



Social utility report 2023

FONDATION
croix-rouge française



| For humanitarian and social research

Foreword

In the humanitarian sector, accountability is often used to define quality benchmarks as a guide to action; in the research sector, on the other hand, opinion is divided on the best way to assess research use, utility and impact. The French Red Cross Foundation regards accountability as the responsibility to account for its utility, not necessarily for the impact of research on a particular subject under study. The Foundation's identity and vision have informed the development of its assessment process. Being accountable means clearly articulating what the Foundation has produced, in a way that is meaningful, makes a contribution, and, in short, has utility for society, grounded in a dialogue between the humanitarian sciences, humanitarian action and social action.

The Foundation conceived and developed its social utility assessment method (MUSE) in line with four fundamental principles. Firstly, it broadly considers utility as the Foundation's utility, not that of a specific programme. Separating fellowships from academic engagement and dialogue with humanitarian actors gives a less-rounded picture of the Foundation's role. Secondly, it grounds our analysis in utility rather than the conventional and sometimes ambiguous term 'impact', particularly for actions with a limited territorial basis. Thirdly, it adopts a mixed approach to assessing the Foundation's utility: numerical data is valuable, but quantification cannot fully account for the impact of its actions, and beneficiary testimonials are crucial in qualifying the benefits of assistance provided. Lastly - and pivotal to this report - it aligns with the principles and values of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. This is fundamental to the Foundation's approach. If the Foundation aims to be a locus for knowledge production, discussion, dissemination and assimilation, adhering to expected "conventional" requirements and characteristics, it operates within a well-defined intellectual and ethical framework rooted in the history of the International Movement.

Engaged in research for over a decade, the Foundation has transitioned, in accordance with its statutes, into a permanent space for social science research within the International Movement. We produce new knowledge, foreground scientific evidence and foster dialogue between the disciplines and professional fields of humanitarian and social action to promote more ethical practices. In this sense, the Foundation's 2023 MUSE report, underpinned by a methodology jointly developed upstream, resulting in a standard matrix, sets out the Foundation's actions and provides it with the means to capitalise on them in the future. This matrix is designed to be used by our research fellows, assisted populations, academics, humanitarian actors and our funding partners. We advise you to read this concise and insightful report as an annexe to the 2023 activity report. An updated version will be published at the end of each strategic cycle and supply critical annual numerical data.

Let's invest together in human and social sciences research and continue developing the most appropriate assessment methods for public utility missions that consider each stakeholder's views to re-think our actions and foster social innovation.



Laurent VIDAL
Chair of the
Scientific
Committee



Virginie TROIT
Director of the
Foundation



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1. Our approach

Critical examination

This first social utility report represents the culmination of several years of critical examination. Employing a unique methodology, it aims to measure the organisation's overall utility, including its academic mission.

The Foundation is a research entity within an international movement dedicated to humanitarian and social action. It is, by definition, an intermediary between academia and humanitarian action. Measuring social utility allows us to document the Foundation's impact on academics and humanitarian actors, based primarily on its role as a bridge builder.

2017

Since its founding, the French Red Cross Foundation has given careful consideration to the future assessment of its activities and the measuring of its social utility.

2018-2019

To determine its 2020-2024 strategy, the Foundation launched an in-depth consultation with its governance teams to reassess its identity and foundational mission as a basis for measuring its social utility.

2018-2022

The Foundation engages actively in a variety of assessment-focused events, training sessions and roundtables, including the French Red Cross 'social impact' working group, and consults with university experts and research centres.

2022

The Foundation defines social utility and develops a methodological matrix.

2022-2023

The Foundation collects data to assess its social utility, primarily through surveys, focus groups and testimonies.

2024

The Foundation publishes a report on the findings of the measurement of the French Red Cross Foundation's social utility.



What is a measure of social utility?

Multiple ‘impact’ measurement or assessment initiatives have emerged in different professional fields in recent years, particularly within the non-profit sector. Engaged in this approach, we have deliberately distanced ourselves from prevailing notions and adopted a critical approach to some of them, supported by research in the human and social sciences sectors. Building on analyses and methods emerging from the non-profit and university sectors, we decided to develop our own definition of social utility.



Many **non-profit organisations** have adopted assessment practices, from analysing individual projects to assessing organisations overall. They have developed specific guides and training programmes for various purposes, including evaluating the effectiveness of their actions, enhancing project outcomes and securing funding.



As the proportion of publicly funded projects rises, **universities** have come under growing pressure to account for their research impact, increasing the number of measurement tools available. Research, however, does not always aim to be directly useful: in pursuit of its goals, its findings are often unpredictable, and impacts are not always immediately applicable or measurable. Research can even embrace its ‘lack of utility’ in its most basic form. Nevertheless, consensus appears to have emerged around the possibility of measuring research’s impact and overall utility.

Focus

Measuring the social impact of the French Red Cross

For many years, the French Red Cross has been committed to assessing its projects and measuring their social impact in response to the non-profit sector’s growing focus on accountability and social value creation. Winner of an Avise call for projects, it piloted a new internal methodology for measuring social impact across its activities nationwide.

Learn more



Focus

Research impact measurement at the Institut de recherche pour le développement (IRD)

Public research body IRD has been reflecting on its impact since 2016 to «understand the pathways through which research has an impact.» IRD developed the ‘Miriades’ methodology to “build and document research impact pathways”, considering the context and knowledge produced and the conditions for its appropriation and application.

Why measure social utility?

A social utility assessment measures the practical short-, medium- and long-term positive and negative effects of an organisation’s activities, intended and unintended. The Foundation has two goals:

Internal :

assess to develop

Engaged in a continuous learning process, the Foundation utilises the knowledge and lessons learned from measuring its social impact to realign projects, strategies and tools to enhance their quality and impact. By reflecting on the objectives achieved and their effects, we gain valuable lessons that allow us to learn from our mistakes and successes. Ultimately, measuring social utility challenges an organisation’s identity and core objectives.

External :

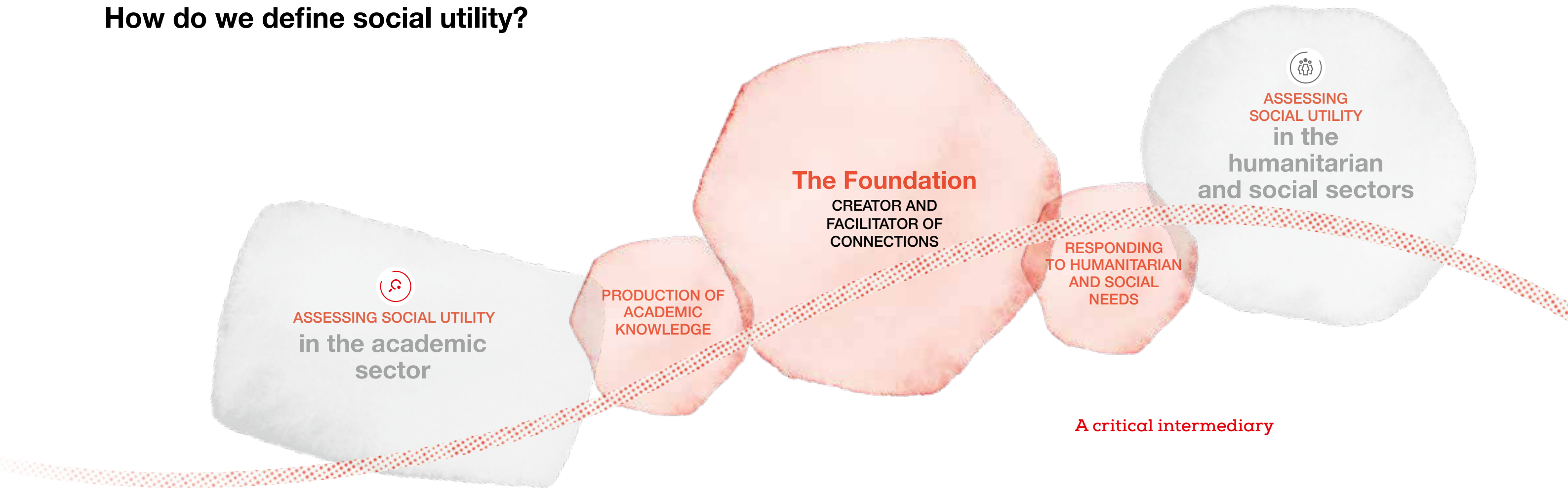
assess through accountability

As a public utility organisation, the Foundation must ensure the continuous compliance of its actions with its statutes and strategic frameworks and justify allocating its resources. This approach promotes transparent and collective dialogue on implementing its activities and their effects with its funding partners, academics, humanitarian and social actors, beneficiaries, staff, and members of its governance team, to whom the Foundation has a “duty to prove” the utility of its actions.

“Assessing and demonstrating the social utility of the social sciences in humanitarian and social decision-making is of paramount importance. Our accountability towards all our partners is guided primarily by our mission to support research based on our founding principle as an organisation attached to the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement: to give a voice to the vulnerable and those who support them through scientific evidence.”

Virginie TROIT, Director of the Foundation

How do we define social utility?



Shaping a definition of social utility

1. Despite its research focus, the Foundation's social utility must **align with the values and principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement** (Appendix), which guide its actions in aid of people in situations of vulnerability.
2. The Foundation's social utility **measures the positive effects of all its activities**, not individual projects. For this reason, the Foundation prefers the broader term 'social utility' to 'social impact', encompassing "a group of effects on the economy and society"¹, or "direct and indirect effects of different research components"².
3. The Foundation measures social utility by **analysing its contributions to and interactions with its stakeholders and external audiences** in the scientific, humanitarian and social sectors. It does not consider its activities' territorial impact or influence on related public policies.

Based on these elements, the social utility of the Foundation can be defined as:

"supporting advanced social science research for humanitarian and social needs carried out by researchers on the frontline of crises, the results of which are widely disseminated and debated and help transform practices."

¹ J. Gadrey, C. Perrin, M. Benzafara, Réalités et enjeux de l'utilité sociale et des indicateurs d'utilité sociale pour les organisations sociales et solidaires. Gestion et Management public, vol.5, n° 2, 2016/4, p. 60.

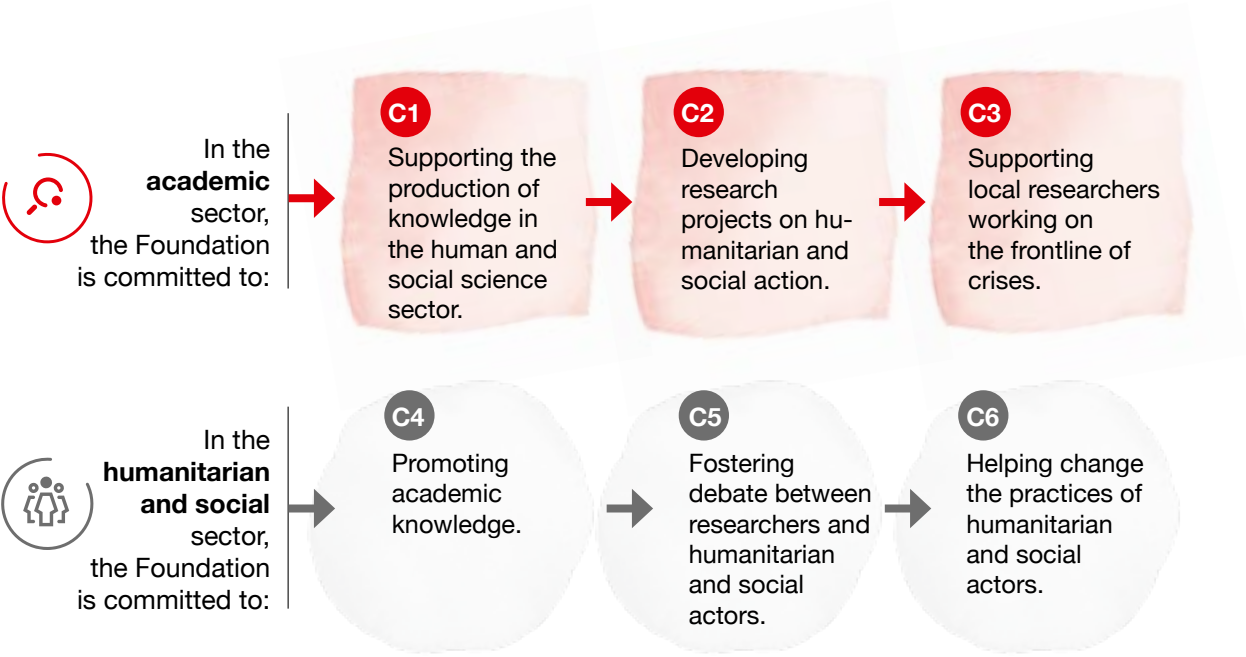
² L. Colinet, P.-B. Joly, A. Gaunand, M. Matt, P. Larédo, S. Lemariés, Asirpa - Analyse des impacts de la recherche publique agronomique. Final report. Report compiled for INRA, Paris, 2014.

Our chosen methodology

A mission-centred approach (utility criteria)

The Foundation identifies needs, shortfalls and deficiencies substantiated by quantitative and qualitative data and responds by setting the goals and missions that determine our social utility ‘criteria’.

Six utility criteria divided into two categories:

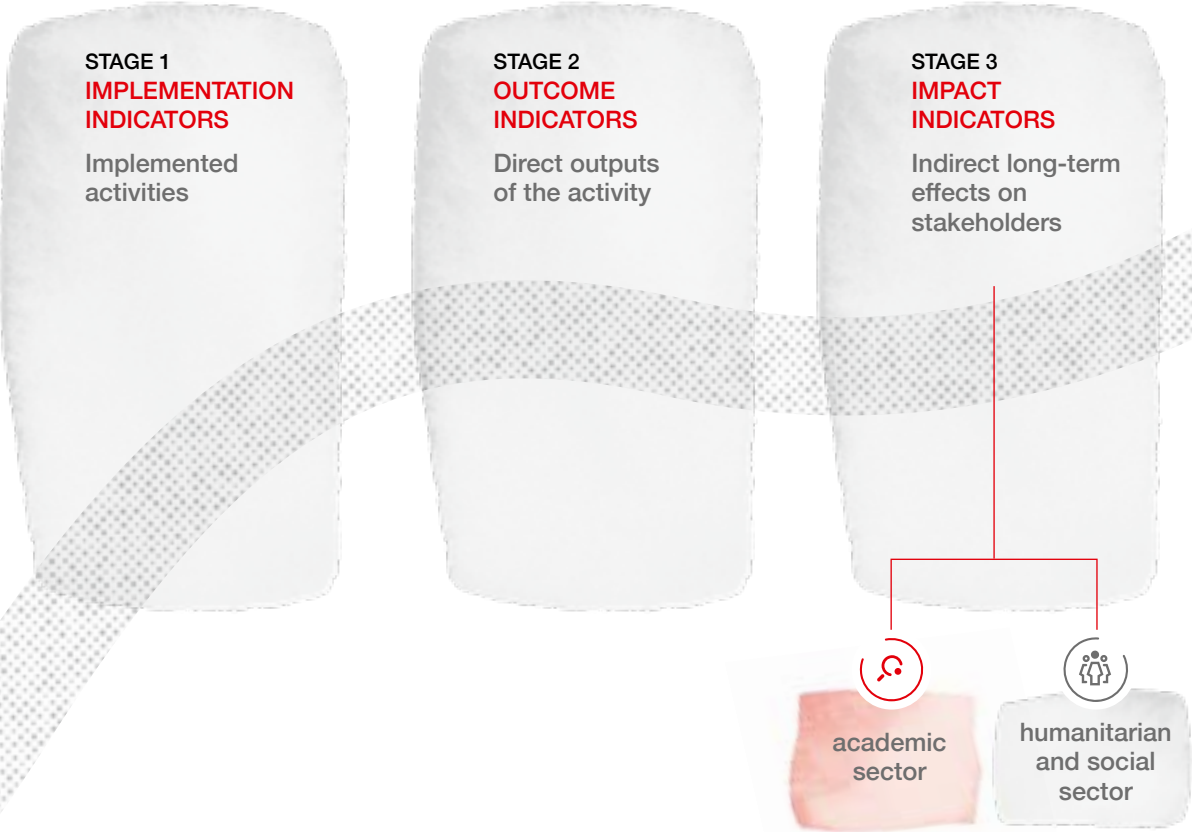


Identifying ‘utility pathways’ (indicators)

The Foundation measures the effects produced by its activities based on criteria used to determine its missions. The method draws on IRD’s «**impact pathway**» analysis to identify actors, analyse their contributions and understand the processes by which research tangibly impacts society.

To adapt this analysis to our missions and identity, the Foundation adopted the ‘utility pathway’ framework to track the effects of our activities both during and after implementation.

For each criterion, the utility pathway is divided into three stages and three categories of indicators:



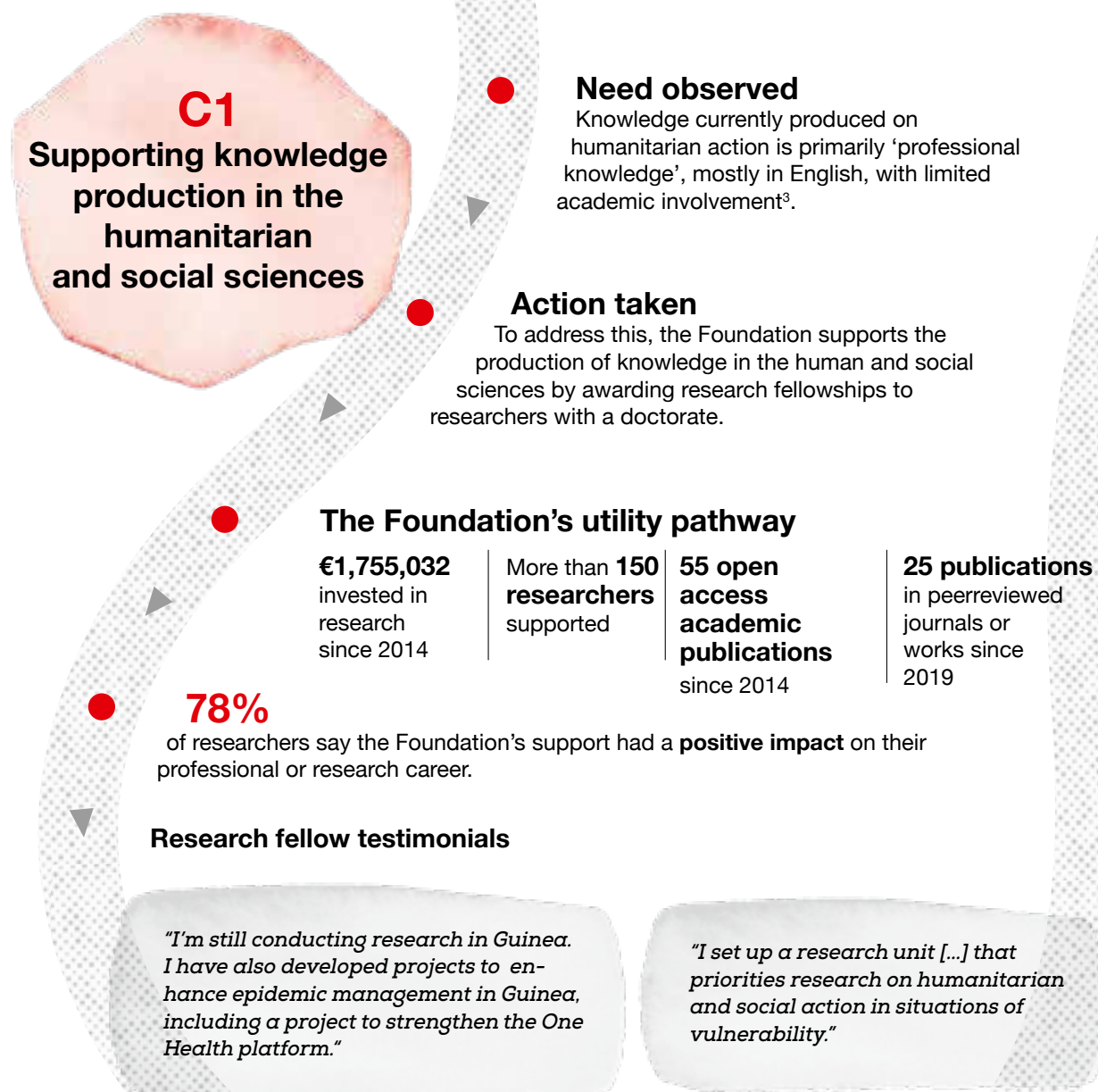
Data collection method

The choice of a qualitative method : implementation and outcome indicators are based on quantitative data, while impact indicators are primarily based on qualitative approaches. The Foundation measures its contributions primarily through individual testimonials and observations.

Ex-post case studies : to demonstrate its ‘utility pathway’, the Foundation prioritises ex-post case studies, employing a retrospective approach to examine how its actions have helped generate direct and indirect effects in the academic or humanitarian sectors.

2. The social utility of the French Red Cross Foundation

In the academic sector



Method

- Identify all research publications stemming from supported projects, including external publications in peer-reviewed journals.
- Survey of all research fellows, followed by a discussion forum in 2022 with over 40 participants.

³ L. KOJOUÉ, Consultant·e ou chercheur·e ? Le dilemme des jeunes universitaires en Afrique. Site The Conversation. Publié: 14 novembre 2018. Available from: <https://theconversation.com/consultant-e-ou-chercheur-e-le-dilemme-des-jeunes-universitaires-en-afrique-106388> [

C2 Designing research projects on humanitarian and social action

Need observed

There is a demand for academic research from humanitarian and social actors, but working with universities is challenging⁴ and funding is scarce. Partnerships are formed but they do not necessarily last.

Action taken

To address this challenge, the Foundation has developed dedicated research programmes (Red Cross Red Crescent Joint Programs), based on a specific methodology to continuously identify research needs within the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. We have also implemented a specific programme (Bénévo'Lab) for French Red Cross voluntary workers.

The Foundation's utility pathway

7 calls for research projects created at the suggestion of fRC voluntary workers

55% of research supported is initiated by the Red Cross Movement or directly applicable to the activities of the French Red Cross since 2020

For **50%** of supported researchers, the fellowship was their first experience with a civil society organisation. In this way, the Foundation enables more researchers to connect with the humanitarian and social action sectors.

46% Nearly half of research fellows report having continued their research following the Foundation's support. And 62% conducted this research in collaboration with one or more civil society organisations. The link with civil society does not end with the fellowship.

Testimonial of a Bénévo'Lab programme research fellow

"The fRC volunteer specialising in social aesthetics made it much easier for me to get field access for my research. Working with the volunteer on the research question and methodology, especially the surveys, made the research more relevant to the lived experiences of the people involved and ensured it met the high-quality standards needed for this personal well-being service."

Method

- Identify the proportion of research projects developed around proposals directly submitted by RCRC Movement voluntary workers.
- Gather testimonies from engaged researchers to understand the effects of participatory approaches on research.

⁴ V. RIDDE, Chercheurs et acteurs humanitaires : passer de la méfiance à l'efficacité. Alternatives Humanitaires, 2019. Available online at: <https://www.alternatives-humanitaires.org/fr/2021/07/19/chercheurs-et-acteurs-humanitaires-passer-de-la-mefiance-a-lefficiency/>

In the humanitarian and social sector

C3

Supporting local researchers on the frontline of crises

Need observed

Sub-Saharan Africa currently accounts for only 3% of global research output⁵, due to a shortage of researchers and limited public funding for research in these regions.

Action taken

To address this challenge, the Foundation concentrates multiple research programmes on Sub-Saharan Africa and, with equal merit, prioritises researchers from the countries concerned, who are closest to the research fields.

The Foundation's utility pathway

57% of research in the Global South is carried out by researchers from the Global South

Researchers affiliated with African institutions are satisfied with the Foundation's support (**4.5/5**), and 56% consider the funding they have received since to be lower in quality.

International research fellow testimonials

"There's very little support for research in my country. The only funding opportunities are calls for projects by international organisations, specific to target countries in the Global South or open to countries in the Global South, but with project leaders from the North. [...] By opening calls for projects to young African researchers, the Foundation helps them become research project leaders and establish themselves in the sector."

"Thanks to the Foundation, I was able to complete and publish the findings of my research. I also took part in the International Conference on the Humanitarian Transition in the Indian Ocean Area organised by the IRC Foundation and made an online presentation. The Foundation brought my research to a wider audience. Health economics is an undeveloped field in Madagascar. I can't thank the Foundation enough for their support - I still feel the effects today."

Method

■ Survey of supported researchers from the Global South.

⁵ S. BOTTON, L. ZANFINI, R. D'AIGLEPIERRE, « L'aide internationale peut-elle participer à l'ancrage de la recherche africaine ? », The Conversation, 6 septembre 2021.

C4 Promoting academic knowledge

Need observed

Despite a significant increase in the output of academic knowledge, it is often challenging to disseminate it to humanitarian and social actors, who lack time to access, consult and use it.

Action taken

To address this, Red Cross Foundation publications are open access and available in a wide range of formats adapted to practitioners, such as podcasts and policy briefs.

The Foundation's utility pathway

22 summaries & 6 podcasts published

Since 2014, **17 articles published** in the *Alternatives humanitaires* review by researchers supported by the Foundation
2,706 consultations of articles on Academia
More than one hundred listens to the podcast "En-quête d'humanité" in 2023

Research fellow testimonials

"A huge impact... I'm contacted from all over the world by researchers, journalists, television stations and photojournalists to share my research findings."

"Despite my critical stance, I've never come under any pressure - in fact, I've have been encouraged to share my findings as widely as possible."

"It's great that you want to make findings more widely available and reach as many practitioners and decision-makers as possible."

"The Foundation offers a range of activities to promote research rarely found elsewhere."

Method

■ Specific questionnaire and dedicated roundtable workshop with research fellows.

C5 Fostering debate between researchers and humanitarian and social actors

Need observed

Opportunities for dialogue and debate between French-speaking researchers and practitioners are scarce and often limited to narrow professional circles or regions unaffected by humanitarian issues.

Action taken

To address this, the Foundation organises academic events, in France and abroad, face-to-face and online, systematically bringing together representatives from different sectors.

The Foundation's utility pathway

Since 2018,
**4 international
events** and
16 events
organised in France
or online

On average,
**more than 300
participants**
in French-language
webinars organised
by the Foundation since
2020

**Countries represented
online:**
Mainland France and
French overseas territories,
Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire,
DRC, Burkina Faso, Burundi,
Guinea, Canada, Senegal,
Switzerland.

PROFILE OF ATTENDEES AT EVENTS
ORGANISED BY THE FOUNDATION

30%
academic professionals
(lecturers, researchers etc.)

30%

**Varied
and
diverse
audience**

38% others

32% professionals
in the humanitarian
or social action
sector

Event attendees
value the **chance to
network and
meet other
professionals or
researchers.**

Method

- Development of a dedicated questionnaire organised after each event.

C6 Helping to change the practices of humanitarian and social actors

Need observed

Bridging research and innovation is difficult. Few practices or social innovations stem from human and social science research findings due to limited knowledge uptake and transfer.

Activités mises en œuvre

To address this issue, the Foundation supports humanitarian and social actors through research, from identifying needs to implementing results. A dedicated pilot was implemented in 2023 to build a specific methodology based on knowledge transfer workshops and the co-construction of innovative solutions.

The Foundation's utility pathway

Since 2020,
**at least one third
of projects selected**
directly involve a
Red Cross Movement
entity.

All supported researchers
engage with humanitarian
and social actors as part of
their research, and more than
half have interviewed
at least 20 of them.

Testimonial of a French Red Cross technical expert

"As part of our disaster risk reduction programme in various countries, we have worked closely with the Foundation, which supported a socio-anthropological study into population risk perception.

This research allows us to better understand our target populations and ensure our response is adapted to their daily lives, ultimately leading to sustainable impacts."

Method

- Identify changes in Red Cross activities based on research findings.
- Develop two ex-post case studies for two research projects within the framework of the development of post-research social innovation workshops (APRIS)

Case studies

Case 1 - Improving access to reproductive healthcare in the Sahel

Between 2020 and 2022, the Foundation supported research associated with the «Regional Sahel Gender and Health Programme (PROGRESS)», led by the French Red Cross, the Niger Red Cross, the Malian Red Cross, and the Mauritanian Red Crescent. This research was led by sociologist Aïssa Diarra in coordination with one researcher from each country mentioned.

Before research

This programme aimed to **improve maternal and child health, sexual and reproductive health**, and family planning in three areas of the Sahel. The research identified obstacles to accessing care, particularly gender-related obstacles, and advanced solutions to overcome them in the three regions. The research objectives were coconstructed, involving a research team and operational teams, to compare experience-based and academic knowledge.

During research

Aïssa Diarra's research findings were communicated throughout the research process, informing an analysis of the need to adapt interventions by considering local realities and the local initiatives of field actors.

After research

Nearly a year after the research concluded in May 2023, the Foundation organised the first 'Post-Research Social Innovation Workshop' (APRIS) in Niamey in collaboration with the Niger Red Cross and the French Red Cross. This workshop was attended by stakeholders from National Societies, such as project coordinators, technical experts and voluntary workers, to co-create new practices based on research findings.

The APRIS workshop strengthened collaboration between researchers and humanitarian actors and transformed future activities by incorporating learnings and insights from research.

Focus EXAMPLE OF UTILITY: adapting the community mobilisation strategy:

“ PROGRESS's community mobilisation strategy in Zinder, Niger, was revised in light of research recommendations. Based on research conclusions and recommendations, participants made a detailed examination of key messages to deliver through different channels and communication activities, including radio, outreach programmes and community 'chats'. The outcomes of this collaboration were incorporated into a revised community mobilisation strategy, highlighting the tangible impact of research on humanitarian practices and local initiatives to improve access to sexual and reproductive health services in the Sahel region.”

Programme coordinator testimonial
(2022-2024)

Learn more



Focus EXAMPLE OF UTILITY: adapting training to health officers:

“ The programme includes training sessions on respectful care. Research has enriched their content and increased their effectiveness. By drawing on real-life situations encountered by carers, we can shed light on daily violence in healthcare and question practices that are so ingrained that we don't even see where the problem lies.

Examples of unnecessary procedures include episiotomies performed without explanation or consent, or abdominal pressure applied despite medical advice. [...] Documenting practices using a scientific approach has transformed feelings or intuitions into indisputable facts. This has given us more strength to question practices and engage in dialogue with healthcare workers.”

Programme coordinator testimonial
(2020-2022)

Case 2 - Adapting food aid to exiles in Île-de-France

In 2018, the French Red Cross began rethinking its food aid approach for migrant populations. Faced with a combination of social precariousness and economic vulnerability due to migration or exile, newly arrived asylum seekers are particularly fragile. Their living conditions, including in material terms, pose a significant obstacle to adopting an adequate, healthy and balanced diet and can potentially have repercussions on their health, including deficiencies, weight loss, obesity and diabetes.

Before research

To better adapt the aid provided and the activities carried out by voluntary workers, the French Red Cross decided to turn to the Foundation to support and coordinate research aimed at **understanding the representations and role of food aid for migrants newly arrived in mainland France**. The aim was to describe and understand the food supply sources of newly arrived individuals in mainland France, the forms of food transactions, and the role of food aid provided by non-profit organisations in the daily diet of this population faced with acculturation to new dietary practices. For instance, the research aimed to identify the most suitable approach: distributing hot meals or food parcels, the types of food and condiments to include, and the most appropriate locations and times for distribution.

During research

An anthropologist specialising in dietary practices, Estelle Fourat was selected and assisted by the Foundation to carry out action research by actively participating in food aid programmes in close collaboration with the French Red Cross teams. The findings shed light on the food practices and lived experiences of people in exile and led to practical adjustments in the way food aid is provided.

After research

The research highlighted the need to rethink food aid within a broader framework of social support, addressing the challenges of differentiating needs and providing a comprehensive response beyond food. For Estelle Fourat, this means transforming existing food aid systems into 'food hubs' and considering the nutritional, sociocultural and material dimensions of dietary practices to adapt them to people's specific needs.

Drawing on these findings, the French Red Cross has reconsidered its response to food insecurity to make food aid the first sustainable step out of insecurity. The new 'food hub' strategy has led to the gradual implementation of multi-service centres in France that promote social cohesion by providing a warm and welcoming atmosphere. By listening to people's individual needs, they cater to dietary preferences and offer adapted complementary solutions to promote sustainable social inclusion.

In light of rising insecurity in France, the Foundation continues to support the French Red Cross in its critical examination of comprehensive responses beyond the provision of food through traditional food aid mechanisms. In 2023, the Foundation launched a new research initiative to examine the pilot programmes the French Red Cross implemented as part of its new strategy to combat food insecurity.

Focus EXAMPLE OF UTILITY: integrating spices and condiments into food aid:

Research demonstrated that condiment-based seasonings, such as spices or broths, help adapt flavours to people's preferences and dietary habits, encouraging the uptake of food aid. Beyond the specific case of migrants, the findings have provided a better understanding of the uses of food aid — both nutritional and social — and its representations. The research informed the French Red Cross's new food aid strategy, designed to better meet assisted individuals' needs and support the voluntary workers' network.

Learn more



3. Our other stakeholders

The Foundation partners with other stakeholders to achieve its goals. They include entities of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, institutional partners, foundations, companies, nonprofit and non-governmental organisations and research organisations. These initiatives are set in motion through partnerships, academic collaborations and sponsorship. The Foundation also seeks the support of individual donors. Lastly, the Foundation mobilises the expertise of numerous voluntary experts in the fields of science and management.

Thanks to the support of these partners, experts and donors, the Foundation can conduct and disseminate research. Co-constructing research programmes with the French Red Cross, and beyond, is a strategic choice by the Foundation to address shared issues of general interest in the field of humanitarian and social action. In general, partners who fund research programmes are invited to share their questions to better understand the contexts under study and to participate in the researcher selection process.

By disseminating research findings and fostering dialogue between actors, the Foundation provides partners and civil society actors with in-depth insights into environmental transformations, the analysis of operational practices, and possibilities for social innovation. The goal is to **make social science learning a shared lever**.

This first social utility report highlights how the Foundation's collaboration with three stakeholder groups benefits everyone involved:

1. entities of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement;
2. members of its governance team and groups of associate experts;
3. private and public partners.

Entities of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

Established by the French Red Cross, the Foundation provides a formal **space for social science research** closely aligned with practice and fosters a research culture able to address challenges identified by the Movement.



In collaboration with the ICRC and the IFRC, the Foundation created the Consortium RC3 (Red Cross Red Crescent Research Consortium). This unique network unites entities within the Movement that are fully or partially dedicated to knowledge production, research and expertise. Since 2019, the RC3 has supplied National Societies and their voluntary workers with multimedia tools and academic resources and organised events in collaboration with academics from every continent.

Learn more



Contributions to the Foundation

The Foundation receives **annual funding** from the French Red Cross.

23 research projects have been funded by the French Red Cross or its partners.

Multiple research projects and events have been co-developed with other National Societies and the IFRC across multiple continents.

Contributions by the Foundation

Through the RC3, the Foundation fosters an academic culture and supports research within the Movement:

"We lacked a safe space for critical examination, where we could ask tough questions and take a giant step back from our everyday activities."

Elhadj AS SY, former Secretary General of the IFRC

"Our collaboration with the Foundation is a significant asset in fostering a research-oriented internal culture within the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, promoting an evidence-based approach, and enhancing humanitarian practices."

A member of the RC3 during the 2023 annual meeting in Turkey

"The fRC Foundation's insights enable the fRC to substantiate and enrich its field analyses and observations. The research projects supported by the Foundation have been highlighted in the 2024 resilience report "Événements climatiques extrêmes: sommes-nous prêts à l'inévitable" ("Extreme Climate Events: Are We Prepared for the Inevitable?") with three insights into solidarity mechanisms following Cyclone Irma, extreme temperatures and mental health in Senegal, and the vulnerability and resilience of populations to flood risks in Lebanon."

Clément MORILLION, Manager of the Department for Public Affairs at the French Red Cross

Partners and donors

The Foundation engages with private, institutional, and associative partners to help develop research projects and promote findings. It also relies on the generosity of its individual donors.

■ **Private and non-profit partners:** the foundation establishes partnerships with companies, foundations and non-profit organisations to jointly develop research programmes focused on human vulnerabilities, including in the fields of health and epidemics, disaster and climate risk management and migration to improve, strengthen and adapt response to the most vulnerable populations.

■ **Institutional partners:** With the support of institutional partners, the Foundation promotes French-language knowledge in the humanitarian sector, supports researchers and creates spaces for discussion and debate among actors.

■ **Skills sponsorship and service provision partners:** To strengthen its actions and expand the reach of its research professionally, the Foundation draws on the expertise of outside specialists, particularly in the field of communication. They develop innovative dissemination tools to raise awareness among target audiences of the importance of the link between research and society and the role of each individual in mutual and participatory learning.

■ **Donors:** Since its creation, the generosity of its donors has enabled the Foundation to support research and help strengthen and promote innovation by humanitarian and social organisations and actions that support people in situations of vulnerability.

Contributions to the Foundation

Between 2018 and 2023, the Foundation received funding totalling €174,000 from institutional partners, €1,104,000 from private partners and €1,681,000 from partners within the Movement.

Our partners also helped develop research questions aligned with the themes they explore with their audiences.

Contributions by the Foundation

Partners acknowledge the Foundation’s role in shaping decision-making:

“We are delighted to have supported several female researchers working in the Aield of humanitarian transition. Their research was immediately useful, strengthening the quality of humanitarian and development operations for the beneAit of populations.”

Princely Government of Monaco

“Technology alone cannot solve the challenges we face. This is why I support the French Red Cross Foundation, whose Aieldwork in the humanitarian and social sectors is essential to prepare decision-makers and communities to embrace the changes ahead.”

An individual donor

“AXA prioritises these issues, which are perfectly aligned with our mission of safeguarding vulnerable populations.”

AXA Research Fund

“By supporting research into the social and solidarity economy and migration, we aim to help produce useful knowledge to inform Aieldworkers on this major social issue.”

Crédit Coopératif Foundation

Members of the governance team and associate experts

The Foundation’s governance team consists of members of the Board of Administrators, the Scientific Council, the Finance Committee, and the group of Associate Experts.

The Board of Administrators is composed of twelve members, divided into four colleges. It is chaired by Philippe Da Costa. The Board shapes the Foundation’s scientific mission guided by a 14-member Scientific Council, experts in the Foundation’s fields of action. A Finance Committee assists the Board of Administrators in its financial investments, resource management, budget oversight and financial audits. A group of twenty-two associate experts, comprised of committed professionals from multiple continents, complements this multidisciplinary and multisectoral governance team.

Contributions to the Foundation

A volunteer-based and diversified governance structure with 51 individuals committed to the Foundation since its inception.

Over 1,000 academic evaluations of candidates for calls for proposals, carried out by voluntary experts.

3,130 hours of expert voluntary work since 2020

Contributions by the Foundation

Members of the governance team and associate experts explain why they support the Foundation:

“It is incredibly rewarding, both personally and intellectually. It’s also a great chance to be part of something original and unique by supporting French-language research into humanitarian action (...).”

Member of the Board of Administrators

“I feel useful: I monitor societal developments and the work of young researchers.”

Member of the Associate Experts group

“For me, the Foundation shines a spotlight on researchers and research from the Global South, and that adds a lot of value.”

Member of the Scientific Committee

4. Appendix

Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

The seven revised fundamental principles, proclaimed at the 20th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (Vienna, 1965), are contained in the Statutes of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, adopted at the 25th International Conference of the Red Cross (Geneva, 1986).

At the core of the Movement's approach, the 7 principles define its direction, ethics, reason for being, and its specific nature. They ensure the team cohesion of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, which has a universal reach, and constitute the Movement's charter and its specificity, indeed its truly unique character.

Humanity

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, born of a desire to bring assistance without discrimination to the wounded on the battlefield, endeavours – in its international capacity – to prevent and alleviate human suffering wherever it may be found. Its purpose is to protect life and health and to ensure respect for every human being. It promotes mutual understanding, friendship, cooperation and lasting peace amongst all peoples.

Impartiality

The Movement makes no discrimination as to nationality, race, religious beliefs, class or political opinions. It endeavours to relieve the suffering of individuals, being guided solely by their needs, and to give priority to the most urgent cases of distress.

Neutrality

In order to continue to enjoy the confidence of all, the Movement may not take sides in hostilities or engage at any time in controversies of a political, racial, religious or ideological nature.

Independence

The Movement is independent. The National Societies, while auxiliaries in the humanitarian services of their governments and subject to the laws of their respective countries, must always maintain their autonomy so that they may be able at all times to act in accordance with the principles of the Movement.

Voluntary service

It is a voluntary relief movement not prompted in any manner by desire for gain.

Unity

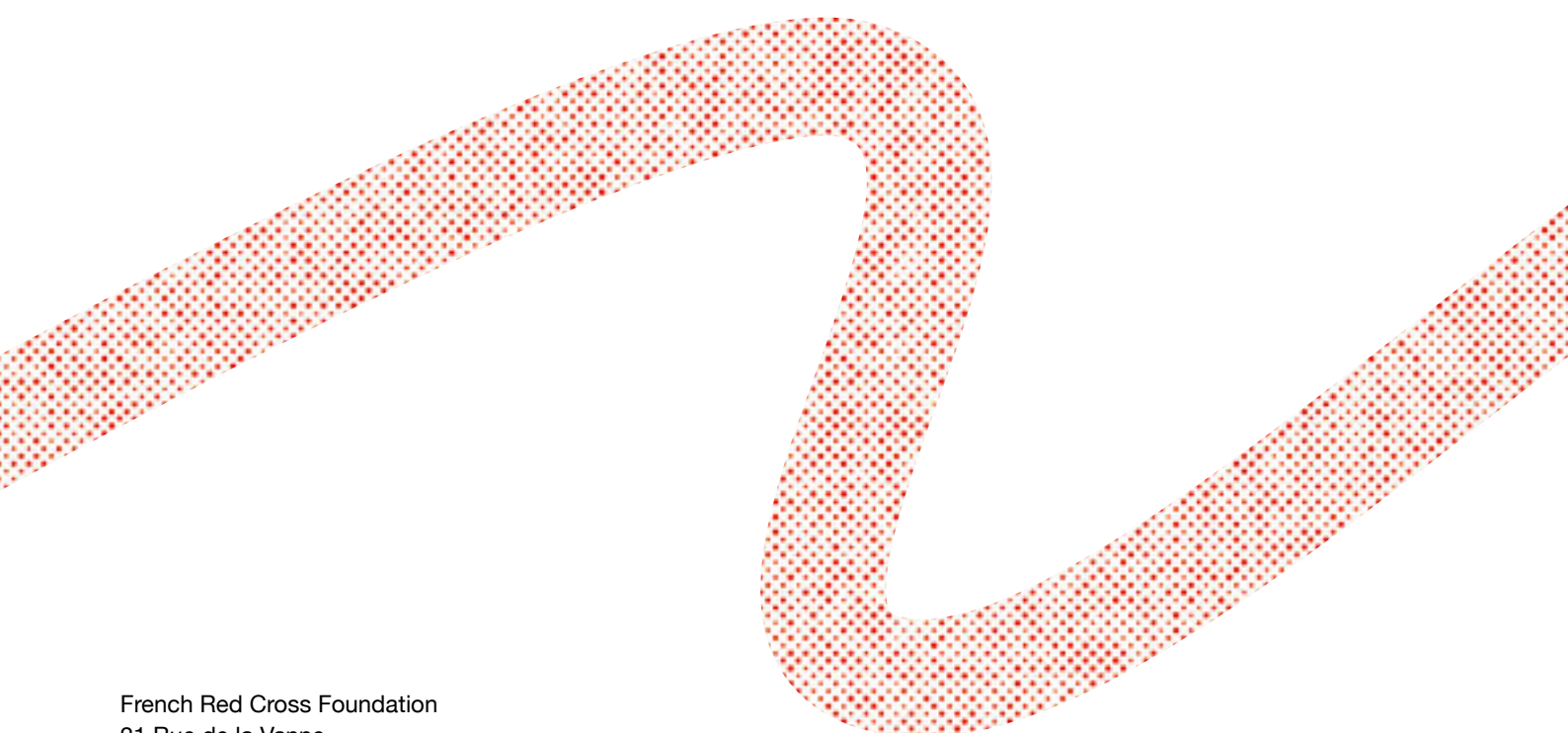
There can be only one Red Cross or one Red Crescent Society in any one country. It must be open to all. It must carry on its humanitarian work throughout its territory.

Universality

The Movement, in which all National Societies have equal status and share equal responsibilities and duties in helping each other, is worldwide.

Learn more





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