

TFN Impact Report

Name of your Organisation:	EducAid Sierra Leone
Name of the project TFN funded:	Monitoring and Evaluation Programme
Date Funded by TFN:	July 2016
Were you able to undertake your project as planned?	Yes
Can you describe and/or demonstrate the specific impact that TFN funding has had against your initial objectives?	<p>The Monitoring & Evaluation programme is comprised of two distinct, but interlinked programmes: an operational data collection programme and a Monitoring & Evaluation programme.</p> <p>Progress Report</p> <p>The operational data collection focuses on wider trends in impact-related data: female enrolment, attendance, academic performance and behavioural performance, all of which are collected across all schools and encompassing all students. The smallest unit of measurement is a tutor groups, comprising of 20 to 60 students. This information enables EducAid to monitor programmes on an on-going basis and ensure that EducAid is meeting our own internal objectives. The operational data collection system also includes other operational data including site reports, staff meeting minutes, stock management, cash management, HR appraisals, safety reporting, volunteering and community service reporting as well as general administrative tasks.</p> <p>EducAid has phased the implementation of the operational data collection. The first phase involved the Operations Manager taking 45 smartphone handsets to Sierra Leone in April 2016. There he undertook staff training in handset usage and data collection, some of whom were using smartphones for the first time.</p> <p>The second phase ran from April to August 2016 and mostly involved fine-tuning the process and working on the quality and accuracy of data being collected. From September 2016 we were confident in the accuracy and timeliness of data collection and began to use the data for internal reporting, management and governance purposes. In 2017 the Operations Manager built a consolidated reporting module where all data can be interrogated on an organisation, class and school level. From May 2017 we will be publishing termly internal site reports to enable school sites to use the data that they are collecting to improve the performance in relation to our 6 key values:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pursuing Excellence - Building Equality - Developing Citizenship Values - Building Community Resilience - Developing Leadership Thinking & Behaviour - Ensuring Safety for All <p>The Monitoring & Evaluation programme features much of the same operational information, but is collected on a 15% representative sample of students across the organisation and is taken only once per</p>

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year, after the end of the second term. This is an on-going project which, along with the evaluation by Rebecca Horn, a Monitoring & Evaluation expert who is volunteering her time, will enable EducAid to far more accurately interrogate its impact across its school programmes, and in turn communicate this to donors.

The Monitoring & Evaluation programme is being conducted in May 2017. The Operations Manager is working with Abass Kamara, the coordinator of the operational data collection programme, to collect the requisite data in line with top Monitoring & Evaluation practices. The plan is for the Operations Manager to work with Abass Kamara on this round of Monitoring & Evaluation, with a view for Abass to conduct this process in coming years. This M&E data collection will be completed by the end of June with the evaluation being completed by the end of August.

Achievement Report

In order to evaluate our performance in respect to the objectives set out in the TFN SFG funding application. I have listed these below with a commentary of achievements. The application stated that, over a three-year period:

1. The project will help us achieve our goals of a 95% exam pass rate (versus 40% national average)

- We are too early to have made significant impact on exam pass rates, although it is worth noting that

- Lumley Senior Secondary School achieved the second highest grades in the WASSCE (West African Senior

- Secondary Certificate Examination) exams in Sierra Leone.

- The introduction of the termly site reports will provide the first real experience of having data presented in a useful form, with a basis of comparison, to improve all aspects of interventions.

2. Up to a 50% female participation rate (versus 20% national average)

EducAid female enrolment rates are as follows:

- Average = 42%
- Primary = 50%
- JSS = 39%
- SS = 32%

EducAid has not dramatically improved on these figures in the allotted time, however the M&E programme gives us clear, organisation-wide information available at all times. This data reveals at what stage during their educational journey we are losing our female students. We will be using this information during the intake process in August 2017 to try to address this balance, although we should note that the causes of this female dropout at JSS and SS are predominantly cultural and social rather than caused by EducAi's intake procedures or policy.

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	<p>3. Maximise engagement of teaching staff</p> <p>- By way of the termly site reports, tutor group leaders will soon (May 2017) be provided with comparative statistics of academic, behavioural and attendance performance by gender. This information will allow tutor group leaders to engage the teaching staff in meaningful discussions of the challenges faced to find ways to assess and improve their approach and methodologies.</p> <p>4. The potential to unlock a further Â£1m of additional funding for EducAid.</p> <p>- Whilst this is ambitious, it is certainly a possibility. We are getting to the stage that the operational data we collect is accurate enough to communicate with existing donors, and is providing efficiencies with respect to reporting which will free up the fundraising team to apply for more and bigger grants. In addition, the Monitoring & Evaluation programme will enable EducAid to demonstrate the genuine impact through independent evaluation, which we expect will give larger donors the confidence in our methods, operations and reporting capacity to support us.</p> <p>We consider the implementation of the M&E program as a strategic milestone in our development and key to our future success.</p> <p>This has been a transformative programme for all parties involved. Prior to the data collection system, basic communication with site staff was difficult and relied primarily on data transcribed by mobile (non-smart) phone, thus creating a bottleneck of information from the programmatic team to the fundraising and management teams. The provision of smartphones, typically 3 per site, has had the benefits of facilitating internal communication and removing bottlenecks. It has enabled the fundraising team to seek additional, clarifying or complementary data directly from the site staff rather than going through the Country Director, further empowering staff as part of our shared leadership model.</p>
<p>What portion of the project did TFN fund?</p>	<p>The original stated budget for the M&E programme was £36,614. TFN funded £19,540.63, this is 53% funding.</p>
<p>How many direct beneficiaries did the TFN funded project reach?</p>	<p>3,105 current students, and many more in the future.</p>
<p>How many indirect beneficiaries did the TFN funded project reach?</p>	<p>During the Operations Manager's trip to Sierra Leone, he will be on-boarding our teacher training programme, the Quality Enhancement Programme (QEP), on to the data collection system. The QEP currently engages 93 schools, 71 Primary Schools and 22 Junior Secondary Schools. Over the course of the QEP programme we expect to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop 45 leaders - Train 60 teacher-trainers - Train 480 teachers - Reach 5,000 female students

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	<p>- Impact 16,000 students overall</p> <p>Through the 60 teacher-trainers, we expect to indirectly impact 250,000 students – 15% of Sierra Leone’s school-going population.</p>
Were you able to leverage further funding as a result of TFN support?	No
Did you receive any pro-bono support, volunteer offers or introductions as a result of the event?	No
How important was TFN funding in helping you achieve your objectives?	We would have found it difficult to achieve our objectives without TFN funding
Since presenting at TFN, has your organisation undergone any other significant changes?	We have been joined by a new CEO, Erin Northey.
Do you have any other comments or feedback on the experience of the TFN process?	The Funding Network team have been so supportive during the whole process, we cannot thank them enough.