

TFN Impact Report

Name of your Organisation:	Action Through Enterprise
Name of the project TFN funded:	Leela Shanti
Date Funded by TFN:	12/11/2018
Were you able to undertake your project as planned?	Yes
If no, please outline how the project has changed.	
Can you describe and/or demonstrate the specific impact that TFN funding has had against your initial objectives?	<p>TFN funding has enabled ATE to build an Inclusion Centre in the centre of Lawra Town with huge impacts on the strategic development of our organisation, on the effectiveness of all our poverty-reducing programme delivery and on individual lives, particularly for disabled children and their families as the most marginalised within the Lawra community. What we now achieve, and what we aim to achieve over the coming years, was just simply not possible from the 3x3m shipping container we had been using as an office since 2015.</p> <p>The Inclusion Centre, completed in April 2019, houses a professionalised, light, airy, fit-for-purpose office space, flexible workshop space, with a drop-in centre and a play-scheme for disabled children, and storage for all our resources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Impact on staff capacity - Our staff now have a fantastic workspace with securely stored laptops, printer, records and files which has improved reporting, increased ownership of monitoring data and streamlined many office tasks. It provides an effective base from which to plan our schedules of work, hold team meetings and foster integrated working between staff and programmes, provide much-needed confidential meeting space, and a scheme of regular staff development workshops. - Increase in staff base: It has led to job creation of a SNAP Playscheme Coordinator, a security guard, cleaner, and catering coordinator, and a new Hub Manager. And we recently took the decision to directly employ the 21 women as cooks in 7 schools for the ATE school feeding programme. - SNAP meetings: The Inclusion Centre hosts the monthly Lawra Town Special Needs Awareness Programme (SNAP) Group, workshops and committee planning meetings in a welcoming space which can easily accommodate the membership's growing numbers. We have a membership of 35 parents plus an additional 10 new members in the last year, with 30 parent/guardians and 20 disabled children attending each meeting on average and regularly invite in speakers. - Launched SNAP Playscheme and drop-in services: these have been a huge boost to the SNAP programme. The playscheme runs twice per week catering for children who cannot attend school, providing respite for some parents, whilst the drop-in services are available through the week and have enabled identification of case work to

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	<p>support access to education and healthcare (45 disabled children and 42 parent carers)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hosting large BizATE workshops: there has been a notable difference in the quality of the business development training in large part due to the space we now have for planning and preparing, briefing consultants and training staff as trainers, interactive activities and group work for 110 small business owners. It has enabled us to take forward requests to hold the training more regularly for greater effect which will now happen on a monthly basis (rotating the 4 trade groups through the year) and to develop a series of workshops to support our apprenticeship scheme from September 2020. - Welcoming the community: we now have a higher number of people dropping in to ask about our programmes and support, so much higher interaction. So far this year we estimate there have been 60 drop-ins for the play-scheme, 50 drop-ins about SNAP, 40 with enquiries about applying for the BizATE programme, 12 about our apprenticeship scheme, 25 headteachers and drivers to see our Hub Managers relating to school feeding purchasing. In June this year the Inclusion Centre hosted meetings as key parts of the ATE Hub Model Evaluation and was a great opportunity to invite in members of the wider Lawra community, key stakeholders, local government and spark partnership working. The Inclusion Centre compound also includes the site of the jail cell of Kwame Nkrumah, Ghana's first president, so tourists do occasionally come by for a selfie! - Modelling inclusion and ATE's commitment - The Inclusion Centre models inclusion in the heart of Lawra Municipal, it embodies ATE's long term commitment to reducing poverty in Lawra, in all its forms, leaving no one behind. - Geographical reach: In April this year we launched a new hub in the north of the municipal, Bagri Junction Hub, serving 1191 people in 4 communities, and providing greater coverage of our holistic programmes. The Inclusion Centre is an incredible base for our work that will allow us to continue to grow in so many ways and continue to deepen impacts and improve lives for people in Lawra.
<p>What portion of the project did TFN fund?</p>	<p>38%</p>
<p>How many direct beneficiaries did the TFN funded project reach?</p>	<p>450</p>
<p>How many indirect beneficiaries did the TFN funded project reach?</p>	<p>2400</p>

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Were you able to leverage further funding as a result of TFN support?	No
If yes, how much were you able to raise?	
Did you receive any pro-bono support, volunteer offers or introductions as a result of the event?	No
If yes, please can you provide details of the support you received?	
Has the training you received from TFN better prepared you in pitching your organisation to potential funders?	Yes
Has TFN increased your capacity to raise further funds?	Yes
How important was TFN funding in helping you achieve your objectives?	We wouldn't have been able to achieve our objectives without TFN funding
Since presenting at TFN, has your organisation undergone any other significant changes?	Significant changes include staffing change, both in terms of the leadership with a change in the Director of Operations position, which has removed key conflicts of interest and opened up new ways of working, and changes in terms of the growth and development of the staff team, with capacity building and an increase in responsibility for all Ghana based staff. Plus we now employ all the cooks in our schools. We have increased geographical reach with the Bagri Junction Hub and are better established and respected by key local government stakeholders. We are reaching more disabled children and families, though we know there is much more work to be done to reach others who remain isolated and a long way to go to change widespread negative attitudes, but we are confident that we are improving our strategies and making positive strides to get there. The support to build the Inclusion Centre has been far more significant to us as an organisation and the people we work with than I think I have been able to aptly demonstrate here, so a huge thank you to TFN and the SFG membership who made it possible.
Do you have any other comments or feedback on the experience of the TFN process?	It has been an incredible process to be a part of. The live crowd funding opportunity is such a brilliant concept which closes the gap between pitchers and supporters in such an interactive way. The application and selection process really helped to focus the way in which I pitch, not just at the SFG event, but more broadly. And

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	<p>although terrifying to stand and present, the TFN team are so wonderfully supportive throughout. Thank you!</p>
<p>Can you tell us any personal stories to highlight the value of the project?</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The first Wednesday of the month you will find up to five women arriving at the Centre between 7am-7.30am. The Special Needs Awareness Programme (SNAP) Lawra meeting takes place on this day each month, with the programme always starting at 10am. These members are so eager to start they arrive early each time, waiting outside patiently with their children or grandchildren until the first staff member arrives, which we now try to make sure is 7.30am. 2. Often, a few times a month you will hear the racing pattering of someone's feet and before you know it, you look out the window and see one of the SNAP playscheme members running as fast as they can. Or Dery, who uses a wheelchair and has significant physical mobility issues, but nonetheless, turns his wheels as fast as he can to enter the playscheme. When children attend the playscheme, they bounce into the Centre with the biggest grin. Often the children are unable to speak but they'll wave verociously to everyone in the Centre and sit on the mats in the main hall, eager to start the session 3. Our playscheme coordinator Ernestina Gan, has grown magnificently in this Centre. Ernestina lives in the community we work in in Lawra (like all of our ghana based staff) and understands our beneficiaries challenges as she faces them herself, since the passing of her father, her family were uprooted from their home and forced to live outside of town. Still with no electricity, Ernestina will support her family not just with her salary, with farming and housework also. Ernestina comes into work and the first thing she does is charge her phone, as without electricity, as a young woman in a modern era, she's eager to make sure she's online. During the start of her recruitment, Ernestina was very shy and timid. Being based in the Inclusion Centre and launching the playscheme, Ernestina is able to grow in a professional and inclusive environment, learning from her colleagues, growing in confidence everyday as she delivers the playscheme, greets community members and has even gone out into the community delivering girls workshops and now carries out homevisits in the community every week. Ernestina has even become involved in other projects outside of her role and will continue to learn and grow. Because of the inclusion centre we are in the process of providing digital training for Ernestina empowering her further. 4. In August, the Inclusion Centre was able to host business training to our small business owners as well as our regular SNAP programmes. Our small business owners are intentionally diverse, as we believe in supporting all community members who need assistance, removing social exclusion as often as we can. The workshops were vibrant, energetic and lively. The Inclusion Centre enabled women of all ages, who often in society don't hold power; their voices here we loud and welcome. Then to our visually impaired

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	<p>elderly farmers, who took the sessions very seriously, being the most active and participatory in their workshop group and winning energisers like musical statues. Sometimes the most special thing a Centre can be for people, is a safe space outside of their home.</p>
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