

TFN Impact Report

Name of your Organisation:	Tea Leaf Trust
Date of TFN event which you pitched at?	02/05/18
Name of the project TFN funded:	Teacher Training Programme
Were you able to undertake your project as you outlined in the application?	Yes
Can you describe and/or demonstrate the specific impact that TFN funding has had against your initial objectives?	<p>Objective One: Transforming our Advanced Diploma into a Teacher Training Programme to provide better quality teachers for Tea Leaf Vision (TLV) as we expand as well as giving graduates better employment opportunities.</p> <p>This has been a huge success, with 13 graduates in 2018 and 17 students enrolled and progressing well in 2019. The Advanced Diploma has been completely refocused on teacher training and all students work towards sitting for Module One of their TKT (Teacher Knowledge Training) from The British Council during their year with us. In 2018, 13 students sat for their TKT and all of them passed, which is a huge achievement for people in only their second year of English. The diploma now gives them the qualification and experience to work in International English Schools (a booming industry) and gives TLV Centres better quality teachers. The teacher training focus means that our 160 Main Diploma students receive better quality additional support from the second-year students every year.</p> <p>Additional Benefit: In the last year, because of this new teacher training focus, we have been able to sign an MOU to become the National Education Partner for a national NGO called Sri Lanka Unites. This involves us overseeing the educational programming at six Reconciliation Centres (for peace building and reconciliation) in six different provinces around the country. This has only been possible because of our new focus and ability to train and produce teachers of the right quality and with the right approach. We have positioned six graduates of our TLV teacher training programme into these roles and opened up access to quality English provision in some of the most remote areas of the country.</p> <p>Objective Two: We have also developed our teacher training programme for government school English teachers between July and October 2018. However, the beginning of classes faced some long delays due to the political instability that plagued Sri Lanka from October to January 2019. During this period there was an unconstitutional coup resulting in paralysed systems of government resulting in no decision-making in key areas, including the granting of permission for new projects at local government level.</p> <p>However, things have now returned to some level of normality and we have gained the necessary approvals and registered 32 government school teachers for English classes. It has been a difficult</p>

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	<p>process to register teachers, as many organised meetings have been subject to cancellation by Principals without warning - in light of this, 32 is an excellent number and classes will commence on May 6th after the Tamil and Sinhala New Year celebrations and school holidays.</p>
What portion of the project did TFN fund?	50% of the projects outlined in the application
How many direct beneficiaries did the TFN funded project reach?	381
How many indirect beneficiaries did the TFN funded project reach?	9,200
Were you able to leverage further funding as a result of TFN support?	Yes
If yes, how much were you able to raise and from whom?	<p>We have a Global Grant application in process with Rotary International to expand this project on a wider scale with an emphasis on producing and testing resources and teaching primary and secondary students across Nuwara Eliya District.</p> <p>We have been approached by two new funders who wish to partner with us to open two new 'satellite' centres in the tea estate areas. Child Fund and Save the Children have heard about our work and, due to having the new teacher training focus, we are able to consider their requests as we can produce more, better quality teachers through our programme.</p> <p>We have also been visited by the American Embassy and asked to make a formal presentation to them as they admire our model and outcomes.</p> <p>The application is for £34,000 and is expected to be successful having received the green light to apply by the Global Grants Coordinator.</p> <p>In a recent online crowdfunding campaign through Global Giving, we received financial donations from more than five TFN members on our mailing list - these came from the TFN event, rather than the SFP event (I think).</p>
Did you receive any pro-bono support, volunteer offers or introductions as a result of the event?	Yes
If yes, can you provide details on the support you received.	A TFN member visited our centre and then her sons came later on and met with us. They run training for developing entrepreneurial skills with a focus on refugees. They have given us advice and shared resources for our Careers and Enterprise curriculum.
How important was TFN funding	We wouldn't have been able to achieve our objectives without TFN

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<p>in helping you achieve your objectives?</p>	<p>funding</p>
<p>Since presenting at TFN, has your organisation undergone any other significant changes?</p>	<p>We have been approached by two funders who wish to partner with us to open new schools.</p> <p>We are looking at changing our model on the back of the huge success of the teacher training focus and moving to a staff team that has more trainee teacher positions. This will make TLV Centres a springboard for graduates and also reduce our running costs by around 40%, making us more sustainable and able to consider scale-up sooner than expected.</p>
<p>Do you have any other comments or feedback on the experience of the TFN process?</p>	<p>It is brilliant. I can't tell you how nerve-wrackingly enjoyable the whole thing has been. From YFN to TFN to the SFG it has been supportive and has tracked the needs of our organisation as we move from emerging to established. We are so very grateful and hope to see you all again soon with our next project!</p>
<p>Can you tell us any personal stories to highlight the value of the project?</p>	<p>Shanmugapriya</p> <p>“In my childhood I couldn’t walk, I couldn’t stand up as other children could. My poor parents took me to every doctor that they could afford, but nothing changed. They took me to every temple, to every Kovil that they could. By god’s grace and my parents unconditional love I got better as time passed. During my time at school I remember I only had two uniforms to wear. People laughed at me, they called me names and they ignored me. If I tried to achieve a goal they would pull me back down. Before I came to TLV this was my life.</p> <p>In 2017 I heard about a school that takes care of children like me, a school that changes lives. I started there late; halfway through the year, and everyone was speaking English! So, I kept quiet, I knew hardly any English, in fact I knew nothing. Early on I thought of leaving the school several times, I thought that I wasn’t up to it, that I wasn’t good enough. I thought that TLV wasn’t for me. But I kept going and slowly, slowly, day-by-day I improved. As I improved I worked harder and I achieved more and more. I was awarded a weekly student award - that of significantly improved student, and at the end of the year I had the privilege of telling my story to the audience at TLV graduation.</p> <p>There was a secret behind my improvement: My wonderful TLV teachers. Every word that they spoke, every smile that they gave has encouraged me. TLV students have a special bond with their success and ethics teacher; they are like a father or mother to us. My teacher; Mr Chandrasageran was no different. Through his teaching and guidance I became a positive and proactive person. Before I had so many negative thoughts, I was swamped by them and I depended only on others to help me move forward. I significantly underestimated myself and my abilities. Through TLV I was given a new life, a new opportunity to realise my value. I started to shine and I participated</p>

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	<p>more, worked hard and achieved good things. Nothing makes me prouder than saying that I am a TLV graduate.</p> <p>In 2018 I was an intern at TLV, and a teacher training programme student. I studied hard and took every opportunity that was given to me – including passing my British Council TKT exam. Still I got good things from TLV but now I have the opportunity to give back and give my very best to the school’s mission. My dream was to become a teacher and I know that I had great examples around me, I took every opportunity to learn from them. TLV is a magical place that helps those who were dreamless not just to dream, but to achieve those dreams. I am so proud to say I am now a teacher at Tallawakelle Reconciliation Centre run by Sri Lanka Unites and supported by Tea Leaf Trust”</p>
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