

## Looking for consortium partners

Emanating from the vision of the FHNW School of Social Work which focuses on social change on different levels, addressing contemporary global challenges and their consequences in social planning, organizational change, and urban development, and focusing on a new key issue of refugee accommodation and social spatial integration at the neighborhood level, in strong collaboration with social planning practice and frontline work, Prof. Dr. Matthias and Dr. Hind Al-Shoubaki are planning to apply for a research competition to develop innovative and sustainable solutions for a more efficient and respectful humanitarian habitat in one of the countries of action of the Luxembourg Red Cross in sub-Saharan Africa. *Please check below the project description and requirements (call for Humanitarian challenge 2023).*

We are looking for partners to expand our consortium to apply for the actual call. The aim is to improve the quality of humanitarian habitat in Africa by bringing additional engineering and architectural expertise, as well as the technical and professional capacities.. In Africa, in particular, the need for humanitarian housing is systematically called one of the three most urgent needs to be met for populations affected by natural disasters or armed conflicts. However, the link between the academia, industry and humanitarian sector has a long way to be developed.

In this consortium we attempt to build bridges between actors to prepare a new fertile ground where we can find common space for work and development. We are now building an international, and multidisciplinary team, to designing a shelter prototype that responds to refugees' needs in a sustainable way using local materials. We wish to involve people in developing the design and the project drawings and then come out with a publication. We seek to collaborate with, students, professors, professionals, and practitioners from the following fields: Architecture, Urban planning Civil engineering HVAC Engineer The work will be developed via online meetings between all participants (professors, students, and engineers) from different countries.

Would you be interested in joining us please write to us by 7.04.2023

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# Call for Participation

Towards a positive humanitarian  
impact – A shelter challenge

Date 2023.02.10

## Towards a positive humanitarian impact call for participation

The Shelter Research Unit (SRU) of the International Aid of the Luxembourg Red Cross (AICRL), in the framework of the project “Humanitarian Luxembourg Hub” together with the technical-scientific conference to be held in Luxembourg in October 2023, wants to propose an opportunity to develop innovative and sustainable solutions for a more efficient and respectful Humanitarian Habitat, through a 16-week accompanying programme. The three selected solutions will be exhibited in Luxembourg, and the winner will be tested in real conditions.

The competition is open to students in collaboration with industrialists and professionals of the sector in Luxembourg. Development and presentation of a shelter prototype. The selected model will be tested in real conditions in one of the countries of action of the Luxembourg Red Cross (as shown in the example below).

### INTRODUCTION

AI-CRL works in several countries in sub-Saharan Africa, including Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger and Chad, with shelter and settlement programmes.

In the context of complex and long-lasting crises, it is necessary to develop intervention strategies that take into account local building cultures, social aspects, and pay special attention to the environment to respond effectively and sustainably to the needs of the most vulnerable households.

### GEOGRAPHICAL CONTEXT



In particular, the conflict in the Sahel band of West Africa has continued to evolve and, geographically, move southwards. The conflict will likely affect areas south of the Sahel band in the coming years. From a climatological and geographical point of view, the characteristics will differ from those of the Sahel. Therefore the response of the proposed Humanitarian Habitat solutions will have to be adapted.

The same is valid from cultural, ethnic, anthropological and architectural aspects that may condition the Humanitarian Habitat in the region.

### **Requested criteria for submission**

The habitat solution to be submitted must meet the following criteria:

- The proposal must provide a dignified and durable solution from the emergency to a durable house for a family of six members. It must respond to the characteristics of the family structure of the region.
- Community mobilisation and respect for local culture and materials should be an active part of the proposal.
- The proposed solution must comply with the minimum international recommendations recognised in the humanitarian sector.
- The proposal should consider the comfort and dignity of the beneficiary family.
- The minimum expected durability for the emergency period is one year.
- The proposal must protect its occupants from wind, rain, temperature and other climatic challenges particular to the region.
- The inclusion of environmental impact reduction measures (added value to proposals that consider the whole life cycle of the proposed solution) will be required.
- Consideration of energy efficiency criteria will be an added value.

### **Key Numbers**

Family of 6 members

3,5sqm per person in emergency

### **Reference links**

[https://sheltercluster.s3.eu-central-](https://sheltercluster.s3.eu-central-1.amazonaws.com/public/docs/crbf_kit_abri_sahel_3.pdf)

[1.amazonaws.com/public/docs/crbf\\_kit\\_abri\\_sahel\\_3.pdf](https://sheltercluster.s3.eu-central-1.amazonaws.com/public/docs/crbf_kit_abri_sahel_3.pdf)

<https://spherestandards.org/>

<https://www.shelterprojects.org/>

### **Support**

- Briefing scheduled on a date to be agreed
- Questions by email until the date to be defined
- The creation process will be accompanied by a series of 4 presentations (one for each country in the region) to be delivered by the SRU between March and June 2023.

### **Calendar**

- Submission of papers 25.09
- Publication of selected works on 09.10
- Exhibition 26.10
- Test under real conditions 2024