



Welcome to Issue Two of FDC Development Links

This quarterly publication provides an overview of key readings from a variety of print and online sources across the development sector. These articles are identified by FDC staff as significant and informative readings, providing subscribers with a summary of topical issues arising from the field across FDC's themes, as well as emerging issues and practice insights in international development.

FDC welcomes your feedback on this publication and its content at info@fdc.org.au.

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International Development - Emerging Issues

- [1. The New Bottom Billion: World's Poor Live in Middle-Income Countries?](#)**
Donors will have to change the way they think about poverty alleviation, as the majority of the world's poor now live in middle-income countries.
- [2. More Money or More Development: What Have the MDGs Achieved?](#)**
The paper reflects on lessons learnt from the global goal setting experience of MDGs and how these lessons might impact future MDGs after 2015.
- [3. Revisiting the relationship between targeting and program performance](#)**
This paper examines whether improved targeting of public spending will necessarily result in more or more cost-effective poverty reduction.
- [4. Adaptation Finance: How to Get Out from between a Rock and a Hard Place](#)**
If climate change adaptation transfers are to be effective and sustained, the habits, culture, and practices of traditional aid programs need to be set aside. The climate community can set the groundwork for an overall approach to adaptation transfers that benefits from hard lessons learned over several decades about what makes traditional aid more effective.
- [5. Green Growth, Resources and Resilience: Environmental Sustainability in Asia and the Pacific](#)**
This report describes an evolving policy landscape and provides new insights into Asian and Pacific resource use trends and outlines key actions that governments can pursue to help bring economic growth strategies in closer alignment with the objective of sustainable development.
- [6. Australian aid in the Asian century](#)**
Developing countries in Asia are growing steadily--in some cases rapidly--and becoming increasingly affluent.
- [7. Better access to energy reduces poverty](#)**
The Pacific Islands region is classed among one of the energy poor regions of the world – where reliable energy is hard to come by and where it is available it is most likely to be generated from a non-renewable source and expensive.
- [8. Left behind by the G20](#)**
Oxfam's new report reveals that the G20 is falling behind on inequality, and inclusive and sustainable growth, with inequality having increased in 14 of the G20 countries since 1990 as economic growth has too often failed to benefit poor people.
- [9. 'Pacific Futures': The World Bank challenges conventional thinking on the Pacific island region](#)**
The Pacific island region is different and should not be expected to follow a conventional growth path.
- [10. A fall to cheer](#)**
For the first time ever, the number of poor people is declining everywhere.
- [11. Do We Still Need Development Goals?](#)**
How would a new set of Millennium Development Goals differ to the previous set?



International Development – Practice Insights

- [1. Measuring and Reporting Results - The DCED Standard](#)**

The DCED Standard provides a practical framework, whereby programmes can measure their own results according to good practice. Monitoring of activities and measuring their impact is crucial as it also allows programmes to better manage their interventions.
- [2. Pollard's Pacific reflections](#)**

Pacific development specialist Steve Pollard shares some of his personal development policy sojourns in the continuing interest of adopting better policies for a better future in the islands.
- [3. Poverty-oriented Planning & Reporting for Development Partnerships](#)**

Increasing poverty orientation in development partnerships – a tool for partnership practitioners.
- [4. World Bank Approves Program-for-Results - New Financing Instrument Ties Lending Directly To Verified Development Results](#)**

The World Bank Board of Executive Directors has approved Program-for-Results (PforR), an innovative new financing instrument for the World Bank's client countries that links the disbursement of funds directly to the delivery of defined results.
- [5. Making systematic reviews work for international development research.](#)**

The briefing paper identifies where a 'systematic reviews' approach adds value to development research and where it becomes problematic.
- [6. Pick of the Year: Inclusive Business Resources in 2011](#)**

Business Fights Poverty selects 13 examples of inclusive business models from the past year.
- [7. Capacity building – isn't that what development is all about?](#)**

Focusing on capacity development, complex as it may be, is really the only way to help countries end aid dependency.
- [8. Beyond Paris: 11 innovations in aid effectiveness](#)**

This paper highlights some recent innovations in the management and delivery of development aid.
- [9. Innovation with Impact: Financing 21st Century Development – Gates Notes](#)**

In a report presented to world leaders at the G20 summit in Cannes, France, Bill Gates outlined recommendations to encourage innovation and new partnerships that increase the value and delivery of development aid.
- [10. The quality of Australian aid: an international perspective](#)**

This paper includes comparisons of Australia's aid program with international best practice and with other donors and multilateral agencies working in fragile states and in the Asia-Pacific. It also examines Australia's humanitarian aid, and the Australian Government's broader commitment to development.



Theme One: Private sector partnerships for sustainable development

1. [What do we know about the private sector's contribution to development?](#)

This paper considers what information the private sector currently provides on its development contributions and suggests ways in which corporate reporting could be strengthened to better reflect the private sector's role in development.

2. [Private-Sector Strategy - Deepening IFAD's engagement with the private sector](#)

This new IFAD strategy responds to recent global developments and calls for IFAD to be more systematic and proactive in engaging with the private sector. The new strategy specifies how IFAD intends to deepen its engagement with the private sector at all scales, with the aim of creating markets for its target groups; improving their access to inputs, services, knowledge and technology; and increasing income-generating or job-creating opportunities for its target populations.

3. [Could Solar Lighting Be the Next Mobile Phone?](#)

What's going to be the next 'mobile phone' –the technology that spreads rapidly to improve the lives of even the poorest people in the developing world? One possibility is solar power.

4. [Private sector role in 'Safe Water for All'](#)

The private sector is making significant contributions to the delivery of reliable and safe water worldwide, with the sectors' participation in water projects expanding threefold during the last decade, providing services to around 160 million people in emerging markets, according to a journal from the IFC.

5. [Children's rights: 10 points for businesses](#)

Businesses, as part of their corporate social responsibility efforts, should go beyond preventing or eliminating child labor in their supply chain. UNICEF, Save the Children and the UN Global Compact have launched the Children's Rights and Business Principles to guide companies on the range of actions they can take to advance children's rights in the workplace, marketplace or even in the community.

6. [Striking a balance between profit and impact: how scenario modelling can be used to create a successful inclusive business plan.](#)

This article looks at how a new joint venture set up by CARE Enterprises and danone called in Bangladesh called Jita used scenario modelling when developing its business plan to find the right balance between financial and social returns.

7. [How Much Does Natural Resource Extraction Really Diminish National Wealth? The Implications of Discovery](#)

The paper considers the process of discovery for subsoil resources, including both hard minerals and hydrocarbons and estimates its magnitude in recent years, as derived from the sum of extraction and changes in proven reserves.



Theme Two: Local economies, enterprise and livelihoods

1. [**Making markets empower the poor: Programme perspectives on using markets to empower women and men living in poverty**](#)

This paper discusses challenges around power disparities in markets, which can prevent market-based programmes from reaching those who are not market ready.

2. [**Ban calls for greater efforts to remove barriers to women's economic empowerment**](#)

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has called for greater efforts to remove barriers that hinder women's full participation in the economy.

3. [**Pilot markets for women in farm businesses**](#)

As part of the Millennium Market (One Country One Market) Project, the UNDP Pacific Centre and the United Nations for Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), have partnered to deliver 'Strengthening Women's Economic Security and Rights: Capacity Building Programme for Women Market Vendors'.

4. [**Fish farming in Bangladesh; cage aquaculture**](#)

This innovative project aims in the first year to engage 100 landless families under extreme poverty living on the banks of the Andhamanik River, near the southern coast of Bangladesh, in cage aquaculture of Tilapia.

5. [**Emerging Markets, Emerging Models: Market-based solutions to the challenges of global poverty**](#)

This report investigates market-based solutions as means to help those residing at the base of the global income pyramid. An alternative and complement to traditional government expenditures, aid, and philanthropy, market-based solutions give low-income people better access to socially beneficial products and services that genuinely and directly improve the quality of their lives and livelihoods.

6. [**Mentoring local organisations - Here's how!**](#)

Mentoring has become a very important means for social entrepreneurs to gain skills from an experienced entrepreneur. It has become one of the most effective ways to build an organisation's capacity.

7. [**Rethinking Agricultural Production Collectivities - The case for a group approach to energize agriculture and empower poor farmers**](#)

Grassroots action across the globe demonstrates that collectivities of the poor can improve their well-being in ways that individual approaches usually cannot.



Theme Three: Financial inclusion

1. [Due Diligence: An Impertinent Inquiry into Microfinance](#)

In this paper, David Roodman argues that he finds no evidence that small loans lift people out of poverty en masse but argues that financial services, like clean water and electricity, are essential to a modern life.

2. [Akhuwat: Making Microfinance Work](#)

A ground-breaking microfinance model called Akhuwat began as an experiment in 2001 and continues to lend money without charging interest.

3. [The Evolution of Microfinance](#)

Is the commercialization of MFIs beneficial or detrimental for the poor?

4. [How should we bank with foreigners? An empirical assessment of lending behaviour of international banks to six East Asian countries](#)

This paper constructs macro-and micro-panel data on international bank lending to six Asian economies: Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

5. [Inclusive Growth Key to Ending Inequality](#)

XLRI is backing a common research and action network for microfinance practitioners and academicians.

6. [Microinsurance Innovation Facility's Annual Report 2011](#)

The poor are more vulnerable to risks and economic shocks than the rest of the population. They are also the least able to cope when a crisis does occur

7. [Microfinance in austere times: opportunities ahead?](#)

Even in these tough times many people are still keen to support good causes, but simply do not have as much to give. There is therefore a real opportunity for financial co-operatives to tell their story and explain how they can support individuals wanting to make a difference with their money.

8. [The Tipping Point - Over-indebtedness and investment in microfinance](#)

An exploration into whether investment contributed to microfinance repayment crises, and whether measures of investment activity might serve as early warning signals for future microfinance crises.

9. [Can You Text me Money Now? Using Mobile Phones for Cash Transfers](#)

The mobile money (m-money) movement allows the transfer of cash via sms. New efforts are underway to use this system for disbursing unconditional and conditional cash transfers in developing countries. This article provides considerations for agencies, donors and governments in adopting this approach.

10. [Why don't we just send aid money directly to poor people's cellphones?](#)

A blog from Oxfam International exploring the potential of cash transfers and mobile payment systems.

11. [Microfinance as a development and poverty reduction policy: is it everything it's cracked up to be?](#)

A critique of microfinance as a development and poverty reduction strategy.



Theme Four: Incomes from ecosystems

1. [Ecosystem Service Payments in Asia-Pacific: A Call to Action](#)

This paper argues that improving livelihoods and reducing poverty can be a core outcome of PES schemes. The many challenges faced by current PES programmes are equally met with new opportunities to innovate and provide new and creative avenues to improve both the livelihoods of the participants and the quality of their ecosystems.

2. [From REDD to Green: A Global Incentive System to Stop Tropical Forest Clearing](#)

In this paper, David Wheeler and co-authors develop and illustrate a prototype incentive system for promoting rapid reduction of forest clearing in tropical countries. Their proposed Tropical Forest Protection Fund (TFPF) is a cash-on-delivery system that rewards independently monitored performance without formal contracts.

3. [“Watershed Connect” Platform Advances Innovative Financing Models for Solving the Global Water Crisis](#)

New collaborative platform addresses the failure to recognize the economic value of healthy ecosystems – a major cause of the global water crisis – by advancing water solutions based on investing in ecological infrastructure.

4. [Economic Dynamics and Forest Clearing: A Spatial Econometric Analysis for Indonesia](#)

This paper discusses the use of detailed monthly data from FORMA (Forest Monitoring for Action) to determine the factors that contribute to deforestation in Indonesia.

5. [World Resources Report 2010-2011: Decision Making in a Changing Climate](#)

Resilience in the face of climate change-related challenges will be determined in part by how national-level decision-makers both react to and prepare for immediate events and more gradual changes.

6. [Global land grab could trigger conflict](#)

A study by the Rights and Resources Initiative says developing country governments that fail to protect the rights of those using communally held land could spark civil unrest.

7. [Podcast: What’s Driving Deforestation? Surprise Findings, with David Wheeler](#)

An interview with David Wheeler, CGD’s recently retired lead researcher on climate and development, discussing some surprising findings from his newly released analysis of Forest Monitoring for Action (FORMA) data.

8. [DC Durban Debrief: Same Song, Second Verse- or a Whole New Tune?](#)

A summary of the DC Durban Debrief event, co-hosted by Ecosystem Marketplace, Climate Focus and McGuireWoods LLP.



Miscellaneous

1. [Policies, Politics: Can Evidence Play a Role in the Fight against Poverty?](#)

Esther Duflo delivers the sixth annual Richard H. Sabot Lecture, April 11, 2011.

2. [New UN-backed emissions reduction scheme helps poorer nations use clean energy](#)

The Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) and an emissions baseline and monitoring methodology approved by the CDM executive board will enable registered projects to earn saleable credits when they reduce greenhouse gas emissions and contribute to sustainable development.

3. [Support community mapping for climate adaptation](#)

Grassroots mapping can contribute to national plans for climate adaptation. Improving access to information technology can help communities assess their own vulnerability and boost local planning.

4. [Women's Empowerment Is Central to Global Sustainability, Says New UN Report](#)

The UN Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Global Sustainability released its report "Resilient People, Resilient Planet: A Future Worth Choosing," identifying that gender equality and women's empowerment are fundamental to sustainable development.

5. [Asia-Pacific Gaining Against Poverty, But Slow to Reduce Hunger, Child and Maternal Deaths: ADB-UN Study](#)

The Asia-Pacific region has made great strides in reducing poverty and is moving fast towards other development goals, but levels of hunger and child and maternal mortality are still high, according to a United Nations and ADB report released here today.

6. [ADB Expects Pacific Growth and Inflation to Moderate in 2012](#)

Economic growth in the Pacific region is expected to slow to 6.0% in 2012 from 7.0% in 2011, according to the latest Pacific Economic Monitor released by ADB.

7. [Renewable technologies and risk mitigation in small island developing states \(SIDS\): Fiji's electricity sector](#)

This paper develops and applies a stochastic simulation model in order to assess the effect of renewable technologies on the financial risk and cost of electricity supply in Fiji.

8. [ADB report: Climate adaptation costs in Asia-Pacific to reach \\$40B through 2050](#)

Climate change will cause an upward surge in migration this century, and governments in disaster-prone Asia-Pacific nations must promptly enact a broad range of measures to prevent humanitarian crises.

9. [UN calls for overhaul of global financial system to benefit the poor](#)

Liberalisation and deregulation adversely affect potential gains from trade for developing countries, says UNCTAD report.

10. [Working paper: What Do Development Banks Do?](#)

This paper uses evidence from Brazil to look at what happens to firm performance, investment, and financial expenditures when companies get subsidized credit from the Brazilian National Bank of Economic and Social Development, known as BNDES.

