

FDC STRATEGY OVERVIEW



INTRODUCTION

Over the past 20 years, the Foundation for Development Cooperation (FDC) has developed a strong reputation for leadership in international development thought and practice in the Asia-Pacific region.

Through the vision and philanthropy of Bill Taylor AO, FDC was created in Australia in 1990 as an independent organisation to marshal and leverage the collective private sector, academic, NGO/community and government resources, know-how and will to alleviate poverty and disadvantage in our region.

Building on our solid foundations, we have reflected on past achievements, considered future development trends, and assessed the needs of the region. Subsequently, we have refreshed our strategic focus to realise greater impact. This document outlines FDC's strategic direction, focus areas and our approach to enabling better development outcomes in our region.

MISSION

FDC is an independent Australian Foundation committed to enabling better development outcomes in the Asia-Pacific region through *collaboration* and *innovation*.

Our mission is to harness and leverage the collective skills, knowledge, resources and passion of organisations from across the public, private, NGO and academic sectors in order to alleviate poverty and disadvantage in developing nations in our region.

We achieve this by researching, piloting and promoting collaborative and innovative market-based approaches to international development.

"Collaboration and Innovation in International Development"

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Sean Rooney

Founder

K William Taylor AO
(1926 – 1995)

FDC THEMES

Building on FDC's experience and expertise in international development, cross-sector partnerships and working with disadvantaged communities and individuals in the Asia-Pacific region, we focus our effort and resources on four distinct, yet inter-related themes:

1. Private sector partnerships for sustainable development

We leverage private sector knowledge and resources in designing and piloting cross-sector partnership approaches for sustainable development. The key sectors we work with include the resources, energy, ICT and financial services sectors.

2. Local economies, enterprise and livelihoods

We focus on participatory, human-centred, place-based approaches to deliver sustainable livelihoods, enterprises and local economic development.

3. Financial inclusion

FDC works to extend the reach and impact of its microfinance programs such as Banking With The Poor (BWTP) and the Microfinance Pasifika Network (MFPN) to promote and achieve greater financial inclusion in our region.

4. Payments for ecosystem services for poverty alleviation

We focus on designing and testing approaches to enable payments for natural resource management and the provision of ecosystem services in disadvantaged communities as a means to alleviate poverty.

Across each theme we undertake three types of activities:

- conducting **research** on theme-specific issues, challenges and opportunities
- conceiving, designing, conducting and evaluating on-the-ground partnership **pilot projects** that test innovative approaches to development
- providing **development services** including advisory and consulting, network coordination and training, to enable local partners to deliver better development outcomes

In addition to conducting operations related to these themes, we also undertake activities in two other broader, yet equally important areas:

- **Emerging Issues Research** - Research into emerging issues in international development specific to the Asia-Pacific region. Our research contributes to development knowledge and dialogue at national and regional scales.
- **Outreach Activities** - FDC reflects on the experiences gained and outcomes achieved from all areas of our activities. We synthesise and distil knowledge and

insight from our operations in order to inform development policy, programs and practices in our region.

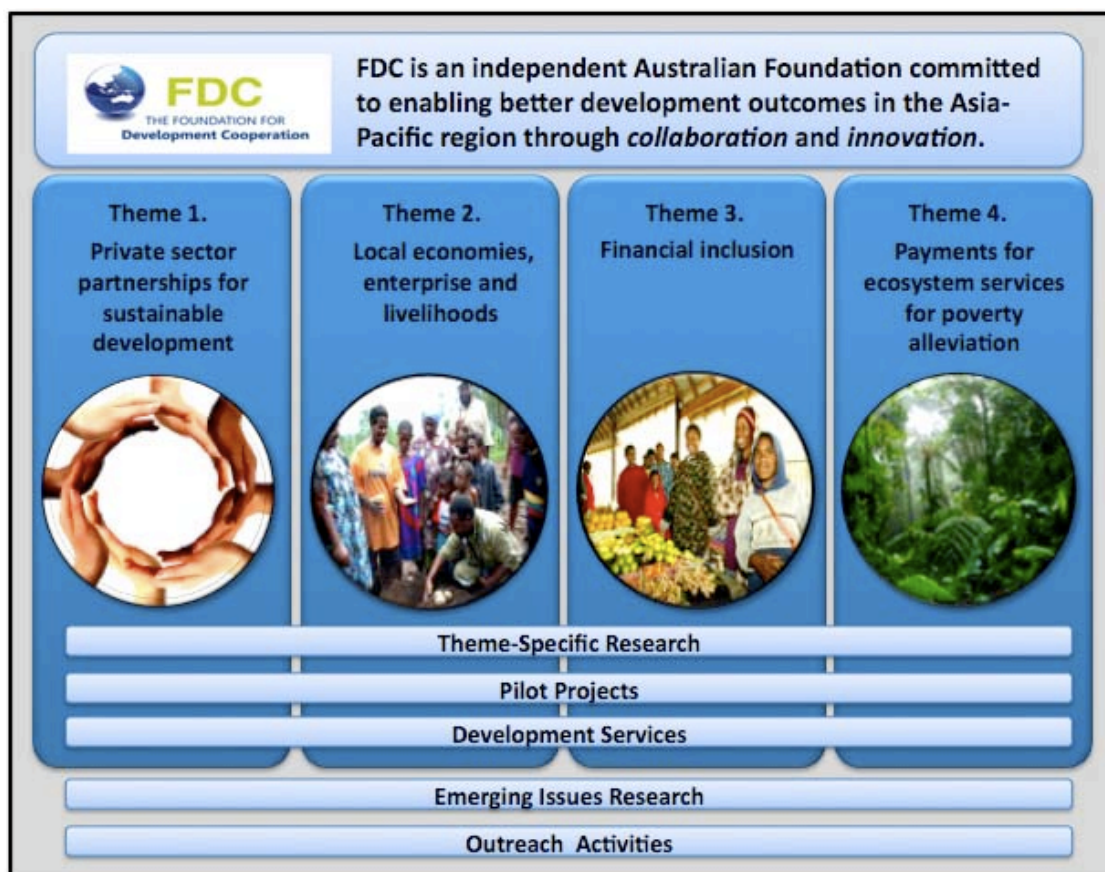


Figure 1 – FDC themes and activities

OUR APPROACH

In collaboration with partners from across a range of sectors, FDC undertakes projects that, individually, deliver outcomes for project partners, communities and participants. And, collectively, influence and direct improved development policies and practices to reduce poverty and disadvantage in the Asia-Pacific region. In order to achieve this, the key components of our approach are as follows:

Collaboration

The challenge of alleviating poverty and disadvantage in developing countries is complex and multi-dimensional, both in origin and resolution. No one sector – private, public, civil society or academia – has all the answers or the ability to effectively respond to these challenges acting alone. FDC integrates skills, knowledge, resources and passion from across organisations and sectors to create effective development solutions.

Innovation

Traditional approaches to international development only go so far. We need to move beyond trying to solve today's problems with yesterday's solutions, while tomorrow's challenges overwhelm us. In order to do this we must innovate. In practice this means

responding in new and inventive ways. FDC focuses on conceiving, designing, testing, evaluating and sharing new approaches to international development.

Systems Thinking

The interplay between economy, society, culture, nature and governance in the development issues we address can be complicated. The first step we take in any project is a step back, to observe the context of issues at play and how they interact. We then look beyond a short-term reaction to inherent symptoms and work towards solutions that affect long-term, positive, systemic change.

Market-Based

Markets and enterprise have a fundamental role to play in addressing poverty and disadvantage in developing nations. Our approach is to work collaboratively across sectors and scales to enable sustainable livelihoods, local enterprises and accessible financial services as pathways to effective development through economic empowerment.

Learning

Working across sectors on innovative, market-based development solutions, that seek to achieve systemic change and impact in developing nations, is a big job. To ensure impact at scale, we embed learning systems and processes in all our activities to capture knowledge and insights. We then share these learnings with others to inform and direct international development policy and practices.

Our Approach in Action

To give meaning to our approach, we utilise thinking, practices and tools at the forefront of international development in order to identify, conceive, plan, deliver and evaluate all of our activities. To ensure that we are working at the leading edge, we work closely with other recognised development ‘thought and practice’ leaders from across governments, businesses, NGOs and academia.

MEASURING PERFORMANCE

Over the period 2011 to 2014 FDC will focus on achieving three strategic objectives consistent with our mission:

1. Delivering programs with tangible and measureable development outcomes, and identifiable wider positive impacts for communities in developing countries, as well as for our partners and stakeholders.
2. Continued recognition and consolidation of FDC’s position as a leader in collaboration and innovation for development in the Asia-Pacific region.

3. Ensuring FDC remains a strong and resilient organisation that is well managed, financially sound, and a rewarding place to work.

SUMMARY

FDC looks forward to building on our reputation and track record of achievement through our revised strategic focus. We embrace the challenges and opportunities that our renewed strategy presents. As we progress, we invite others from across all sectors to join with us in working to make a real difference in alleviating poverty and disadvantage in our region.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rooney', with a stylized, flowing script.

Sean Rooney
Executive Director
Foundation for Development Cooperation
September 2011