

United Nations
Small Island
Developing States
Partnerships Awards

CDRI
Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure
IRAF
Infrastructure Resilience Accelerator Fund
IRIS

Strengthening Capacities, Security and Resilience of Critical Infrastructure in Dominican Republic, Cuba and Haiti

Location:
Dominican Republic, Cuba and Haiti

Period:
2024-2026



About IRIS

Infrastructure for Resilient Island States (IRIS) is a flagship initiative of the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) which aims to equip Small Island Developing States (SIDS) with knowledge, tools, and partnerships to build climate- and disaster-resilient infrastructure.

SIDS face severe climate risks in addition to challenges posed by geographic remoteness, poor connectivity, and limited economies of scale. Strengthening infrastructure resilience is key to sustainable development and safeguarding livelihoods.

Through IRIS, CDRI advocates for resilient infrastructure, deploys experts, shares best practices, and funds technical support to enhance infrastructure resilience in SIDS.

Context and Background

- The Dominican Republic, Haiti, and Cuba face heightened vulnerability to climate-induced and geological hazards, including hurricanes, droughts, earthquakes, and tsunamis. Events like Hurricane Fiona (2022) and Haiti's 2010 earthquake exemplify the region's exposure and fragility of critical infrastructure, leading to severe losses and disruption of essential services.
- Climate change is amplifying the frequency and intensity of hazards in the Caribbean, as highlighted in IPCC Assessment Report 6. These trends pose growing risks to housing, healthcare, education, and essential lifelines such as water, energy, and transport systems.
- Regional droughts are becoming longer and more intense, driving freshwater scarcity and groundwater salinization—further weakening infrastructure resilience and water security.
- This project builds on efforts like PROGERI in the Dominican Republic and aims to enhance resilience in education and water supply infrastructure by strengthening technical capacities, applying assessment methodologies, and improving the functionality of critical systems.

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Dominican Republic, Haiti, and Cuba have experienced the impact of hurricanes and tropical storms, leading to significant loss of human lives and severe damage to housing, healthcare, and education facilities.

Objective and Outputs

- Strengthen national capacities in the Dominican Republic, Cuba, and Haiti to enhance disaster resilience of critical infrastructure in education and water supply sectors.
- Facilitate the appropriation of infrastructure assessment methodologies in the education and water supply sectors.
- Strengthen technical capacities and methodological application.
- Improve regional early warning coordination mechanisms for climate events
- Promote regional knowledge exchange by transferring tools, practices, and technical expertise on infrastructure assessment and disaster risk reduction.

Impact

- The project will directly benefit 20,010 persons corresponding to: 135 persons at the institutional level) from the Risk Management Systems of the countries, 375 persons of institutions of the sectors of education and water supply, 19,500 users of the evaluated infrastructures and with functional improvements; and indirectly 117,000 persons corresponding to: 27,000 users of the water supply infrastructure evaluated, 30,000 people who will benefit from the improvement of the early warning mechanisms and 60,000 people who will receive information through the dissemination actions.
- The project will scale up the use of digital tools to assess infrastructure resilience, promote the appropriation of assessment methodologies, and institutionalize data-driven approaches to risk-informed planning and intervention.
- Regional exchange events and resilience awareness campaigns will strengthen South-South cooperation and improve public understanding of climate threats, reaching over 60,000 people.
- Coordination mechanisms for early warning linked to the National Risk Management Systems and Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) will be strengthened, benefiting 30,000 people and supporting proactive disaster preparedness.

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17 PARTNERSHIPS FORTHE GOALS

Nodal Government Agency

Civil Defense/National Emergency Commission - Dominican Republic

National Civil Defense - Cuba

Civil Protection General Directorate - Haiti

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