

Name of your organisation	The Free Shop
Date of TFN event which you pitched at	30/09/2024
Name of the project TFN funded	Emergency & School Distributions Project
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>We were very grateful to receive ~£10600, primarily in support of our Emergency and School Distributions Project, based where we operate in Bekaa Valley, Lebanon.</p> <p>In light of the turbulent situation on the ground last year and due to the ongoing nature of our work, we have had to adopt all aspects of our project to meet and facilitate the distribution of aid to our beneficiaries, whom are primarily displaced Syrian families living in tent settlements. However, our beneficiaries also include Lebanese and Palestinian families, with our physical shop being a meeting place for different nationalities. Of note, in December 2024, with the changing political situation in Syria, many parents started taking their children back from Lebanon to Syria, likely changing the demographics of our beneficiaries.</p> <p>Indeed, £4000 of the funding was spent on the children's school equipment. Initially, the aim was for these to be distributed in schools directly. However, with many schools being used as emergency sheets during the war, it was more feasible to distribute the materials from The Free Shop directly, which is the central hub of our project. It is physical shop where beneficiaries receive tokens and can spend them as they life, shopping for free in the shop in a dignifying manner. Hence, given the difficulty accessing schools, the distribution project was primarily run from the shop and will likely continue to until the end of 2025.</p> <p>In line with this, £6000 was spent on the emergency response arm of the project, funding the distribution of water and food in settlements and the establishment of emergency shelters.</p>
What portion of the project did TFN fund?	10%
How many direct beneficiaries did the TFN funded project reach?	3,000
How many indirect beneficiaries did the TFN funded project reach?	6,000
Were you able to leverage further funding as a result of TFN support?	No
If yes, how much were you able to raise and from whom?	-
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?	-
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?	No
Can you tell us any personal stories to highlight the value of the project?	-
Since presenting at TFN, has your organisation undergone any other significant changes?	-
Do you have any other comments or feedback on the experience of the TFN process?	-