# MAITS

MULTI-AGENCY INTERNATIONAL TRAINING AND SUPPORT

www.maits.org.uk



MAITS is a small charity that was set up to facilitate capacity-building amongst health and education professionals working in the disability sector in under-resourced countries or settings; people mostly working with children with neurodevelopmental disabilities such as cerebral palsy, intellectual disability and autism.

- This is achieved through **supporting staff access to training and development**, either by funding trips to **attend training at regional centres of excellence** or by funding **UK health and education professionals** to provide structured training and hands-on support through **repeat visits** to centres overseas.
- MAITS is also involved in developing **training packages** to be used for such purposes as well as **tools** to support disability work in under-resourced settings.
- We target our training and support in **three main areas:**
    i. Training and resources for generic workers
    ii. Continued Professional Development for teachers and allied healthcare professionals
    iii. Training to undergraduates as part of their graduate programme

MAITS was founded in 2008 and has approximately **200 specialist professionals** on its register with this number growing every year. MAITS funds (part of full) approximately 10 multidisciplinary training visits per year. The majority of these are in South Asia, but not all, with trainings having been delivered in **10 different countries** so far.

**Our principals**

- To work jointly to **empower local organisations and professionals** to meet their training needs through **local collaborations** and **financial support.**
- Where local access is not achievable or additional input from the UK is requested, to provide training and support using **sustainable approaches** with **measurable outcomes**. This includes fostering **long-term relationships** with our overseas partners through repeated visits.
- To **tailor** our inputs, through partnership and collaboration, to be responsive to the requirements of each setting.
- To promote a **multidisciplinary approach** where possible and appropriate.
- To serve as many people as possible by acting as an **information and networking resource**, and by encouraging the **cascading of knowledge**.

**How we operate**

We operate in several ways. To date, our main means of providing support has been to respond to requests for input from overseas organisations by offering **training programmes** designed by professionals who have applied to volunteer with us and who have been selected for our register. The training programmes are now slowly being developed into **packages** which are currently being piloted and evaluated or modified for different settings. The aim is that local centres of excellence will be the providers of these trainings in the future, with support and monitoring from our registered trainers. (Our trainers are recruited from within the UK and the countries in which we operate). Where requests for training cannot be met through our packages, we **advertise the request for input to our register of trainers** who are invited to contact the organisation directly. Once the organisation has identified the applicant(s) they would like to receive training from, the applicant(s) can then apply to us for a **grant**. MAITS also provides grants to professionals who have **an existing relationship** with an organisation overseas and are looking for some **extra funds** to help with a training visit. On occasion, we have provided funding for **individuals overseas** to attend training in their local region. We would like to **extend this area of support**, by also becoming an **information resource** on what training is available locally and who the local experts are.

Below is a summary of our resources and training packages that are in various stages of development.

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| 1 | *Guide for Child Development Workers: Promoting development and independence in children with neurodevelopmental disabilities through support in daily activities* |
| 2 | *The management of children with neurodevelopmental disabilities (Basic and Advanced)* |
| 3 | *The management of dysphagia in children with neurodevelopmental disabilities (Basic and Advanced)* |
| 4 | *Working with children with neurodevelopmental disabilities in the classroom* |
| 5 | *Advanced modules for working with children with ASD: Sensory Integration & Communication* |

There are plans to design training around working with people who have had a Stroke.