**What is the FEN?**

The **Foundation for Emerging Nations (FEN)** is a non-profit making Charitable Trust established in 2016 under Swiss Law by the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC).

**What is the purpose of the FEN?**

“The Foundation is devoted to fund raising and to supporting programmes that help to improve the quality and delivery of laboratory medicine services, particularly in emerging nations.”

**Why is the FEN important?**

A high percentage of all clinical decisions are influenced by the results of laboratory medicine investigations. Consequently, patient safety and clinical outcomes are dependent on the quality of laboratory medicine services. In developed countries laboratory medicine services are of high quality, and most are accredited against an international standard. In emerging nations there is scope for improvement in the quality of laboratory medicine services but educational support is required.

**Where can I learn more about the FEN?**

This leaflet contains information on:

- Laboratory medicine in healthcare
- Examples of projects suitable for funding by the FEN
- Governance of the FEN, including the Board of Directors
- How to donate to the FEN

Details of the FEN are also available from: [www.ifccfoundation.org](http://www.ifccfoundation.org)
What is Laboratory medicine?

Laboratory medicine:
- Involves performing tests on samples of blood or other biological specimens
- Offers >2,000 different investigations across several sub-specialities:
  - Virology
  - Chemistry
  - Genetics
  - Transplantation
  - Transfusion
  - Microbiology
  - Haematology
  - Immunology
  - Laboratory Medicine

How are laboratory medicine results used?

A high percentage of all clinical decisions are influenced by laboratory medicine results. Laboratory medicine supports investigations across the full range of healthcare.

What is the IFCC and why is it important?

The IFCC is the leading global professional organisation for laboratory medicine. IFCC has national society Full and Affiliate Members from >90 countries, including many emerging nations. IFCC also has >50 Corporate Members, many of whom supply the equipment and reagents that are used by clinical laboratories worldwide. Together IFCC Members represent >40,000 senior laboratory medicine specialists. IFCC Members may assist the FEN in identifying and supporting suitable development projects.

What projects are suitable for funding by the FEN?

The FEN is able to support projects in emerging nations that are organised by societies, groups or individuals, provided that the project will lead to an outcome that:
- can be assessed in terms of quality improvement, and/or
- provides a baseline for local support to continue the project

Projects shall be educational in nature and may occur at undergraduate or postgraduate level. Suitable projects will be in line with the Mission, Aims and Overall Strategic Direction of IFCC, although the FEN is not restricted to supporting projects nominated by IFCC Members.

The map shows examples of previous IFCC projects that may be suitable to attract future FEN support. It is illustrative and not exclusive. Details of these projects are on the website.