

# Resilient economies and a secure future for SIDS

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Infrastructure for Resilient Island States (IRIS)  
**2nd Call for Proposals:** Climate action,  
mainstreaming resilience and strengthening data  
for resilient and inclusive infrastructure





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# Key Information Summary

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The Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) is a partnership of national governments, UN agencies and programmes, multilateral development banks and financing mechanisms, the private sector, and knowledge institutions that aims to promote the resilience of new and existing infrastructure systems to climate and disaster risks in support of sustainable development. The Infrastructure Resilience Accelerator Fund (IRAF) is CDRI's Multi Partner Trust Fund (MPTF), established with the support of the United Nations, to implement the vision and strategic work-plan of the Coalition.

Infrastructure for Resilient Island States (IRIS) is a flagship programme of CDRI. IRIS aspires to equip Small Island Developing States (SIDS) with the knowledge, tools and partnerships needed to achieve disaster and climate resilient infrastructure. In line with the IRIS guiding principles of co-curation, complementarity, institutional absorption capacities and social inclusion, the 2nd Call for Proposals will aim to equip relevant government agencies in SIDS with needed technical support and knowledge products for promoting resilient infrastructure. Through the Call for Proposals, IRIS will aim to deliver on the overarching goal to foster resilient economies and a secure future for SIDS.

## What we fund

**Geographic Scope:** Open to all 57 SIDS<sup>1</sup>

**Thematic Scope:** Proposals on the theme 'Climate Action, Mainstreaming Resilience and Strengthening Data for Resilient and Inclusive Infrastructure' qualify under this call. Applicants may propose interventions that support infrastructure resilience in SIDS across policies and regulatory frameworks, project preparation, resource mobilization, capacities for project management and implementation, and strengthening data systems. Construction of infrastructure assets or procurement of equipment **will not be** supported. (Refer Section 2.3.5 for further details)

**Sectoral Scope:** Proposals to be anchored on one or more infrastructure sectors for building resilient and inclusive infrastructure. The sector focus could be on transport (airports, seaports, roads and railroads), power, telecommunications, water, health and education infrastructure. (Refer Section 2.3.3 for more details)

**Funding value and duration:** A maximum of eight million US dollars (US\$ 8,000,000) has been budgeted for the IRIS 2nd Call for Proposals through the CDRI Infrastructure Resilience Accelerator Fund (IRAF). The projects will be selected on a competitive basis. Depending on the scale of implementation and extent of the impact, a single country project can range from US\$ 150,000 to \$ 500,000 and a regional/multi-country project (at least 3 SIDS) can range up to US\$ 750,000. Duration of the proposed project implementation can be 18-24 months.

## Who can apply

Proposals endorsed by national government ministries or agencies with a mandate to undertake disaster/climate resilience and/or infrastructure planning, financing or implementation (within one or more infrastructure sectors) are to be developed and submitted by participating organizations.

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<sup>1</sup> The full list of 57 SIDS can be referred from: <https://www.un.org/ohrlls/content/list-sids>

Participating organizations are legally registered local, national, regional or international organizations, including but not limited to:

- UN organizations
- International organizations and cooperation agencies and multilateral cooperation banks
- Local and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs/ INGOs)
- Intergovernmental organizations (IGOs)
- Community-based organizations (CBOs)
- Civil society organizations (CSOs)
- Indigenous Peoples' organizations (IPOs)
- Government Universities and other academic institutions
- Not for profit research institutes and think tanks

## **Application process**

**Process:** The application will follow a single-step process wherein proposals must be submitted using the MPTF Fund Management Platform (see <https://iris.cdri.world> for the link to the platform).

**Timeline:** The Call for Proposals will be announced at the 4<sup>th</sup> International SIDS conference (27-30 May 2024) and proposals will be accepted till 31 August 2024, 23:59 IST. The project awardees will be announced at COP29 in November 2024.

# 1. Context

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## 1.1 About CDRI

The Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) is a partnership of national governments, UN agencies and programmes, multilateral development banks and financing mechanisms, the private sector, and knowledge institutions that aims to promote the resilience of new and existing infrastructure systems to climate and disaster risks in support of sustainable development. The Infrastructure Resilience Accelerator Fund (IRAF) is CDRI's Multi Partner Trust Fund, established with the support of the United Nations, to implement the vision and strategic work-plan of the Coalition.

CDRI promotes rapid development of resilient infrastructure to respond to the Sustainable Development Goals' (SDGs) imperatives of expanding universal access to basic services, enabling prosperity and decent work.

## 1.2 About IRIS

The Small Island Developing States (SIDS) comprise a heterogeneous mix of 57 countries located across the Caribbean, the Pacific, and the Atlantic and Indian Ocean regions.

Most SIDS are characterized by small population sizes and territories that are most exposed and vulnerable to both geophysical and hydro-meteorological hazards. The effects of climate change including but not limited to extreme weather events and sea-level rise are likely to affect current and future infrastructure investments. SIDS also encounter unprecedented challenges that are unique to their geographies such as small and dispersed populations and limited pool of skilled labour leading to higher per capita investment needs for infrastructure services, and high population density in some areas leading to intense pressure for land use planning. Due to their remoteness, in the events of disasters, the access time and cost of aid delivery is high.

Anchored on the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action Pathway (SAMOA Pathway 2014-2024), Infrastructure for Resilient Island States (IRIS) was launched at the World Leaders Summit at COP26. IRIS aspires to equip SIDS with the knowledge, tools and partnerships needed to achieve disaster and climate resilient infrastructure. Co-created by SIDS and CDRI, IRIS has been envisioned on the following five guiding principles:

- 1) **Co-creation and demand-driven** – Will work with SIDS to identify opportunities for partnership and technical collaboration to strengthen systems for promoting resilient infrastructure.
- 2) **Complementarity** – Will proactively build synergies with past, ongoing and planned initiatives that support disaster and climate resilient infrastructure in SIDS.
- 3) **Absorptive capacity and ownership** – Will consider the absorptive capacity of SIDS while designing specific initiatives and simultaneously seek to enhance their capacity. IRIS will strive to foster SIDS ownership and leadership in these initiatives.
- 4) **Flexibility** – Will have flexibility in choosing projects, geographical areas, countries, etc. through funding or in-kind support such as the deployment of experts, technical services and knowledge products.
- 5) **Inclusion, equity and respect for diversity** – Will extend support to all SIDS, irrespective of their CDRI membership status. IRIS will be based on principles of equity so that the most vulnerable countries have priority access to technical and financial support.

IRIS will continue to contribute to the Antigua and Barbuda Accord for SIDS (2024-2034) to deliver on closely interrelated outcomes that can contribute to building resilient, sustainable and inclusive infrastructure in SIDS:

**Outcome 1:** Improved resilience of SIDS infrastructure to climate change and disaster risks

**Outcome 2:** Strengthened knowledge and partnerships of integrating resilience in SIDS infrastructure

**Outcome 3:** Gender equality and disability inclusion promoted through resilient SIDS infrastructure

CDRI is committed to working with SIDS. Under the IRIS 1st Call for Proposals, technical support is being provided to 13 island nations through initiatives such as improving multi-hazard early warning systems, upgrading local building codes, and improving the resilience of renewable energy sources (see <https://iris.cdri.world/projects> and <https://mptf.undp.org/fund/irf00> for more information).

## 2. IRIS 2nd Call for Proposals

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### 2.1 Need and Objective

The need for data to enhance informed decision-making, locally relevant technical knowledge and fit-for-purpose processes and tools has emerged as a priority from extensive consultations on disaster resilient infrastructure with SIDS stakeholders. Recognizing that the **SIDS4 draft outcome document** is the most recent call for action from the SIDS, the 2nd Call for Proposals has been designed to support the priorities as defined in the document – namely to support initiatives related to ‘Climate Action, Mainstreaming Resilience and Strengthening Data for Resilient and Inclusive Infrastructure’. The projects to be supported through the IRIS 2nd Call will aim to equip relevant government agencies in SIDS with needed technical support and knowledge products for promoting resilient infrastructure, with the goal to foster resilient economies and a secure future for SIDS.

### 2.2 Geographic Scope

The call for proposals is open to all 57 SIDS. The proposals submitted by participating organizations should be endorsed by national government ministries or agencies with a mandate to undertake disaster/ climate resilience and/or infrastructure planning, financing or implementation (within one or more infrastructure sectors). Academia, civil society organizations and regional/international organizations may be considered as participating organizations for the proposed action. A joint proposal for multi-country/ regional actions could also be submitted. A regional/multi-country project proposal should be endorsed by government agencies from at least 3 SIDS where the interventions are proposed to be implemented.

### 2.3 Criteria for Proposals

#### 2.3.1 General

The projects proposed under the IRIS 2nd Call for Proposals should cater to the following general criteria:

- Projects under this call should help country governments in SIDS to develop and/or achieve their long-term vision on disaster and climate resilience. Government ownership is critical to drive the project interventions in line with national and regional development priorities.

- Projects may provide support to the respective governments in piloting infrastructure resilience initiatives that could be replicated or scaled across geographies. The projects should be anchored on the overall objective of knowledge sharing amongst SIDS.
- Proposals can be aligned to infrastructure resilience projects that have a potential for strengthening partnerships or increasing co-financing options.
- Proposals should demonstrate alignment and complementarity with international commitments such as Paris Agreement/Nationally Determined Contributions, Sendai Framework, SDGs and promote disaster and climate resilience of infrastructure.
- Proposals should demonstrate alignment with key international infrastructure quality principles and standards such as the G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment and/ or relevant regional principles such as the Pacific Quality Infrastructure Principles.
- Gender equality, disability and social inclusion should appropriately be mainstreamed in the proposed projects.
- Projects should ensure that infrastructure assets that are designed with support from the funds are built, managed and maintained to be resilient to a level that appropriately address the disaster and climate risks, and wherever possible, promote community resilience.
- Proposed projects can also focus on integrating resilience within an ongoing infrastructure initiative; the interventions can be at the stage of ideation, design, implementation, learning or evaluation.
- Proposed projects should focus on strengthening governance of infrastructure and contribute to building a resilient, inclusive and sustainable future.

### 2.3.2 Thematic scope

The call for proposals will support projects on the theme '**Climate Action, Mainstreaming Resilience and Strengthening Data for Resilient and Inclusive Infrastructure**'. Proposals that support climate adaptation and infrastructure resilience in SIDS qualify under this theme and the interventions may focus on the following sub-themes. Possible intervention areas listed under each of the sub-themes below are indicative and not exhaustive:

#### 1. Policies and Regulatory Frameworks

- Integrating multi-hazard and climate risks in policies, regulations, standards and planning frameworks governing resilient infrastructure lifecycle from design and implementation to operations and maintenance
- Developing and implementing methodologies/ tools/ frameworks to assess/ analyze government policies, regulatory frameworks and resource requirements to integrate resilience in infrastructure projects
- Supporting policy makers and regulators in integrating resilience within infrastructure investments including sector development plans and tariff design for recovery of resilience investments
- Adapting infrastructure resilience policies and frameworks to enhance inclusion of women, people living with disabilities, and disadvantaged and vulnerable groups

#### 2. Project Preparation

- Supporting project design and planning through integration of climate and disaster risks and social vulnerability information for resilient infrastructure
- Developing national risk and vulnerability data on infrastructure, and social, economic and environmental vulnerabilities for open public access and use



- Conducting pre-feasibility and feasibility studies for resilient infrastructure construction, retrofitting or upgradation projects
- Integrating measures to improve project bankability by addressing disaster and climate risks in infrastructure projects

### **3. Resource Mobilization**

- Supporting the expansion of funding opportunities and acceleration of investments through promotion of financial instruments, public-private collaboration, and designing incentive schemes to access finance for resilient infrastructure
- Supporting financing mechanisms such as credit enhancement, blended finance, resilience bonds etc. to leverage public and private sector capital for integrating resilience in infrastructure projects.
- Promoting pre-arranged finance using disaster risk finance mechanisms for post-disaster recovery and reconstruction to reduce financial risks

### **4. Capacities for Implementation and Management**

- Developing project management capacities for design management, procurement and quality management for resilient infrastructure projects
- Enhancing capacities of project management units for integrating resilience across the infrastructure cycle
- Developing sectoral decision support systems for enhancing resilience, targeting asset owners, utility managers and engineers across one or more infrastructure sectors
- Setting up of an asset inventory and vulnerability atlas for risk-informed decision making (for one or multiple infrastructure sectors)
- Enhancing gender equality and social inclusion mainstreaming in project implementation

### **5. Strengthening Data**

- Establishing partnerships and specific use cases for available data/ deepening of existing global datasets for generating high-resolution information for SIDS (for example, CDRI's Global Infrastructure Risk Model and Resilience Index platform [<https://giri.unepgrid.ch/>] and other open-source platforms)
- Developing and piloting data collection & management strategies for integrating early warning, weather, climate and ocean information across the infrastructure lifecycle
- Augmenting databases with disaggregated data to monitor the level of infrastructure service for women and girls, people living with disabilities and disadvantaged groups
- Enhancing capacities to strengthen national data infrastructure and systems for risk-informed planning and training to generate/use climate information for infrastructure sectors
- Designing policy and/or technology architecture for strengthening/establishing early warning systems for resilient infrastructure services with potential co-benefits for communities
- Promoting inter- and intra-SIDS cooperation around weather, climate and ocean data services for resilient infrastructure

### 2.3.3 Sectors in Focus

Project proposals that are submitted for funding should align with one or more of the following infrastructure sectors:

- 1) **Transport:** Airports, seaports, roads and railroads are lifelines for SIDS, enabling the movement of goods, services, and individuals supporting business, trade, food, energy security and tourism – all key drivers for economic growth. Airports and seaports are also main drivers for socio-economic linkages and regional and inter-island connectivity.
- 2) **Power:** Electricity supply is essential for improved quality of life and essential for supporting businesses and economic activities including tourism. During hazard events, reliable electricity supply can ensure continuation of other systems such as water supply or communications. Projects supporting resilience in energy transition/ renewable energy interventions are encouraged.
- 3) **Telecommunications:** Information and communication technologies are a core component for social well-being and economic activities as infrastructure services such as transport, health, education and tourism are heavily reliant on them. This could include proposals on emergency communications to strengthen telecom resilience.
- 4) **Water:** Protection of water infrastructure and resources is critical for the economic development and livelihoods of communities in SIDS. This would include but not limited to project proposals on coastal infrastructure, resilience in infrastructure addressing water security, impacts of saline water intrusion, wastewater management, irrigation and water resources etc.
- 5) **Health and Education:** Continuation of health and education services during and after a hazard event are essential for the wellbeing of communities. This call for proposals will also support projects aimed at strengthening the resilience of health and education infrastructure systems.

### 2.3.4 Funding Value and Duration

Depending on the scale of implementation and extent of the impact, a single country project can range from US\$ 150,000 to US\$ 500,000 and a regional/multi-country project (at least 3 SIDS) can range up to US\$ 750,000. The maximum duration for implementation should be 24 months.

### 2.3.5 Exclusions

This call for proposals will not support construction, refurbishment and operations and maintenance of the physical infrastructure assets in SIDS. The scope is limited to institutional strengthening, technical support and studies. The funds from this call for proposal cannot be used for the procurement of goods and physical assets as a primary purpose. Any goods procured must have a direct link to the project outcomes. The justification of any proposed procurement will be evaluated as part of the selection process. The following examples demonstrate project proposals that will not qualify to be funded under this call:

- Procurement of equipment for emergency operating centres
- Improvement of emergency shelters for hurricane response
- Construction of hybrid seawalls
- Community awareness campaigns
- Procurement of Early Warning System equipment or its installation
- Disaster response/relief through direct cash transfer

## 2.4 Application Process

The application will follow a single-step process. Proposals responding to the IRIS 2nd Call for Proposals must be written and submitted using the MPTF Fund Management Platform (see <https://iris.cdri.world> for the link to the platform).

## 2.5 Who can Apply?

Proposals should be endorsed by national government ministries or agencies with a mandate to undertake disaster/climate resilience and/or infrastructure planning, financing or implementation (within one or more infrastructure sectors). Proposals should be developed and submitted by participating organizations that are legally registered as local, national, regional or international organizations, including but not limited to:

- UN organizations
- International organizations and cooperation agencies and multilateral cooperation banks
- Local and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs/ INGOs)
- Intergovernmental organizations (IGOs)
- Community-based organizations (CBOs)
- Civil society organizations (CSOs)
- Indigenous Peoples' organizations (IPOs)
- Government Universities and other academic institutions
- Not for profit research institutes and think tanks

### 2.5.1 Eligibility of Participating Organizations

Participating Organizations are designated organizations that are eligible to become principal recipient/ principal grantee of the Fund for implementing projects under the IRIS Call for Proposals.

To be considered eligible for this call for proposals, organizations need to fulfil the following criteria:

- The Participating Organization should be a local organization or have presence in the country in which the activities are proposed to be implemented or have a duly registered local partner as part of the consortium applying for the funds.
- The Participating Organization should have significant experience and capacities implementing projects of similar scale and magnitude.
- A valid Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfer (HACT)<sup>2</sup> micro assessment and documented capacities for meeting standards on Prevention of Sexual Harassment and Sexual Exploitation and Abuse is required to be eligible to receive funds. If such assessment has not been undertaken in the past, the agency should confirm its readiness to undertake such assessment to be commissioned prior to award.

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<sup>2</sup> Further information on HACT micro assessment can be accessed from this link - <https://unsdg.un.org/resources/harmonized-approach-cash-transfers-framework>

## 2.6 Award and Timeline

There is a budget of up to US\$ 8,000,000 under the IRIS 2nd Call for Proposals to support all the successful proposals. The deadline for the proposal submission is **31 August 2024, 23:59 IST**. Successful proposals will be announced in November 2024 at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP29).

### IRIS 2nd Call for Proposals - Timeline

Announcement of Call at **SIDS4** .....► **27 May 2024**

**Proposal Development & Submission**  
Information webinars, focused  
country consultations



**June-August 2024**

**September-October 2024**



**Proposal Evaluation and Selection**

**Awarding of Projects at COP29**



**11-24 November 2024**

**December 2024 -  
March 2025**



**Contracting of Projects**

**Implementation of Projects**



**January 2025 - March 2027**

**January 2026 - December 2027**



**Dissemination and Learning**

## 2.7 Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning

To replicate and scale solutions to enhance infrastructure resilience in SIDS, the projects awarded under this call will have commitments on monitoring, evaluation, learning and knowledge sharing.

**Monitoring & Evaluation:** Engagements with key stakeholders and relevant agencies for quality assurance and reaffirming alignment and complementarity with key international, regional and national priorities for promoting disaster and climate resilient infrastructure will be undertaken. Projects under implementation will report quarterly and annually on the programmatic and financial progress of all activities in line with the project's results framework.

**Learning & Knowledge Sharing:** Regular peer learning and knowledge sharing sessions will be organized with key stakeholders. Collaborative efforts for engagement with regional and global pool of experts to advance the knowledge and learnings from the projects will be facilitated. Dissemination of knowledge products through various global and regional platforms and forums will be promoted.

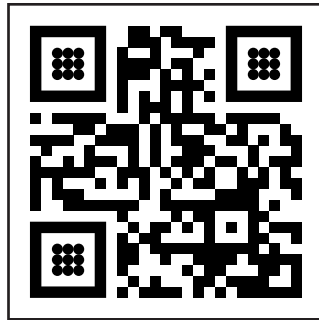
## 2.8 Selection Criteria

In line with the proposal template, the selection criteria for the proposals will focus on the following parameters:

No.	Criteria	Description	Weightage (%)	Requirements for Proposal Submission
	Endorsement from the Government	Government agencies must provide a letter of endorsement from the government authority in charge of infrastructure investment and from the concerned sector ministry (for example, Ministry of Energy, Ministry of Water Resources etc.)	Applicants not fulfilling this criterion will not be considered.	Endorsement Letter from the Government
1	Participating Organization Qualification & Capability	The Participating Organization should have proven experience in the specific theme/ sector of the proposed project and adequate implementation capability in the proposed SIDS.	20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Demonstrated Expertise &amp; Experts on Sector/Theme/ Country (Region)</li> <li>Organization Profile &amp; Portfolio</li> </ul>
2	Project Design	<p>The proposal should include a comprehensive situation analysis with credible data &amp; evidence that illustrate the rationale for the proposed project.</p> <p>Project goals, objectives &amp; key deliverables should be well-defined in line with the approach &amp; methodology.</p>	40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Situation Analysis</li> <li>Goals, Objectives, Key Deliverables</li> </ul>

No.	Criteria	Description	Weightage (%)	Requirements for Proposal Submission
		<p>Methodology should be technically sound. Gender equality, disability and social inclusion should be appropriately mainstreamed in the proposed project methodology.</p> <p>A detailed results framework on the project outcomes, outputs with measurable indicators &amp; sufficient quality control measures should be provided. The proposal will elaborate on how the project outputs and results will specifically assist the government(s) to address the identified infrastructure resilience needs.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expected Impacts</li> <li>• Approach &amp; Methodology</li> <li>• Results Framework [Outcomes, Outputs, Indicators, Means of Verification (MoV), Baseline, Targets]</li> </ul>
3	Project Implementation	<p>Key stakeholders in the project are identified with their roles and responsibilities defined.</p> <p>The budget &amp; resources allocation is sound and commensurate with the planned outputs &amp; activities. Budget is detailed across activities/ outputs.</p> <p>The workplan gives appropriate time for every activity accounting anticipated risk and delay.</p>	30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Key Stakeholders - Roles &amp; Responsibilities</li> <li>• Results-based Budget (against outputs &amp; activities)</li> <li>• Procurement Plan</li> <li>• Workplan (Gantt Chart)</li> <li>• Staffing Plan</li> <li>• Risk Management</li> </ul>
4	Alignment and Complementarity	<p>The proposed project should demonstrate alignment with international commitments, global frameworks, regional and national priorities and long-term vision for disaster and climate resilient infrastructure.</p> <p>Refer section 2.3.1 General Criteria for further details.</p>	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relevant policies/ programmes/projects demonstrating alignment and complementarity</li> </ul>





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**Australian Government**  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



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**UK Government**



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