

Name of your Organisation:	Five Talents UK Ltd
Name of the project TFN funded:	Women's education and empowerment in the DRC
Date Funded by TFN:	3/24/2021
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>101 NEW Savings Groups were formed and have been participating in regular financial literacy and business skills training as well as saving and loaning activities. This is slightly below our target as one Literacy Group disbanded before being able to graduate to form a Savings Group, due to insecurity.</p> <p>76 existing Savings Groups have continued to receive training in Financial Literacy, Business Skills, COVID-sensitisation and Group management/sustainability. By the end of 2022, all 76 Savings Groups will be able to graduate from project support and continue to operate independently.</p> <p>Actual impact numbers exceed this amount however, as a number of volunteer community trainers have continued to form and train literacy and savings groups in their communities outside the funding support of Five Talents. This is a fantastic example of the sustainability and multiplication of the impact of your support.</p> <p>As a result of being part of a Savings Group, members have reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased ability to start or expand a small business to generate an income and provide for their family's needs (increasing investment into healthcare, nutrition, sanitation and children's education). - Increased resilience to cope in emergencies - not only do Savings Groups provide a safe place to save and access loans; but they are a platform for social support as members provide emotional and practical help to each other. - The empowerment of women: 84% of members are female. For most, this is the first time that they've had the opportunity to learn, earn and have a safe place to save. Before, female members would tell us that they were dependent upon husbands, who often did not give them any money to buy food, clothes or other necessities to look after the family. Now, through being part of a Savings Group, women have financial independence and autonomy and have often said, "Now there is peace in our home." Women are also being promoted as Group and community leaders, enabling them to have a valued voice in decision making processes - roles traditionally reserved only for men. - Reduced domestic and sexual, gender-based violence: 46 community trainers and leaders were trained on women's and children's rights, focusing on trauma-healing and the prevention of all forms of violence and abuse. This training was then provided to all 177 Savings Groups.

TFN Impact Report

What portion of the project did TFN fund?	28%
How many direct beneficiaries did the TFN funded project reach?	2995
How many indirect beneficiaries did the TFN funded project reach?	15630
Were you able to leverage further funding as a result of TFN support?	Yes
If yes, how much were you able to raise?	Peter Stebbings Memorial Trust - £10K Bishop Radford Trust - £10K Guernsey Overseas Aid Commission - £22.5K
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?	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?	Five Talents has not undergone any significant changes since presenting at TFN. We are and remain a small team of six dedicated staff, who work hard to achieve the greatest impact we can through our programmes. Last year with the help of TFN we raised over £1 million for the first time ever since the charity started in 2005. As a result, this year we are looking to expand our team.
Do you have any other comments or feedback on the experience of the TFN process?	We were delighted that Five Talents was selected to pitch at TFN's Spring Funder in 2021. The application process was straightforward and in addition we were asked for our sponsor to be a well-known public figure. This gave us a great opportunity to enlist the help of a long-term supporter of Five Talents, David Dimbleby, who introduced us at the event.

	<p>The team at TFN supported David with the technical aspects of pitching remotely which was brilliant, but despite all the preparation we did experience some issues on the night - David blames it on his lack of IT skills and not the support he had from the team! The TFN team handled it all very professionally and David still had an amazing impact by encouraging everyone to donate via the online web chat. Overall there was a great response which resulted in more than £20,000 in donations! We are so grateful to David and the TFN team for this opportunity.</p> <p>Five Talents' CEO Rachel did the main pitch and found all the support she got from TFN to prepare invaluable. She has used the script and presentation many times since with supporters, which was a massive asset to us in 2021 for connecting with people in lockdown. Through our relationship with TFN we not only achieved our fundraising objectives on the night, we also stayed in touch with several audience members who continue to support us today.</p>
<p>Can you tell us any personal stories to highlight the value of the project?</p>	<p>Meet Sinifa: "I am 48, married, and though I have no children of my own, I have adopted six of my brothers' and sisters' children - who are all dependent on me. Before joining the literacy and Savings Group programme [supported by Five Talents], I led a very difficult life; for me, it was normal, but I did not know any other life. I am a housewife and I could not pay the school fees for my six children. Now, I have learnt to plan and save. I have a small business selling vegetables, fruit and mandazi [donuts] in the market and door-to-door. Because of my savings, I could take a loan from my Group. I bought a mattress and a goat. The goat is growing well and it will bring me income soon. I also paid my children's school fees.</p> <p>In the future, I want to buy a bike to go to other regions, because the price of food is cheaper there compared to the centre. This will allow me to save a lot of money to make my dreams come true."</p>