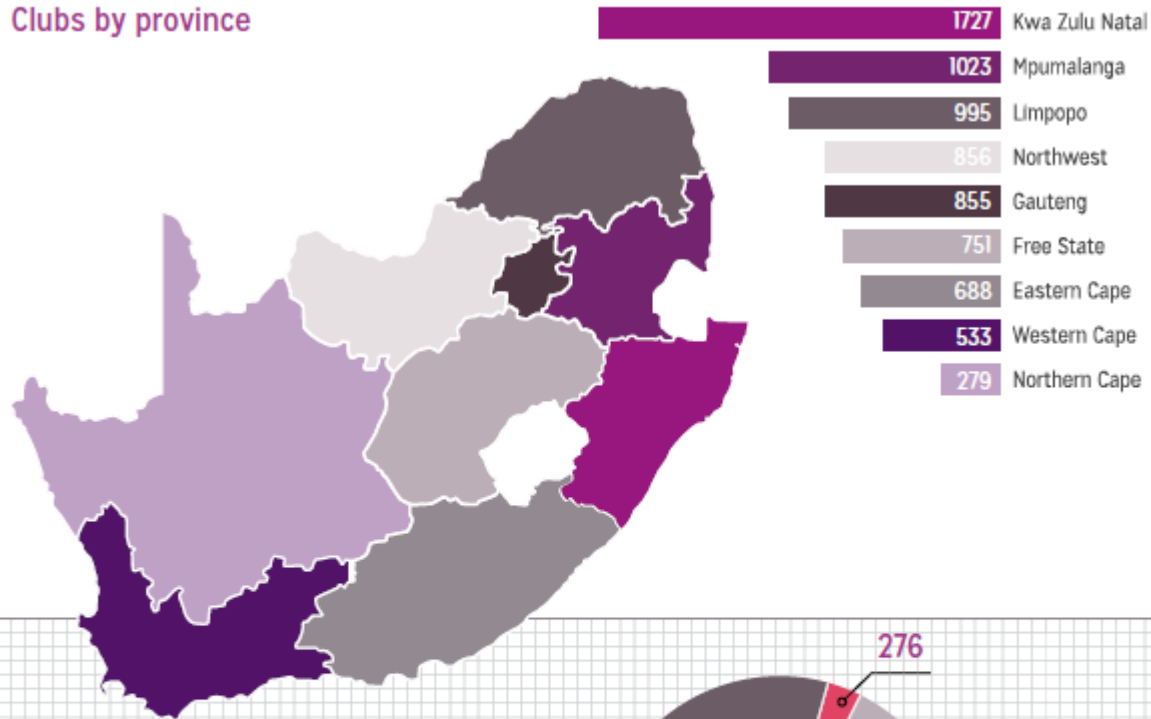
# Soul Buddyz Clubs

## Composition

- Approximately 6 000 Soul Buddyz Clubs currently exist in schools around the country, but this number is growing.
- The Clubs are convened by facilitators who are trained through a 5-day accredited course by Soul City Institute for Health & Development Communication (Soul City Institute).
- There are approx. 25 children in each club.

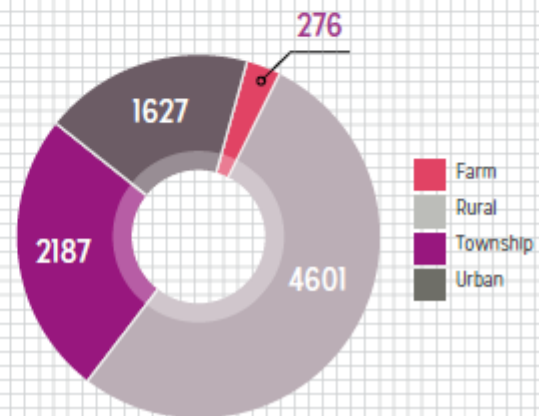
# Geographical Distribution

## Clubs by province



## Location data

Participation in rural areas and the poorer provinces is high. There are 4601 clubs in rural areas, 276 clubs on farms, and 3797 clubs in urban areas.



## **Vision**

Children have strong feelings and ideas about their lives, their health and issues in communities. They also yearn for opportunities to express their needs and to be involved in finding solutions for social problems.

Soul Buddyz Club enables children to do this. The principle of child participation has been embedded in the programme from the beginning. Engaging with children about the different aspects of the programme is fundamental to its success and sustainability.

## **Active Citizenship**

The Soul Buddyz Club intervention creates a platform where all South African children between the ages of 8 and 15 years can learn and develop skills that will facilitate mobilisation around children's rights, and issues that affect children and their surrounding schools and communities.

# Materials

Club' activities are stimulated and guided by the suite of publications they receive each year: Club Zone magazine, the Unit Guide and posters.

- All of the materials are reviewed several times by the Soul City team and subject experts. The team works with clubs in developing some of the content and visuals for the publications – and in sessions with the Buddyz and club facilitators
- Materials are pre-tested with facilitators and club members before being finalised.
- **Club Zone**  
This quarterly 24-page magazine is designed to promote general knowledge and a love for learning and exploring. It also provides tools for doing school work, such as research projects, speeches and story-writing. Ideas for articles are gathered formally and informally, including from children during field trips and meetings, and through projects, letters, drawings, poems, stories and other mail that clubs send in.
- **Unit Guide**  
There are two or three units a year that focus in depth on particular topics. Recent topics include alcohol-free schools, money matters, bullying, child abuse, gender equality and fairness, HIV prevention, democracy and leadership. Based on the philosophy that children learn through doing, each unit culminates in a project whereby clubs decide what action to take to address an aspect of the topic to make a difference in their school or community. These projects are submitted to Soul City Institute.

## Grading

Clubs activities are monitored and Clubs are graded according to their level of activity and successful completion of projects and activities included in the materials. The levels are Bronze, Silver, Gold, Platinum and Diamond. Through these activities the Clubs earn points which are calculated at the end of the year to determine their grading for the following year. This process motivates and rewards their efforts.



# Unit 2 2012 Buddyz Help Make Children Safe

- Developing partners: Childline, The Teddy Bear Clinic, Child Welfare South Africa, Thuthuzela Care Centres, SAPS, DBE, DoH.
- Packaged with a DVD Discussion Tool – consisting of a DVD cut down from Soul Buddyz TV drama and a booklet to guide discussion sessions.

# Some activities

- School open days – parents and communities invited
- Partnerships established with SAPS, Social Workers, Counsellors, Health Care Workers
- Marches

DAILY SUN, Sun Soweto  
30 May 2012, p.3



# PUPILS ON THE MARCH