



**Croix-Rouge
canadienne**



Croix-Rouge Haïtienne
L'auxiliaire des pouvoirs publics dans le domaine humanitaire

**FONDATION
croix-rouge française**
Pour la recherche humanitaire et sociale



POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

Call for applications 2019

**« Improving Emergency Care Services in Urban
Areas in Haiti »**

with the support of the Canadian Red Cross



www.fondation-croix-rouge.fr

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Presentation

At the heart of the activities of the **French Red Cross Foundation** is a conviction: in order to best respond to suffering and prevent its causes, it is necessary to understand the contexts in which it occurs and to take the time to analyse, as closely as possible to vulnerable populations, the dynamics at work.

The Foundation's objective is to mobilize the scientific community in the vicinity of suffering populations, in both North and South, to provide concrete and sustainable responses. In order to encourage and guide this effort of reflection and innovation, it funds and supports independent French-speaking researchers, primarily from the fields of intervention, by awarding post-doctoral research fellowships on the basis of calls for applications. These one-year fellowships cover many disciplines in the humanities and social sciences and propose common themes for humanitarian and social action.

These calls address the **4 main research themes** described below. Their purpose is to invite researchers to offer a better understanding of the vulnerabilities that affect populations, the responses made and the adjustments to be made in social or humanitarian action programs in order to improve care and prevention in France and around the world.

In addition to the 4 main research themes, there is also a transversal topic, ethics, to both help structure the inevitable questioning raised by new situations that impose new choices, and guide them towards the development of new responses to new or poorly met social needs, by involving the participation and cooperation of the relevant actors, namely the service users

4 themes



Call on « Improving Emergency Care Services in Urban Areas in Haiti »

with the support of the Canadian Red Cross

The French Red Cross Foundation has decided to join forces with the **Canadian Red Cross** and the **Haiti Red Cross** to launch a call for applications for a **postdoctoral fellowship** to support the implementation and development of the "Improving Emergency Care Services in Urban Areas" program in Haiti.

Research theme and geographical area

Context and challenges

In Haiti, one of the most vulnerable countries to natural disasters and earthquakes, structural deficiencies, that limit access to basic services and increase the chronic vulnerability of populations, are exacerbated by the profound weakness of state institutions. In 2018, more than 6 million Haitians, namely 59 % of the global population, lie below the poverty line of 2.41 USD a day.

The public health system lacks the resources to meet the health needs of Haitian citizens. Public expenditure on health remains among the lowest in the world, at 2% of Haitian GDP. Only 31% of the Haitian population has access to health care, due to the shortage of health professionals (there is currently one doctor and 1.8 nurses per 10,000 inhabitants), and the lack of medicines and medical equipment.

Road infrastructure is scarce and precarious, limiting people's access to health services. Lack of road safety is a constant problem and accidents are often particularly fatal due to the lack of functional emergency services. Those in need of emergency care in Port-au-Prince often wait hours before an ambulance arrives. Most people choose to go directly to the health centre rather than call an ambulance, taking the first available vehicle. Although ambulances have the potential to improve access to services, they have significant limitations and the resources required to operate them are considerable.

In addition, the information needed to access health care services is not always available. Even when health services are available, people do not always know which service to consult, or how to consult it.

In this context, the role of the Haitian Red Cross (HRC) is extremely important because volunteers, as close as possible to the population, can disseminate and bring health information to communities, within households themselves, and thus remove some of the barriers to accessing appropriate information on health care and issues. Although they are not health professionals, volunteers can share

essential basic hygiene information, which can help control the spread of diseases and epidemics. HRC volunteers, particularly in emergency situations, are also important points of contact and information within communities to improve knowledge and access to health services through the provision of first aid and referral to appropriate health facilities and services.

However, HRC volunteers do not necessarily have an easy access to the information required to provide relevant and timely referral services to their communities. That is why, at the request of the CHR, the Canadian Red Cross (CRC) has been working to improve a mobile application created a few years ago by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), with the aim of making key information more easily accessible to CHR volunteers.

At the initiative of the Global Disaster Preparedness Center¹, the IFRC has developed a program² offering "National Societies"³ access to two mobile applications for use by the general public and specific to each country. The "First Aid" application provides expert advice for managing most first aid emergencies, and the "Dangers" application provides information and advice on how to manage disasters and other situations beyond human control.

The CRC intends to enhance the "First Aid" application to make it a more useful tool for CHR volunteers, and thus develop the Haitian Red Cross' capacity for health in emergency situations. Specifically, this project aims to add an additional module to the application to improve the Haitian Red Cross' capacity to provide emergency care services including first aid, psychosocial support and referral support for cases of gender-based violence, and to improve access to emergency health services and epidemic prevention and control measures for men and women living in urban areas of Port-au-Prince.

Objectives and questions

The research will pursue two objectives, linked to the introduction of this innovation and responding to the need to investigate the right way to integrate it into the existing training system.

Although the application is an innovation with great potential as a training tool, not everyone has access to smartphones or sufficient digital literacy to benefit adequately from it in Haiti. Also, this tool is not intended to replace classroom training, but rather to complement it and serve as a resource for basic information. Thus, in order for it to be best adapted to the Haitian context and best integrated into the training provided by the CRH Training Center located in the Croix des prêtres district of Port-au-Prince, it is essential to have a clear understanding of the way the

¹ Global Disaster Preparedness Center (GDPC), Universal App Program. <http://preparecenter.org/activities/universal-app-program>

² Global Disaster Preparedness Center (GDPC), Universal App Program: First Aid. Frequently Asked Questions. http://preparecenter.org/sites/default/files/universal_app_program_faqs.pdf

³ There are currently more than 190 Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies around the world.

centre operates and the methods used by it to transfer knowledge to trained people, including Red Cross volunteers. *Who are the participants in these trainings? How do they work? Which methods are most appreciated by the participants of these courses? Do these methods ensure a subsequent application of the knowledge learned, particularly in first aid? What alternative methods would achieve better application of the knowledge provided in first aid?*

90 people (75 volunteers and 15 staff) from the Haitian Red Cross in Port-au-Prince will soon be trained in the use of the new module of the "First Aid" application created by the Canadian Red Cross. Studying how this new tool is perceived and used by participants in this pilot phase would allow us to better adapt its content to the Haitian context and the profile of HRC volunteers. It will also provide an additional opportunity to understand the levers of use and non-use in Haiti of applications developed by the IFRC, as in previous research on the effectiveness of mobile applications in humanitarian contexts⁴, including Haiti⁵, and on the "First Aid" application⁶. Indeed, although these applications have been in place for several years in Haiti, their content has been translated into Creole and the ownership of a smartphone is quite common⁷, their use has not met with the expected success. However, a correct use of these applications would make it possible to meet some of the country's health needs in an efficient and cost-effective way. *What is the perception and use of the "First Aid" application and its new module by trainers and trained people at the Haitian Red Cross Training Centre? How do trainers integrate this tool into training courses? Why is the application so little used by people trained by the Haitian Red Cross Training Centre? The content of the application can be a source of brake. The research should determine whether the content should be modified to address Haitian issues or practices.*

Geographical research area

These themes will be addressed in Haiti.

The target country is an empirical entry point for research. It does not refer to nationality criteria for eligibility.

Access to the field will be subject to a precise risk assessment submitted at the time of application and updated before departure, taking care to check beforehand the recommendations of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

⁴ <https://www.preparecenter.org/resources/can-mobile-phones-improve-disaster-preparedness>

⁵ Humanitarian Innovation Fund: *Case study –Mobile Technology: Listening to the voice of Haitians*, <http://www.elrha.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/FINAL-141215-Elrha-CaseStudy-MobileTechnology.pdf> [14.05.2018]

⁶ <https://www.preparecenter.org/resources/comparative-review-first-aid-app>

⁷ According to a report published by Safitek in 2018, 88% of respondents had a mobile phone, including 66% a smartphone with internet access in the metropolitan area of Port-au-Prince.

Application conditions

The funding granted by the French Red Cross Foundation is intended to cover the cost of one year of research as part of an individual postdoctoral fellowship. These research fellowships are awarded according to a basic scale of **17,000 euros for one year**.

Only researchers who meet the following conditions may apply:

- hold a doctorate (French doctorate, PhD or foreign doctorate of equivalent level) in the field of human and social sciences (in particular sociology, anthropology, ethnology, demography, geography, political science, economics, history, philosophy, psychology, international relations, public health, environmental sciences, etc.);
- have defended their doctorate for less than 10 years;
- not otherwise occupy a permanent position at more than 50%;
- contribute to the advancement of research on themes or geographical areas predefined by the Foundation or have publications in other fields that demonstrate their ability to conduct quality research.

There is no nationality requirement. However, the Foundation gives priority to applications from researchers residing in priority geographical research areas (outside France).

Projects with a multidisciplinary approach are strongly encouraged.

In general, the applicant should:

- present his/her research project in French;
- be nominated by a research or academic institution;
- justify the application (interest of the proposed research);
- be aware of the terms and conditions for the allocation and use of funding allocated by the Foundation as defined in this document;
- apply in accordance with the paragraphs detailed below **before 31 January 2020 at midnight**.

Submitting an application

Applications are managed by the Foundation through an online platform accessible on the Foundation's website (www.fondation-croix-rouge.fr). After creating an account, the candidate accesses his/her personal space from which he/she can apply for the various scholarships offered and then follow the evolution of his/her application(s).

Application Form

The candidate fills in a data entry form consisting of blocks of information relating to his profile (training, career path and professional situation) and project (title, literature review, objectives, challenges, scientific and social issues and interests, methodology considered, timetable, etc.), including the assessment of the associated security risks, and attaches the following documents :

1. an updated CV detailing the candidate's academic and professional background;
2. a copy of the doctoral degree certified as true and endorsed by the doctoral school;
3. a cover letter;
4. a proof of address.
5. a chronogram;
6. a copy of the thesis defence report;
7. a letter of support from the head of the laboratory or research institution hosting the post-doctoral fellow (optional);
8. a letter of reference from a scientific manager of the post-doctoral fellow (optional).

Online applications will be open **from December 9, 2019 to January 31, 2020 at midnight**. On this date no additional documents to the files will be accepted. Any incomplete application will result in the automatic rejection of the application.

If all the information has been provided (mandatory fields entered), the candidate can validate his application and thus submit his file for evaluation. He will be kept informed of the results.

Evaluation and selection process

Applications will be assessed by groups with members of the Board of Directors, the Scientific Council, associate experts or the Foundation's team. On the basis of these different evaluations, a selection committee including representatives of the call partner will establish the final selection at a meeting **in February 2020**. Applicants will be informed of the results by email the following day.

Terms and conditions of financial support

- The Foundation does not provide any financial or logistical support to the laureates beyond the fellowship it awards them. Each laureate is solely responsible for the management of his or her logistics and material working conditions.
- Each selected researcher undertakes to comply with these obligations, to sign the Foundation's charter and funding allocation agreement.
- The laureate undertakes to comply with the laws and regulations in force in the country or countries of research, in particular with regard to his/her entry and exit

from the country of residence, and to take out civil liability insurance, medical/repatriation insurance in the event of travel abroad and any compulsory social security contributions in force in the country of residence.

- The laureate undertakes to respect the Foundation's scientific calendar concerning the deadlines for sending progress reports and working papers. It will be proposed to him/her to present his/her work orally, within the framework of a study day organized by the Foundation.
- If articles or books were to be published by the laureate from this work, mention would be made of their financing or co-financing by the French Red Cross Foundation and its partners. Conversely, if the work carried out by the laureate was disseminated or used by the Foundation or its partners, to which the laureate consents in advance, mention would be made of the author's references, who remains the owner of his/her work.
- The Foundation pays the grant in four instalments: three instalments of €5,000, the first of which is made at the start of the research, and a balance of €2,000 when the working papers are submitted.
- The research period begins on **March 1**, and no later than **March 15**, of the year of award. However, the payment of the first instalment of the scholarship is subject to confirmation by the laureate to the Foundation by any written means of the beginning of his or her work. Any delay beyond 15 March must be justified and will result in a delay from the first payment until such confirmation is obtained. Any delay in the start of research work, the dispatch of intermediate reports or working papers, or any change in the conduct of research which, due to its unjustified nature or scale, calls into question its feasibility within the time limits and forms (problems, methodology, etc.) provided for in the initial project submitted in the course of the laureate's application will result in the cancellation of the funding.
- The payment of the second and third instalments of the scholarship depends on the express and reaffirmed willingness of the laureate to continue his/her work by sending two progress reports according to the dates set out in the Foundation's scientific calendar. The laureate must inform the Foundation as soon as possible of any early termination of his/her research. Thus, if the laureate does not reaffirm its express desire to continue his/her work under the conditions provided for above by sending the two progress reports on the agreed dates, the payment of the scholarship will be terminated, and the Foundation reserves the right to request reimbursement of all or part of the scholarship already paid.
- The laureate undertakes to inform the Foundation of any possible conflict of interest situation.
- It is understood that the comments and opinions expressed by the laureate in articles or books based on this work are the sole responsibility of the laureate and do not necessarily reflect those of the French Red Cross Foundation or its partners.
- In the event that, in the interval between the award of the grant and the start of the research work, one or more unforeseeable events likely to change the working context by their seriousness occur in the country or countries of prospective research, the Foundation reserves the right to suspend the grant at any time. The decision to suspend will take into account the various parameters (including the opinion of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the country of residence, the retention or

withdrawal in the country of research of transnational NGOs, the ICRC, UN agencies).

PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

December 9, 2019	Launch of the call for applications
January 31, 2020	Closing of applications at midnight
February 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Evaluation of applications○ Meeting of the Selection Committee and nomination of the laureate○ Announcement of results by email to all candidates○ Signature by the laureate of the charter and the funding agreement
March 1-15, 2020	Start of research
March 1-15, 2021	End of research

For any question about the call, please contact:

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