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MAITS
Global Disability Training

Annual Report 2025-26
1st July 2025 - 30th June 2026



education, training & support

MAITS – Improving the lives of people with developmental disabilities worldwide through the transfer of knowledge and skills

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Dear friends and supporters,

I am proud to share the MAITS Annual Report for the year 2025–26 with you.

Over the past year, we have worked hard to reach more children with developmental disabilities in places where care is hard to find. We focused our main training in Pakistan, India, and Bangladesh, while also supporting smaller projects in Kenya, Nigeria, and Romania. Through our community programmes and our paper-based assistive equipment projects, we gave local health workers, teachers and parents the practical skills they need to support children at home.

Meheen Dalamal
CHAIR OF THE MAITS TRUST BOARD

Our work is made possible by our wonderful volunteer trainers. We now have 292 skilled trainers in our network, with more than 100 living and working in low- and middle-income countries. We are also training more local leaders than ever before, with 25 Master Trainers, 43 qualified trainers, and 87 trainers-in-training. This means local specialists can now run workshops in their own communities and languages.

Community support makes a huge difference. When local workers and parents learn how to help children with daily tasks, communication, and play, children become happier and healthier. Parents also feel more confident and less stressed. In addition, our hands-on workshops in India and Pakistan taught families and staff how to turn recycled cardboard into custom chairs and standing frames for children who cannot sit or stand on their own.

Since MAITS began, our goal has been to ensure children with disabilities are included and treated fairly. To date, we have trained 8,468 people across 24 countries and helped improve the lives of around 1.6 million children and families.

None of this could happen without our dedicated volunteers, staff, partners, and generous donors. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, thank you so much for your support and for helping us create a better, more inclusive world.

With gratitude,

Meheen



Dear supporters and partners,

This past year has been one of measurable growth, innovation, and deepening regional collaboration. At MAITS, we have accelerated our commitment to sustainable, community-led solutions, ensuring that children born with neurodevelopmental disabilities and their families receive early, high-quality support.

During 2025–2026, we trained 478 individuals caring for and working with children with developmental disabilities. Through their outreach, knowledge, and dedicated care, these individuals have collectively supported around 7,000 children across under-resourced communities.

Sadia Mirza
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MAITS

A major milestone this year has been advancing our Community Health Worker (CHW) Empowerment Programme across Pakistan, India, and Bangladesh. Working alongside our strategic regional partners namely the Institute of Holistic Rehabilitation and Inclusion (IHRI) in Pakistan, Satya Special School and Tamahar Trust in India, and BRAC, Symbiosis, and the Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralysed (CRP) in Bangladesh. Our tiered Training of Trainers (ToT) model is embedding independent, local clinical leadership. Across multiple cohorts, our longitudinal data demonstrate transformative outcomes: significant reductions in childhood infections, marked leaps in activities of daily living and schooling, and dramatic increases in caregiver confidence.

In parallel, we have expanded our Appropriate Paper-Based Technology (APT) programme as a three-year initiative in Asia. Through successful train-the-trainer workshops in Puducherry, India, and Karachi, Pakistan, local therapy teams are now transforming recycled cardboard into bespoke, life-changing postural supports and standing frames entirely independently. By partnering with local workshops and involving parents directly in fabrication, we are establishing a sustainable, low-cost social enterprise model that turns clinical need into craft pride and community independence.

Globally, over 240 million children live with disabilities, the vast majority in low-resource settings with limited access to care. To date, MAITS has trained 8,468 individuals across 24 countries, positively impacting over 1.6 million children and their families. During 2025–2026, we also awarded six Small Grants to deliver specialised training in Nigeria, Romania, and Kenya.

Looking ahead to 2026–2027, our strategic focus centres on scaling regional capacity, operationalising four dedicated APT production hubs, expanding our parent workshop models, and modernising our training architecture.

A massive thank you to our hardworking team, overseas partner organisations, donors, and volunteer clinicians. Your generous support ensures that vulnerable children and their families gain the practical tools, care, and dignity they deserve.

A special thank you to our International Clinical Committee members, Fiona Beckerlegge, Shabnam Rangwala, Fahmida Banu, Heather Angilley, Ali Punjani, Debbie Kramer-Roy, and Nazia Hozaifa for generously sharing their clinical expertise. Your leadership in rigorously reviewing our training packages and mentoring local trainers ensures the highest standards of evidence-based care across every community we reach.

With gratitude,

Sadia

THE CONTEXT

Our Story so far...

2008 MAITS was established and registered as a UK Charity in December 2008 as the result of a trip by one of the founding members, Niels Chapman, to Pakistan. He visited special needs schools and rehabilitation centres in Karachi, Pakistan to understand the need for professional training on disability in low resource settings.

2009 First multi-disciplinary team of MAITS professionals trained 30 Speech and Language Therapists from Komo Centre and Entebbe Welfare School, Uganda. MAITS hired its first clinician onto the team in addition to the highly experienced volunteer clinicians and educators that we work with.

2010 MAITS conducted training visits to Sadhana Village, India to start compiling its very first training manual for community workers, caregivers and parents of children with special needs. A multi-disciplinary team of experienced clinicians wrote the programme.

2011 Biggest overseas training trip by a team of 11 clinicians delivered trainings at four major special needs institutes and centres in India. The team of volunteer speech and language therapists, occupational therapists, physiotherapist and special needs teachers directly trained 168 disability professionals in India benefitting over 480 individuals.

Olivia Donnelly joined the board as a trustee.

2012 MAITS launched its very first training manual for caregivers to work with children with developmental disabilities.

2016



MAITS released its training package on supporting children with feeding difficulties.

We also organised the first train the trainer style programme at Nathan Ebanks, Jamaica which resulted in the development of our training manual for Community Health Workers.

2015



The launch of our online platform for trainers and organisations to register with MAITS which allows us to match people looking for training with professionals who can provide tailored courses to match their training needs.

We also partnered with the Nathan Ebanks Foundation in Jamaica to train over 150 professionals working with children with developmental disabilities.

Annabel Heathcoat-Amory joined the board as a trustee

2014



MAITS started working on training for babies struggling to feed because of an underlying disability or premature birth. This resulted in the development of our life-saving training programme on infant feeding difficulties.

2013



MAITS started providing APT (Appropriate Paper-Based Technology) training on how to make therapy equipment out of paper and cardboard in Bangladesh. The team trained 29 professionals, representing nine different organisations in Chittagong. Since, the team has been again in 2014, 2016, 2018 and again in 2019 to continue their APT training in Bangladesh creating an effective continued training programme.

2017



We had the sixth return visit by Art Therapists to Zambia Therapeutic Art Centre taking the total number of beneficiaries of this training programme to 697. MAITS wins first external funding by pitching at a Dragon's Den style event at The Funding Network.

2018



Three MAITS volunteers were awarded the Prime Minister's Points of Light Award for their voluntary work with MAITS! Janet Ivin, John Carter and Geraldine O'Grady were three of only six people who received this award for their outstanding volunteer work for those with special educational needs and disabilities.

The project we partnered with the Nathan Ebanks Foundation to run in Jamaica won a merit award at the World Cerebral Palsy Awards!

We ran 17 small training programmes in response to locally developed requests. We launched our infant feeding programme as a Train the Trainer programme in Rwanda where our trainers and their new trainees ensured that we exceeded our target and trained 94 local professionals. This was funded by The Funding Network.

Our long-term Chair Asif Rangoonwala stepped down from the board after 10 years' of dedicated service. Meheen Dalamal was elected the new Chair, Annabel Heathcoat-Amory was elected Vice Chair and we recruited a Treasurer, Stuart Robertson.

2019 MAITS reached its millionth beneficiary this year!

MAITS expanded its team after having secured funding for a Project Coordinator and a Fundraiser from The Funding Network and the Fore, with a contribution from the Big Lottery.

2020



Established online training programme by adopting the Caring for/ Working with children with neuro developmental disabilities to keep reaching out to marginalised families during pandemic.

2021



MAITS launched it's hybrid model of Training of the Trainer programme in five focus countries – India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Uganda.

2025



MAITS completed the review and modernisation of training materials for carers of children with disabilities in 2026. The redesigned, more user-friendly slides feature enhanced pictorial representations and are currently being piloted in three countries.



MAITS has adopted Appropriate Paper-based Technology (APT) as a long-term flagship project, expanding training across Asia through partnerships in India and Pakistan. Dedicated APT centres are being established to train local professionals and produce sustainable, low-cost assistive equipment for children with disabilities in low-income communities.

2024



In 2024, MAITS launched a new website to enhance interaction with stakeholders and showcase the our collaborative achievements. The revamped site reflects MAITS' commitment to accessibility, transparency, and fostering stronger connections with its global community.

2023 MAITS has launched its inaugural video resource to enhance the Community Health Worker Empowerment Programme. This video provides fundamental life skills techniques tailored for parents and caregivers of children who may be experiencing delayed or different developmental trajectories. The video is openly accessible on YouTube, presented in two languages to ensure widespread availability and inclusivity.

2022

CareTech foundation

MAITS signed a 3-year partnership with CareTech Foundation to continue rolling out the CHW Empowerment Programme in Bangladesh and Pakistan - until 2024.

OUR IMPACT

Key Achievements 2025-26

Romania

MAITS supported expert trainers Heather Angilley and Susanna Davies to deliver a training programme in Romania alongside local partners Belief in Action and Hope without Limits. Reaching 75 occupational therapists, technicians, care staff, and volunteers, the hands-on sessions built vital skills in assistive equipment adaptation, wheelchair maintenance, safer moving and handling, postural management, and home adaptations. The initiative also helped establish a local equipment store and improved daily care practices for disabled and elderly residents, with strong increases in participant confidence leading to plans for a follow-up visit.

Pakistan

MAITS advanced its Appropriate Paper-based Technology (APT) initiative through intensive training with UK specialists, equipping 25 participants across ACELP and IHRI. The programme immediately provided bespoke postural seating for four children with disabilities while establishing sustainable, parent-led workshops to locally fabricate affordable assistive devices from recycled materials.

Alongside this, the Community Health Worker programme trained 15 frontline workers and three therapists, preparing for an independent, locally led rollout to support 150 children. Across 199 tracked children, safe-feeding instruction eliminated chest infections entirely in Batch 2 (reaching 100% infection-free), significantly improved daily living skills like toileting and eating, and substantially boosted caregiver confidence.

India

At Satya Special School in Pondicherry, MAITS advanced its Appropriate Paper-Based Technology (APT) initiative through a dual-phased training model. The programme upskilled six therapists and an orthotist as trainers, followed by a 6.5-day course equipping 26 participants from 10 Indian organisations to fabricate custom postural equipment such as chairs and standing frames.

Alongside this, MAITS expanded its Community Health Worker Empowerment Programme in India, delivering a pilot workshop for 21 parents and caregivers in Pondicherry and co-designing a comprehensive early-intervention curriculum with Tamahar Trust. Formalised partner agreements will roll out six training rounds to empower up to 180 caregivers, providing practical home therapies, peer networks, and direct developmental support for 180 children with disabilities.

Bangladesh

Health Worker (CHW) Empowerment Programme by training 34 frontline workers in localised Bangla-language courses, including 24 staff members from BRAC and 10 clinic and field personnel from Symbiosis in Mymensingh. Co-facilitated by Level 3 Master Trainers from the Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralysed (CRP), this initiative proved the scalability of our cascade model and directly integrated field feedback into our global training curriculum, supported by a specialised refresher module.

Longitudinal evaluation of 67 children supported by 15 CRP-trained workers demonstrated transformative clinical and developmental impact. Functional independence soared across key daily living activities notably teeth brushing (98.5% improvement), dressing (96.4%), and school attendance (83.33%) alongside a 96.15% surge in community participation. Children reported in poor health plummeted from 85.9% to just 6%, while caregiver strain was replaced by significant gains in confidence and wellbeing.

Nigeria

MAITS advanced disability care in Nigeria through two targeted training initiatives. Consultant Paediatricians upskilled paediatricians, nurses, and allied health professionals at Garki Hospital in Abuja to establish an early-identification and multidisciplinary service for conditions like autism and cerebral palsy. Alongside this, expert trainer Rachel Lassman delivered in-person Baby Ubuntu training and ongoing mentorship to 10 local Master Trainees, who will cascade skills to a further 38 facilitators, creating a sustainable network of community-based support for children with neurodisabilities.

Kenya

MAITS' expert trainer Cath Barton supported local teams in Kenya by delivering hands-on therapy training and international webinars to occupational therapists and students at BethanyKids. She also completed four days of community follow-up visits, mentoring rural caregivers which led to marked increases in parental confidence and tangible improvements in the daily care and support provided to children with disabilities.

11

PARTNER ORGANISATIONS IN EIGHT DIFFERENT COUNTRIES

478

PEOPLE TRAINED

6,932

CHILDREN WITH DISABILTIES AND THEIR FAMILIES REACHED

PURPOSES & AIMS

Who we are

MAITS is an international disability charity working in low-resource settings around the world. Children born with disabilities such as cerebral palsy, autism and/or learning disabilities and their families are at the heart of everything we do. Our work involves developing the skills of those who support children with disabilities and their caregivers. Meeting the health, developmental and educational needs of children with special needs is a challenge in any setting but particularly for children living in low-income countries, where families often have no access to information, guidance or specialist services.

MAITS' work focuses on equipping community-based children's and family services to better meet the needs of babies and children by empowering those who care for them. We work with a network of partner organisations across Asia and Africa. Specialist disability professionals from these local organisations deliver MAITS training packages to frontline health workers, teachers and community workers, who in turn share their knowledge and skills with families and caregivers. Our training packages follow a 'Training of Trainers' model, building local capacity and supporting the sustainability of knowledge and skills within communities.

We also facilitate bespoke continuing professional development (CPD) training for healthcare and education professionals on topics relating to disability and mental health. This training is delivered by specialists through our Small Grants Scheme.

All training is provided free of charge. MAITS helps to facilitate the training and provides grants to cover costs.

Trainers

MAITS has **292** trainers on its register. The majority are Speech and Language Therapists, Occupational Therapists and Physiotherapists. Others include creative arts therapists, special educators, nurses and psychologists. 102 of our trainers come from low- and middle-income countries, and we are actively working to increase this number.

In addition, we have 25 Master Trainers (also called Level 3 Trainers), 43 Level 2 Trainers and 87 Trainers in Training in 6 different countries.

Since 2009, we have provided training to 8,468 individuals in over 24 countries, benefitting approximately 1,6M children with disabilities and their families.

Vision

We envision a world in which children born with disabilities are able to access the health, developmental and educational support they need to achieve their full potential.

Mission

To improve the life expectancy and quality of life of individuals born with disabilities, and the quality of life of their families, by improving access to support for children's health, development and education support in low-resource areas of the world.

Strategic aims

Over 240 million children globally live with disabilities, many of whom lack access to the care and support they need, particularly in low-resource settings. MAITS has spent the last fifteen years addressing these challenges, positively impacting over 1.6M children through innovative, community-focused interventions.

The 2020–2025 strategy established a strong foundation, marked by notable achievements in programme delivery, capacity building, and organisational growth. Our review, however, identifies areas for further improvement as we refine our approach for 2025–2030.

To improve the lives of children born with disabilities in places with limited or no access to specialist child health, development and education services. We do this by building the skills of the local health and education workforce, as well as caregivers and families, to support babies and children to survive and thrive.

2025-2030 Strategy: Building on Strengths, Addressing Gaps

MAITS' Impact: 2020 - 2025

- Training Achievements - 1,907 professionals & grassroots workers trained to strengthen community-based support for families with disabled children
- Children Reached - 57,950 children with disabilities supported
- Global Reach – 8 countries in Asia and Africa

MAITS' next strategic phase focuses on addressing gaps in support to disabled children while building on our strengths. Guided by three key pillars, we aim to deepen our impact, reach more children and families, and advance disability inclusion globally by:

Enhancing Knowledge Dissemination and Capacity Building:

- Expand grassroots training to combat stigma and normalise disability inclusion.
- Build robust communication networks with trained health workers.
- Empower families and communities to advocate for change.

Improving Access to Assistive Devices and Resources:

- Scale the APT programme to deliver affordable assistive devices to more families.
- Partner with organisations for equipment donations and distribution.
- Create an online directory of low-cost disability services.

Strengthening Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL):

- Engage third-party experts for impact assessments.
- Implement advanced data collection tools to gather feedback from communities.
- Use evidence-based insights to refine programmes and drive strategic decisions.
- By building on lessons learned and focusing on these pillars, MAITS aims to foster an inclusive and equitable world for children with disabilities. Through collaboration with partners, families, and health workers, we remain committed to empowering communities and transforming lives globally.



Our work directly contributes to the Sustainable Development Goals 3, 4, 10 and 17.[1] By strengthening the capacity of local disability organisations, as well as mainstream and special schools, we aim to improve the health and wellbeing outcomes for people with disabilities, ensure access to quality education for all, and in turn, reduce inequalities. Our programmes are delivered through trusted, strategically aligned local partnerships.

[1] SDG 3 = End preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age, SDG 4 = guaranteeing equal and accessible education, SDG 10 = Reduced Inequalities, SDG 17 = Partnerships for the goals. Sustainable Development Goals (who.int)



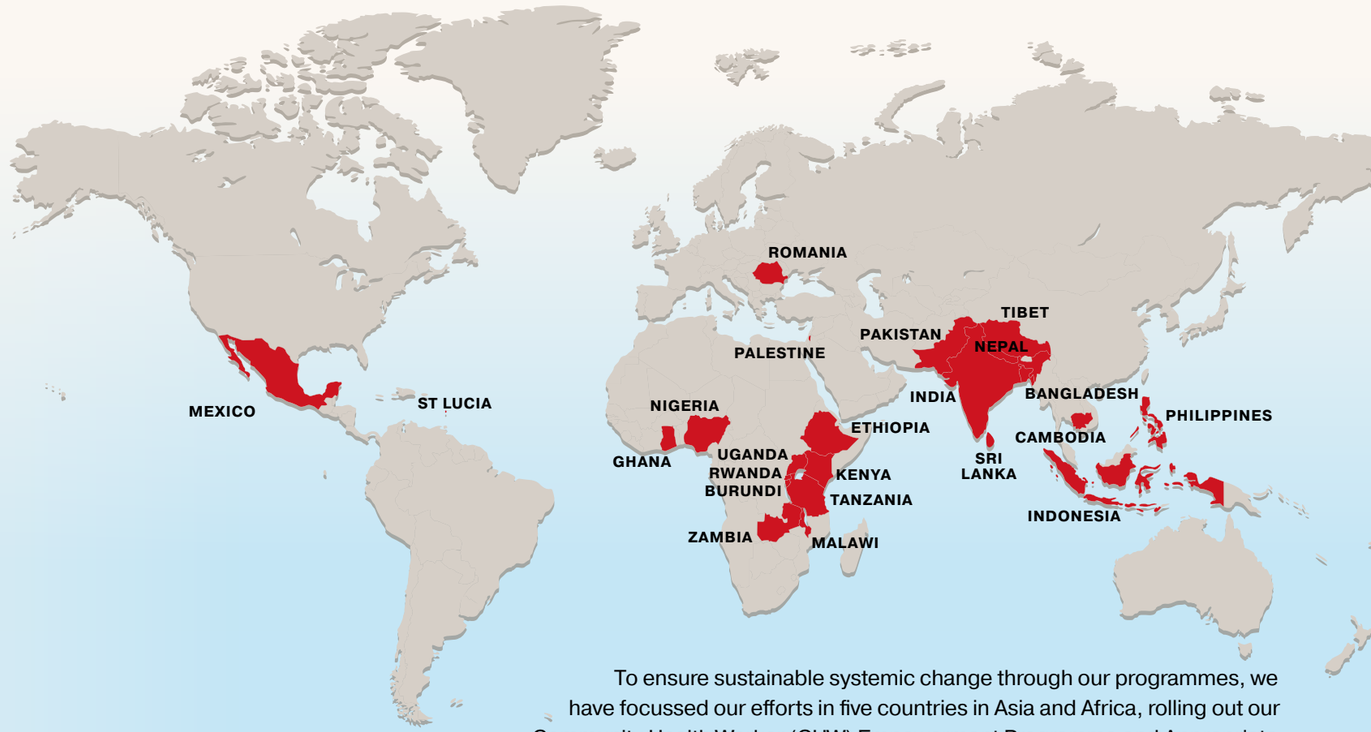






Where we have worked

We have worked in 24 countries, with a current focus on South Asia and Africa for our longer-term Training of Trainer (ToT) programmes.



To ensure sustainable systemic change through our programmes, we have focussed our efforts in five countries in Asia and Africa, rolling out our Community Health Worker (CHW) Empowerment Programme and Appropriate Paper-based Technology. We are continually expanding Appropriate Paper-based Technology as MAITS three-year programme in Asia.

MAITS' Small Grants programmes enable training to be delivered without geographical restriction, ensuring that those supporting marginalised populations can benefit from skill-sharing across the globe.

Our Packages and Programmes

MAITS is prioritising Training of Trainer programmes to empower communities to develop skills and drive change locally, ensuring the widespread dissemination of essential expertise. Currently, MAITS offers two such programmes based on our training packages.

APPROPRIATE PAPER-BASED TECHNOLOGY

This year, MAITS has made substantial progress in scaling up Appropriate Paper-based Technology (APT) training across Asia by forming strategic partnerships with in-country organisations committed to sustainable, local solutions for children with disabilities. These partnerships are laying the foundation for dedicated APT workshops and training centres, expanding access to low-cost, customised assistive equipment where it is needed most.

India: Satya Special School, Puducherry

MAITS brought its life changing Appropriate Paper Based Technology project to Satya Special School in Pondicherry. Led by expert trainer Heather Angilley, the programme trained six senior therapists and an orthotist to become trainers themselves, before teaching 26 participants from 10 organisations across India how to turn recycled cardboard and paper into custom made supportive chairs, stools, and standing frames. Every single trainee built and took home a completed piece of equipment to help children in their local communities immediately.

Satya Special School already makes around 60 pieces of free, personalised equipment each year for low income families, and this training helps turn them into a central training hub for the whole country. With generous support from the Gregory Mills Foundation, local organisations will receive funding support to establish their workshops. The impact is spreading as the ADAPT team in Mumbai has already produced five new prototype devices, proving that simple, low cost recycled materials can bring lasting comfort, dignity, and independence to children with disabilities.

Pakistan: ACELP, IHRI, and MALC

Our project in Karachi taught local teams how to make custom supportive equipment using recycled paper and cardboard. Pakistani trainers who had previously studied in Nepal led a week-long workshop in September 2025 for 25 people across three charities, teaching practical skills like cutting, pasting, and using templates. While one charity decided they could not continue, the remaining teams built strong foundational skills.

UK specialists Catherine Barton and Deborah May travelled to Karachi later that November to run an advanced 10-day training course. This hands-on session produced immediate results, providing four disabled children with custom-made seats, tailored specifically to their physical needs.

Both local partner charities have now moved into manufacturing equipment on their own:

ACELP: Drawing on their advanced training, the team is actively producing devices to meet high community demand, and MAITS recommends expanding their workshop space.

IHRI: A dedicated workshop is currently being set up to invite parents of children with special needs to help build the equipment. This approach helps parents learn practical craft skills while taking pride in creating devices that help their own children sit, play, and learn.

Our Long-Term Goal

Our strategy across Pakistan and India centres on building long-term, community-led solutions. Equipping trusted local partners with practical skills, tools, and training enables them to run their own production hubs independently. Over time, these local centres will continue producing affordable equipment, training new community leaders, and ensuring children with disabilities receive the daily support they deserve.

SUPPORT FOR DISABLED CHILDREN THROUGH THE COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER (CHW) EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME

A dedicated team of six senior therapists from our International Clinical Committee recently carried out a full review of our Community Health Worker training slides. Thanks to their generous guidance, the training materials have been refreshed and modernised. Before releasing them widely, we are testing the updated slides in live sessions across India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh to gather direct feedback from local teams.

Why This Work Matters

UNICEF estimates that one in ten children worldwide lives with a disability, most in places where expert therapy simply does not exist. Our programme tackles this challenge by teaching local health workers and community volunteers how to coach families at home.

Central to our approach is an easy-to-use guide called “Caring for Children with Developmental Disabilities.” It shows parents how to:

- Understand their child’s specific developmental needs.
- Support their child’s learning through daily play and family routines.
- Improve their child’s health, everyday independence, and community inclusion.

Local therapists including physiotherapists, occupational therapists, and speech therapists trained by MAITS, lead the courses for community workers. This practical cascade currently reaches families across Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, India, Pakistan, Burundi, Kenya, and Uganda.

Underlining its high standard of care, the programme is certified by the UK CPD Certification Service, giving local frontline staff a recognised, top-tier professional qualification.

CHW Empowerment Programme – Pakistan

Community Health Worker Programme in Pakistan

Working closely with the Institute of Health & Rehabilitation Sciences (IHRI), our training programme reached key milestones across several groups of workers:

Finishing Batch 3: We trained 15 community health workers alongside three local therapists. This training helped the therapists qualify as Level 2 trainers, allowing them to lead community workshops on their own.

Getting Ready for Batch 4: In early 2026, we interviewed 10 health workers and selected 150 children with special needs (15 for each worker to support). Running at IHRI Baldia Campus, this round will be taught independently by newly certified local trainers, with MAITS providing high-level guidance. We are also looking at long-term job pathways for these workers.

Tracking Results and Real-Life Change

We followed 199 children across the first three batches to measure how community support changes daily life:

- **Batch 1:** 33 children
- **Batch 2:** 34 children
- **Batch 3:** 132 children

Key Highlights from the Data

Fewer Illnesses: Teaching parents safe feeding techniques stopped recurring chest infections entirely in Batch 2, with 100% of children free from infections by their final checkup (up from 75.8% at the start). In Batch 3, the number of infection-free children rose from 48% to 64%.

Greater Independence: Children made major leaps in everyday activities, including using the toilet (up by 65.2%), eating and drinking (up by 60.9%), joining in education (up by 60.9%), and washing and dressing (up by 56.5%).

Happier Families: In Batch 2, children described as “mostly happy” rose from 32.4% to 50%. At the same time, parents in Batch 3 felt far more capable: those reporting low confidence dropped from 58% down to 32%, with many moving into the highest confidence levels.

CHW Empowerment Programme – India

Community Health Worker Programme in India

Throughout 2025–26, MAITS expanded its community-based support across India to help more children with disabilities and their families:

Direct Support for Families: We provided direct training and guidance to 21 parents and caregivers during this period.

Satya Special School (Pondicherry): A three-day workshop in May 2026 brought together 21 parents and carers, teaching them practical everyday skills to support their children while testing MAITS’ newly refreshed training slides.

Tamahar Trust (Bengaluru): We teamed up with Tamahar to create a caregiver training course combining MAITS’ community toolkits with Tamahar’s specialised methods. Prepared for rollout in July 2026, this three-day course covers early therapy, play, communication, behaviour, and parent wellbeing.





















Reaching Families Directly

MAITS signed formal partnership agreements with both Satya Special School and Tamahar Trust to expand training straight to households. Together, the two organisations will run six training rounds to support up to 180 parents and carers, directly benefiting around 180 disabled children and their wider families. This initiative marks an important shift—moving beyond training health workers alone to directly giving parents the hands-on tools, home routines, and peer support networks they need to help their children thrive.

CHW Empowerment Programme – Bangladesh

Working with local partners across Bangladesh, we expanded community support for children with disabilities and made sure our training meets the highest standards:

Training Frontline Workers: We trained 34 community health workers, teachers, and clinic staff in Bangla, partnering with two major organisations:

BRAC: 24 staff members completed a practical six-day training course led by qualified local trainers from the Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralysed (CRP).

Symbiosis (Mymensingh): 10 health and field workers finished a six-day course and started visiting local families to assess their needs.

Supporting Local Trainers: Senior trainers from CRP led the sessions, showing that our model of training local experts works well. In April 2026, Master Trainer Shabnam Rangwala ran an online refresher session to help CRP trainers make future workshops even more practical and engaging.

Life-Changing Results for 67 Children

We followed 67 children who received regular support from 15 community health workers and experienced parents trained by CRP. The results show real, lasting change:

Everyday Independence: Children made huge progress in taking care of themselves, including brushing their teeth (98.5% improved), getting dressed (96.4%), grooming (96.2%), and attending school (83.3%). Almost all children (96.1%) took part more actively in community life.

Better Health and Greater Happiness: Children reported in poor health dropped dramatically from 85.9% at the start to just 6% at their final review. Those who rarely or never felt happy also fell from 87.3% to only 6%.

Confident Parents: Families went from feeling stressed, isolated, and overwhelmed to feeling confident, knowledgeable, and capable of supporting their children every day.

As next steps, MAITS and local partners plan to expand home-based support and pilot parent groups facilitated by CHWs and therapists. Organisations are encouraged to use MAITS' assessment tools for tracking child development progress and continue regular follow-ups. A follow-up visit is planned to support implementation and strengthen collaborative efforts aimed at building sustainable community-based rehabilitation support in Kenya.

Other MAITS Services

SKILL MATCHING AND SMALL GRANTS SCHEME

There are approximately 1 billion people in the world living with disabilities. Almost 240 million of these are children (UNICEF 2021). Eighty percent of people with disabilities live in developing countries where there are fewer skilled staff to support them.

MAITS provides a skill-matching service whereby we match health and education professionals from all over the world who have specialist skills in disability training and are offering to share their skills for free, with organisations in low-and-middle income countries who are seeking training in a specific topic. Training includes skills-sharing to mental health workers who support caregivers of children with disabilities as well as teaching clinical supervision skills to speech and language therapists. MAITS trainers aim to enhance existing services by training workers in new skills and upgrading their existing skills. We provide skill-matching both through direct contact with our existing pool of trainers and through our online matching service.

MAITS provides small grants to enable training to take place. Since 2011, we have provided 213 grants to enable training for staff working in rehabilitation and special education settings in a range of topics.

During 2025/2026, MAITS awarded 6 Small Grants for training in Kenya, Romania and Nigeria.

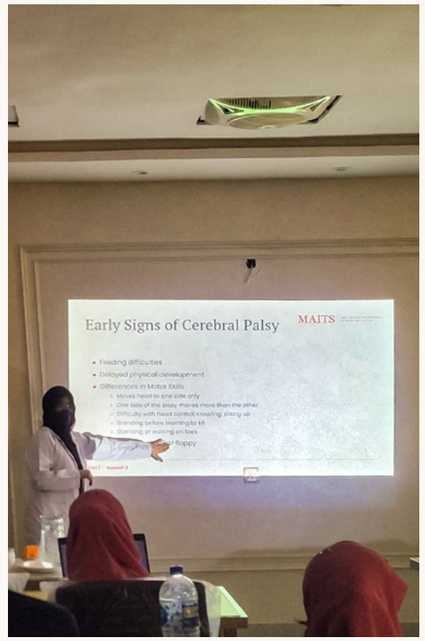
PRODUCTION OF TRAINING RESOURCES

The MAITS International Clinical Committee completed a comprehensive review of the training slides for the Community Health Worker (CHW) Empowerment Programme. The training addresses ongoing challenges faced by trainers and staff supporting children with developmental disabilities in low- and middle-income countries. Recognising the critical shortage of specialised resources, MAITS has developed a broad range of training materials which have been accessed by individuals and organisations in over 40 countries. To enhance accessibility and practical use, the programme includes instructional videos designed for training sessions and caregivers, accessible via smartphones or other locally appropriate platforms.

This review process, which began in 2025 and will continue through next year, forms part of a broader strategic three-year transformation plan to modernise and future-proof MAITS' training resources and delivery methods. The plan includes digitalising paper-based materials into engaging e-books optimised for mobile and offline use, developing a multilingual mobile app to distribute content and facilitate data collection and producing high-quality videos to support both frontline workers and caregivers. As part of the review, all content and illustrations are being carefully assessed and updated to improve cultural relevance, accessibility and professional consistency.

We have received endorsements for both the Infant Feeding programme and the Guide for Parents on Caring for Children with Developmental Disabilities, both of which are included in the USAID Disability Resource Bank and Save the Children Knowledge Hub.













Case Study: Putting APT Training into Practice – Personalised Seating and Standing Support for HN

For children with complex physical disabilities, standard commercial positioning equipment is frequently unaffordable, scarce, and difficult to adapt to changing needs. When HN was assessed by the local therapy team in Pakistan, he presented with high extensor tone; a condition causing involuntary muscle tightness and rigid posture. He urgently required a specialised chair and standing frame to facilitate safe postural alignment, ease discomfort, and help him participate more actively in daily life.

Following comprehensive training in Appropriate Paper-based Technology (APT), the Pakistani team has transitioned from learning core techniques to manufacturing custom-built assistive devices entirely independently. Utilising locally sourced recycled cardboard, paper, and paste, the team designed and constructed a tailored supportive chair and standing frame engineered specifically for HN's requirements.

When HN was absent from therapy for an extended period, his extensor tone increased significantly, meaning the original supports were no longer adequate upon his return. Rather than turning to external specialists, the local team demonstrated complete professional autonomy. They carefully reassessed his posture and engineered an effective design solution by fabricating and attaching an additional head and neck support to both the chair and the frame. This vital adjustment stabilised HN's head and neck in a neutral alignment, directly counteracting his heightened muscle tone.

After conducting guided therapy sessions to confirm the fit and train HN's family on safe daily usage, the equipment was successfully handed over to the household. The device now provides HN with the stability he needs to sit, stand, and interact with his environment comfortably. More broadly, this achievement highlights the transformative, sustainable impact of APT training: the local team now possesses the clinical assessment and technical fabrication skills to solve complex problems independently, creating durable, low-cost equipment that transforms the lives of disabled children within their own communities.





Theory of Change

MULTI AGENCY INTERNATIONAL TRAINING AND SUPPORT (MAITS)

OUR IMPACT

Quality of life improved for children born with disabilities and their families. A world in which children born with disabilities are able to access the health, development and education support they need to achieve their full potential.

WHAT WE DO

- Enhance the capacity of local disability professionals
- Improve access to disability services in marginalised communities
- Foster sustainable and scalable solutions
- Creating network of skill sharing & best practices

HOW WE HELP

- Raise awareness & break stigma
- Knowledge dissemination & capacity building
- Access to assistive devices & equipment

OPERATIONAL ACTIVITES

- Strengthen local partnerships
- Demonstrate and communicate impact
- Invest in organisational growth & innovation
- Diversify and increase funding





Plans for the year 26-27

We will achieve our mission to improve access to family support, quality healthcare and education through delivering the following activities this year:

Deliver Strategic Regional Capacity Building: Focus direct core project delivery in India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh through multi-year partnerships with regional centres of excellence, training 80 Community Health Workers and 15 lead trainers, alongside rolling out 5-day community hub parent workshops to support 120–180 families directly and up to 1,430 family members overall.

Expand the Small Grants Scheme Safely: Allocate targeted grants with an increased average value of £1,800 per trainee aiming to train 100 professionals and reach up to 1,500 families globally, managing international travel risks through hybrid delivery models, enhanced risk assessments, and the mobilisation of regional expertise.

Scale Local Assistive Device Production: Operationalise four dedicated Appropriate Paper-based Technology (APT) workshops in Pakistan and India, conduct top-up training, and train five new practitioners in Bangladesh to advance a sustainable, community-led social enterprise model for low-cost disability equipment.

Strengthen Digital Systems, Governance, and Impact: Implement a cloud-based CRM and digitalised monitoring and evaluation platform to improve operational efficiency, uphold rigorous partner due diligence and safeguarding overseen by the MAITS International Clinical Committee, and refresh digital communications to expand stakeholder engagement.

Drive Financial Sustainability and Strategic Growth: Pursue a targeted £50,000 in external funding through tailored engagement with UK trusts, foundations, and prior donors, supporting an overall organisational goal of 315–375 trained individuals and approximately 3,000 families across 24 countries.





Our partners

ACELP Institute of Child Development

BethanyKids

Garki Hospital Abuja

IHRI Enabling Independence

Oasis of Hope Kitale, Kenya

Satya Special School

Our funders

CareTech foundation

EA Foundation Sustainability | Poverty reduction | Education

GlobalGiving

The Gregory Mills Foundation Acts of Good

Rangoonwala Foundation

Souter Charitable Trust

HOW MAITS REPRESENTS

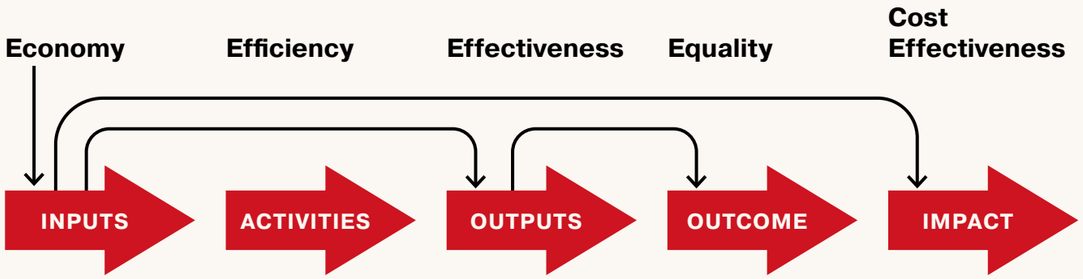
Value for Money

MAITS is committed to ensuring that donor funding is used responsibly and effectively, so that every pound makes the greatest possible difference to the lives of the people and communities we support. We take our responsibility for managing all funding awarded to us very seriously.

We believe that value for money should be measured not only by the immediate results of our work, but also by the lasting difference it makes to individuals, communities and wider systems. Our approach goes beyond providing training. We work alongside local partners, from national and local government to grassroots organisations, to build skills, strengthen existing structures and support lasting change within communities.

By working within local systems and equipping local healthcare and education services, as well as NGOs, with the knowledge and skills they need, we aim to ensure that they are better able to support children with disabilities and their families independently and sustainably.

These are the key ways in which MAITS represents value for money:



Economy

Working free of charge – MAITS relies almost entirely on individuals and organisations working free of charge, which represents a significant saving in terms of salaries or consultancy fees.

Local Trainers – As we increasingly rely on the local Training of Trainers model to deliver programmes, MAITS reduces trainer travel expenses while increasing the retention of skills within local communities, thereby minimising the risk of 'brain drain'.

Local organisations – Our local partners reduce our potential costs enormously. Apart from releasing their staff to deliver training as part of our ToT programmes, they also assist with logistics and hosting.

Efficiency

Being local and online – We have continued to improve the efficiency of our training model, particularly by making greater use of local expertise and online resources. One of the most significant changes has been to our Training of Trainers (ToT) programme for Community Health Workers. Training is increasingly delivered by local trainers, reducing the need for international travel and saving both time and costs.

We have also developed audio-visual resources to support trainers and Community Health Workers, reducing reliance on face-to-face training and ongoing support.

Working with local organisations and developing teams of expert trainers has brought further efficiencies, helping to coordinate and deliver training more effectively. The ToT model also means that Community Health Workers can receive ongoing supervision and support locally, from trainers who understand their communities and working environments.

Effectiveness

Monitoring, evaluation and learning – We regularly review our training resources, programmes and approaches to ensure they are as effective as possible. We do this through feedback from stakeholders, observations of training sessions and practical assessments of trainees. We also collect information from the field to understand the impact of the work carried out by Community Health Workers trained by MAITS.

We are currently undertaking an independent evaluation of the Community Health Worker Empowerment Programme, led by one of our Master Trainers as part of her Master's degree in Education in Canada.

We have also simplified the CHW training programme to improve the quality and consistency of its delivery. In response to feedback, we are planning to redevelop our website to make it easier to share skills and knowledge and improve access to much-needed information.

Working with local professionals and organisations – Our experience has shown that training is most effective when delivered by professionals who understand the local context and speak the local language. We have therefore placed increasing emphasis on building strong relationships with local experts and partner organisations. We will continue to prioritise this approach, recognising the importance of local knowledge and expertise in delivering sustainable change.

Equity

Supporting people who are most vulnerable and marginalised – People with disabilities and their families are among the most marginalised members of society and frequently face stigma and discrimination. MAITS works to support their right to access quality healthcare, education and other essential services. This helps create greater opportunities for independence, the ability to earn a living and full participation in society.

Do no harm – We are committed to the principle of 'do no harm' in all our work. We achieve this by working within existing service delivery structures in each country and following local protocols and guidance.

Cost Effectiveness

Contributions in kind – MAITS benefits from significant contributions in kind, helping to keep our governance costs to just 3%. These include generous donations of office space, IT support and utilities.

Pro bono and volunteer support – Our work is made possible by the generous contributions of professionals who give their time and expertise. Alongside our trainers, who are central to delivering our programmes, we have received pro bono legal advice, graphic design support (including for this report), advice on measuring impact and video editing for training materials. We have also benefited from the contributions of interns supporting our evaluation, fundraising and communications work.

Keeping costs low – We always seek to make our funding go as far as possible by negotiating charity rates and obtaining competitive quotes for goods and services.

MAITS' Financial Activities

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2026

	Unrestricted fund (£)	Restricted fund (£)	2026 Total funds (£)	2025 Total funds (£)
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM				
Donations and legacies	79,991	37,538	117,529	121,543
Investment income	948	–	948	1,143
Total	80,939	37,538	118,477	122,686
EXPENDITURE ON				
Charitable activities				
Programme delivery	126,306	3,934	130,240	110,587
Governance costs	4,163	–	4,163	2,793
Total	130,469	3,934	134,403	113,380
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	(49,530)	33,604	(15,926)	9,306
Transfers between funds	41,396	(41,396)	92,567	–
Net movement in funds	(8,134)	(7,792)	76,641	9,306
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS				
Total funds brought forward	46,154	46,413	83,261	83,261
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	38,020	38,621	92,567	92,567

MAITS' Financial Activities

BALANCE SHEET 30 JUNE 2026

	Unrestricted fund (£)	Restricted fund (£)	2025 Total funds (£)	2024 Total funds (£)
CURRENT ASSETS				
Debtors	–	6,250	6,250	–
Cash at bank	38,020	49,561	87,581	107,467
Total	38,020	55,811	93,831	
	107,467			
CREDITORS				
Amounts falling due within one year	–	(17,190)	(17,190)	(14,784)
NET CURRENT ASSETS	38,020	38,621	76,641	92,683
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES	38,020	38,621	76,641	92,683
NET ASSETS	38,020	38,621	76,641	92,683
FUNDS				
Unrestricted funds			38,020	46,154
Restricted funds			38,621	46,413
TOTAL FUNDS			76,641	92,567

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 30 June 2026.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2026 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

(a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and

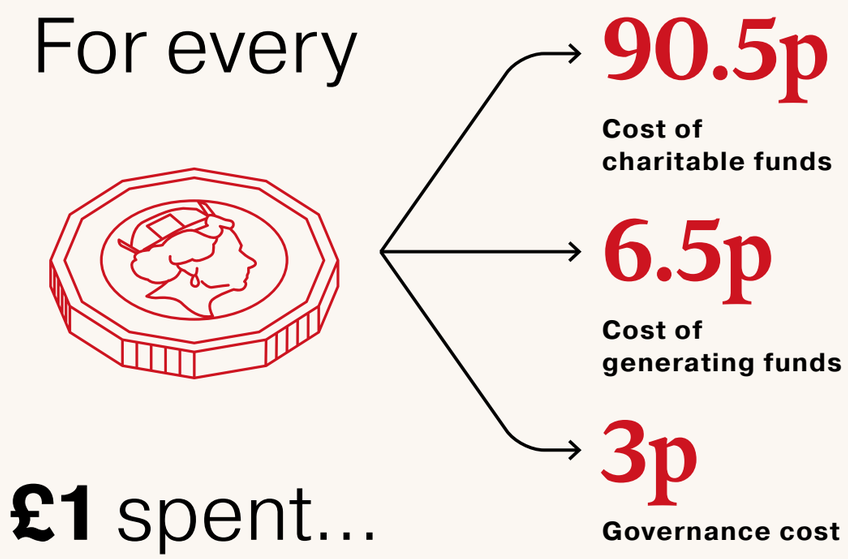
(b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT

MAITS' Work

- **Become a MAITS trainer** – if you are interested in becoming a MAITS trainer get in touch via https://maits.org.uk/my-account/ or contact us via info@maits.org.uk.
- **Pro bono work** – MAITS has received generous pro bono support including from law firms and graphic design companies, as well as for office space. We are always looking for additional offers of support from technical experts.
- **Other volunteering opportunities** – whether for fundraising, comms or other, please get in touch.
- **Donate** – send a cheque to our office in Wimpole Street or online at https://www.justgiving.com/m-a-i-t-s or get in contact to set up a direct debit.
- **Corporate giving, Trusts and Foundations** – please get in touch with our Director of Operations at sadia@maits.org.uk or 0207 258 8443

















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MAITS
Global Disability Training