



CALL FOR PROJECTS AND POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS 2014

1. OBJECTIVES

The French Red Cross has been a pioneer of humanitarian action for almost 150 years. Continuing its commitment to a more humane and just world, the French Red Cross Fund was created in 2013 to encourage research projects that identify and analyse the practices and processes for a humanitarian action in transition, as well as the nature of the bridges linking the field of humanitarian action and that of social action.

Many former international aid beneficiary countries are now able to take over humanitarian interventions on their territories. Other countries, still dependent on international assistance, express a growing desire for *emancipation* and enter a phase of *humanitarian transition*, more or less advanced according to the country. How does this quest for emancipation manifest itself? What are the challenges and specific local features of this quest?

In order to support and guide this reflection and innovation effort, the French Red Cross Fund is launching its first call for projects and post-doctoral research on the following topics.

2. RESEARCH THEMES 2014/2015

Overall theme:

Realities and prospects of a humanitarian transition in aid beneficiary countries

The transition is characterized by a new distribution of roles on the operational side, the formulation of new operating rules and the emergence of multiple interactions (between funders, international organizations, the private sector, civil society, supranational institutions, medias and donors). How can these mechanisms be translated at the local level? How is the activity transfer being organized? With which actors and according to what standards? In this context, how to transfer theoretical and practical knowledge? What resources are necessary to allow an evolution of humanitarian, charity, sanitary and social professions, with a view to providing support to the ongoing dynamics?

Finally, this new humanitarian context is at the centre of new human relations, in which the ethical dimension occupies a prominent place. Between local codes and mechanisms of appropriation of globalised ethics, can we speak of a universal ethics? How to formulate these principles and apply them to the humanitarian or social field? Such mechanisms induce to better know local actors, to better understand the new intervention terms at the local level between the fields of humanitarian sector and social sector and, finally, to better anticipate the evolution of humanitarian professions. Humanitarian *ethical principles* (in particular autonomy) can be the necessary link between these different themes and eventually a possible common denominator to guide any action or humanitarian policy "here and there".

Thus, the overall theme will be addressed globally or in one of the following aspects:

1. Knowledge of local humanitarian stakeholders: actors and dynamics.

There is little research or studies identifying local and international humanitarian actors and analysing the current developments in aid beneficiary countries from a national perspective and not during a specific crisis. Which actors are taking control of the humanitarian activities at the national or local level? Who are they, how do they work, with which governance and expertise? Is it possible to establish a complete mapping of these actors?

Funds are diversifying and are a structuring element for aid actors. With which funds do these actors take action, whether it be within their community or in connection with their State? With what standards do they comply? By which motivations are they guided? How do international funders choose their partner organizations?

Regarding the operational mission, objectives are many, as well as the programs implemented to meet these objectives (vertical/horizontal, outsourced/internal /remote control). On what fields are these actors working (water, nutrition, health, social integration, migrations, education, etc.)? What are their objectives? On which standards are they implemented? How are they managed and evaluated? Which challenges do they face? Finally, who provides coordination?

2. From emergency to sustainable humanitarian aid: between humanitarian action and social action.

Emergency, development and social fields are evolving as semantic field, as measures, as action fields and imaginary world. Processes of transformation, repair activities, prevention strategies: how is it possible to set aside the emergency/development compartmentalization to come to a closer definition of operational realities and objectives, specifically implemented to ensure a more sustainable humanitarian action?

During the past 150 years, the International Committee of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement has witnessed the juxtaposition of humanitarian aid, social and development issues, in countries of the North as well as South, through people, know-how and principles. What about the definition and organization of aid programs when the final objective, -beyond survival- is to restore individual autonomy? How is the connection between humanitarian action and social action, collective and individual action, one-time and sustainable action - and finally between an exported, appropriated and invented action- articulated?

The activity transmission between international and national actors is effective in many countries: when is it possible to talk about doing humanitarian action apart during crisis periods? Which factors will distinguish them or incorporate them to social action, and what will constitute a lever for this transmission?

3. International and national aid workers: which return, which process, which effect?

Since the creation of humanitarian action at the end of the XIXth century – and especially since the emergence in the seventies of the "without borders" movement, aid worker profession is professionalizing, adapting and exporting. Volunteers, delegates, unpaid workers, employees, international or national staff... human capital is at the centre of human resources policies of international organizations and represents a more and more complex issue to manage because of security, economic, social or politic reasons.

What are the young generations of international aid workers once they return from the field? What kind of career paths do they take? Upon which sectors do they embark on their return? What do they think the future holds for them? What social and economic consequences can their stay in the countries of intervention have?

In parallel, recruitment, training and integration of the local staff can represent - according to countries, crisis and employees - national issues on human capital and on the competencies and mobility of all an employee group. Who are the national aid workers? How are they trained? What are their aspirations? What will the profile of an aid worker look like in the future (i.e. 10 years out)? How will he be trained, for what profession and to join what kind of structure? What challenges do these human resources represent for their country? In this sense, it is about doing the sociology of these national actors, including through the consideration of individual biographies.

4. Apprehension of ethical principles in humanitarian action.

At the end of WWII, a new ethical consciousness emerged, about the value of humanity. It first found application in the medical field, given the scientific advances. Thus Biomedical Ethics developed around the founding principles, which are autonomy, beneficence, non-maleficence and justice.

To what extent is this ethic transposable to humanitarian action, whose concerns, like medicine, are to alleviate human suffering? Can this ethics of western origin be applied elsewhere? In Africa? In Asia? What sense does it take to beneficiaries: do the principles of autonomy, beneficence, non- maleficence and justice have a universally applicable scope and meaning? Can we speak of a universal ethics as a guide for humanitarian action? How to articulate the universal and the particular? What are the possible national features?

3. GEOGRAPHIC AREAS

These topics will be addressed either transversally or with a specific geographic focus on one specific area or country. The Fund identified 6 priority countries for this call:

- Burkina Faso
- Ivory Coast
- Mali
- Senegal
- Haiti
- Laos

These countries form an empirical entry for the research. They don't correspond to the eligibility nationalities.

4. APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS*

Applicants (independent researchers or research teams) must comply with following conditions :

- Write the research paper in French;
- Be presented through a research or academic institution;
- Motivate the application (interest of the considered research and impact for the institution);
- Refer to the award conditions and terms of use of the funds granted by the Fund as stated in this document;
- Pre-enrol in accordance with the below requirements **before 15 April 2014** ;
- Return the complete application form to the French Red Cross Fund with the attached documents **before 11 May 2014**.

There is no nationality condition. The Fund will give priority to applications from researchers living in the countries corresponding to the priority geographic areas.

- Post-doctoral fellowship application

Postdoctoral research are awarded a fellowship according to a base scale of 20,000 € a year.

Only candidates complying with the following conditions can be eligible for a postdoctoral grant of the Fund:

- Candidates must hold of a doctorate (French doctorate, Ph.D. or foreign doctorate of similar level) in the field of social science (in particular in political science, anthropology, sociology, philosophy) or medical science (medicine, public health);
- Candidates must have defended their thesis less than 10 years ago;
- Candidates must not hold a permanent position more than half-time;
- Candidates must contribute to advancing research on the themes or geographic areas selected by the Fund, or must have published in other fields, thus showing their capacities in conducting high quality research.

- Call for projects application

Team projects are awarded grants of up to 20,000 € for a maximum period of 2 years;

Can apply :

- Research teams hosted by a research/higher education institution laboratory or recognized research teams in academic and international research networks;
- Projects with a field empirical section;
- Projects with a budget excluding wages and salaries.

Projects with a multidisciplinary approach are strongly encouraged.

5. PRE-ENROLMENT AND APPLICATION*

The application process is organized in 2 steps:

1. Step 1 - Pre-enrolment

The candidate must first send following documents before 15 April (e-mail date will be considered as proof of the date of sending) :

- Motivation letter (of the candidate or project coordinator);
- Complete identification sheet ([download identification sheet](#));
- Description of the research theme and field with considered methodology (up to 5 500 characters, letters and spaces/punctuation included);
- Updated Curriculum Vitae giving details of the candidate or project coordinator's academic and professional background (plus a short biography of team members);
- For post-doctoral fellowship applications: a certified true copy of the doctoral degree (or a certificate setting out that the thesis has been already defended or is to be defended before 11 June), signed and stamped by the institution.

This full pre-enrolment documents must be sent either by e-mail to admin@fondcrf.org or post to the Fund. Pre-selected candidates will receive a pre-enrolment certificate to be attached to the application file.

2. Step 2 - Application file

The candidate must send the pre-enrolment certificate he previously received along with the complete application form ([download application form](#)) before 11 May (e-mail date will be considered as proof of the date of sending) together with following documents :

➔ Postdoctoral fellowship candidates

- A detailed presentation of the research project (up to 35 000 characters, letters and spaces/punctuation included);
- A copy of the thesis report (if defended) in French or English;
- Two reference letters;
- A letter of recommendation by the scientific representative of the post-doctoral department + by the supervisor of the laboratory or institution hosting the post-doctoral research.

➔ Call for projects candidates

- A letter of recommendation by the laboratory/institution/department director hosting the project;
- A detailed presentation of the research project (up to 40 000 characters, letters and spaces/punctuation included) including a general description of the activities to be developed or implemented by the candidate or team within the research institution (objectives and considered methodology);
- A forecast budget (staff costs are not eligible – interns excluded);
- A description of the management of the subsidies (the candidate should pay attention to the project feasibility within the financing time frame).

This complete file must be sent either by e-mail to admin@fondcrf.org or post to the Fund.

6. PROVISIONAL CALENDAR

- 3 March 2014 – Launch of the call
- 11 May 2014 – Closure of the call (closure of the pre-enrolment on 15 April 2014)
- 30 June 2014 – Communication of results

7. APPLICANT'S OBLIGATIONS AND FUNDING REGULATIONS

- ✓ The researcher commits to respect the terms hereunder and sign the French Red Cross Fund grant awarding charter.
- ✓ The researcher commits to abide by the laws and regulations in the research country, in particular with regards to entry to and exit from the territory.
- ✓ Six months after the launch of the project, the researcher is asked to produce an intermediate report.
- ✓ At the end of the research time frame and within no more than two months, the researcher is asked to produce a final working paper on the research he conducted. He will also be asked to present his results orally, during specific study days organized by the Fund.
- ✓ Should articles or books be published from this research work, mention would be made of the Fund funding or co-funding. In turn, if the research conducted by the granted candidate was to be disseminated or used by the Fund (to what he agrees in advance), the Fund shall mention the author, who keeps full ownership of his work.
- ✓ The grant will be paid in two parts: on month 1 then month 6 after the launch of the project. The second payment will depend on the researcher reaffirmed determination to pursue the research. Research funded by the Fund shall start within a maximum 2-month time frame following the communication of the results. Should the researcher not have reaffirmed his determination to start the research project or not have communicated any date within the 2-month time frame, the funding will be revoked.
- ✓ The researcher commits to quickly inform the Fund about any potential conflict of interest situation.
- ✓ The researcher commits to immediately inform the Fund about any premature termination of the research work.

**All the documents to be attached to the application file have to be written in French, completed on computer (Calibri 11, spacing 1.5) and sent as PDF documents. Any missing attachment will lead to an automatic rejection of the application. No additional attachment will be accepted once the file is approved, even if the call is not closed. Candidates can submit one application only.*

For any additional information, please contact:



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