

Request for Applications:

Columbia Global - Turkish Philanthropy Funds Resilience Initiative Awards

Columbia Global Center in Istanbul

RFA issue date: December 5, 2025

Deadline for submissions: **February 6, 2026**, at 11:59pm EST

Purpose

[Columbia Global](#) is seeking applications from Columbia University faculty and researchers for projects that advance recovery and resilience work in the regions of Türkiye affected by devastating earthquakes in February 2023 and/or that advance disaster preparedness, disaster risk reduction, risk mitigation, and risk communication efforts in Türkiye. 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 Türkiye and has established extensive partnerships in the country. The Global 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 and anticipate 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 preparedness, recovery and resiliency efforts, and to enable research and scholarship that lead to increased understanding of the root causes of crises and the development and piloting of novel, feasible, and scalable solutions.

The first phase of the Columbia Global Resilience Fund has focused on responding to the catastrophic earthquakes that devastated Türkiye in February 2023. (Read about the projects funded under the first two rounds of the Resilience Fund Awards [here](#) and [here](#).) Beginning in 2025, the initiative in Türkiye is supported by Turkish Philanthropy Funds.

Priority Thematic Areas

Key themes of interest include, but are not limited to:

- **Environmental Sustainability and Housing**

Activities may include:

- Conducting research on the environmental impact of earthquakes and reconstruction efforts
- Analyzing community-driven and cooperative models for sustainable urban transformation
- Working with local institutions to develop evidence-based policy recommendations for integrating sustainable rebuilding processes into planning standards
- Assessing sustainable rebuilding models and infrastructure strategies that minimize long-term environmental degradation
- Conducting research on permanent, safe, and affordable housing solutions that are earthquake-resilient and culturally appropriate

- **Education and Capacity Building**

Activities may include:

- Developing and piloting disaster preparedness education in schools and communities
- Designing curricula that integrate disaster risk reduction into formal and informal education systems
- Creating community-based disaster preparedness modules with universities and grassroots organizations
- Collaborate with the private sector to prepare modules on disaster preparedness and risk awareness that are tailored to sectoral needs

- **Health and Psychosocial Support**

Activities may include:

- Conducting research on the short- and long-term health and psychosocial needs of populations affected by earthquakes or other disasters
- Working with local institutions to evaluate and strengthen health providers' capacity to prepare for and respond to disasters and to deliver equitable healthcare in rural and urban areas
- Supporting the development of digital tools (e.g., health apps) to expand access to reproductive and preventive healthcare for affected populations

- **Economic Development and Livelihoods**

Activities may include:

- Developing programs to map and assess the needs of small businesses, agricultural producers, and light industry affected by the earthquakes and other disasters
- Conducting research on effective models of youth employment and vocational training to inform post-disaster recovery strategies
- Conducting research on the economic impacts of displacement and recovery efforts
- Partnering with local institutions and the private sector to design policies and programs that support inclusive and sustainable economic growth

- **Social Justice, Human Rights, and Inclusion**

Activities may include:

- Conducting research on the impact of earthquakes and other disasters on vulnerable groups (e.g., women, children, refugees, disabled persons)
- Shaping policies and programs that advance social justice and rights-based recovery approaches
- Assessing the inclusion of refugees, women, and marginalized communities in preparedness and recovery efforts
- Developing women’s empowerment programs to address the issues of caregiving, violence prevention, and community leadership
- Designing participatory research and community projects to strengthen social cohesion in the face of displacement and fragmentation
- Documenting and analyzing disaster response models of non-state and public actors to develop ethical data-use databases

- **Preservation of Cultural Heritage**

Activities may include:

- Assessing historic and religious sites damaged in the earthquakes, particularly in Hatay
- Training local communities in conservation and heritage management
- Conducting research on cultural resilience and the role of the arts in post-disaster recovery

- **Architecture, Engineering Research, and Policy**

Activities may include:

- Developing innovative building designs and materials that are resilient to earthquakes and other disasters
- Conducting simulations and research on critical infrastructure vulnerabilities (water, sewage, energy, internet, transportation)
- Analyzing how prioritizing certain approaches to recovery, such as massive construction efforts, may lead to increased exposure to other risks, such as air pollution, droughts, and floods
- Working with local governments and civil society to create participatory disaster response and reconstruction policies
- Conducting research on how to integrate the “right to the city” framework in post-disaster rebuilding

Funding Level and Project Period

Awards of up to \$150,000 (per award) will provide support for projects that aim to generate innovative, feasible, and scalable solutions through interdisciplinary collaborations with institutions in Türkiye. The project period for funded awards will be up to two years, with projects beginning May 1, 2026.

Award recipients will be invited to participate in relevant Columbia Global activities 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. 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 Türkiye or the broader region is required.
 - **Note:** Prior to application submission, interested applicants are required 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.
- Meaningful participation by Columbia University students is required. Participation by students in Türkiye 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 **February 6, 2026**, at 11:59pm EST. Award announcements are anticipated in early April 2026.

Key Proposal Elements

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

Resources for Applicants

- A virtual information session will be held to discuss this opportunity on **January 8, 2026 at 10am EST**. All interested applicants are encouraged to attend. Please register [here](#).
- Read an overview of the projects funded under the first two rounds of the Resilience Fund Awards [here](#) and [here](#).
- Annex 1 below provides a list of recommended reference materials for interested applicants.

Questions

To schedule a time to discuss your project idea with the Columbia Global Center in Istanbul, please send an email to both: mkg2116@columbia.edu and 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 Initiative RFA question".

Annex 1: Recommended Reference Materials

Columbia Global Center in Istanbul Events and News

- Briefing Note: [Columbia Global Resilience Fund Stakeholders Meeting](#)
- Webinar: [Columbia Collaboratory Global Seminar 3: Risk Mitigation and Long-term Recovery](#)
- Webinar: [Columbia Collaboratory Global Seminar 2: Assessing & Addressing the Health Needs of Vulnerable Communities Post-Disaster](#). October 14, 2024.
- Webinar: [Columbia Collaboratory Global Seminar 1: Building Back Better](#). September 23, 2024.
- Webinar: [The Aftermath of the Turkish and Syrian Earthquakes from Relief to Reconstruction: Examining the Impact on Refugee and Displaced Populations](#). May 23, 2023.
- 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.
- CGC Istanbul News: [From Coffee to Collaboration: Rising Together After the Rubble](#). December 16, 2024.
- CGC Istanbul News: [Building Resilience: Discover the Inaugural Projects of the Columbia Global Resilience Fund](#). December 16, 2024.
- CGC Istanbul News: [From Rubble to Resilience: Lessons in Urban Disaster Recovery](#). December 24, 2024.

Reports

- Turkish Philanthropy Funds: [TPF Türkiye Earthquake Fund 2nd Anniversary Impact Report](#)
- Turkish Philanthropy Funds: [TPF Türkiye Earthquake Fund 1st Anniversary Impact Report](#)
- Turkish Philanthropy Funds: [TPF Türkiye Earthquake Relief Fund. 6th Month Impact Report](#)
- Turkish Philanthropy Funds: [TPF Türkiye Earthquake Relief Fund. 3rd Month Impact Report](#)
- World Bank. [Earthquake Damage in Türkiye Estimated to Exceed \\$34 billion: World Bank Disaster Assessment Report](#). February 2023.
- United Nations. [Türkiye-Syria Earthquake Response](#).
- 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.