

TFN Impact Report

Name of your Organisation:	WAYout Worldwide Arts for Youth
Date of TFN event which you pitched at?	23/05/18
Name of the project TFN funded:	Kissi Town
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>The TFN funding was intended to help WAYout grow the Kissi Centre where we provide free training and facilities to street and disadvantaged youth in this long neglected, ex refugee community with a very high percentage of drop out youth. Since the 23rd of May we have been able to train young people in filmmaking and photoshop. We have run poetry workshops which have proved surprisingly successful and popular, and held screenings of the members work to the community, as we also now have a projector and generator which we use at Kissi on Saturday evenings. We also show a variety of films ranging from awareness raising about domestic abuse or GLBTI rights, to entertainment and music videos. This has been more successful than we imagined with sometimes up to 400 people in attendance. When we show the films within the community that the filmmaker lives in, it is particularly successful.</p> <p>The filmmakers have often been regarded as ‘worthless no hopers’, so to be able to show what they have learnt and create changes in community attitudes towards them is a tremendous boost to their confidence and self worth. This has been terrific. The only issue is the rain, and in the worst of rainy season we are not able to screen anything. They now have their own camera and a computer for editing and one for photoshop plus a laptop. There is a guitar permanently there but no keyboards yet. Power was a problem but we now have power 6 days a week. Member Edward Massaquoi has been trained to manage the centre and a staff member from the Freetown base spends 3 days a week there. In January 2019 Patron Frank Turner visited and was greeted by a 400 strong crowd of members wanting to demonstrate their skills and creations. Currently, members are shooting a comedy series which is 50% complete, a documentary about life at Kissi, and have produced several music videos. Now we have a mobile music studio we have been able to take it to Kissi and record tracks there.</p> <p>The feedback is very positive as there is no other group or organisation providing free opportunities for youth. The growth of Kissi Town has spread the word to nearby Waterloo, and street youth there are wanting their own centre or to join Kissi's. As we raised more than the target £6000 we were able to use some of the money to finish and print 'Written Off', a book of poems and short stories by street youth which formed part of WAYout's 10th year celebrations. There is still a long way to go at Kissi but we are looking for bigger</p>

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	premises so we can manage more members. We have had such an impact that the Chair of Kissi offered us premises which we are not likely to take due to too many other requirements - but it is a mark of recognition.
What portion of the project did TFN fund?	70%
How many direct beneficiaries did the TFN funded project reach?	480
How many indirect beneficiaries did the TFN funded project reach?	5,000
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?	Growing the Kissi Centre enabled us to demonstrate to Frank Turner what we are doing and hoping to do there, which has led to him doing a benefit show to support Kissi further. The poetry book has impressed supporters including the British Council, who we are now negotiating with for a poetry slam.
Did you receive any pro-bono support, volunteer offers or introductions as a result of the event?	Yes
If yes, please can you provide details of the support you received?	The poetry book has led to the exhibition of the poems in the UK, poets being published in other magazines, and a return visit from volunteer tutor Stella Harding who is working towards another book.
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?	<p>Since attending TFN, WAYout has grown in number. We now have a mobile music studio enabling us to get out to the provinces and places where there are no recording facilities. We have a higher profile in Sierra Leone in general like being invited to showcase our work at the Freetown Music Festival and being invited to perform at open mic events.</p> <p>We were the only organisation from Africa to be represented at the first Summit of international organisations who work with homeless people and the arts in the UK, and it was the first time the three WAYout representatives had visas to travel.</p>
Do you have any other comments or feedback on the experience of the TFN process?	The process was straight forward. And this feedback form is also simple to fill in. We liked the direct response and the speed with which one goes from pitch to money in the bank. So many funding processes take days to apply for and then months before you get a

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	<p>reply IF you get a reply which is very demoralising. So being there, seeing the donations come in and getting them in the bank days later is a blessing. I can't actually think of anything to suggest that you do differently.</p>
<p>Can you tell us any personal stories to highlight the value of the project?</p>	<p>Senzo is 25 years old and lives at Kissi Town. He dropped out of school at 15 and had no qualifications, so he spent the last 10 years hustling, washing cars, selling drugs, carrying loads- whatever came up that required no skills. He didn't join WAYout immediately because he had come to see himself as someone with no value and incapable of achieving anything, but when he saw some of the other guys just like him, doing classes and out with cameras shooting he decided to join. He started with photoshop and moved on to editing and photography and now makes music videos for the others. If he keeps training he will be able to earn some money from it. "WAYout is the only place that gave me hope. They helped me believe in myself and now I want to be a filmmaker".</p> <p>Margaret was also a drop out and faced life as a sex worker. There is little else for girls and women on the street to do. When she came in to WAYout she was broken and desperate. She started to learn editing and photography and is learning fast. She is making a short drama aimed at reaching other young girls advising them to stay in school and say no to early sex. Her confidence and ability to express herself have grown, and she now sees a future for herself outside sex work.</p>