



SMEC Foundation Report

2021



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Chairman's Foreword

The SMEC Foundation advanced in 2021, enhancing our charity partnerships. We supported many communities to create a positive and durable impact in the areas where SMEC staff live and work. As the world recedes from COVID-19, support for the most vulnerable people and communities is needed more than ever.

This report provides news on our accomplishments with our partners in 2021. Water supply and education for underprivileged children were key elements of our programs.

Through the generosity of our donors and SMEC alumni, we celebrated the provision of clean drinking water for rural villages in Nepal. Alastair McKendrick House, an orphanage in Tanzania, is continuing to provide essential care and support in a disadvantaged community. In the water sector, we have enhanced hygiene for remote communities in Papua New Guinea.

During the 2021 reporting period, the SMEC Foundation, with the support of SMEC alumni, donated AUD \$153,149. In addition, SMEC's regional CSR Committees provided AUD \$156,859 to support projects in health, education, emergency relief and community development.

SMEC staff continue to provide invaluable, on the ground, support to our projects through design and procurement advice and most importantly, project monitoring. Their engagement is a key element in our project execution model.

When disasters strike, the SMEC Foundation Emergency Assistance Fund provides immediate cash grants to SMEC staff and their associates who have been affected by natural disasters such as cyclones, fire and flood.

SMEC will continue to provide practical support, with the help of our colleagues, alumni and charity partners, to improve the health, quality of life and wellbeing of those most in need.

A heartfelt thank you to our donors and SMEC employees who helped bring these projects to fruition.

Roger Bayliss
Chairman, SMEC Foundation

Overview of the SMEC Foundation

The SMEC Foundation is a core part of SMEC's Corporate Social Responsibility Program and helps fulfil the company's commitment to community development and sustainable poverty reduction.

From the beginning, the SMEC Foundation has been inspired and led by employees who are motivated to make a difference in the regions where we operate.

The Foundation was created in 2001 as an employee initiative, driven by staff who identified with the needs of communities in project settings where they operated, and wanted to be engaged. These grassroots endeavours were formalised with the establishment of the SMEC Foundation.



Roger Bayliss
Chairman



Karen Atkinson
Director



Angus Macpherson
Director



Philip Wilcox
Director



"Our philosophy has always been that a little money spent wisely can go a long way."

Roger Bayliss
Chairman, SMEC Foundation

SMEC Foundation objectives

Consolidate links between SMEC and the communities we operate in

Harmonise processes to ensure the best possible social and developmental impacts

Provide small-scale grant assistance to community groups and development projects

Create partnerships with non-government organisations and community groups to address poverty, social disadvantage, and environmental protection.



“The SMEC Foundation funds Australian registered charities who carry out projects in developing countries within SMEC’s international footprint. We ensure that SMEC’s local staff are involved in SMEC Foundation projects and as such are kept in touch with and provide support to their local communities. SMEC and the SMEC Foundation, have a long held proud tradition of genuinely helping the communities in which we work.”

Philip Wilcox
SMEC Foundation Director

How the SMEC Foundation began

From the beginning, the SMEC Foundation has been inspired and led by employees who are motivated to make a difference in the regions where we operate. The Foundation was created in 2001 as an employee initiative, driven by employees who saw the needs of the communities around the project environments where we worked, and wanted to get involved. Eventually, these grassroots initiatives were formalised with the establishment of the SMEC Foundation.

Over the years, we have funded over 200 projects in over 30 countries. Our local offices and teams worldwide remain actively involved in submitting funding proposals, visiting project sites, and helping to build and strengthen our partnerships with local NGOs.



How we operate

The SMEC Foundation was founded on our employees’ sensitivity to disadvantage and desire to make a difference. Our colleagues are adept at developing constructive approaches to alleviating hardship.

SMEC Foundation funding decisions were decentralised in 2016, meaning that each of SMEC’s Business Units around the world has access to regular funding to support activities in their region. While funding is critical, the hands-on support provided by our locally based offices and teams makes the execution of these projects particularly effective.

Funds from the SMEC Foundation are delivered through trusted charity partners with an on the ground presence.

The SMEC Foundation has also expanded to operate an Emergency Relief Assistance program for SMEC employees and associates affected by natural disasters.

Kathmandu Environment Education Project (KEEP), Nepal

BridgIT Water Foundation

Nepal is among the least developed countries in the world. In rural communities, women and children are often tasked with fetching water, which means having to walk long distances, across difficult terrain. Due to lack of accessible water, it is harder for people to maintain healthy hygiene and sanitation.

In 2021 SMEC and the McKendrick Family continued our partnership with BridgIT, KEEP and the local government to support the Sigas water project in the Baitadi district. Installing new infrastructure in four rural villages has enabled marginalised people to access clean, safe drinking water.

The project was fully funded by the McKendrick Family. Activities involved the construction of two intake tanks at Dhadi River and one storage tank. The intake tanks lie approximately 1.8km from the storage tank. Two water distribution tanks were installed in

beneficiary villages through a distribution pipeline, supplying clean water to 45 households as well as a community health post, a temple, and a school.

SMEC employees in our Nepal office were actively involved in supporting the project at a local level. The local community has been trained on how to manage and maintain the new infrastructure, which ensures the long-term sustainability of the community water system.



Project Impacts

- Approximately 280 people can now access water at their doorstep as opposed to travelling 2km on foot to fetch water
- The connections enable local women and children to use their time for more productive means
- Water supply facilitates increased agricultural production and animal husbandry – generating increased household income
- Improved community cohesion
- Improved sanitation practices and a reduction in the incidence of common health problems

“Before, we had to walk about 45 minutes downhill and walk back an hour uphill to fetch water and I used to be worried about my school attendance and studies. I can now do my studies as well as help my mother do house chores. We have water tap near our house, so we don’t need to spend time in fetching water but instead I have more time for studies.”

Sarala Aaire (aged 14)
Student of Bhumiraj Adharbhat school



Water rehabilitation project, Malawi

Action on Poverty & United Purpose

SMEC Foundation and the Busbridge Family Generosity Fund jointly funded a water point rehabilitation project in Dowa district in Malawi, through the partnership of Action On Poverty (AOP) and United Purpose (UP).



The project rehabilitated six water points providing communities with access to clean water, pumped through pipes drilled deep into the ground. Handpumps are fitted at each borehole meaning that water can be easily extracted for community use.

To understand the status on the ground, UP carried out baseline surveys to document the condition of each water point and generated a list of materials that needed to be procured for each site and conducted engagement with the regional water department to coordinate approvals.

Rehabilitation and installation of six water points was undertaken at the following communities: Kalisha, Chakhombayani, Chilembwe, Kamsikiri, Chinyama and

at St Mathias Primary School in Mkukula. The water point rehabilitation benefits approximately 6,949 people across 1,491 households.

Community participation was key to ensuring the successful ongoing management of the water points. All six communities were invited to participate in the project planning and acquisition of local materials during implementation. The project funding also supported hygiene awareness and community-based training activities for local water point committees.

Thank you to Sam Busbridge and Steph Xavier of the Busbridge Generosity Fund for their support for this project and to SMEC staff members for their on the ground support.

Multipurpose outdoor learning domains, Philippines

Australian Foundation for Fostering Learning

SMEC Foundation partnered with the Australian Foundation for Fostering Learning (AFFLIP) in the Philippines to help benefit approximately 21,000 children across 15 schools in the Talomo District of Davao City.

Funding was provided for the purchase of equipment and materials used in the construction of Multipurpose Outdoor Learning Domains and a variety of health and nutrition projects. This has enabled AFFLIP to enhance teaching and learning opportunities in the district.

The flagship program delivers:

- Provision of outdoor learning facilities
- Professional development programs for Filipino teachers and administrators
- Development of an exchange program between identified schools in South Australia and the Philippines
- Community programs to reduce illness, infections, and malnourishment in identified Filipino schools
- Extracurricular school programs to support vulnerable students.

The multipurpose outdoor learning domains deliver tables and seating for use in group work, colourful games areas, reading spaces, and other play activities such as chess. The new amenities provide a welcoming ambience to the learning environment.

The health and nutrition projects (set to commence in 2022) have been grouped into three broad sets: Aquaponics, Plant Nurseries and Wicking Beds with planning currently underway.

Thank you to the SMEC team in Philippines for initiating funding support for this program.

“Davao City Special School is immensely grateful for these 10 sets of concrete tables each with four stools. AFFLIP in partnership with the SMEC Foundation have been instrumental in the implementation of the Multipurpose Outdoor Learning Domains across the Talomo District.”

Viola Esparagoza

School Head, Davao City Special School



School Improvement Project, Tanzania

So They Can

So They Can (STC) is a long term charity partner, offering support to orphans and vulnerable children in Tanzania and Kenya. Their mission is to help break the poverty cycle through quality education.

The SMEC Foundation has helped to fund two projects in the Babati Rural District of Manyara (Tanzania). Schools in the Babati Rural District face many issues such as teacher deficit, deficient infrastructure, inadequate educational resources, and limited access to clean water.

Thank you to Sam Busbridge and Steph Xavier of the Busbridge Family Generosity Fund and SMEC staff in East Africa for your assistance in delivering these programs.

Water for Schools

The water for school's project will provide boreholes at 14 public primary schools with water supply recently completed at Endamaghai and Mwikantsi. At both schools, children can now access clean water on site.

SMEC employees in our Tanzania office have been actively involved in supporting the project at a local level, helping to conduct surveys to determine the depth of the water table and preparing a cost schedule to support procurement and implementation. The boreholes will provide a safe water supply to support education opportunities for children.



School Improvement Project

The SMEC Foundation and Busbridge Family Generosity Fund have also provided funding for the STC School Improvement Project which will provide support for four schools. The project has the following aims:

- Improve education infrastructure through the construction/renovation of classrooms, toilets and changing rooms
- Provide sufficient equipment and training development to support learning
- Establish health and feeding programs to improve retention rates.

To date two classrooms have been renovated at the Gijedabung Primary School in Endakiso, with a pending permit to renovate two more classrooms in 2022. The Ayamango Primary School has also commenced construction of two classrooms helping to expand teaching and learning capacity for local children.

Nowshera campus IT lab, Pakistan

Shahid Afridi Foundation

Shahid Afridi Foundation (SAF) believes schools should be incubators of exploration and invention with a vision to build conducive learning environments to ensure a progressive tomorrow for our upcoming youth.

With the support of the SMEC Foundation, SAF has constructed an IT lab at its Nowshera campus to help realise the full benefits of technology in the education system. The Nowshera campus houses 14 staff members with 292 students (including 125 girls and 167 boys). SMEC's team in Pakistan collaborated with SAF to assist with the construction of the IT lab which provides vital access to information and digital technology.

The computer lab comprises of 15 desktop systems, new furniture, a server, and associated power networking which links to a new 8KW solar panel (separately funded by SAF). A qualified computer instructor has also been hired under the program. The lab was inaugurated by the local SMEC team on April 19, 2022, when they visited and inspected the lab, met with students, and learned how the new lab is supporting them in their educational journey.

Thank you to Muhammad Manshah and the SMEC team in Pakistan for your service to this initiative.



Safe drinking water supply, Papua New Guinea

WaterAid

Approximately 90 households in the Wom community, East Sepik Province are set to benefit from a resilient and safe drinking water supply. The SMEC Foundation along with the Busbridge Family Generosity Fund donated to WaterAid who is leading the project.

The local community and visitors to the public beach in Wewak will soon be able to access clean water, year-round. Key deliverables of the project include:

- Drilling a borehole and installing an elevated water storage tank
- Constructing a community tap-stand
- Providing training for a caretaker to operate, maintain and manage the water supply system
- Carrying out water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) refresher training in communities.

Given Wom's proximity to the coast it is particularly important that water sources do not have a high salt content. Feasibility works commenced in 2022

to assess potential water sources and supply options. As part of the feasibility study WaterAid also identified potential members for the community WASH Committee who will be responsible for the ongoing maintenance of the water source. Design finalisation and construction is anticipated to complete in 2022. Over the course of a year, the program will install a new water supply scheme, promote good WASH behaviours and ensure that the needs of women and marginalised communities are met.

Thank you to Tessa and Mike Wise of the Busbridge Family Generosity Fund and Simon Tundua for providing on the ground support.



Kigamboni Muslim Development Initiative (KIMUDI), Tanzania

Alastair McKendrick House

The family of the late Alastair McKendrick, together with the SMEC Foundation, provided funding to the Kigamboni Muslim Development Initiative (KIMUDI) for construction of an orphanage in Dar Es Salaam in 2019. Presently the orphanage is home to 24 children between five and 13 years of age, with a capacity for up to 50 children.



Following the inauguration of Alastair McKendrick House, the McKendrick family provided additional funds for establishment of a poultry project. The poultry project aims to generate income to help manage ongoing operation costs.

The poultry building was launched in March 2021 and reports suggest that the initiative is progressing well. With the nearest school 6km away, the orphanage is now looking to construct teaching facilities on site along with outdoor toilets and a recreation shed to provide shelter on sunny and rainy days.

