

TFN Impact Report

Name of your Organisation:	Pahichan
Name of the project TFN funded:	Finding Identity
Date Funded by TFN:	Dec-19
Were you able to undertake your project as planned?	No
If no, please outline how the project has changed.	<p>Pahichan planned to use TFN's contribution (1) to provide core support for 12 months (rent, salary, laptop and running costs) and (2) to establish a shared house for up to 10 disabled (mostly VI) women, working with government and other agencies to enable them to find their own path in life. Once funding was agreed we proceeded to seek necessary permission from Nepal's Social Welfare Council to run the project and recruited an administration and finance officer and 3 social work students as interns. While waiting for government permission, on Feb 4, we celebrated our first anniversary with a programme to increase recognition of Pahichan Nepal and build networks which would be beneficial for our upcoming activities and projects. Local government representatives, OPD leaders (Organization of Person with Disability) and 10 girls and women with disabilities participated. Then from Feb 27 to 29 we conducted 3 days legal orientation training for 20 WWDs with the support of TEWA Nepal. We also provided accommodation to 15 participants outside the valley who couldn't travel to the training venue each day.</p> <p>When in March 2020 the government announced a strict COVID lockdown, we had to close our shared home as the landlord demanded we leave, and so the 6 girls and women living in the house had to return to their villages and families. We arranged transportation for them to reach their homes safely. The office then closed until we were able to restart in a new location in November 2020. This was initially a very difficult and depressing time and some Pahichan assets (e.g. the laptop) were damaged or lost during this period of greatest chaos, while we tried to work from our scattered homes. However, despite the profound impact of COVID, we continued to provide counselling and support online, including health education sessions for 45 women with disabilities who were traumatized by the pandemic. We developed new collaborations with different local entities and NGOs which helped to build a friendly network in the communities while hoping for better times and a chance to restart the shared house. We continued to seek support for this and other work, and found that the support we had gained from TFN helped to establish confidence to do this. In June 2020; Pahichan Nepal collaborated with NAB (Nepal Association of Blind) to provide</p>

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	<p>seed money of Rs. 11000 to Ms. Sushila Pariyar to start her own enterprise (a petty shop)</p> <p>For refreshment and fun, we ran a poetry competition in mid July 2020 among person with disabilities with the theme on the issues of women's rights, which was a huge success. 19 participated, and of 21 poems submitted, the best 4 were awarded small cash prizes. On July 25th, we ran a virtual session about tips, tricks and ideas with a visually impaired couple sharing their knowledge regarding marriage, gender equality between blind spouses, acceptance among family and society. The winning poems were shared in the final session.</p> <p>In 28- 29 July, with the support of WHR (an NGO which works for Nepalese single women), we organized an interaction program on the issues of citizenship with 20 single women with various disabilities.</p> <p>In August, still working under COVID restrictions, we organized an online workshop to promote Business entrepreneurship "endeavour and identity" to the women with disabilities. Using an online Google survey, session from business expertise and success story of social entrepreneurs, participants learned about self-entrepreneurship, marketing skills, promotion strategies and other business tactics: 80 women joined by zoom, 315 watched FB live .</p> <p>During the pandemic, Pahichan's leader Ichhya K.C was also selected as a focal person for her community; Dakshinkali ward, by NFDN (National Federation of Disabled Nepal) and so she contributed to advocacy to support WWDs during the pandemic. From November 2020, after lockdown eased, we finally were able to pick up the planned project of TFN and to start working from a new shared office in Koteswar suburb of Kathmandu. The 5 WWDs who were the part of our original communal house, are now living and working independently in their community using the skills we provided. Two went to India to train further in Handicrafts and Bakery, of whom Ms. Kamala Bishokarma now works as a bakery trainer in Delhi and Ms. Anju Dhital is now working as Braille Trainer National Volunteer at VSO in Sarlahi district (see case studies).</p>
<p>Can you describe and/or demonstrate the specific impact that TFN funding has had against your initial objectives?</p>	<p>Activities during the period of TFN support, and enabled by it, included:</p> <p>With Abilis Foundation, from November 2020 to March 2021, we provided humanitarian support (food package, sanitary packs, masks, sanitizers, gloves) to 50 women with disabilities and a 3 day online health sessions for 100 women with disabilities talking about SRHR maintaining menstrual hygiene, unwanted pregnancies, health rights and law/policy.</p>

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	<p>We also provided psycho- social counselling to 200 women with disabilities explaining about how to cope out the tough situation of pandemic . With Rotary Club of Maleny we trained 15 WWDs in Harpic and Liquid Soap -making and business/entrepreneurship skills (see photos). This training was very productive and impactful. Four WWDs have since started their own enterprise and are living independently supporting their families.</p> <p>In March 2021 TEWA helped, Pahichan Nepal to strengthen the organization by developing finance and organisational policies. We provided Rs. 15000 to 10 women with disabilities as a seed money (token support) so that they could start their own enterprises. We also conducted a 10 day training in making soft dolls and key rings with 10 women with disabilities under the livelihood project. The training was very enjoyable and impactful as they got to learn about the opportunities and skills to step up and build financial stability. We had reached out to include participants who were not already engaged in any of the NGOs and organizations. They were glad for this opportunity and are now participating in other skilful trainings and workshops. In June 2021 The Pollination Project, Explored skills for sustainable livelihood of women with disabilities. All this time, TFN helped support key worker salaries, communications, advocacy and rent for Pahichan's flat, which provided a home for WWDs and office space. Throughout the funding period, TFN support built Pahichan's capacity to operate as an effective, accountable and properly run organisation maintaining records, accounts, meeting statutory requirements as well as running these project activities. This went hand in hand with continuing support and mentorship from TEWA. TFN also gave us confidence to make a video film about our work and the Pahichan journey over that year. This is now completed and available on Youtube. From this long film we plan to extract relevant short clips to use for social media, fundraising and for training and other programmes. https://youtu.be/G4qIbH0HWS4</p>
What portion of the project did TFN fund?	78% (£7388 towards the original project budget of £9492)
How many direct beneficiaries did the TFN funded project reach?	46 (Pahichan team of WWD board members/staff/interns/house members)
How many indirect beneficiaries did the TFN funded project reach?	20- 30 non disabled family members/community leaders immediatedly benefitted plus over 500 beneficiaries of other projects enabled during the period of the TFN grant

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Were you able to leverage further funding as a result of TFN support?	Yes
If yes, how much were you able to raise?	Total other funds raised thanks to TFN support of £35,476 comprise (A) £13,166 completed projects (TEWA organisational strengthening £1406, TEWA Livelihood training £3125, Abilis Foundation - Health, Hygiene and humanitarian support £4785, Urgent Action Fund - Covid Relief £3850) and (B) £22,310 projects now in progress, developed during TFN support - Pollination Project £760, Disability Rights Fund £16,150, Women's Fund for Asia £5400).
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?	TFN support opened doors to other funders listed above, and TEWA, whose founder had backed Pahichan's application, has continued to provide mentoring and counselling support throughout the difficult times and going forward.
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?	Due to the Covid Pandemic, we had to put much of our work on hold for 6 months from the first lockdown in March 2020, including closing the shared house. During this period, as noted above, we started virtual programs on health rights, counselling sessions or maintaining self-hygiene, as well as facilitating humanitarian support during pandemic to help WWDs and their families to meet their basic needs. We also built collaborations with local entities and NGOs which helped to build a friendly network in the communities and raise awareness of the situation of WWDs. Recently started major new programmes supported by the Disability Rights Fund and the Women's Fund for Asia have enabled Pahichan to recruit new staff members, including a programme officer, as well as contracting training and

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	<p>other staff as per programme needs. Over the last 6 months we have grown and expanded our work and networks.</p> <p>Life also brings unexpected changes, and Pahichan's founder now divides her time between her new husband's family home in Bara municipality in the terai, and Kathmandu (Pahichan's base). Pahichan has now, as a result, started to work with disabled Madresi women who face particular abuse and oppression due to the intersecting barriers of ethnicity/poverty/social structures and disability, but who lack a voice. She has also started her own new family, becoming a mum just a few weeks before Pahichan celebrated its 3rd anniversary of foundation.</p>
Do you have any other comments or feedback on the experience of the TFN process?	<p>We are very grateful to TFN for being so flexible for allowing us the time extension which made us easier to complete the project which was postponed due to the pandemic. We have learned much about the challenges of establishing a new organisation and about how to make a difference to the lives of women with disability living in very difficult circumstances. It is a long journey for Pahichan, and we earnestly seek further support to continue it.</p>
Can you tell us any personal stories to highlight the value of the project?	<p>Anju Dhital; a graduate blind woman, was jobless. After she engaged in Pahichan Nepal and benefitted from career counselling and computer skills training, she got the opportunity to work as a Braille Trainer National Volunteer at VSO and is now living independently and also motivating other girls and women with disabilities for the better future.</p> <p>Pratichhya Bhattarai ; visually impaired; a member of our communal house, got the opportunity to participate in handicrafts and cooking training in New Delhi through Pahichan Nepal, since when she has been living independently using her skills for living.</p> <p>Sushila Pariyar; a blind single mother who belongs to a low caste, had been totally isolated by her in-laws who were denying her rights. After our counselling and support she is now fighting back by following due legal procedures to secure her rights. Her case has led Pahichan to a new focus on legal empowerment/access to justice for vulnerable women with disability (especially single/divorced/widows) who are denied their rights and entitlements by other family members and society in general.</p> <p>Maya Sapkota; a visually impaired girl who had not engaged in disability activism because she was over protected and isolated by her family. After she started to reside in our communal house, we made her aware about mobility training, home skills such as cooking, and cleaning, shopping, and proper dress up. She got the opportunity</p>

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	<p>to get involved in our different trainings and workshops which boosted her confidence level, such that she is now actively engaging in district level organizations in her own locality and advocating for other WWDs' rights.</p> <p>Kamala B.K is a marginalized and unemployed single mother who had to leave her rented home as she couldn't pay the rent or her daughter's school fees. After providing emergency financial support, Pahichan Nepal helped her to go to India for Baking training in New Delhi and now she is independently using her skills to make a living.</p> <p>Besides this, other girls/ women with disabilities who were lacking the opportunity to explore themselves, through the TFN funding, we were able to provide them proper care, counsel and motivate them further towards their career and future.</p>
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