



# STARFISH

Capacity Building Project for Healthcare Providers Working with Neonates, Infant and Under-five Children

**AIM:** Improving neonatal, infant and under 5 child-care in South Africa by means of collaborative initiatives.

**OBJECTIVES:** The Starfish project can be divided into neonatal, infant and under five child care objectives to influence healthcare professionals; healthcare workers, as well as organizational objectives.

## Neonate, infant and under five child care (and parents)

- Establish provincial registers with baseline data regarding neonatal infant and under five care and services in South Africa.
- Improved short and long-term outcomes in neonatal, infant and child care in line with the SGDs.
- Identify care and follow-up needs of infants and under five child care in South Africa.
- Development of screening and follow-up assessment tools for the high risk infant/child-families, suitable for the national context.
- Determine parental perceptions and health needs.
- Determine neonatal, infant and under five child care outcomes in the South African context over a period of time (20+ years).

## Healthcare professionals and healthcare workers (re-engineering teams)

- Human capacity building by means of a leadership program.
- To develop and present structured knowledge and clinical skills update programs to be presented to selected individuals per province.
- To improve staff confidence in various settings working with neonates and under 5 children.
- To develop leadership in multi-disciplinary teams with an appetite for sustainable change, quality of care and life-long learning.
- To develop a sense of ownership in participants.
- Improving the uptake of the latest available research evidence.

## Institutional

- To determine the change in working environment in the enrolled institutions.
- Establish an industry funded research chair, neurodevelopmental laboratory and sustainable teaching and learning platform in this field.
- Establish centers of excellence for various functions related to neonatal and child care throughout South Africa.
- Establish sustainable partnerships with relevant industry and international partners.

## PROJECT DESIGN

Nine one-day face-to-face sessions of groups of up to 50 persons.

Topics covered

1. Foetal development and normal adaptation to the extra-uterine environment,
2. The 4th stage,
3. Assessment of the neonate,
4. Newborn care during the 4th trimester,
5. Puerperium,
6. Child illness,
7. Emergency child care,
8. Nutrition,
9. Normal development

## SHORT LEARNING PROGRAMMES EMBEDDED IN PROJECT

STARFISH - Short Learning Program on neonatal, infant and under five childcare for the multi-professional health care team



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