

Request for Applications:

Columbia Global Resilience Fund Awards

Columbia Global Center in Istanbul

RFA issue date: October 15, 2024

Deadline for submissions: January 31, 2025, at 11:59pm EDT

Purpose

[Columbia Global](#) is seeking applications from Columbia University faculty and researchers for projects that advance relief and recovery work in the regions of Turkey affected by catastrophic earthquakes in February 2023. Prior experience working in the country or region is not required.

The Columbia Global Center in Istanbul has more than 10 years of experience facilitating the work of Columbia faculty, researchers, and students in Turkey and has established extensive partnerships in the country. The Center will play a supportive role facilitating, engaging with, and monitoring the work funded by these awards.

Background

In response to the alarming increase in the complexity and frequency of global crises, Columbia Global established a Global Resilience Fund to serve as a platform for the Columbia University community to respond to major global crises in a coordinated and synergistic way. The Global Resilience Fund is designed to harness the University's intellectual resources and practical expertise—in partnership with local, in-country institutions—to support recovery and resiliency efforts, and to enable research and scholarship that lead to increased understanding of the root causes of crises and the development of novel, feasible, and scalable solutions.

This second round of Resilience Fund Awards focuses on the effects of the catastrophic earthquakes that devastated Turkey and Syria in February 2023. Read about the projects funded under round one [here](#).

Priority Thematic Areas

Key themes of interest for this round of Columbia Global Resilience Fund Awards include, but are not limited to:

- **Environmental Sustainability:** Activities may include conducting research on the environmental impact of the earthquakes and subsequent recovery efforts, developing programs to promote sustainable rebuilding and infrastructure development, and working with local governments to research environmentally sustainable practices.

- **Education and Capacity Building:** Activities may include developing and delivering informational programs for local communities on disaster preparedness and response and working with educational institutions to develop disaster-related curricula.
- **Health:** Activities may include conducting research on the health needs of the affected populations (including mental health) and working with local institutions to strengthen the response to these needs in the affected region.
- **Economic Development:** Activities may include developing programs to map small businesses affected by the earthquakes, conducting research on the economic impact of the disaster and subsequent recovery efforts, and working with local institutions to develop policies and programs that promote economic development and job creation.
- **Social Justice and Human Rights:** Activities may include conducting research on the effect of the earthquakes on vulnerable and marginalized communities (e.g., children, women, displaced individuals, refugees); shaping policies and programs that address social justice and human rights issues in disaster response and recovery efforts; and working with local organizations to develop technologies to promote and protect human rights in the affected region.
- **Preservation of Monuments and Cultural Artifacts:** Activities may include conducting assessments of cultural heritage sites affected by the earthquakes, developing plans for the preservation and restoration of damaged monuments and artifacts, and providing training to local communities on conservation techniques.
- **Architectural and Engineering Research:** Activities may include developing new building designs and materials that are more resilient to earthquakes, conducting simulations to better understand the behavior of structures during earthquakes, and studying the impact of earthquakes on critical infrastructure (e.g., water and energy systems).
- **Policy and Regulations:** Activities may include conducting research on disaster response policies and regulations in the affected region, analyzing the effectiveness of existing policies and making recommendations for improvement, and working with local governments to develop more effective disaster response plans.

Types of Awards

Resilience Fund Awards are available at two funding levels:

1. **Resilience Fund Seed Awards** will provide a maximum award amount of \$50,000 (per award) for activities to be conducted over a period of up to 18 months (beginning June 2, 2025). A maximum of three awards will be made.
2. **Resilience Fund Vision Awards** will provide support for projects that aim to generate innovative, feasible, and scalable solutions through interdisciplinary collaborations with in-country institutions. The maximum award amount is \$150,000 (per award) for work to be conducted over a period of 2-3 years (beginning June 2, 2025). A maximum of two awards will be made.

Recipients of both types of awards will be invited to participate in the Columbia Global Resilience Conference to share findings and engage in interdisciplinary discussions that aim to advance recovery and resiliency strategies and approaches.

Eligibility and Review Criteria

- Application lead(s) must be full-time faculty or researchers at Columbia University, with an interest in pursuing relief and recovery-related work in response to the 2023 earthquakes in Turkey. No prior experience in the region is required.

- At least one proposal lead must be eligible to serve as a Principal Investigator, per [Columbia University guidelines](#). To request a PI waiver, please refer to [these Columbia Global guidelines](#).
- Partnership with faculty, researchers, academic institutions, and/or civil society organizations in Turkey or the broader region is required.
 - **Note:** Interested applicants are encouraged to have preliminary discussions with the Columbia Global Center in Istanbul about potential partnerships in the region and the feasibility of proposed projects.
- Interdisciplinary collaborations at Columbia University—across disciplines, schools, institutes, and/or centers—are strongly encouraged.
- Participation by Columbia University students and students in Turkey is strongly encouraged.
- Proposed projects must include clearly defined objectives, activities, and anticipated results.
- Participation in relevant events organized by the Columbia Global Center in Istanbul is required.
- The articulation of plans to pursue additional funding to expand the work accomplished is strongly encouraged.

Application Process and Deadlines

Eligible faculty and researchers are requested to submit applications via the Submittable Platform, which can be accessed [here](#).

Applications are due January 31, 2025, at 11:59pm EDT. Award announcements are anticipated in March 2025.

Key Proposal Elements

- **Executive summary**
- **Proposal narrative** that includes:
 - A statement of the problem/challenge that the project aims to address
 - Project goal, key activities, and anticipated results
 - Overview of the proposal team (including CV of proposal lead)
 - Project summary
 - Proposed collaborations with local and/or regional entities
 - Summary of student engagement plans
 - Summary of the role of the Global Center in Istanbul
 - Summary of how the project will lay the foundation for subsequent work
- **Project workplan** that lists key project activities and their timing (please use this [template](#))
- **Budget and budget narrative** (please use: [budget template](#), [budget narrative template](#))

Resources for Applicants

- Columbia Global is currently offering six unique funding opportunities for faculty and researchers. Find out if this is the right one for you [here](#).
- Read an overview of the projects funded under the inaugural round of Resilience Fund Awards [here](#).
- Annex 1 (below) provides a list of recommended reference materials for interested applicants.

Questions

A virtual informational session will be held to answer questions about this and other Columbia Global faculty award opportunities on **November 13th at 3pm EDT**. Please register [here](#).

If you would like to schedule time to discuss your project idea with the Columbia Global Center in Istanbul, please contact MT2462@columbia.edu.

If you have other questions about this call for applications, please contact Christine Hunt at ch3326@columbia.edu using the following subject line: "Resilience Fund RFA question."

Annex 1: Recommended Reference Materials

Columbia Global Center in Istanbul Events

- Rising from the Rubble Webinar Series
 - [Volume I: Documenting Earthquake's Impact and Emphasizing Collaborative Reconstruction Efforts](#). April 20, 2023.
 - [Volume II: Combating Violence Against Women in the Earthquake Zone](#). May 8, 2023.
 - [Volume III: Unveiling the Human-Made Disaster](#). June 7, 2023.
- Webinar: [The Aftermath of the Turkish and Syrian Earthquakes from Relief to Reconstruction: Examining the Impact on Refugee and Displaced Populations](#). May 23, 2023.
- Webinar: [Columbia Collaboratory Global Seminar 1: Building Back Better](#). September 23, 2024.
- Webinar: [Columbia Collaboratory Global Seminar 2: Assessing & Addressing the Health Needs of Vulnerable Communities Post-Disaster](#). October 14, 2024.

Reports

- World Bank. [Earthquake Damage in Türkiye Estimated to Exceed \\$34 billion: World Bank Disaster Assessment Report](#). February 2023. ü
- United Nations. [Türkiye-Syria Earthquake Response](#).
- Turkish Philanthropy Fund. [TPF Türkiye Earthquake Relief Fund. 6th Month Impact Report](#).
- Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change. [Türkiye Earthquake Recovery and Reconstruction Project: Environmental and Social Management Framework](#). September 2023.
- UNFPA. [Situation Report: Türkiye Earthquake Response After 1 Year](#). February 2024.
- UNICEF. [Türkiye Humanitarian Situation Report No. 20 \(Earthquake Response\) - Q1 2024](#). May 2024.
- Government of Türkiye. [Türkiye Earthquakes Recovery and Reconstruction Assessment](#).
- IGAM Academy. [Improving Syrian Refugee Inclusion in the Turkish Economy: How Can the International Community Help?](#) September 2021.
- Columbia World Projects. [Rebuilding Beirut: A Roadmap for an Equitable Post-disaster Response](#). February 2023.

News Articles

- duvaR.english. [Even After Four Months, Protracted Crisis Persists in Turkey's Quake Zone](#). June 7, 2023.
- Phys.org. [How Earthquakes Impact Hospitals: Insights from the 2023 Turkey Earthquake Sequences](#). June 21, 2023.
- International Labour Organization. [Urgent Support Needed for Hundreds of Thousands of Workers after Türkiye and Syria Earthquakes](#). March 2023.
- ReliefWeb. [ILO and IOM Unveil Key Findings to Strengthen Labour Market Recovery in Türkiye's Earthquake-Hit Regions](#). July 2024.
- Financial Times. [Container Cities: Turkey's Quake Zone One Year On](#). February 2024.
- New York Times. [Why One Upscale Apartment Building Became a Death Trap](#). May 2023.
- Reuters. [Earthquake Fans Anti-Syrian Sentiment in Turkey Amid Desperate Conditions](#). February 13, 2023.