



SMEC Foundation



Member of the Surbana Jurong Group

SMEC Foundation Objectives



To consolidate links between SMEC and the communities in which the Company operates.



To create a more systematic process for delivery on SMEC's traditional corporate social responsibilities, ensuring the best possible social and developmental impact.



To provide small-scale grant assistance to community groups and development projects in countries in which SMEC has a presence.



To create partnerships with non-government organisations and community groups addressing poverty, social disadvantage and environmental protection.

How we 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. Our local offices and teams worldwide are still closely involved in submitting funding proposals, visiting project sites and helping to build and strengthen our partnerships with local NGOs. Over the years, we have funded over 200 projects in over 30 countries, and we have expanded to operate an Emergency Relief Assistance program for SMEC employees and associates.

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.

SMEC CSR projects are supplemented by funds from the SMEC Foundation, delivered through trusted charity partners with an on the ground presence.

When natural disasters strike, the SMEC Foundation often partners with SMEC employees to raise urgent cash donations as emergency assistance.

“Through our genuine relationships with a range of global charities and additional financial support from a growing portfolio of philanthropic partners, we have been able to increase our global impact and make a difference where it matters most.”

– Katie O'Malley, SMEC Foundation Director

Overview of the SMEC Foundation

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

The objective of the SMEC Foundation is to deliver the best possible social and development outcomes for individuals and communities in need.

The SMEC Foundation provides small-scale grant support to development projects, communities and charities around the world.

Our support extends across multiple projects with a particular focus on Health, Education, Environment, Community Development and Emergency Relief.

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

– Roger Bayliss, Chairman, SMEC Foundation Board



Roger Bayliss

Chairman



Angus Macpherson

Director



Phillip Wilcox

Director



Katie O'Malley

Director

BridgIT Water Foundation

The BridgIT Water Foundation helps connect rural communities with safe drinking water and reduce waterborne disease through installing drinking water wells in carefully selected locations.

SMEC partners with BridgIT to support poverty reduction and improve health outcomes for vulnerable communities.

India - In the Kadapa District of Andhra Pradesh, the SMEC Foundation funded the construction of six borewells in remote villages. With geological assistance from the Ground Water Department of Kadapa District Headquarters, tube wells fitted with hand pumps were also installed in a central location in each village.

As a result, around 8,000 men, women and children now have access to safe, clean drinking water. Around 4,500 people who used to walk long distances to collect water are now able to spend more time on other activities including income-generating initiatives, which can improve their livelihoods.

Ethiopia - With support from the family of the late Alastair McKendrick, a former long serving SMEC Director and Group CFO, funding has been provided for the construction of drinking water wells in four remote

villages in the Somali Region. These wells will provide over 11,000 community members with all year access to safe drinking water.

A community-based approach was implemented, with residents actively participating in the planning, management and monitoring of the construction project. To ensure long term viability, a Water User Committee (WUC) has been established in each village and trained in how to sustain the water resource.

Nepal - The SMEC Foundation Board has funded the provision of drinking water infrastructures in Itapani and Bahunthok. The goal of this project is to improve the health and hygiene of the village residents by providing safe and clean drinking water to every household.



So They Can

So They Can (STC) is a not for profit organisation that works to educate, empower and support communities. SMEC partners with BridgIT to support reducing poverty and improving health outcomes to vulnerable communities.

Africa - Since 2012 the SMEC Foundation has partnered with STC providing ongoing grant support across a range of community projects. Most recently this included funding two new buildings for Miti Mingi Village – an initiative which provides small family-like homes for children who cannot be cared for by their extended families. The Village comprises 15 individual family homes, each with eight children cared for by a ‘mother’ who has committed to being with the children for life.

In 2018, the SMEC Foundation provided additional support for a critical waste-water disposal system. Mingi Village's remote location means it is not serviced by the municipal sewerage works and the funding program provided additional showers and toilets and to protect the basic health of its residents.

In 2019-2020, the Alastair Kendrick House, a home for orphans was officially opened in Dar es Salaam. The project is an initiative of SMEC's Africa CSR Committee that has been supported by the SMEC Foundation

and the McKendrick family. Alastair McKendrick is a former long serving SMEC Director and Group Chief Financial Officer (CFO), who passed away in September 2018, but his legacy lives on through his contribution to the children of Tanzania. The Alastair McKendrick House can cater for up to 64 children and is built on a plot of land large enough to accommodate further initiatives such as a poultry farm and greenhouse, which will help the orphanage generate income to self-sustain its operations.

Kenya - In partnership with the family of SMEC alumni, Sam and Steph Busbridge of the Busbridge Family Generosity Fund, the SMEC Foundation funded STC's Kenya Early Steps project.

STC Kenya Early Steps works with 11 public primary schools from East Pokot and Nakuru, providing approximately 4,200 pupils with inclusive and effective learning programs.

Through the Busbridge Family's generosity and the involvement of SMEC employees from our local Kenya office, this partnership will positively impact the long term future of these students.

Action on Poverty

Action on Poverty (AOP) is a Sydney-based international development organisation that empowers marginalised communities across Africa, Asia and the Pacific to break the cycle of entrenched poverty.

Hoa Binh, Vietnam - SMEC has partnered with AOP to help deliver essential infrastructure to remote and impoverished villages in Hoa Binh province, a mountainous region in northern Vietnam located approximately two hours from Hanoi. Its population, which includes a high proportion of ethnic minority groups, is almost entirely dependent on agricultural production.

These much-needed infrastructure solutions bring meaningful change to these communities by supporting economic livelihoods, improving health outcomes and disease prevention, and promoting education.

Chien Village, Vietnam - Chien Village is a remote community predominantly made up of the Muong ethnic minority group. The Village is primarily engaged in agriculture, including rice cultivation, cattle and poultry farming. Recently, the community has developed Community-based Tourism (CBT) as a new and diversified livelihood model.

SMEC partially funded and designed an access road and culvert to allow large vehicles safe access to the village. Utilising a collaborative construction methodology, local villagers prepared the construction site while SMEC provided technical supervision.

This road upgrade will provide over 80 households in Chien and neighbouring Ton village with a safer passage to schools and agricultural areas. It is also a key driver to the success of CBT, improving incomes and livelihoods.

South Gondar, Ethiopia - In partnership with AOP, the SMEC Foundation has funded a potato seed project to improve household food security and income for smallholder farmers in Gamo Gofa and South Gondar. The SMEC Addis office will provide ongoing support for the potato seed project and other local community initiatives.



Habitat for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity is an international not-for-profit organisation dedicated to transforming lives through the provision of safe, affordable housing for those in need. In recent times, it has also contributed to natural disaster relief by providing much-needed shelter kits and interim housing solutions.

The SMEC Foundation has partnered with Habitat for Humanity for close to a decade supporting various initiatives in Fiji, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Vanuatu, Vietnam and Australia.

Vietnam - Low-income families and remote communities in Vietnam not only face the negative effects of living in inadequate housing, they also have the challenge of annual repairs in response to seasonal changes.

International volunteers, including a group of SMEC team members, have helped rural communities in Vietnam to build stronger, more resilient homes. New buildings made of durable materials such as sun-dried brick, concrete and tiles, and included attached toilets, meaning families are better equipped to mitigate the potential risks of seasonal impacts.

Fiji - In partnership with local teams, the SMEC Foundation has helped to support emergency assistance programs that provide interim housing relief in the wake of devastating cyclones and improve disaster preparedness. In Fiji, this has involved prepositioning emergency shelter kits in a central location, to ensure Habitat for Humanity can provide immediate support and shelter-focused recovery operations for impacted communities following a natural disaster.

Australia - Each International Women's Day, SMEC employees in Australia, along with their sister company Robert Bird Group, volunteer their time building homes and renovating crisis accommodation. These projects include painting and refurbishing homes for women and families experiencing the impacts of domestic violence. The aim of these projects is to empower women to help families build strength, stability and independence.



