

## TFN Impact Report

<b>Name of your Organisation:</b>	Routes
<b>Date of TFN event which you pitched at?</b>	14/12/17
<b>Name of the project TFN funded:</b>	Routes pilot theatre programmes
<b>Were you able to undertake your project as you outlined in the application?</b>	Yes
<b>Can you describe and/or demonstrate the specific impact that TFN funding has had against your initial objectives?</b>	<p>The funding Routes secured at TFN &amp; Year Here's Winter Crowdfunder 2017 enabled us to run creative theatre-based English workshops with over 100 women from refugee and asylum-seeking backgrounds in women's centres and community spaces across London. The insights we gained from running these workshops helped us to develop and refine our work as creative facilitators and also allowed us to gain further insights into the biggest barriers faced by refugee and asylum-seeking women in the UK. Of the workshops we ran, 100% of women enjoyed the sessions and said they would come again, and 100% said they would recommend Routes to a friend. One of our participants told us, "It's really really helpful, especially in the mornings like this when you really don't want to do anything... You just ease into it and before you know it you're hooked."</p> <p>The insights we gained from the workshops we ran with this funding between January and May 2017 have since led us to launch a mentoring programme, which runs alongside our theatre programme, helping our women to grow in confidence by connecting them with an individual mentor/'champion' who opens up their networks and helps them find opportunities in their local areas. We are now eight weeks in to that programme and have had some amazing feedback, both from mentors and mentees. Many of our mentors (who are also all women) say that their mentor meetings are often the highlight of their week, and that being a mentor has opened their eyes to the reality of seeking asylum in the UK; whilst their mentees have expressed joy and gratitude at having the opportunity to work 1:1 with someone over ten weeks, focussing on anything from English language and digital skills, to job applications and work experience.</p>
<b>What portion of the project did TFN fund?</b>	70%
<b>How many direct beneficiaries did the TFN funded project reach?</b>	130
<b>How many indirect beneficiaries did the TFN funded project reach?</b>	Unknown
<b>Were you able to leverage further funding as a result of TFN</b>	Yes - £5,000 from UnLtd and £15,000 from Paul Hamlyn Foundation

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support?	
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 wouldn't have been able to achieve our objectives without TFN funding
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
Since presenting at TFN, has your organisation undergone any other significant changes?	When we presented at TFN, our business model relied on us offering spaces in our workshops to paying clients. However, now our mentoring programme is our main income-generating work, as all of our mentors pay a fee (through their employer) to become a mentor. This money helps us to pay for our women's travel and childcare costs and goes some way to helping us fund our theatre work too.
Do you have any other comments or feedback on the experience of the TFN process?	We are incredibly grateful for the financial support we received from TFN last year - we would not have been able to achieve nearly as much as we have done in just 11 months without the generous support of the donors in the room that night.
Can you tell us any personal stories to highlight the value of the project?	Thanks to the funding we secured at the TFN: Year Here Crowdbacker event, we were able to take a group of 12 women to the theatre to see a musical adaptation of Twelfth Night. They absolutely loved the show - many of them had never seen a live piece of theatre before - and left beaming. In our theatre workshop three days after seeing the show, one of our mentees told us "...the show made my week lovely. I was just thinking about love and to be honest it is a big deal because after the show my thinking was even like different... My week went really smoothly... it did something to me! It did something to me so I loved it." It was really special to be able to offer such a purely joyful experience to women who are in often quite joyless and unstable situations, trapped in an hostile and compassionless system.