



## RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

Call for applications 2020

**“Forecast-based financing in disaster management: how to conduct a successful cash transfer programme?”**



# PRESENTATION

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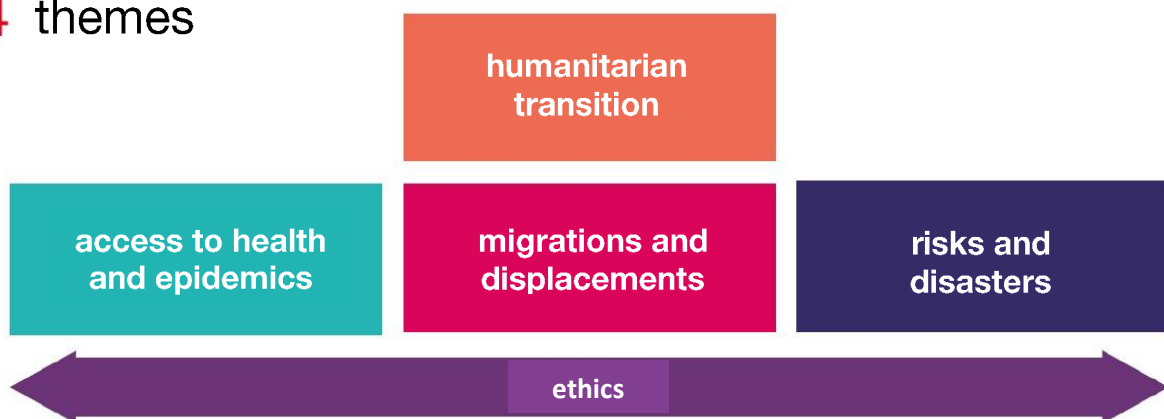
At the heart of the activities of the **French Red Cross Foundation** is a conviction: in order to best respond to suffering and prevent its causes, it is necessary to understand the contexts in which it occurs and to take the time to analyse, as closely as possible to vulnerable populations, the dynamics 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 “Forecast-based financing in disaster management: how to conduct a successful cash transfer programme?”**

The French Red Cross Foundation is a research organization dedicated to humanitarian and social action which supports the will of the French Red Cross to engage in an analytical effort of sufferings and ways of responding to them, to anticipate the needs of vulnerable populations in France and in developing countries, and to support for new operational models, training and capacity building. As such, the French Red Cross Foundation has decided to launch a call for applications for **an individual postdoctoral research fellowship** on cash transfer programmes currently implemented in Kenya as an early action of prevention and management of natural risks and disasters.

### **Research theme and geographic area**

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According to the latest report of the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) and the Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED), natural disasters have affected 61.7 million people and killed 10,733 worldwide in 2018. Again, floods continued to affect the largest number of people, 35.4 million, and caused more than 2,800 deaths. In addition, the report notes that 9.3 million people have experienced drought. Among the most affected countries, the report first cites Kenya (3 million), followed by Afghanistan (2.2 million) and Central America (2.5 million).

The effects of climate change and climate induced disasters are becoming increasingly significant worldwide, leading to increased health risks, mortality and morbidity rates, as well as food insecurity and malnutrition. The impacts of these disasters on health are manifold, whether direct (deaths, injuries, illnesses, mental health, etc.) or indirect (unmet primary health care needs both due to the increased demand for health care and the reduced capacity of the health system to respond to it). The same is true of the many threats to people's livelihoods and food security that climate change is exacerbating. Droughts, floods and storms cause a decrease in agricultural yields that is susceptible to increase price volatility of commodities and make even more difficult the access of population to food. According to the FAO, 83% of the economic losses induced by drought, i.e. around 29 billion dollars, directly affected the agricultural sector between 2005 and 2015. Besides, climate variability would explain 60% of the changes in yields of maize, wheat, rice and soya. Health risks and food insecurity are also inextricably linked, as undernutrition contributes to a range of diseases (pneumonia, diarrhoea, malaria, etc.) and causes 35 per cent of all under-five deaths.

In this context, it is essential to strengthen the participation of health, and the fight against food insecurity and malnutrition, in disaster risk reduction and adaptation to climate change. In Kenya, where the humanitarian challenges in this area are significant, the Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS) has set up an innovative cash transfer programme.

Cash intervention continues to be commonly used as a modality to provide assistance after the occurrence of an emergency. The impact of these interventions has been significant in delivering support and alleviating suffering for those affected by disasters.

The use of cash as an early action is henceforth more and more adopted among humanitarian organisations. As an example, the Innovative Approach in Response Preparedness project implemented by the KRCS is focused towards the use of cash before an emergency occurs, with drought and floods as the major shocks for consideration.

The research's main objective will be to build evidence whether the cash, used before occurrence of a disaster, really improves preparation and resilience of the targeted households or not, and thus to understand how to conduct a successful forecast-based cash transfer programme (CTP). What preparedness requirements need to be in place to implement cash before an emergency, and how can preparedness plans be effectively linked with actual implementation? What is the impact of the different modalities in a similar operating environment taking into account the comparison of the cost efficiency of in-kind, cash and vouchers?

Completing this main objective requires addressing several other issues, including the following.

It is first expected to leverage on social science to improve understanding of beneficiaries and effective cash transfer programming. How do beneficiaries use the money? What factors hinder the adequate use of the money they receive? Do cultural, political, social-economic and geographical differences across counties affect cash transfer programming, transfer value and cash encashment process? How do these diversities affect targeting of beneficiaries, and how to build relevant targeting criteria?

Cash intervention requires collection of data and evidence building to inform decision-making, provide evidence support on the use of cash before an emergency, and to derive key learnings and exploring new ways of using cash. For effective cash transfer programming, what data are relevant? What type of data is required to implement cash before an emergency? How can we model data to measure impacts from CTP intervention and for post distribution monitoring? How can we build evidence on CTP programming?

The cash intervention during drought is geared towards reducing the drought effects by increasing the dietary consumption at household level. Cash has been noted to have a positive outcome as households purchase food. However, more is required to assess what cash does or can do for nutritional outcomes in terms of acute

malnutrition and whether cash alone is sufficient to achieve desired outcomes or whether a combination of cash and in-kind is necessary.

What activities can cash accomplish besides food? For example, Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) is a key sector during drought management and whereas there has been the use of cash to increase the dietary uptake, water is always a need. Are there needs in this domain that can be addressed through cash? There is a need for evidence from within the health sector, using familiar language, to understand the particular health needs for the appropriate use of cash transfers.

The social protection programmes put in place by the Kenyan government to protect households from the effects of drought, such as the Hunger Safety Net programme, are another important source of assistance. It would be interesting to know if associating this with a humanitarian intervention could add value to the whole intervention process. What could it look like? To what extent could humanitarian actors use existing social protection systems to supplement disaster payments rather than having to build parallel systems?

The scalability of cash remains a going concern in the humanitarian world as the donor community focuses on committing to delivering service through cash. The need for accountability and transparency is key as cash is considered a sensitive concern. There is need to have evidence on what auditable actions are key. What system requirements are needed to support effective cash intervention?

A literature review on existing studies on this subject is expected in order to give examples of cash preparedness programmes in different countries and tools that have made the meaningful integration of CTPs in emergency preparedness and contingency planning possible, thus allowing for scalable responses.

## **Geographic research area**

The research will take place in **Kenya**.

The target area represents empirical starting points for research. It does not refer to nationality criteria for eligibility.

Access to the field will be conditional on a precise risk evaluation submitted with the application and updated before departure taking care to check beforehand the recommendations of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

# APPLICATION CONDITIONS

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The funding provided by the French Red Cross Foundation is intended to cover the cost of one year of research in the framework of an individual postdoctoral fellowship.

Researchers fulfilling the following conditions may apply:

- be a holder of a doctorate (French or foreign doctorate/PhD in political science, anthropology, sociology, economy, law, history, philosophy, ethics), or medical science (medicine, public health);
- have defended their doctorate less than 10 years ago;
- not occupy another permanent position more than 50%;
- contribute to advancing research on the themes and in the geographical areas predefined by the Foundation, or have published work in other fields demonstrating an ability to carry out quality research.

Future PhDs are allowed to apply on the condition of providing a certificate from the doctoral school certifying that the thesis defense will take place before **June 30, 2020**.

There is no condition of nationality. The Foundation does give precedence to application from researchers residing in the priority geographical research area.

Projects with a multi-disciplinary approach are strongly encouraged.

In general, the applicant should:

- present their research project in English or French;
- be nominated by an academic or research establishment;
- support the application (value of proposed research);
- be aware of the eligibility criteria and arrangements for using the funds allocated by the Foundation, as detailed in this document;
- apply, in accordance with the following paragraph, **by 19 April 2020 at midnight**.

# APPLICATION

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The management of applications is carried out by the Foundation, by means of an online platform accessible from the Foundation's website. Once applicants have created their account, they can apply keep track of their applications.

## **Application form**

The applicant fills in a first form made up of information relative to their profile (qualifications, background and professional situation) and their project (title, research country, aims, topic, scientific and social issues and value, proposed methodology, calendar, etc.), including an evaluation of the security risks attending it, and attaches the following documents:

1. an up-to-date CV detailing the candidate's university and professional background;
2. a copy of the diploma of the doctorate, or for future doctors, a document from the graduate school certifying that the defence will take place before **30 June 2020**;
3. a letter of motivation;
4. proof of address;
5. a timeline;
6. a copy of the thesis defence report (if the thesis has been defended);
7. a letter of recommendation from the head of the laboratory or research institution hosting the post-doctoral student (optional);
8. a reference from a scientific tutor (optional);

Online applications will be open **between 6 February and 19 April at midnight**. After this deadline, no further supporting documents may be added to the files. Incomplete applications will be automatically rejected.

If all of the information has been provided (required fields filled in), applicants can confirm their application and submit their file for evaluation, the results of which will be communicated to them.

## **Evaluation and Selection Procedure**

Applications will be evaluated by groups made up of associate experts, the Foundation team, and members of the Foundation's Governing Bodies (Board and Scientific Council). The Foundation's Board will draw up the final selection on **1 July 2020**. Applicants will be informed of the results by email the following day.

# FINANCIAL SUPPORT

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- As part of this call, the Foundation will offer the winner:
  - a research grant of **15,000 euros** (applicants not residing in Kenya may apply for a mobility grant of up to **2,000 euros**);
  - personalized scientific monitoring and tutoring;
  - support in the dissemination of research results:
    - English/French translation, publication on the Foundation's website and dissemination of the scientific article and the issue of the "Pratique & Humanités" series (subject to compliance with the editorial guidelines)
    - support to publish in scientific journals and the journal *Humanitarian Alternatives*
    - participation in "Foundation Meetings"
    - creation of a space dedicated to the research conducted on the Foundation site
  - a one-year subscription to *Humanitarian Alternatives*
  - one year membership to the International Humanitarian Studies Association (IHSA)
- Beyond these services and the grant it allocates, the Foundation does not provide laureates with any financial or logistical support beyond the fellowship which is awarded them. Each laureate is solely responsible for their logistical management and material work conditions.
- The management of funding granted within the framework of collective projects in accordance with the provisional budget provided during the application (including the remuneration of members of the research team) is the responsibility of the project coordinator, the only recipient of the funding.
- The payment of the fellowship by the Foundation is carried out in four instalments: three instalments of 4,000 euros, the first of which is paid at the beginning of the research, and the remaining 3,000 euros on receipt of the working papers.
- The research period begins **on 1 September 2020 and at the latest by 15 September 2020**, of the year that the fellowship is awarded. Nevertheless, the payment of the first instalment of the fellowship is conditional on the laureates' confirmation to the Foundation of the start of their research. Any delay beyond 15 September must be justified and will lead to a delay in the first payment, until such a confirmation is received. Any delay in the beginning of the research work, the dispatch of intermediary reports or working papers, and any change in the conducting of the research which, by its unjustified nature or scope, calls into question the project's feasibility within the timeframe and form (topic, methodology, etc.) of the initial project submitted in the course of the laureates' application will lead to the cancellation of the funding.
- The payment of the second and third fellowship instalments will depend on the expressly reaffirmed commitment of the laureates to pursue their work, by means of the dispatch of two stage reports in accordance with the dates indicated in the Foundation's scientific calendar. The laureates must inform the Foundation at the earliest opportunity of any early termination of their research. In the absence of the reaffirmation of expressed commitment to pursuing their work in the aforementioned conditions by the dispatch of two stage reports in accordance with the agreed



dates, the payment of the fellowship will be stopped. The Foundation reserves the right to ask for the total or partial reimbursement of the amount of the fellowship already paid.

- If, during the interval separating the attribution of the fellowship and the beginning of the research work, an unforeseeable event should occur in the research country or countries, which in its severity might modify the work context, the Foundation reserves the right to suspend the fellowship at any moment. The decision to suspend will take into account different parameters (including the opinion of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the country of residence, the presence or retreat of transnational NGOs, the ICRC and UN agencies in the area).

## **OBLIGATIONS**

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- Each researcher commits to respecting the conditions, and to signing the chart and the Foundation's funding award agreement.
- The laureates commit to respecting the laws and regulations of the research country or countries, especially with regard to their entering and leaving the territory, and taking out public liability insurance, medical and repatriation coverage in case of travel abroad, and any compulsory payroll tax in force in the country of residence.
- The laureates commit to respecting the Fund's scientific calendar with regard to the deadlines for sending stage reports and working papers. Laureates will have the opportunity to present their work orally as part of study days organised by the Foundation.
- Should articles or books be published by the laureate on the basis of this work, the funding or co-funding by the French Red Cross Foundation and its partners will be mentioned. Conversely, should the work carried out by the laureate be disseminated or used by the Foundation and its partners, which the laureate would have to consent to in advance, the author will be cited, and retain ownership of their work.
- The laureates commit to communicating any possible situation of conflict of interest to the Foundation.
- It is understood that the views and opinions expressed by the laureates in articles or books drawn from this research engage them alone and do not necessarily reflect those of the French Red Cross Foundation or its partners.

## PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

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21 February 2020	Launch of the call for applications
19 April 2020	Deadline for applications (midnight)
April-June 2020	Applications' evaluation
1 <sup>st</sup> July 2020	Board meeting for selection
2 July 2020	Results are announced
July-August 2020	Signing of the chart and funding award agreement by laureates
1 <sup>st</sup> September 2020	Research begins
1 <sup>st</sup> September 2021	Research ends

**Please address any questions relating to the call to:**

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