

Name of your organisation	<b>Tyume Valley Schools Development Association</b>
Date of TFN event which you pitched at	04/11/2024
Name of the project TFN funded	<b>Fresh Start a rural education project for Xhosa children</b>
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>TFN funding enabled us to expand our literacy programmes across the Tyume Valley, improving learner outcomes and strengthening our teaching capacity. We recruited 6 Reading Ambassadors, expanding our reach from 4 schools to 8 schools.</p> <p>We launched a targeted “Reading for Meaning” initiative in multi-grade classrooms, improving reading comprehension and engagement. Early impact assessments show learners’ reading levels improved by 20–25% on average.</p> <p>We have equipped the new schools with technology such as laptops, projectors and interactive whiteboards and trained teachers how to use these.</p>
What portion of the project did TFN fund?	TFN funded approximately 60% of the project budget, covering training for Reading Ambassadors, reading materials, and literacy workshops.
How many direct beneficiaries did the TFN funded project reach?	Approximately 300 learners across the 8 schools. And approximately 150 children in our community Reading Clubs.
How many indirect beneficiaries did the TFN funded project reach?	Approximately 720 family members, teachers, and community members, benefiting from community engagement events, enhanced literacy and school engagement.
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?	TFN support helped us secure additional funding from the Social Employment Fund South Africa, allowing us to expand the number of learning assistants employed.
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?	In the UK we made important links with other organisations and individuals working in the same field. In Sout Africa we were invited to a high level conference where we made contact with local authorities and NGOs.
How important was TFN funding in helping you achieve your objectives?	We would have found it difficult to achieve our objectives without TFN funding
Has the training you received from TFN better prepared you in	Yes

pitching your organisation to potential funders?	
Has TFN increased your capacity to raise further funds?	Yes
Can you tell us any personal stories to highlight the value of the project?	Yes. One memorable story involves a Grade 5 learner who struggled to read basic sentences at the start of the year. Through our “Reading Stars” programme supported by TFN, he has gained confidence and improved his reading level by three grades within six months. His teacher reported that he now reads aloud in class and helps other learners, inspiring his peers and demonstrating the tangible impact of the programme.
Since presenting at TFN, has your organisation undergone any other significant changes?	Yes. Following our TFN presentation, we have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Recruited and retained 3 new trustees</li> <li>• Expanded our SA team by recruiting additional Reading Ambassadors.</li> <li>• Improved our monitoring and impact reporting, which helps us better demonstrate outcomes to funders.</li> </ul>
Do you have any other comments or feedback on the experience of the TFN process?	The TFN process was extremely valuable, helping us refine messaging, improve impact measurement, and build confidence in pitching to funders. Networking and guidance were also highly beneficial.