United Nations
Small Island
Developing States
Partnerships Awards

CDRI
Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure
IRAF | IRIS

Infrastructure for Resilient Island States

Partnering with SIDS on Resilient Infrastructure

Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are a diverse group of 57 countries and territories spread across the Caribbean, Pacific, and Indian Ocean regions. Due to their size and remote locations, these are most vulnerable to climate change and extreme weather events.

The total average annual loss (AAL) faced by SIDS is $5.27 billion, with cyclones the cause of $ 3.27 billion or 62 percent of AAL and the telecommunications sector bearing the greatest losses, with AALs of $589 million.

With annual losses of up to 226 percent of GDP from extreme weather, resilient infrastructure is essential, not optional, for SIDS survival.

Investment in disaster resilient infrastructure and stronger institutional capacity can help SIDS maintain essential services, respond effectively to disasters and climate risks, and progress toward long-term development objectives.



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CDRI's Partnership with SIDS

In 2021, Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) launched the Infrastructure for Resilient Island States (IRIS) programme to support SIDS to achieve sustainable development through resilient, inclusive, and sustainable infrastructure.

IRIS, CDRI's flagship programme, directly contributes to the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States: A Renewed Declaration for Resilient Prosperity, adopted at the 2024 International Conference of SIDS.

IRIS includes a dedicated funding and technical assistance facility, aiming to equip SIDS with the knowledge, tools, and partnerships necessary to strengthen infrastructure resilience, foster sustainable growth, and improve quality of life.

In recognition of its partnership and advocacy efforts, CDRI received the UN SIDS Partnerships Award in 2024.

Expected Outcomes



Project Portfolio

CDRI is supporting 24 projects across 25 SIDS promoting resilient infrastructure through technical, financial, and policy assistance.

The projects are funded through CDRI's Infrastructure Resilience Accelerator Fund, a multi-partner trust fund established with support from the Governments of India, the United Kingdom, and Australia, and the European Union.

These interventions support infrastructure resilience in SIDS across policies and regulatory frameworks, strengthening national capacities and data systems, and span critical and social infrastructure sectors, including:

- **Energy**
- **Telecommunications**
- **Housing**
- **Transport**
- **Water and Sanitation**
- **Health**
- **Education**
- **Coastal Infrastructure**

CDRI is also building capacity and advancing knowledge through specialized trainings and workshops, complemented by initiatives such as the Fiscal Risk Assessment Study of critical infrastructure sectors.



Broader Support to SIDS

ICDRI 2025, held in parallel to the third UN Oceans Conference, focused specifically on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure in SIDS.

At ICDRI, CDRI launched a Call to Action (CTA) to accelerate resilient infrastructure development across SIDS, including by creating a SIDS Global Data Hub, achieving 100% early-warning coverage by 2030, developing SIDS-specific design codes, and linking finance to resilience standards.



We extend our gratitude to the Governments of India, Australia, and the United Kingdom, and to the European Union, for their financial support for IRIS through CDRI's Infrastructure Resilience Accelerator Fund.

Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Government of India

UK Government