

INFRASTRUCTURE FOR RESILIENT ISLAND STATES (IRIS) VISION 2022-2030



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IRIS VISION

The Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are highly prone to disasters due to climate change and extreme weather events such as sea level rise, coastal flooding and erosion, tsunamis and storm surges. Most of these island states also face development challenges that constrain their economic prospects such as remoteness to global markets, poor connectivity, lack of economies of scale, inadequate labour mobility, low levels of development combined with rapid population growth and limited capacity to adapt.

Alternatively, due to their geography and natural resource base, they offer unique opportunities for the growth of eco-tourism, fisheries and forestry sectors, amongst others. Leveraging these opportunities requires significant investment in infrastructure, especially in sectors such as transport, electricity, housing, tourism, water, sanitation and coastal protection. Given the need for infrastructure investment and to reap long-term benefits from these investments, it is imperative SIDS address their disaster and climate risks and adopt a resilient pathway for sustainable development.

Against this background, the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) has been working closely with its members Australia, the European Union, India, the United Kingdom and SIDS representatives in co-creating Infrastructure for Resilient Island States (IRIS). Launched at COP26 during the World Leaders Summit, IRIS is a dedicated initiative to achieve sustainable development through a systemic approach to promote resilient, sustainable and inclusive infrastructure in SIDS.

IRIS aims to provide technical support on multifaceted issues posed by infrastructure systems and promote disaster and climate resilience of infrastructure assets in SIDS. The goal of IRIS is to directly contribute to the SAMOA Pathway (SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action), and to deliver the following three closely interrelated outcomes that can contribute to building resilient, sustainable and inclusive infrastructure in SIDS:

1

Improved resilience of SIDS infrastructure to climate change and disaster risks

2

Strengthened knowledge and partnerships for integrating resilience in SIDS infrastructure

3

Gender equality and disability inclusion promoted through resilient SIDS infrastructure

To ensure IRIS is driven by the urgent infrastructure needs of SIDS across the globe, consultations have been organised from its genesis and are being continued. The consultations have been capturing the critical challenges and significant opportunities for adopting resilient pathways for infrastructure development in the Caribbean, Atlantic and Indian Ocean and Pacific island states. The IRIS vision has been shaped based on the insights from these multiple consultations with the SIDS stakeholders and representatives across the SIDS regions.

VISION STATEMENT

IRIS aspires to equip SIDS with the knowledge, tools and partnerships needed to achieve disaster and climate resilient infrastructure. Resilient infrastructure will then foster sustainable development and enhance liveability for all in SIDS.

REGIONAL CONTEXTS



The UN Office of the High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLS) lists 58 SIDS spread across the globe. Although these island states share many similar features like their small size, limited natural resources, and narrow economic bases, the nature and intensity of the challenges faced by the SIDS are largely driven by the region they are located in. All SIDS are extremely exposed to the impacts of natural hazards and climate-induced risks, yet the vulnerability of SIDS differs in the Caribbean, Pacific and Indian Ocean regions due to the specific environmental, social and economic challenges that determine the capacity of the island states to tackle these extreme events. This section aims to bring forward the regional infrastructure priorities, challenges and opportunities for building resilient, sustainable and inclusive infrastructure.

PACIFIC ISLANDS

The Pacific is the largest expanse of ocean in the world, and the Pacific island countries (PICs) are situated far from countries of any substantial size. PICs are amongst the most exposed and vulnerable to geophysical and hydro-meteorological hazards. PICs are exposed to a wide variety of natural hazards, including cyclones, droughts, earthquakes, storms, extreme winds, floods, landslides, storm surges, tsunamis and volcanic eruptions. Some of these hazards will be exacerbated by climate change. Since the Covid-19 pandemic, the disaster risks of the PICs are being reshaped by the emerging disaster-climate-health nexus. These emerging risks are increasing the vulnerability of the PICS population to cascading hazards. UN ESCAP's Risk and Resilience Portal demonstrates that the worst-case climate change scenarios will significantly impact the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly Goal 13 (all targets), Goal 14 (Target 14.2), and Goal 15 (Target 15.3), with knock on impacts on Goal 1 (Target 1.5), Goal 2 (Target 2.4), Goal 3 (Target 3.d), Goal 9 (Target 9.1), and Goal 11 (Target 11.5) in the PICs¹.

¹ <https://www.unescap.org/kp/2022/asia-pacific-disaster-report-2022-escap-subregions-pathways-adaptation-and-resilience>

The PICs are also susceptible to very high relative economic losses due to disasters. Frequent low-impact disaster events create significant financial burdens for Pacific governments and impede regional development. Less frequent, higher impact events inflict acute damage on communities, infrastructure, and economies, further exacerbating fiscal burdens and slowing the development process. The average annual losses due to disasters in the region range from 1 to 10 per cent of the island nations' GDPs. In the case of Palau, Tonga and Vanuatu, the average annual losses are estimated at more than 10 per cent of their GDPs—11.98 per cent, 18.20 per cent and 20.67 per cent respectively. Infrastructure is one of the most affected sectors by disasters.² Between 2011 and 2020, infrastructure accounted for about US\$1.45 billion or 37 per cent of the total damage and losses of the major disasters that occurred in the Pacific.³

During the design phase of IRIS, CDRI and its partners conducted multiple consultations with representatives from the PICs as well as numerous regional organisations to understand the resilient infrastructure landscape in the region. Post IRIS launch, to ensure that the strategic priorities of IRIS consider the urgent needs of the Pacific region, IRIS partnered with UNDRR and DFAT Australia to organize a regional consultation on the side-lines of the *Thematic Consultation on Resilient Infrastructure: Sendai Framework Implementation Midterm Review*. Further to garner inputs on the Pacific approach for IRIS, a session was organized at the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR 2022) along with consultations with PICs.

Through these engagements, it emerged that the region lacks a 'whole of governance' approach while tackling the issues around infrastructure resilience. The Pacific region is blessed with the presence of numerous regional institutions such as the Pacific Community (SPC), Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), Pacific Region Infrastructure Facility (PRIF), and multi-lateral development banks such as the Asian Development Bank (ADB), that are making invaluable contributions towards enhancing infrastructure resilience. But there remains an opportunity to establish additional mechanisms for sharing of knowledge and information and integration of strategies for resilient infrastructure within the region. Some of the priority thematic areas that have emerged from the consultations are nature-based solutions for coastal protection, decision support systems for risk-informed planning, capacity building, knowledge exchange & training programs, disaster risk financing, multi-hazard early warning systems and developing infrastructure standards and codes.

CARIBBEAN ISLANDS

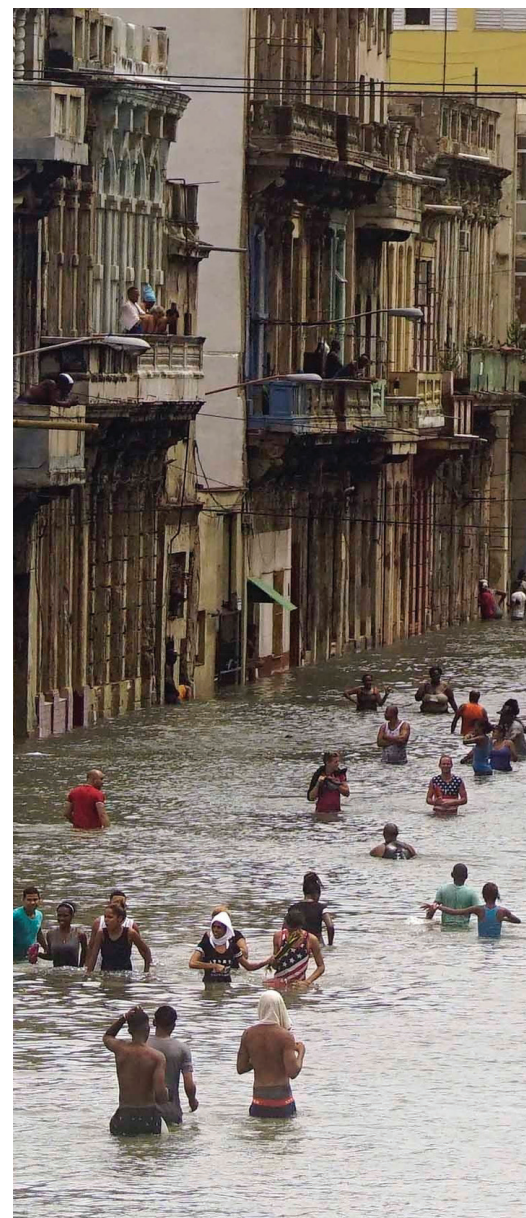
The Caribbean region is exposed to a variety of natural hazards, including earthquakes, volcanoes, storms, extreme temperatures, droughts, floods and landslides, many of which are regularly aggravated by the recurrent El Niño / ENSO phenomenon. Since 1950, 511 disasters worldwide have hit developing economies with a population of less than 1.5 million. Of these, 324 were in the SIDS in the Caribbean, killing 250,000 people and affecting more than 24 million through injury and loss of homes and livelihoods.⁴ Storms and floods are responsible for most of the disaster events in the Caribbean.

² <https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/d8files/IDD-APDR-Subreport-Pacific-SIDS.pdf>

³ Analysis of the Post Disaster Needs Assessments (PDNA) available in the Pacific

⁴ <https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2018/12/07/NA120718-Building-Resilience-to-Natural-Disasters-in-Caribbean-Requires-Greater-Preparedness>

Between 2011 and 2020, infrastructure accounted for about **US\$1.45 billion** or **37%** of the total damage and losses of the major disasters that occurred in the Pacific



The Category 5 hurricanes Irma and Maria which struck the region in September 2017 severely damaged critical infrastructure, including housing, road networks, schools, hospitals, and water, electricity and phone utilities in the entire region.⁵ The Caribbean SIDS share the vulnerabilities of other SIDS but the unique geography and socio-economic realities of the region have typically resulted in more damage than others. The average estimated disaster damage as a ratio to GDP was 4.5 times greater for small states than for larger ones, but six times higher for countries in the Caribbean.⁶ Regional economies are extremely vulnerable to these disasters. The International Monetary Fund notes that many Caribbean states have small and undiversified economic bases and high levels of indebtedness (an average of 79% of regional GDP) which limit their ability for critical investments in the aftermath of a disaster. The economic cost of these disasters for the Caribbean is substantial. In some countries, the damage well exceeds the size of the economy: Hurricane Maria is estimated to have cost Dominica 225 % of its GDP, while the hurricane damage for Grenada in 2004 was 200 % of GDP, leaving huge reconstruction needs that can take years to fulfil.⁷ Additionally, as most Caribbean countries are categorized as middle-to-high-income countries, they are largely ineligible for Official Development Assistance. Climate change is already compounding the risks and exposure of Caribbean SIDS by increasing the frequency and severity of hazards in the region. While the region's contribution to global greenhouse gas emissions is minuscule, it is disproportionately more vulnerable to climate risks.

These challenges were echoed in the stakeholder consultations in the Caribbean region. The island states in the region have limited resources to implement the envisioned resilience strategies. Many stakeholders stressed on limited capacity and resources to manage climate risks posed to tourism infrastructure assets, especially since the islands' economy is heavily dependent on the sector. The IRIS consultation during the Latin American and Caribbean Climate Week 2022 also highlighted the need for effective peer-to-peer learning mechanisms and international cooperation to ensure the availability of necessary adaptation financial instruments in the region. Many islands in the Caribbean also need support in integrating resilience into their regulatory frameworks for power, seaports and road infrastructure systems and also for social infrastructure such as schools and hospitals.

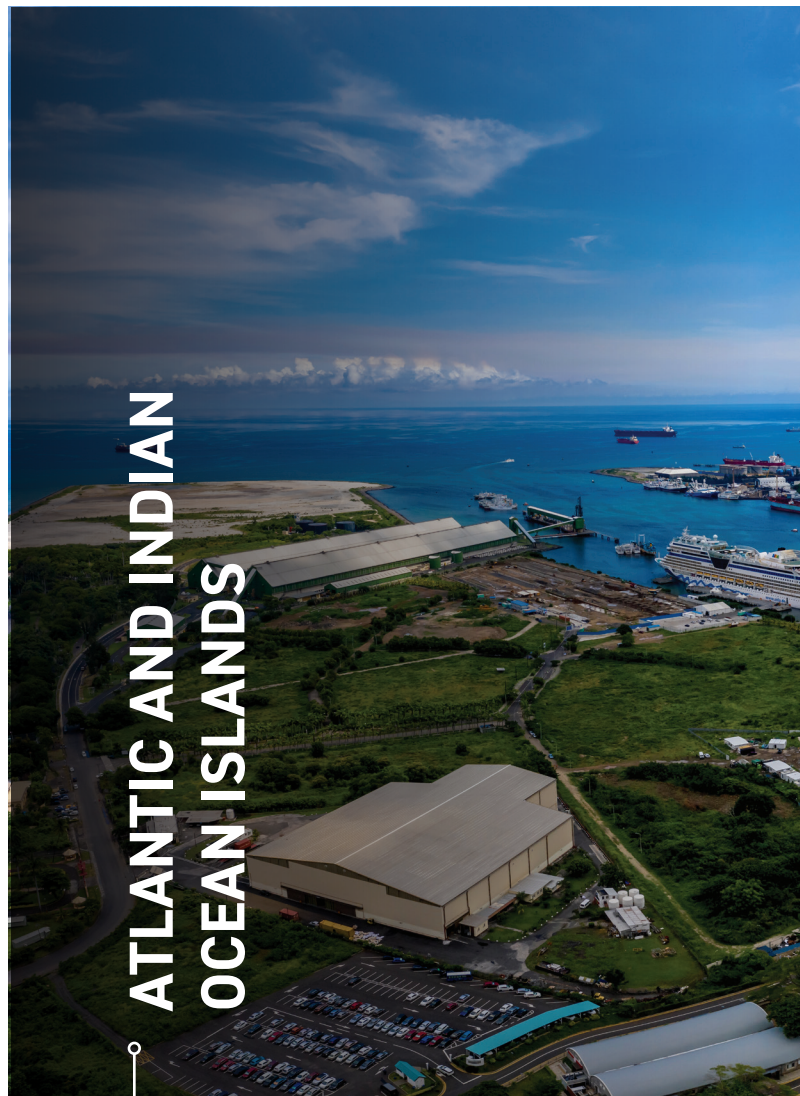
⁵ <https://www.gfdr.org/en/caribbean-rrb>

⁶ <https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2018/12/07/NA120718-Building-Resilience-to-Natural-Disasters-in-Caribbean-Requires-Greater-Preparedness>

⁷ <https://www.imf.org/external/np/pp/eng/2016/110416.pdf>

ATLANTIC AND INDIAN OCEAN ISLANDS

Island states in the Atlantic and the Indian Ocean regions are extremely vulnerable to natural hazards and impacts of climate change. The island states in these regions are particularly vulnerable to climate-induced hazard risks such as gradual or abrupt sea level rise, a warming climate with uncertain precipitation changes, potential changes in the severity and frequency of tropical cyclones in an already active area in the world, and their effects on the island's natural resources, such as freshwater, coastal areas, and abundant and diverse flora and fauna. At the same time, the islands' resources to combat its vulnerabilities are limited due to economic and data limitations, the remoteness of the islands, the dispersion of the islands, and the sheer magnitude of these issues. SIDS in the Indian Ocean and the eastern Atlantic Ocean of the west coast of Africa largely belong to least developed country (LDC) category, thus facing a larger economic burden post a disaster.





Each island state faces its unique challenge within this region. The Maldives, being one of the lowest lying countries in the world, is greatly threatened by sea level rise, coastal storm surges and associated flooding. Other SIDS in the region, namely Comoros, Seychelles, and Mauritius are facing cyclones with greater frequency and intensity. The year 2013 was a particularly severe year for damage caused by cyclones in the region. In the Atlantic Ocean region, Cape Verde is facing huge development constraints (loss of habitat and livelihoods) due to the reduction of coastlines as a result of rising sea levels. The island state also witnessed a volcano eruption in 2014 that caused significant damage to infrastructure assets and services in the country.

These challenges were further iterated in the consultations that were held with stakeholders from two of the Indian Ocean Islands- Mauritius and Maldives. The stakeholders stressed on limited capacity and technical know-how to manage disaster and climate risks posed

to infrastructure assets. The consultations highlighted the need for effective peer-to-peer learning mechanisms and training programs for capacity building of decision makers and government official practitioners. The need for support in integrating resilience into their institutional and governance frameworks for critical infrastructure systems also emerged as a requirement from these SIDS.

Learning from these regional challenges faced by the island states and SIDS stakeholders, IRIS aims to complement and build on the ongoing efforts to build resilient, inclusive and sustainable infrastructure in the SIDS across the three regions.

Based on the key learnings and insights from the SIDS stakeholders the strategic interventions have been mapped against the vision and outcomes of IRIS. These strategic interventions are intended to guide the programmatic vision of IRIS in its first phase: 2022 - 2030.





OUTCOMES

1

Improved Resilience of SIDS Infrastructure to Climate Change and Disaster Risks

Strategic Intervention 1: Risk-Informed Policy and Planning

Strategic Intervention 2: Readiness Support

Strategic Intervention 3: Access to Finance

2

Strengthened Knowledge and Partnerships for Integrating Resilience in SIDS Infrastructure

Strategic Intervention 4: Peer Learning and Knowledge Sharing

Strategic Intervention 5: Capacity Development

Strategic Intervention 6: Partnerships

3

Promoting Gender Equality and Disability Inclusion through Resilient SIDS Infrastructure

Strategic Intervention 7: Policy and Advocacy for Inclusive Infrastructure

Strategic Intervention 8: Practical Solutions for Equitable Access

Strategic Intervention 9: Knowledge and Capacity Building for Mainstreaming Inclusion in Infrastructure

Outcome 1 Improved Resilience of SIDS Infrastructure to Climate Change and Disaster Risks



Image: © UNDP

IRIS will seek to improve resilience of SIDS infrastructure to climate change and disaster risks, and to achieve this the focus will be on:

Strategic Intervention 1

Risk-Informed Policy and Planning: Support to develop risk and resilience policies and strategies, infrastructure standards, disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation plans for infrastructure development and post-disaster assessments of critical infrastructure sectors to support recovery and reconstruction

Strategic Intervention 2

Readiness Support : Identify and strengthen mechanisms, tools and approaches required to implement an integrated risk reduction and resilience strategy for infrastructure development

Strategic Intervention 3

Access to Finance: Handholding to access innovative finance mechanisms, funding and investment opportunities that support long term commitments for infrastructure resilience

Expected Results

- Strengthen institutional and regulatory structures for resilient infrastructure
- Improve risk-informed decision-making for enhancing resilience of infrastructure in SIDS

Expected Results

- Enhance the coherence between risk-informed policy, planning and implementation of resilient infrastructure projects
- Strengthen implementation mechanisms for resilient infrastructure

Expected Results

- Enhance access to technical expertise and funding for improving resilience of infrastructure assets and services
- Empower SIDS to access, mobilize and use new and existing resources from international funds
- Ensure complementarity and harmonisation with other initiatives and interventions in SIDS

INTRODUCTION TO OUTCOME 1

The focus of this outcome will be to address the bottlenecks of SIDS infrastructure planning, design, delivery, operations, maintenance and decommissioning for increasing the resilience of SIDS infrastructure to climate change and disaster risks. It will also include investing in institutional and policy frameworks. IRIS will not invest in the construction of any infrastructure assets directly, but it will ensure that assets are built, managed, and maintained to be resilient to a level that appropriately reflects the climate risks, design life and importance, and wherever possible, promote further community resilience. IRIS will promote the good practices of enhancing infrastructure resilience, for example, comprehensive risk and resilience assessments that include risks to the assets, services and people who will access them, disaster risk reduction through establishing risk management strategies etc. This outcome will be focused on providing technical support, ranging from strategic prioritization and project development and design to implementation, maintenance, and monitoring across multiple infrastructure sectors. It will also focus on handholding SIDS to access funding and investment opportunities that support long term commitments for infrastructure resilience and facilitating the use of climate and disaster risk data for informed decision-making. Given that disaster recovery provides a window of opportunities for building back better, the idea of resilient infrastructure is critical and applicable to the post-disaster context as well. In this context, IRIS can support SIDS through post-disaster assessments of critical infrastructure sectors to support recovery and reconstruction.

1

**STRATEGIC
INTERVENTION:
RISK-INFORMED
POLICY AND
PLANNING**

The priority will be to strengthen institutional and regulatory frameworks for policy, planning, execution, operation, regulation, and maintenance to increase the resilience of infrastructure against the disaster and climate-induced risks in SIDS. This will include providing technical support to develop risk and resilience policies and strategies, infrastructure standards and building codes, disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation plans for infrastructure development, undertaking risk and resilience assessments and post-disaster assessments of critical infrastructure sectors to support recovery and reconstruction. Technical support will be provided through facilitating the use of climate and disaster risk data for informed decision-making for infrastructure policy, financing, planning, and management.

2

**STRATEGIC
INTERVENTION:
READINESS
SUPPORT**

The priority will be to identify and strengthen mechanisms, tools, frameworks and approaches required to implement an integrated disaster risk reduction strategy that builds infrastructure resilience. This will include providing support for Business Continuity Planning (BCP) to stakeholders engaged in infrastructure provisioning in SIDS. Under this strategic priority the focus will be on strengthening implementing mechanisms for realising resilient infrastructure.

3

**STRATEGIC
INTERVENTION:
ACCESS TO FINANCE**

The priority will be to handhold SIDS to access innovative finance mechanisms, funding and investment opportunities that support long-term commitments for infrastructure resilience. The focus will be to empower SIDS to access, mobilize and use new and existing resources from international funds. This will not only enhance the island states' capacity to access technical expertise and funding for resilient infrastructure but also ensure complementarity with other initiatives in the region.

Outcome 2 Strengthened Knowledge and Partnerships for Integrating Resilience in SIDS Infrastructure



IRIS will seek to strengthen knowledge and partnerships for integrating resilience in SIDS infrastructure, and to achieve this the focus will be on:

Strategic Intervention 4

Peer Learning and Knowledge Sharing:

Enable engagement across SIDS facing similar challenges and facilitate a platform for the exchange of good practices, tools, technologies and solutions for resilient infrastructure

Strategic Intervention 5

Capacity Development: Enhance the capacity of SIDS through technical training programs focussed on resilient infrastructure planning tools, vulnerability and risk assessment resources, innovative risk financing, developing strategic infrastructure investment plans, organizing stakeholder consultation workshops and peer and partner networking opportunities

Strategic Intervention 6

Partnerships: Establish partnerships with multi-stakeholders in the SIDS regions to drive the agenda of resilient infrastructure

Expected Results

- Improve access to innovative and effective solutions and technologies that promote resilience of infrastructure
- Foster a spirit of openness and inclusivity among SIDS

Expected Results

- SIDS develop a strong understanding to assess climate and disaster risks and challenges and are equipped to develop achievable action plans for promoting resilient infrastructure
- Empower SIDS to access and utilize technical and funding resources for enhancing resilience of infrastructure assets and services

Expected Results

- Promote knowledge and insights for integrating resilience across infrastructure systems and services
- Enhance access to technical and financial resources for resilient infrastructure

INTRODUCTION TO OUTCOME 2

This outcome will focus on supporting SIDS in deepening knowledge and broadening partnerships, both of which lay the foundations for the long-term sustainability of infrastructure assets and services. This outcome will focus on providing a better understanding of the effectiveness of institutions and financing actions, enabling them to educate the future generation of resilient infrastructure workforce in SIDS. The focus will be on implementing peer-to-peer exchanges and other learning opportunities across the SIDS regions and with the rest of the world outside of the SIDS regions. It will promote organisational collaborations such as academic partnerships across the SIDS regions, and encourage knowledge sharing and brokering, research innovation, and capacity development and capacity enhancement including sufficient engineering knowledge and skills for efficient design, preparation, construction, operation, and maintenance of infrastructure assets. All of these will provide a conceptual base for change and local capacity development—including mechanisms of knowledge transfer, promotion of innovative thinking, and project management.

4

STRATEGIC INTERVENTION: PEER LEARNING AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

The priority is to enable engagement across SIDS facing similar challenges and facilitate a platform for exchange of good practices, technologies and solutions for resilient infrastructure. The focus will be to enhance knowledge and information sharing on sustainable and resilient infrastructure planning, policies and practices and encourage multi-stakeholders' dialogues. This will be done through facilitating exposure visits for peer learning, organizing south-south dialogues, knowledge sharing and dissemination events, learning sessions and workshops at international knowledge platforms and conferences such as International Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (ICDRI)⁸, UN Climate Change Conferences, Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GPDRR) and similar initiatives. The focus will also be to develop an interactive online knowledge portal on resilient infrastructure for SIDS.

5

STRATEGIC INTERVENTION: CAPACITY BUILDING

Disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation actions such as developing strategic infrastructure investment plans and reducing infrastructure vulnerabilities are increasingly required as they represent necessary preparedness actions towards disaster and climate risks. The priority will be to support developing the capacity of SIDS through technical training programs for decision makers and government officials, practitioners focussed on infrastructure planning tools, vulnerability and risk assessment resources, disaster risk financing, developing strategic infrastructure investment plans, organizing stakeholder consultation workshops and peer and partner networking opportunities. The objective is to ensure that the target audience is trained to develop climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction strategies, identify vulnerabilities, propose resilience measures to prevent risks to infrastructure and access technical and financial resources for the elaboration of plans, programs or projects for the implementation of adaptation actions in SIDS.

6

STRATEGIC INTERVENTION: PARTNERSHIPS

The priority is to focus on establishing dedicated partnerships with multiple stakeholders such as government agencies, research/academic institutions, financial institutions and international, private and civil society organizations working with SIDS, to drive the agenda of resilient infrastructure through technical assistance, capacity building and knowledge sharing. This will include academic partnerships with SIDS academic/research institutions to promote research and innovation on disaster resilient infrastructure (DRI) and develop DRI related education and curriculum. This will be part of CDRI's larger initiative of establishing a global academic network for driving actionable research on DRI and leveraging the CDRI Fellowship program. The priority will also be to forge partnerships with civil society organizations and local stakeholders to document local adaptation strategies related to infrastructure, with a view to preserve and promote local solutions, including traditional knowledge and know-how for global learning. The focus will also be to forge partnerships with financial institutions, international and private sector organizations to ensure that SIDS have improved access to technical and financial resources for resilient infrastructure.

⁸ The International Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (ICDRI) is the annual conference of the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI). It brings together member countries, organizations and institutions to strengthen the global discourse on disaster and climate resilient infrastructure.

Outcome 3 Promoting Gender Equality and Disability Inclusion through Resilient SIDS Infrastructure



Image: © UN Women

IRIS will seek to promote gender equality and disability inclusion through resilient infrastructure in SIDS, and to achieve this the focus will be on:

Strategic Intervention 7

Policy and Advocacy for Inclusive Infrastructure:

Promote the uptake of people-centred and equitable approaches to provide opportunities for vulnerable and disadvantaged groups to be part of the resilient infrastructure planning and policy process

Strategic Intervention 8

Practical Solutions for Equitable Access:

Support innovation, piloting, replication and documentation of scalable good practices around inclusive infrastructure in the context of SIDS

Strategic Intervention 9

Knowledge and Capacity Building for

Mainstreaming Inclusion in Infrastructure:

Facilitate knowledge exchange and capacity development on global policies, practices and technical expertise that promote resilient and inclusive infrastructure development in SIDS

Expected Results

- Enable an environment for infrastructure development where social inclusion and resilience action reinforce each other

Expected Results

- Refined solutions in the context of SIDS for inclusive and resilient infrastructure services

Expected Results

- Enhance access to knowledge products and technical expertise
- Improve institutional capacities to reinforce social inclusion and resilience in infrastructure development

INTRODUCTION TO OUTCOME 3

The focus of this outcome will be to ensure that SIDS infrastructure provides accessible, affordable and equitable services with a view to promote gender equality and disability inclusion along with integrating resilience aspects. As the gaps in infrastructure access and services affect sections of the society differentially, it is pertinent to focus on the needs of the socially marginalized sections. Therefore, it is integral while setting the resilience agenda for infrastructure development, the infrastructure design and planning should be gender-responsive and ensure equal access to jobs and services. To do this, it will require a good understanding of the gender dimensions of infrastructure demand and access to gender-disaggregated data. Additionally, it becomes equally essential to ensure the voices of people with disabilities are heard and reflected when integrating resilience measures for infrastructure systems and services. Especially, since they are disproportionately affected by climate change and disasters with implications on their health, income and social well-being. However, their specific needs are often overlooked in infrastructure development planning, design and implementation. Therefore, the key focus of this outcome will be to foster an enabling environment for mainstreaming social inclusion and human-centred components within infrastructure projects, where social inclusion and resilience action reinforce each other.



STRATEGIC INTERVENTION: POLICY AND ADVOCACY FOR INCLUSIVE INFRASTRUCTURE

The priority will be to promote the uptake of people-centred and equitable approaches to provide opportunities for vulnerable and disadvantaged groups to be part of the resilient infrastructure planning and policy process. The focus will be to ensure equal participation of all genders, youth, senior citizens, people with disabilities and other vulnerable and disadvantaged groups. This will involve the establishment of dedicated partnerships with all genders, youth and disability organisations in the SIDS regions to drive the agenda of sustainable, resilient and inclusive infrastructure systems and services.



STRATEGIC INTERVENTION: PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS FOR EQUITABLE ACCESS

IRIS will prioritize investing in initiatives that support innovation, piloting and replication of scalable good practices around inclusive infrastructure in context of SIDS. The focus will be to promote integration of Gender Equity, Disability and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) in resilient infrastructure projects in SIDS.



STRATEGIC INTERVENTION: KNOWLEDGE AND CAPACITY BUILDING FOR MAINSTREAMING INCLUSION IN INFRASTRUCTURE IN SIDS

The priority is to facilitate knowledge exchange and capacity development on global policies, practices and technical expertise that promote resilient and inclusive infrastructure development in SIDS. This will include documentation of good practices on resilient and inclusive infrastructure for learning and dissemination and enhancing the capacity of decision makers, government officials, practitioners, champions and change makers, civil society organisations to integrate GEDSI when building resilient infrastructure. This will be done through organizing training programs and development of guidelines or manuals to facilitate mainstreaming GEDSI for infrastructure development. The priority will also be to generate awareness on integrating equitable and human-centred dimensions as an integral aspect of building resilient infrastructure, through multi-stakeholder dialogues and peer learning events.



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