

TFN Impact Report

Name of your Organisation:	Cecily's Fund
Name of the project TFN funded:	Anne Cooper
Date Funded by TFN:	21/03/2019
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?	1) Delayed sexual debut; reduction in teenage pregnancy; fewer incidences of child marriage through delivery of Peer Health Education by trained Peer Health Educators, a specific component of the RESPECT programme which recruits mothers/carers of orphans/vulnerable children to train them in making and selling menstrual hygiene kits which meets a huge need amongst adolescent girls living in poverty in Zambia. 2) Sexual reproductive health (SRH) services are youth friendly and age appropriate, led and developed in consultation with young people and cross cutting health and welfare provision. Each year working with the Copperbelt Health Education Project we fund the recruitment of 30 plus orphans/vulnerable young people who were supported by Cecily's Fund who have graduated high school, having passed Grade 12. They are trained to work in pairs to deliver age appropriate PHE from Grade 7 - 12 in 16 schools across Kitwe in the Copperbelt of Zambia. 3) Development of strong male and female role models and mentors who build citizenship and the formation of stable, supportive and positive community environments. We have a large number of young people who have trained as PHEs and have now formed an official Alumni and who have the skills to be community leaders in a country lacking adult role models. 4) Increased empowerment for girls resulting in improved attendance at school and more opportunities for women who are able to pass on knowledge and support to children. RESPECT has 2 outcomes - improving the livelihoods of mothers/carers of orphans/vulnerable children by providing them with the training and equipment to make re-usable menstrual hygiene kits which they can sell in the market to raise funds to feed their families and pay school fees whilst providing a cheap locally sourced product for adolescent girls who will not go to school if they cannot acquire adequate protection. Secondly orphans/vulnerable children in schools across Kitwe are taught about SRH issues enabling them to make informed choices about their future and inspiring them to remain in school and complete their

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	education as a route out of poverty. 60% of the Zambian population lives below the officially recognised UN poverty line.
What portion of the project did TFN fund?	10%
How many direct beneficiaries did the TFN funded project reach?	100
How many indirect beneficiaries did the TFN funded project reach?	1000 plus adolescent girls
Were you able to leverage further funding as a result of TFN support?	Yes
If yes, how much were you able to raise?	Not so much in actual funds raised but in being better prepared if required to pitch for funding for a project which is very different from making a presentation. The TFN experience is closer to the Dragon's Den
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?	Yes
How important was TFN funding in helping you achieve your objectives?	TFN funding was not essential as we would have been able to find alternative funding
Since presenting at TFN, has your organisation undergone any other significant changes?	In our original proposal, the pilot was planned to take place in two informal settlements (John Laing and Chazanga compound). Circumstances beyond our control, however, led us to adapt the design and location of the pilot from Lusaka, to Kitwe district in Zambia's Copperbelt. The decision to move the location was based on logistical planning around health and safety because of a serious

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	outbreak of cholera in Lusaka, of which Chazanga was at the centre. After serious consideration, we made the decision to pilot the programme in Kitwe and enhance the programme with an additional component which focuses on disability inclusion, reducing discrimination around disability and supporting greater cohesion and integration for vulnerable girls and mothers living with a disability. A major benefit of moving the programme to Kitwe has enabled us to widen the scope of beneficiaries, making the programme more inclusive by partnering with a special community school for vulnerable deaf children. During the inception and planning phase in 2019 we forged links with two particular schools in Kitwe. Sunshine Community School in Ipusukilo ward, which receives no government support at all and has been part funded by a local GROW savings group set up by Cecily's Fund. The second school is Jennifer Memorial Special School for the Deaf. By working with this school, we are pushing back the boundaries, and encompassing disability by including the mothers of deaf children in the set up and training of the menstrual hygiene businesses. The training of mothers of children with disabilities alongside mothers of other vulnerable children, creates opportunities for greater understanding of disability, reduces discrimination and strengthens communities by working together. In Zambia children with a disability are often regarded with great suspicion and seen as victims of witchcraft and as a consequence, hidden from society. Factor in that they will invariably be living in extreme poverty, the best a disabled child can look forward to, is being left alone, marginalised and isolated. Girls with a disability are particularly vulnerable to coercion and exploitation.
Do you have any other comments or feedback on the experience of the TFN process?	The selection process was quite an education and then being selected and going to the workshop and then having the chance to practice beforehand as well as taking part in the pitching event itself proved invaluable. We realised we had to up our game as pitching on the night was quite competitive. We perhaps should have made more of the fact that we were privileged to pitch, ie utilising social media more, using our website but we are quite under resourced in that area.
Can you tell us any personal stories to highlight the value of the project?	Maureen Muwow is a 37-year-old widow and mother of 5 children. Her eldest sister passed away leaving 9 children, of which 7 were adopted by Maureen. This meant that Maureen now had 12 children to look after in a 2 bedroomed house. "After my sister died my husband and I took 7 of her 9 children to look after, however soon after that my husband died too. Because I was unemployed and

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	uneducated, paying school fees got hard for me, therefore most of the children had to stop school for a while." Her daughter Rebecca had been in Grade 4 but had to leave school and stayed at home for 2 years. Fortunately for Rebecca, Maureen found out from local networks about Cecily's Fund and contacted our partner in the Copperbelt who undertook an assessment of Rebecca and offered her support to return to school. Maureen says that ever since Rebecca started school, she has been happier and more motivated to complete her education. Cecily's Fund has also benefited Maureen in other ways. Maureen is currently an active chair lady for the Joy GROW group in Kasala, in the Copperbelt. She has benefited from the entrepreneurship training for mothers and carers. She says she has benefited by gaining knowledge and skills on how to save money. Being part of GROW has also given her access to a small low interest loan. That loan has enabled Maureen to start her own business of selling vegetables which she uses to feed her family and pay school fees. Ruth Kamanga (parent with child at Jennifer Memorial School) "I used to have a wrong misconception about people with disability and didn't know how to take care and raise my own disabled child. I thought her life was hopeless and had no future. It was my first experience to have a child in the family who is disabled of which it was always difficult to accept and this made her feel so isolated and always lonely. After attending training, I learnt how to take care of my disabled child, I will educate others about people with disabilities and sponsor my child in everything she may need as it is God who created her and nothing I can do can change her disability but give her support to excel in life through opportunities this social enterprise project which will bring about to us parents who have no employment or business opportunity due to lack of capital."
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