Infrastructure Resilience Accelerator Fund

2024

Annual Report

CDRI's Multi-Partner Trust Fund

This is the report on the activities and results undertaken under CDRI's Infrastructure Resilience Accelerator Fund (IRAF) from 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024.

4th & 5th Floor, Bharatiya Kala Kendra, 1, Copernicus Marg,
New Delhi, 110001, India

www.cdri.world

Acknowledgements

The Fund extends its gratitude to the Governments of Australia, the European Union, India and the United Kingdom for their financial support. The Fund would also like to acknowledge the technical support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Governments of France and the United States of America.

Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

सत्यमेव जयते
Goverment Of India

UK Government

Table of Contents

Foreword

Amit Prothi
CDRI Director General

Ronald Jackson
UN Co-Chair of the Trust Fund Management Committee

The second year of implementation of the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure's (CDRI's) Infrastructure Resilience Accelerator Fund (IRAF) saw significant progress against the four priorities set by the Trust Fund Management Committee for 2024. These are: increasing fund disbursement to awarded projects; launching new calls for proposals; completing the set of Fund policies, guidance and tools; and further strengthening the capacity of the Fund Management Unit (FMU) to improve operational and technical efficiency.

In 2024, the size of the Fund portfolio doubled with the approval of 12 new projects, which took us to a total of 25 Small Island Developing States (SIDS) countries supported. During this period, we also had five new organizations which accessed the Fund. Two new Calls for Proposals were launched, resulting in a significant increase in interest and participation from countries. The overwhelming response to the Calls for Proposals is a demonstration of the uniqueness of the Fund, which is driven by the needs of the most vulnerable countries and focuses on essential investment in data, systems and competencies, required to advance the Resilient Infrastructure Agenda.

Throughout the year, special emphasis was placed on strengthening the quality of programming and identifying ways to improve operational efficiency. This resulted in the realignment of the results frameworks of 15 projects and enhanced mainstreaming of Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion (GEDSI). A Fast-Track Delivery Action Plan identified measures to streamline project contracting and implementation processes. The Fund Communications Strategy and the Fund Risk Management Strategy were approved, and the Fund Information Management System established.

While it is still too early to report a measurable impact on critical infrastructure systems in the first year of implementation of the projects, notable progress has been made in risk data creation and analysis, regulatory frameworks and tools, or institution building and enhanced coordination, in Guyana, Haiti, Dominica and the Dominican Republic.

Much was achieved in 2024, and more is still to be done. The systems and capacities in place for monitoring and evaluation, quality assurance, GEDSI mainstreaming, and risk management need to be further institutionalized.

Looking ahead, the Coalition will, through the Fund, continue to expand its portfolio of projects to cater for more country requests, as well as new programmatic interventions to support knowledge, innovation and capacity building. The year 2025 will also prioritize the transition capacity building plan for the handover of the Fund to the CDRI Secretariat, and resource mobilization to achieve the initial target of US$50 million.

The IRAF has huge potential as an effective enabler to help deliver sustainable investments in infrastructure systems. The capitalization of IRAF has reached US$36 million in commitments since its launch two years ago. As we marshal our efforts to develop a resource mobilization strategy in an increasingly challenging resource environment, we count on all CDRI partners to advocate and champion the Fund.

We thank the Trust Fund Management Committee and our financing partners for their continued dedication to pursuing the aspirations of the Coalition.

2024

US$21.76 million in additional finance mobilized

7
new Participating Organizations

12
new projects approved

100%
of funds allocated to vulnerable countries (LDCs, SIDS, landlocked)

List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

CCCCC	Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre
CDRI	Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure
CHOGM	Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting
CoP	Community of Practice
COP	Conference of the Parties
DFAT	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
DRI	Disaster Resilient Infrastructure
EC	Executive Committee
EOI	Expression of Interest
EU	European Union
EWS	Early Warning System
FMU	Fund Management Unit
GESI	Gender Equality and Social Inclusion
GEDSI	Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion
GGGI	Global Green Growth Institute
HACT	Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfer
IMS	Information Management System
INGO	International Non-governmental Organization
IPR	Intellectual Property Rights
IRAF	Infrastructure Resilience Accelerator Fund
IRIS	Infrastructure for Resilient Island States
LMIC	Low- and Middle-Income Country
MDB	Multilateral Development Bank
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding

MPTF	(United Nations) Multi-Partner Trust Fund
NbS	Nature-based Solutions
NDIA	National Drainage and Irrigation Authority
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
NUNO	Non-UN Organization
PRIF	Pacific Regional Infrastructure Facility
PSEAH	Prevention of Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SIDS4	4th International Conference for Small Island Developing States
SPC	The Pacific Community
TEC	Technical Evaluation Committee
TFMC	Trust Fund Management Committee
TWG	Technical Working Group
UIRP	Urban Infrastructure Resilience Programme
ULB	Urban Local Body
UN-MPTFO	United Nations Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDRR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
UTWG	Urban Technical Working Group
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

2024 At a Glance

JAN

FMU functions and responsibilities streamlined

Infrastructure for Resilient Island States (IRIS) First Cohort projects orientation completed

FEB

Funding window guidance and templates developed

Haiti & Dominica inception workshops held

MAR

Third TFMC meeting approved the Urban Funding window & communication strategy

IRIS Second Call for Proposals criteria developed

APR

Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfer (HACT) & Prevention of Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment (PSEAH) briefings to CDRI

Second Call for Proposals finalized

MAY

Financing agreement with Government of Australia signed

IRIS Second Call launched at SIDS4 Conference

JUN

Administrative agreement with Government of India signed

IRIS Second Call Guidance Note & Help Guide finalized

JUL

Fast Track Delivery Plan finalized

TWG on Urban Funding window established

AUG

Fund Risk Management Dashboard developed

IRIS First Cohort Projects alignment with IRIS logframe

SEP

Fourth TFMC Meeting approved Fund Risk Management Strategy

Urban Funding Window First Call for Proposals launched

OCT

Fund Communications Specialist recruited

Urban Funding Window First Call Guidance developed and CDRI Projects Portal established

NOV

First quarterly TFMC bulletin

Fifth TFMC Meeting approved IRIS Second Cohort projects worth US$5.8 million

DEC

Information Management System (IMS) shared with TFMC

Urban First Call project proposal evaluation methodology developed

1

Fund Purpose, Objectives and Targets for 2024

CDRI's Infrastructure Resilience Accelerator Fund (IRAF) was established, with the support of the United Nations, to mobilize and channel resources for CDRI's work plans through an inclusive and transparent decision-making structure, and to promote coordination, alignment and coherence among CDRI member countries and organizations around common programmatic priorities.

The Trust Fund Management Committee (TFMC) has set four core priorities and objectives for 2024: firstly, to grow the Fund portfolio and increase fund disbursement and delivery rate by fast-tracking the contracting of approved projects and launching new calls for proposals; secondly, to secure additional financial commitments and develop the Fund resource mobilization strategy; thirdly, to establish systems for monitoring, quality assurance, risk management, information management and communications to strengthen the Fund operational efficiency; and finally, to implement a sequenced capacity-building plan to build CDRI fund management capacities and prepare for CDRI accreditation to receive funds from IRAF.

In support of these priorities, the TFMC approved an annual budget allocation of US$6,507,443 to support:

1. **Disbursement of funds to awarded Infrastructure for Resilient Island States (IRIS) projects** with a view to provide technical assistance services in at least five SIDS countries; have two SIDS knowledge products or networking events; organize monitoring visits, Steering Committee and Technical Review meetings; and promote knowledge sharing and Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI).

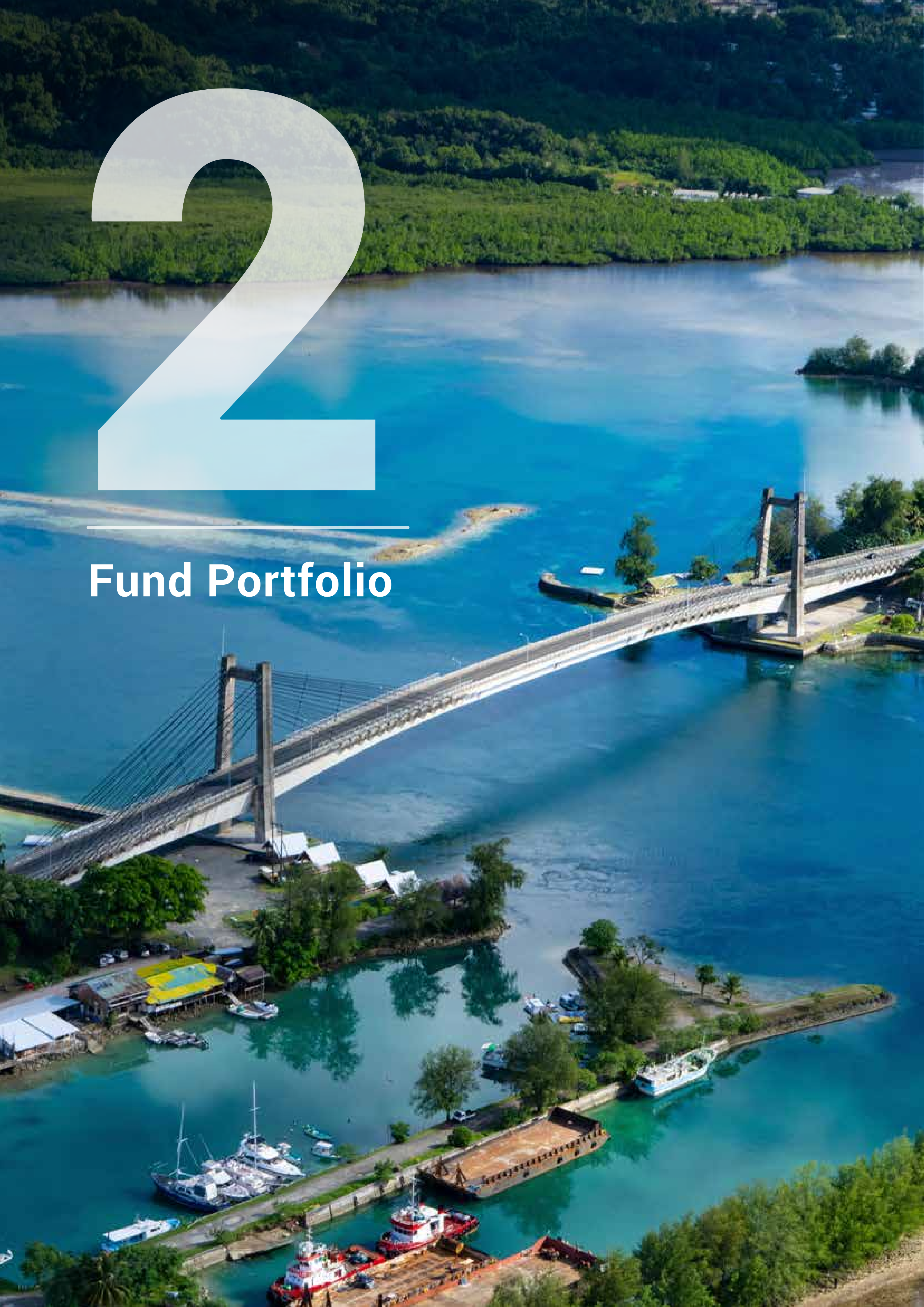
2. **The launch of a new funding window on 'Urban Infrastructure Resilience'** and its First Call for Proposals, and disbursement of funds to awarded projects in five cities.

3. **Due diligence process for Non-UN Organizations (NUNOs)** under consideration under the calls for proposals, involving Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT) and Prevention of Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Sexual Harassment (PSEAH]) assessments.

4. **Development of Fund policies** such as the Risk Management strategy, the Resource Mobilization strategy with the aim of the mobilization of at least US$10 million, and implementation of the Communications strategy.

5. **Mobilization of human resources** required to perform the Fund Management Unit (FMU) functions (both the Administrative Unit and the Technical Unit), including recruitment of new positions of Communications Specialist, Resource Mobilization Specialist, Risk Management & Operations Specialist, and Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist to support the production of 14 Fund policy tools and templates to enhance fund operational efficiency.

6. **Capacity building of CDRI Secretariat** in Fund management programmatic and operational aspects with one training and two study tours for CDRI capacity building.



2

Fund Portfolio

In 2024, the size of the Fund portfolio doubled with the approval of 12 new projects under the IRIS programme, a flagship programme of CDRI that seeks to equip SIDS with the knowledge, tools and partnerships needed to achieve disaster- and climate-resilient infrastructure. The funds transferred to projects increased significantly between the first quarter (US$199,923) and the last quarter (US$2,043,058). The United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) signed the Fund Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and five new Non-UN Organizations (NUNOs) were accredited to join the Fund as new participating organizations.

Two new calls for proposals were launched, one under the funding window for SIDS — the IRIS programme — and another under the newly established funding window for urban infrastructure resilience — the Urban Infrastructure Resilience Programme (UIRP).

2.1 IRIS programme results

IRIS First Cohort

Following the announcement of the 11 awarded projects in October 2023, the contracting of the First Cohort of IRIS projects took place over the year 2024. This was marked by significant delays in the start-up of three projects. This was primarily due to transitions in the government, the extended duration of the accreditation process, legal clearance for two implementing organizations, and human capacity constraints leading to inefficiencies in the FMU. Despite these challenges, notable progress and results were achieved under the IRIS programme with the steady advancement of key deliverables, as listed below.

STRATEGIC INTERVENTION 1: Risk-informed Policy and Planning

Risk Data Creation and Analysis:

- In **Dominica**, a comprehensive survey of the housing stock created a statistically viable dataset for assessing the exposure and vulnerability of housing infrastructure to disaster risk. This analysis and dataset will inform the design of a national resilient housing improvement programme.
- In **the Dominican Republic**, a national coordinating mechanism brought together existing information systems – Geographic Institute, Statistics Office, Office for Seismic Assessment and Vulnerability, amongst others – to build a national risk and vulnerability atlas. A georeferenced historical impact registry was established to record the physical, social and environmental

impacts of disasters, notably on public works, water and sewage infrastructure. Concurrently, a general risk assessment methodology was developed to serve as a basis for a risk assessment to inform a review of early warning services for managers of essential infrastructure before and during emergencies.

Policy, Strategic Plans, Regulatory Framework:

- In **Haiti**, the revision of the National Building Code focuses on retrofitting requirements for the latest hurricane and seismic specifications. It also considers local construction practices and provides simplified directives for the design and construction of affordable small residential buildings.
- In **Guyana**, the preparation of the National Drainage and Irrigation Strategy is informed by research on the resilience of drainage and irrigation systems, and the potential of integrating nature-based solutions (NbS) and GESI considerations in the planning of these systems for future.

STRATEGIC INTERVENTION 2: Implementation Readiness Support

Capacity Development & Other Tools:

- In **Dominica**, three retrofitting guidance manuals are being drafted for the housing sector: i) a technical manual for construction professionals, ii) an inspection manual for quality control agents, and iii) an awareness manual for homeowners.
- In **Guyana**, 50 stakeholders from 15 institutions engaged in drainage and irrigation were introduced to the potential applications of NbS in disaster-resilient drainage and irrigation, and the benefits of adopting a socially inclusive approach to coastal resilience building.
- In **the Dominican Republic**, a comprehensive training programme on risk analysis, early warning technology, gender-sensitive disaster risk reduction, and climate change adaptation was rolled out for 82 government stakeholders. Knowledge exchange webinars with Mexico benefitted 93 technical experts and covered technical and methodological details and governance requirements for a national atlas.

Enhanced Mechanisms and Systems:

- In **Haiti**, the National Steering Committee brought together key public and private stakeholders and academia from the housing sector. This Committee was institutionalized with a defined role in the mechanism for future revisions of the national building code every five years.

- In **the Dominican Republic**, an MoU between the National Council for Climate Change and Clean Development, the Ministry of Economy, Planning & Development and the Emergency Operation Centre established a national mechanism for inter-institutional collaboration on early warning system (EWS) protocols.

STRATEGIC INTERVENTION 3: Access to Finance

- In **the Dominican Republic**, a catalogue of finance options offers recommendations to include multi-hazard EWS services in public budgets. It also recommends exploring innovative multi-year funding mechanisms such as international programmatic funding, including through parametric insurance and thematic bonds.
- In **Guyana**, the Coastal Adaptation and Resilience project valued at US$46.6 million implemented by World Bank with the support of the Guyana REDD+ Investment Fund, was identified as a financing opportunity for the pipeline of projects that would emerge from the development of the National Drainage and Irrigation Strategy to further integrate flood risk management and drainage operations.

IRIS Knowledge and Partnerships

SIDS4 Conference

CDRI, in partnership with Antigua and Barbuda, convened a side event to launch the IRIS Second Call for Proposals at the 4th International Conference for Small Island Developing States (SIDS4) with high-level representation from 15 SIDS. Additionally, CDRI and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) co-hosted a SIDS event on the use of data for resilient infrastructure development with the participation of the Minister of Public Works of Guyana. The Fund also supported the Government of Antigua and Barbuda to enable the participation of Heads of Government, including CDRI member SIDS (Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Fiji, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Maldives, Mauritius, Nauru, Samoa, and Tonga) and non-member SIDS (Seychelles, Bahamas, Timor-Leste, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines).

SIDS Community of Practice

The IRIS Steering Committee recommended to constituting a “Working Group for Knowledge Management and Capacity Strengthening for SIDS” to provide advisory support on designing a Community of Practice (CoP), peer learning visits and capacity strengthening programmes. The CDRI Knowledge Management team, with support from the IRIS team, led the establishment of a working group for knowledge management and capacity strengthening. A CoP for SIDS was announced in mid-July 2024 and members are being onboarded.

SIDS Partnership Award

The IRIS won the UN SIDS Partnerships Awards 2024 under the environment category. The Award recognizes and rewards the efforts of the best and most noteworthy, genuine and durable partnership initiatives implementing sustainable development priorities of SIDS.

Member States briefings

A briefing on the IRIS Initiative was organized at the Permanent Mission of India to the UN in Geneva in March 2024 with the participation of 19 Permanent Missions; and a reception was co-hosted by the Permanent Mission of India and the Permanent Mission of Antigua and Barbuda in New York with the participation of more than 20 Permanent Missions in July 2024.

CHOGM 2024 and COP29

Consultations with stakeholders on the sidelines of Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) 2024 and Conference of the Parties (COP29) identified the need for a shift in the climate finance landscape, including the criticality of unlocking adaptation finance, to better align with and respond to SIDS' needs and unique vulnerabilities. Programmes that deliver tangible support, including technical assistance (for project preparation, implementation support, etc.) as well as access to quality finance, are essential for SIDS to follow through on their national adaptation and sustainable development priorities.

Photo 1: IRIS at the UN SIDS Partnerships Award 2024 during the Global Multi-Stakeholder Small Island Developing States Partnership Dialogue 2024 in New York, USA, on 10 July 2024

IRIS Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion

In **Guyana**, a technical study examined the potential for GESI integrations in resilient drainage and irrigation planning based on a review of policies and good practices. This brought about the national consultation on the national drainage and irrigation strategy to consider the importance of addressing structural inequalities and the need to prioritize equitable participation and develop strategies that are inclusive of diverse gender and social contexts and identities.

In **Dominica**, a deliberate emphasis was placed on ensuring that over half (53 percent) of the housing survey respondents were female so as to gain the perspectives of women, who play a critical role in household decision-making, particularly regarding housing needs, preferences, and priorities. Furthermore, 10.3 percent of the housing survey respondents were from the indigenous Kalinago, a minority group that are particularly vulnerable to extreme weather and climate change due to their lower than national average socioeconomic status and their geographic location on the eastern side of the island.

In **Haiti,** the revision of the building code includes new provisions for vernacular houses that are home to the most vulnerable populations. Inclusive standards ensuring accessibility for all people are also included in the prescriptive directives, including for small buildings, as well as water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) specifications – bathroom and water supply standards – for all buildings. Finally, the code includes provisions for mixed-use building, recognizing home-based businesses which are particularly important for Haitian women.

In **the Dominican Republic**, the diagnosis on EWS included a GEDSI section, and a list of gender-responsive indicators are being integrated into the risk and vulnerability assessment methodology. Furthermore, all capacity-building sessions include a GEDSI session. Finally, two government stakeholders were identified to act as champions for GEDSI.

Table 1: Progress Update on the IRIS Projects Under the First Cohort

No.	Project	Status	Progress Update
1	**Dominica** **Build Change** Data and Systems for Resilient Housing Programmes	*On track*	Project start date 12.01.2024 ***Determining a statistically viable baseline describing the condition of existing housing*** • Analysis of Dominica's housing stock data from the database of the Ministry of Housing. • Survey design for assessing the exposure and vulnerability of housing stock, testing of the digital survey tool (mobile app) and sensitization campaign of homeowners. • 527 households surveyed, exceeding the target of 400 houses. ***Guidance for upgrading housing to increase resilience to disaster risk*** • Content definition of three retrofitting manuals (Awareness, Technical, Supervision & Inspection) informed by consultation with public and private housing sector stakeholders.
2	**Haiti** **Build Change** Revision of the Haitian National Building Code	*Slight delay* due to the political situation.	Project start date 12.01.2024 ***National building code revised to include new provisions for seismic, cyclonic and flood risks*** • Gap identification in the national building code informed by sector-wide engagement of public and private housing stakeholders and 42 organizations. • 60% of the code technical revision developed, peer-reviewed and validated with provisions for gender equity and inclusion. • National Steering Committee institutionalized to guide the review and updating of the national code every five years.

3	**Guyana** **Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI)** Towards Developing Strategic Sustainable Integrated National Drainage and Irrigation Systems	*On track*	Project start date 01.04.2024 ***Technical studies on resilient drainage and irrigation*** • Research for three technical studies on resilient drainage and irrigation systems, and the potential of NbS and GESI in drainage and irrigation planning. ***Drainage and irrigation strategic planning*** • The first national-level stakeholder consultation gathered 50 stakeholders from 15 institutions involved in drainage and irrigation to learn about best practices and benefits of resilience building investment. • Draft outline of the National Strategy for Drainage and Irrigation prepared.
4	**Dominican Republic** **GGGI** Dominican Republic National Multi-Threat Early Warning System	*On track*	Project start date 01.04.2024 ***A multi-hazard EWS to address the needs of infrastructure managers*** • Diagnosis of existing EWS, data availability and technology requirement as well as pre-assessment of current threats, risks and vulnerabilities. • National Steering Committee institutionalized by an MoU to develop protocols on EWS. ***A risk and vulnerability assessment towards emergencies*** • Georeferenced historical impact registry to record physical, social and environmental impacts of disasters, notably on public works, water and sewage infrastructure. • Development of a risk assessment methodology with the engagement of data management institutions.

5	**Papua New Guinea** **GGGI** Strengthening Institutional and Technical Capacity for Climate Resilient Transport Infrastructure Development	***Significant delay*** due to resignation of project manager and delayed procurement.	Project start date 03.04.2024 ***Climate hazard risk and vulnerability assessment guidelines on climate proofing road infrastructure*** • Procurement of service provider was completed, and implementation is due to start in early 2025. ***Regulatory frameworks through development of standards and guidelines for climate-resilient transport infrastructure*** • Procurement of service provider was completed, and implementation is due to start in early 2025.
6	**Dominican Republic, Cuba, Haiti** **UNDP** Strengthening Capacities, Security and Resilience of Critical Infrastructure	***Slight delay*** due to extended period for mobilizing resources across the three countries.	Project start date 21.06.2024 ***Risk assessment methodologies for education and water supply infrastructure*** • Cuba: Integration and adaptation of several existing tools into a single methodology and identification of four priority water infrastructure sites. • Haiti & Dominican Republic: Working group established to develop criteria and select schools and water infrastructure sites. ***Improved regional early warning coordination mechanisms*** • Data collection and analysis of existing coordination mechanisms for early warning.

7	**Fiji** **Live & Learn** Mapping, Assessing and Planning for Comprehensive Multi-hazard Early Warning Capabilities	***Significant delay*** due to change in government, late on-boarding of project manager and revision of deliverables.	Project start date 14.08.2024 ***Multi-hazard EWS to address infrastructure managers' needs and NbS policy for coastal protection*** • Stakeholder consultations on the revisions required to redefine the project outputs and deliverables to align with national priorities in view of the progress already made under the Green Climate Fund preparatory assistance for the national multi-hazard EWS. • Focus on infrastructure resilience to be strengthened in project components to align with CDRI-IRIS mandate.
8	**Maldives** **UNDP** Enhancing National and Sub-national Capacity for Resilient Infrastructure	***Significant delay*** due to unavailability of government officials during inception phase.	Project start date 06.09.2024 ***Assessing insurance protection gap and feasibility study to develop a catastrophe risk insurance pool*** • Consultations on the learnings from the risk-based capital regulations and feasibility study on coral reef index-based insurance to inform the insurance protection gap analysis and the NATCAT insurance programme.
9	**Marshall Islands** **UNOPS** Roadmap for Health and Coastal Infrastructure Resilience of the Marshall Islands	***On track***	Project start date 06.09.2024 ***Coastal and health infrastructure gap assessment and resilience road map*** • Mapping of key stakeholders in public and private sectors and specific population groups and engagement with local authorities, local businesses. • Mapping of regulatory frameworks and data analysis for gap/readiness assessment of coastal and health infrastructure.

10	**Vanuatu, Kiribati, Tonga** **The Pacific Community (SPC)** National surveys for infrastructure resilience geospatial databases to support exposure and hazard modelling	***Not started*** due to delayed accreditation.	• Framework Agreement and Financing Agreement signed on 12 December 2024. • First tranche disbursed on 24 December 2024.
11	**Belize** **Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC/ 5Cs)** Strengthening Data Management Foundation for Disaster Risk Preparedness in Belize	***Not started*** due to delay in the negotiation of financing and contracting agreements.	• Framework Agreement and Financing Agreement signed on 12 December 2024.

Stories from SIDS

Building Resilient Drainage and Irrigation Systems in Guyana

Over the past decade, climate variability, with extended periods of high-intensity rainfall and sea level rise, have caused unprecedented flooding in Guyana. A flood event in May 2021, described as the worst flooding since 2005, affected 52,000 households and led to significant losses and damage to infrastructure and disruptions in people's livelihoods in the agriculture and mining sectors. Over 74,000 acres of farmland (43,473 acres of cash crops and 30,684 acres of paddy) and over 20,000 farmers were affected. Recurring flooding also increases vulnerability to waterborne diseases.

Approximately 90 percent of Guyana's population live in low-lying coastal plains and most of the coastal zone is below sea level. The poor performance of the drainage system, which is a century old, is one of the main contributing factors to flooding. The system is directly connected to the sea wall defense structures. Recognizing the importance of adopting an integrated approach to flood protection and flood risk management and the multiple benefits offered by NbS to reduce flood risk, the Government has prioritized the development of a National Drainage and Irrigation Strategy, intended to streamline resource allocation to mitigate these risks.

In 2023, the National Drainage and Irrigation Authority (NDIA) engaged GGGI to seek CDRI's support through a grant under the IRIS First Call for Proposals to support development of the strategy, notably through practical research that will explore innovative approaches to finding local adaptation solutions to enhance Guyana's coastal resilience.

During the first nine months of implementation in 2024, significant progress has been made in developing the National Strategy with stakeholder engagement and technical research. National dialogue platforms have been established to collaboratively develop the Strategy. National stakeholders have been engaged in identifying the barriers and challenges to enhancing drainage, irrigation, and integrated water resources management, including mapping technical and institutional capacity and gaps.

The technical inputs and insights gathered through the national platform dialogues have been complemented by research on good practices to inform the preparation of three technical studies. The studies on resilient drainage and irrigation, GESI, and NbS play a pivotal role in building the knowledge base for the development of the National Strategy. About 50 government stakeholders from 15 institutions have been sensitized on the potential applications of NbS and GESI in drainage and irrigation systems and the benefits of implementing an inclusive approach to guiding coastal resilience building.

The participatory mapping of interventions in drainage and irrigation was an opportunity to identify synergies between projects contributing to integrated water resource management, for example, the Korean Forest Service supported a coastal resilience and

"By fostering synergies and building institutional capacities, we are not only addressing immediate challenges in drainage and irrigation but also laying the foundation for a resilient and sustainable future."

- *Lionel Wordsworth, Chairman of the NDIA*

mangrove restoration project. The Coastal Adaptation and Resilience project, valued at US$46.6 million, implemented by the World Bank with support from the Guyana REDD+ Investment Fund, was also identified as an opportunity to further integrate flood risk management and drainage operations.

In 2025, the focus will shift to finalizing the National Strategy, strengthening institutional capacity and exploring innovative solutions. It is envisaged that a pipeline of priority projects would emerge from developing the National Strategy. By fostering stronger collaboration between different sectors such as agriculture, water, drainage and irrigation, hydrometeorological services, housing and others, and integrating sustainable, inclusive practices, this initiative establishes the groundwork for long-term protection for communities and vital infrastructure.

Building on Local Knowledge to Update National Building Regulations for Earthquake and Cyclone-Resilient Housing in Haiti

In Haiti, repeated losses from earthquakes, cyclones and floods are disproportionately concentrated in the housing sector, thus severely impacting the quality of life of the people. Fifteen years after the devastating earthquake in the Port-au-Prince area that destroyed the homes of 1.5 million people, Hurricane Matthew flattened 200,000 houses in 2016, and an earthquake in August 2021 destroyed or damaged more than 135,000 homes and 64 schools.

More than half of the population in Haiti lives in slums or informal settlements. Most single-family or small multi-family houses are built without permits and without applying basic construction standards. With climate change, more severe tropical storms with stronger wind speeds and sea surges are expected to induce even more stress on this self-built low-income housing.

The Haitian Building Code or *Code National du Batiment d'Haiti* (CNBH) de 2012, which is seen by engineering firms and constructors as a critical resource to promote best construction practices and define material requirements, had not been updated since 2012. Concerns had been raised about the need to adapt the regulations and building techniques to seismic and cyclonic risks and flooding.

In 2023, the Government of Haiti partnered with Build Change to seek the support of CDRI and apply for a grant to support the revision of the National Code to include new provisions for seismic, cyclonic and flood risks and to integrate WASH considerations.

Since the project began, the updating of the Code has progressed well, with 60 percent of the technical content already developed, peer-reviewed and validated by local and international experts. The process was highly consultative under the leadership of the Ministry of Public Works, Transport, and Communication with the engagement of the University of Haiti, the Association of Private Universities, the National College of Haitian Engineers and Architects, the Association of Haitian Entrepreneurs, the Ministry of the Interior, the Housing and Public Building Construction Unit and the National Laboratory for Building and Public Works.

The updated Code has its basis in the International Building Code with an added section of simplified directives for the design and construction of small residential buildings, using locally available materials. It was essential to recognize that local construction practices often differ from international standards, notably because many materials and methods are not locally available. For instance, cyclone-resilient connections, necessary for connecting timber elements, are scarce in Haiti. It was important to develop ad hoc directives which consider current practices and ensure affordability and local feasibility.

"The revised National Building Code of Haiti is a powerful tool for the Haitian population to build earthquake- and cyclone-resilient buildings."

- *Charles Hygin Raymond, Director of Public Works, Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Communications*

The updated Code will also incorporate new provisions for timber frame and vernacular construction for buildings that are home to the most vulnerable populations. It would also include disability accessibility standards, gender-sensitive WASH provisions, and mixed-use building guidelines, allowing women to thrive. After its validation, expected in mid-2025, the Code will be widely disseminated amongst country stakeholders and Build Change will support the training of technical personnel and professionals.

By integrating local knowledge and promoting inclusion and gender equality, this IRIS initiative is creating a user-friendly, actionable code that meets the needs of Haitian communities and lays the foundation for disaster-resilient housing.

Photo 2: Launch of IRIS Second Call for Proposals at the SIDS4 Conference in St John's, Antigua and Barbuda, on 27 May 2024

IRIS Second Call for Proposals

As recommended by the Steering Committee, the scope of the Second Call for Proposals was sharpened to focus on priorities defined by the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS – the most recent call for action for SIDS – under the theme of 'Climate Action, Mainstreaming Resilience and Strengthening Data for Resilient and Inclusive Infrastructure'.

The recommendation to accelerate the process for soliciting proposals for funding, selection of projects and disbursements has been addressed. The Expression of Interest (EOI) stage (part of the First Call) has been skipped in lieu of submission of full proposals.

The IRIS Second Call for Proposals was announced on 27 May 2024 at the SIDS4 Conference.
The deadline to submit full proposals was 31 August 2024; three months were allotted for proposal ideation and development. The FMU developed detailed guidance to support the project proposal development and the use of the online portal for proposal submission, and organized information webinars and bilateral meetings with relevant stakeholders.

The Call generated significant interest from across the globe, with 147 registrations. A total of 57 full proposals were received from 34 SIDS across the Caribbean, Pacific, Atlantic and Indian Ocean regions. The FMU performed the longlisting analysis to select eligible proposals for the technical evaluation stage.

A Technical Evaluation Committee (TEC), comprising experts nominated by the IRIS Steering Committee members and sectoral experts identified by the IRIS FMU Technical Unit, evaluated a total of 29 proposals using a scoring template. The technical evaluation criteria developed by the FMU considered both the implementation capability and track record of the applicant organizations as well as the technical soundness and feasibility of the projects, including GEDSI considerations.

In comparison with the First Call, the Second Call demonstrated a significant increase in participation and a notable increase in collaboration among SIDS. The registrations for the Second Call marked a significant increase from the 50 EOIs received during the First Call, which was reflected in the 57 full proposals received in the Second Call, up from 19 in the First Call. Of the 57 full proposals, 32 proposals were submitted by CDRI member countries as single and/or multi-country proposals, which is more than double the 14 EOIs received during the First Call. The increase in submissions highlights CDRI's outreach and efforts to strengthen the engagements with member countries as well as the wider SIDS community. The multi-country and regional collaborations expanded considerably, with 19 such proposals under the Second Call compared to six in the First Call. Additionally, the Second Call saw an expansion in the number of infrastructure sectors covered, including health, ports, telecommunications and energy. The increased number of interesting proposals received under the Second Call led to 29 eligible proposals being shortlisted for TEC evaluation in the Second Call.

Table 2: Geographical distribution of IRIS First and Second Cohort projects

Region	No. of Countries			Total
	Covered in both IRIS 1 & 2	Covered in only IRIS 1	Covered in only IRIS 2	
Caribbean	3	3	7	13
Pacific	3	3	2	8
Atlantic, Indian Ocean and South China Sea (AIS)	1	0	3	4
Total	**7**	**6**	**12**	**25**

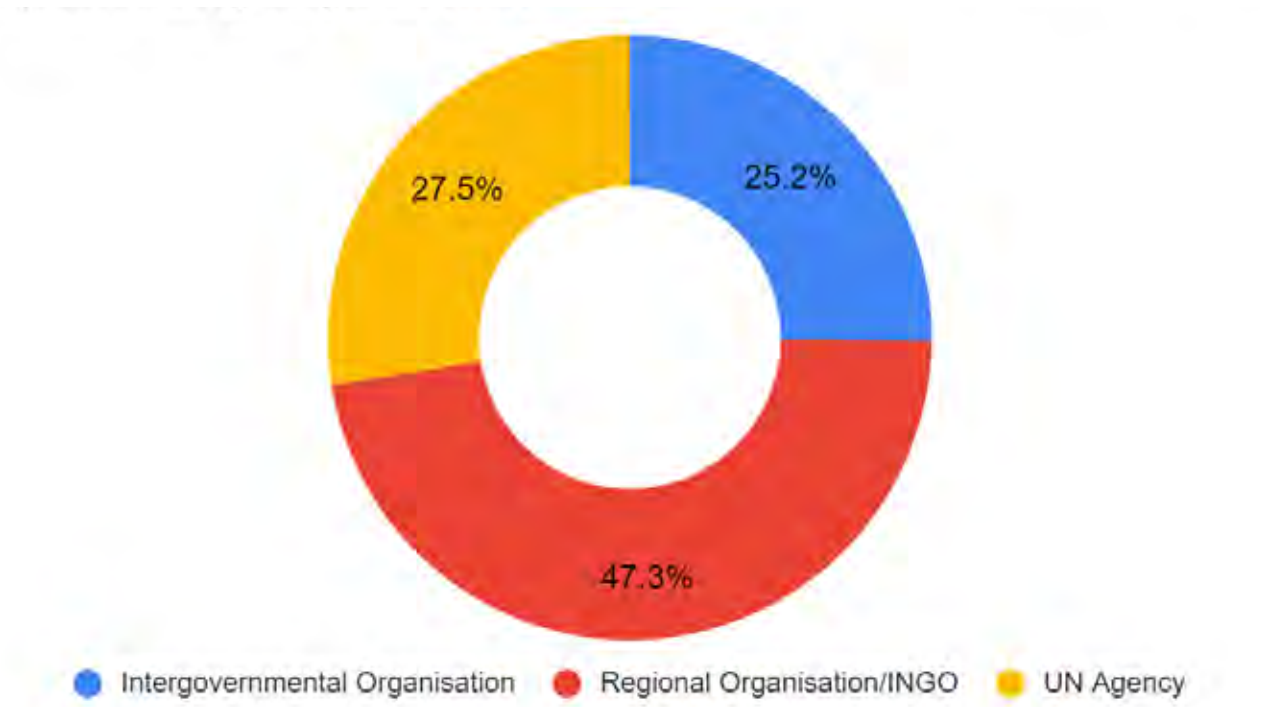
The TEC recommendations were presented to and reviewed by the IRIS Steering Committee during its seventh meeting in October 2024. The Steering Committee recommended 16 project proposals (four recommended for funding; eight recommended for funding with revisions; and four recommended with conditions for negotiation) with a total value of US$8.3 million (with scope for reducing the budgets in a few projects) over a duration of 24 months. On 14 November 2024, the TFMC approved a funding allocation of US$5.8 million to 12 projects across 19 countries. Two proposals were deferred for further discussion and submission for approval.

Figure 1: Regional Distribution of the Fund Outlay under the IRIS First and Second Calls for Proposals

*Note: * One multi-country project — Enhancing availability, quality, and use of risk information for critical infrastructure to reduce disaster risk, increase resilience and strengthen early warning systems in Kiribati, Maldives and Timor-Leste — is considered under the "Global" category.*

The 12 projects approved under the IRIS Second Cohort are distributed across the Caribbean region (41.6%), the Pacific region (16.6%), the Indian and Atlantic Ocean regions (33.3%) and global* (Pacific and Indian Ocean regions, 8.3%).

Figure 2: Types of Participating Organizations funded under the IRIS Second Call for Proposals



Breaking down the distribution of the funding allocation to proposed implementing organizations: Regional Organizations and International Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) received 47%, UN Agencies received 28% and Intergovernmental Organizations received 25%.

Table 3: Project Snapshots of IRIS Second Cohort

No.	Projects	Countries	Description	TFMC Approved Budget (US$)
1	Ensuring a sustainable and climate resilient water supply in the northern part of Mauritius	Mauritius	Will assess groundwater resource potential and develop a decision support tool for informed water allocation decisions to support resource diversification and business continuity	500,000

2	Strengthening resilience of the Vanuatu energy sector against climate-induced disasters	Vanuatu	Aims to enhance the resilience of energy sector by implementing renewable energy solutions, strengthening infrastructure, and improving disaster preparedness and response	499,994
3	Strengthening power sector resilience in Caribbean Island states	Grenada St. Lucia St. Kitts & Nevis St. Vincent & the Grenadines	Will develop and implement a pooled procurement business model and a virtual warehouse platform for improved post-disaster recovery of power infrastructure	688,545
4	Boosting the resilience of infrastructure assets and planned large-scale infrastructure investments in four Caribbean SIDS through risk-informed infrastructure asset management policies and practices	Bahamas Belize Jamaica St. Vincent & the Grenadines	Aims to strengthen infrastructure asset management capacity of national and local government officials through a whole-of-government approach	750,000
5	Socially inclusive strengthening of climate resilient infrastructure and action in Caribbean SIDS	Antigua & Barbuda Dominican Republic St. Lucia	Strengthens resilience of education infrastructure to increase post-disaster school and education continuity	555,458
6	Enhancing resilience of critical subsea telecommunications connections for Tonga, Palau and other South Pacific Small Island Developing States	Tonga	Undertakes risk assessment and valuation of socioeconomic services provided by subsea cables, generating an evidence base for resilient digital communications strategy development	373,142

7	Enhancing availability, quality and use of risk information for critical infrastructure to reduce disaster risk, increase resilience and strengthen early warning systems in Kiribati, Maldives and Timor-Leste	Kiribati Maldives Timor-Leste	Supports capacities to collect, manage and utilize disaster loss and damage data for critical infrastructure, thus enabling risk-informed decision-making, planning and investments	562,376
8	Strengthening Haiti's health facilities for disaster resilience	Haiti	Supports strengthening resilience of health infrastructure through vulnerability assessments, resilience action plans and capacity strengthening of personnel	374,996
9	Guidelines and tools to enhance the resilience of schools in the Maldives	Maldives	Focuses on strengthening education infrastructure through enhanced guidelines for design and construction of new schools and development of a toolkit for resilient schools	374,738
10	Improving schools' resilience to natural disasters and climate adaptation in Comoros	Comoros	Seeks to enhance resilience of existing school building stock and integrate climate adaptation in the national school resilience strategy	375,000
11	The Blue Economy and Climate Change: Risk Assessment and Adaptive Strategies for Improved Seaport Resilience to Climate Change in Seychelles	Seychelles	Supports strengthening resilience of port infrastructure through risk assessment, development of a climate adaptation strategy, disaster management plan and capacity strengthening	413,946
12	Disaster Resilient Utility Infrastructure – St. Kitts and Nevis	St. Kitts & Nevis	Aims to strengthen resilience of critical infrastructure by mapping and assessing vulnerabilities, developing a comprehensive vulnerability atlas and enhancing coordination	374,768

Note: This table reflects the ***provisional*** *budget allocation approved on 08 November 2024 by the TFMC.*

Photo 3: Announcement of awarded projects under IRIS Second Cohort at COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan, on 18 November 2024

2.2 Urban infrastructure resilience programme

Urban Infrastructure Resilience Funding Window

A new funding window on Urban Infrastructure Resilience was approved by the TFMC in March 2024. It aimed to operationalize CDRI's Urban Infrastructure Resilience Programme (UIRP) in rolling out programmes/projects to support informed infrastructure investments that benefit cities in CDRI member countries.

As per the recommendation of TFMC, an Urban Technical Working Group (UTWG) was constituted to develop the First Call for Proposals criteria. The working group, consisting of representatives from France, Ghana, Guatemala, India, Samoa, Sri Lanka and the United Kingdom, as well as UNDP and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), convened from June 2024 to August 2024. It recommended opening the Call to cities from CDRI member countries that are low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) or SIDS, and made suggestions on the priority hazards, sectors and thematic focus for the First Call.

Subsequently, the Urban Steering Committee, consisting of experts from Antigua and Barbados, Brazil, the European Union (EU), France, Ghana, India and the United Kingdom, was established to provide guidance and oversight to the implementation of the Urban funding window, and review the submissions received under the First Call for Proposals.

UIRP First Call for Proposals

The UIRP First Call was designed to support cities in LMICs and SIDS with enhanced access to data, tools and knowledge, leading to improved design, operation and maintenance of infrastructure, and to mobilize bespoke technical assistance.

The expected outcomes of the projects funded under the First Call for Proposals are:

- **Outcome 1: Risk-informed infrastructure planning and development**
  Urban local bodies (ULBs) use data and tools to inform infrastructure development by including sustainable solutions into both existing and new infrastructure.

- **Outcome 2: Integrationg of resilience into infrastructure operations and maintenance**
  Cities effectively manage and operate infrastructure systems during extreme climate events and are equipped for resilient recovery.

- **Outcome 3: Augmented financial resources**
  Cities get funding from financial institutions/multilateral development banks (MDBs) and access to the national budget.

- **Outcome 4: Improved awareness and capacities**
  Practitioners are trained in urban infrastructure resilience to inform projects, programmes and investments.

The UIRP First Call is intended to support cities in developing disaster-resilient infrastructure across the energy, social infrastructure (schools, hospitals), transportation and water sectors through technical assistance. The hazards in focus include extreme temperatures, flooding, drought and water scarcity/security.

The UIRP First Call invited single city proposals (ranging from US$150,000 to US$500,000) and multi-city proposals (ranging from US$250,000 to US$750,000 within the same country). The First Call will support a minimum of five cities, with funding of approximately US$2.5 million.

Figure 3: **Thematic Scope of Urban First Call for Proposals**

1. Project development support for **risk-informed urban infrastructure design and planning**
2. **Data** for decision making including impact based early warning systems
3. Support for **resilient recovery**
4. Resilient infrastructure & **climate adaptation investment strategies** including nature-based infrastructure solutions

Following the approval of the UIRP First Call criteria by the TFMC, the Call for Proposals was announced on 23 September, and a period of four months was provided for proposal ideation and development. During this time, FMU hosted six information webinars (engaging 276 participants) and helpdesk sessions to support interested applicants in the application and proposal submission process. The Call received 419 registrations and more than 90 were approved to move to the next stage of proposal development.

3

Fund Policies, Systems and Tools

The Fund's policies, systems and tools continued to be developed to strengthen the Fund's operational efficiency. Two policies were adopted in 2024: the Fund Communications Strategy and the Fund Risk Management Strategy. A Fast-Track Delivery Action Plan identified measures to streamline project contracting and implementation processes. Special emphasis was put on strengthening the quality of programming and identifying ways to improve operational efficiency. This resulted in the realignment of the results frameworks of 15 projects and enhanced mainstreaming of GEDSI. Finally, the Fund Information Management System (IMS) as well as a Fund project application portal were established to receive project applications in response to the Calls for Proposals.

3.1 Trust fund policies

Communications. The Fund Communications Strategy, including a donor visibility guideline, was developed as a subset of the broader CDRI communications strategy. It was approved by the Third TFMC meeting in March 2024. The strategy describes the tools, mechanisms, roles, responsibilities and resources for implementation of communication activities at the global and country levels. It is a coordinated approach to guide communications efforts of the Fund's contributing partners and participating organizations.

Risk Management. The Fund Risk Management Strategy was approved by the Fourth TFMC meeting in September 2024. The strategy gives an overview of the Fund's risk management approach, rules and procedures. It describes the processes and mechanisms the Fund has in place for risk management and the roles and responsibilities at the Fund as well as the Participating Organizations/ projects' levels. It is complemented by a Fund risk dashboard, the main risk management tool describing the risk levels and the agreed prevention and mitigation measures. The Fund risk dashboard is to be reviewed and updated at least twice a year by the TFMC.

Fund Eligibility. A draft background paper on government eligibility and a guidance note on eligibility criteria for academic institutions were prepared to inform a review of the Fund Terms of Reference in 2025.

3.2 Monitoring and evaluation

With the start of implementation of the first batch of approved projects in January 2024, the FMU started implementing a monitoring system to track progress and identify risks and issues in project implementation. Different templates were refined or developed for project monitoring including guidance for the project inception phase, guidance for the quarterly and annual reviews, and the annual and quarterly project narrative reports.

Fund Monitoring & Evaluation was significantly strengthened with the alignment of approved projects with the strategic objectives of the programmes under the Fund Results Framework. An in-depth review of the projects' results frameworks was completed for 15 projects, leading to the revision of qualitative and quantitative indicators and targets to ensure a stronger alignment with the strategic objectives at the Programme and Fund levels as well as facilitate impact measurement at both levels.

The FMU has engaged CDRI's sectoral advisors and empanelled experts for quality assurance of the projects. CDRI contributed by strengthening the methodologies, reviewing project deliverables and providing inputs to specifications for procurement of services. The CDRI Advisor for Telecommunications provided inputs to the terms of reference for onboarding a telecommunications firm for the project component on early warning alert dissemination in the Dominican Republic. Another example is the engagement of the CDRI Disaster Risk Finance Expert in refining the proposed methodology for the insurance component of the Maldives project.

3.3 Gender equality, disability and social inclusion

In continuation of the efforts to integrate a GESI lens into all Fund programmatic and operational tools and templates, the emphasis in 2024 was on enhancing internal technical capacities in GEDSI and supporting the integration of GESI considerations and activities in the programmes under the Fund.

Capacity Building. The team's internal capacity was strengthened through training and mentoring, most notably with experience-sharing sessions on the IRIS GESI plan and other training sessions.

UIRP Programme. A GESI review of UIRP programme documents was completed and support was provided to embed the inclusion lens into programme activities. The UIRP First Call for Proposals encourages the use of disaggregated data, the promotion of policy provisions to ensure participatory approaches, meaningful participation of women and marginalized groups, and compliance with universal design principles for infrastructure standards and project preparation.

IRIS Programme Outreach and Partnerships. Engagement with inclusion-focused organizations took place during the SIDS Gender Equality Forum in Antigua and Barbuda, the Pacific Regional Infrastructure Facility (PRIF) Week ("Inclusive Infrastructure Practices in the Pacific" session) and in CHOGM's Women's Forum. A series of engagements with the UNDRR Disability-Inclusion team helped identify the best practices.

GEDSI mainstreaming in IRIS projects. The First Cohort grantees were supported in the preparation of their detailed GESI plans at the initiation stage. Most notably, this led to the Haiti Building Code Revision project adding disability inclusion to the project scope. All project GESI plans were reviewed. For the IRIS Second Call for Proposals, the FMU replicated the GESI proposal requirements and the evaluation process of the First Call. A GEDSI analysis of each shortlisted proposal was presented to the Steering Committee to ensure inclusion was a significant consideration in the selection process. Lessons from the GEDSI mainstreaming approach in SIDS will be consolidated into a GEDSI knowledge product to be published in 2025.

3.4 Fund information management system and project application portal

The IMS is a shared resource between CDRI, UNDP, TFMC and Participating Organizations that was designed and populated on Sharepoint. In the first phase, the IMS was made accessible to the TFMC. In the second phase, the IMS will be developed into a platform where the Participating Organizations can upload their reports (inception, quarterly, annually) to receive FMU feedback through files saved in the Sharepoint. This process will save bandwidth for all stakeholders and serve as a repository for the Fund.

In 2024, a project application portal was also established to receive expressions of interest for project design and project proposals in response to the Calls for Proposals. The project application portal was successfully piloted for the First Urban Call for Proposals. The portal will be further developed with enhanced features that will allow technical reviewers to score the proposals online. This initiative is a step towards developing the capacity of the CDRI Secretariat for Fund Management.

Finally, at the request of the TFMC, the FMU designed and published a Fund Dashboard that captures both the financial and programmatic data: resources mobilized, actual receipts, commitment to projects, amounts transferred, cash available for programming, start and end dates of projects, project budgets, transfers and expenditures, project implementation by deliverables and project performance.

4

Fund Communications

The first IRAF quarterly bulletin was published in November 2024 to share quarterly updates on the implementation of the Fund Annual Work Plan activities with the TFMC. The bulletin complements the IRAF Mid-Year and Annual Reports, which are more focused on reporting on the progress and results of programme implementation.

To support the implementation of the Fund Communications Strategy, a draft communications guidance note was prepared to ensure uniformity in branding as well as the communications outputs produced by the Participating Organizations.

Various activities were conducted under the 2024 Fund Communications Plan. The Second Cohort of IRIS-awarded projects was announced at COP29 in Baku, supported by a global press release disseminated through social media channels. A UN Member States briefing was organized at the Permanent Mission of India to the UN in Geneva, and a reception co-hosted by the Permanent Mission of India and the Permanent Mission of Antigua and Barbuda in New York.

5

Fund Resource Mobilization

In the first half of 2024, the FMU, working closely with the United Nations Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (UN-MPTFO) completed the negotiation of the administrative agreements with the Governments of Australia and India, resulting in two new administrative agreements with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Australia in May 2024 and with the Government of India in June 2024. The funding commitment from Australia is for US$3.95 million and about US$18 million from India. As of 31 December 2024, IRAF capitalization reached US$36.1 million (signed agreements with India, the United Kingdom, the EU and Australia), of which US$6,965,395 has been received.

It is envisioned that IRAF capitalization will reach US$50 million by 2027, with an annual resource mobilization target of US$10 million. The development of the resource mobilization strategy, which was a key target in 2024, was deprioritized and postponed to 2025 due to capacity limitations in the FMU and a conscious decision to prioritize the growth of the Fund portfolio and focus on the management of the Calls for Proposals.

Photo 4: Signing of Administrative Agreement with Government of India in New Delhi, India, in June 2024

6

Fund Governance

6.1 Trust fund management committee

The Trust Fund Management Committee (TFMC) is the governing body that makes managerial decisions about the Fund policies, programme and resource allocation. It provides strategic direction and oversight to the Fund and approves programmatic funding windows and funding allocations. The TFMC members include CDRI Executive Committee; three co-chairs (permanent EC Co-chair, rotating EC Co-chair and a Co-chair from the UN); three largest financial donors to the Fund (subject to their representation in the CDRI Executive Committee and the Administrative Agent (ex-officio). As such, the composition of the TFMC provides a unique opportunity to the Fund and the Coalition wherein decisions are made by involving representatives of all CDRI members, and not just donors, thereby ensuring country leadership at all stages – design, decision-making and quality management – of the Fund.

Three meetings of the TFMC were held in 2024 — in March, September and November. In March 2024, the TFMC convened to review and approve the Fund Annual Work Plan and Budget, the 2023 Annual Report, and the support to SIDS participation in the SIDS4 Conference and to launch the IRIS Second Call for Proposals. The TFMC recommended that the FMU prepare an options paper on government eligibility to access IRAF, to review the learnings from the First Call for Proposals for IRIS and develop an acceleration plan for the subsequent Calls for Proposals. The TFMC approved the multi-year FMU project to be jointly implemented by CDRI and UNDP.

In September 2024, the TFMC took note of the Fast-Track Delivery Action Plan, sought clarification on CDRI's exclusive Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) clause for IRAF deliverables and approved the UIRP First Call for Proposals, as well as the IRAF Risk Management Strategy. It was agreed that the TFMC Co-Chairs would report on the updating and implementation of risk mitigation measures twice a year to the TFMC.

The Fifth TFMC, held on 08 November 2024, approved funding for 12 projects under the IRIS Second Call for Proposals, of which seven projects are to revise their budgets and/or scope of work. Funding approval for one project was deferred, and since the TFMC could not reach consensus on two projects, it was left to the Co-Chairs to take a decision in the best interest of the Fund and report back to the TFMC. The TFMC approved the IRIS 2024 implementation support project to CDRI.

6.2 Fund management unit

The FMU, comprising the Administrative Unit hosted by the UNDP Crisis Bureau and a Technical Unit hosted by the CDRI Secretariat, continued to function in a collaborative and integrated manner. The launch of the IMS is instrumental to bridging the collaboration between UNDP and CDRI, so that files can be edited by each entity in parallel, apart from shared access.

The FMU capacity was significantly strengthened in 2024 with the hiring of a Senior Programme Specialist for IRIS and a Consultant for Fund Communications. The positions of the Fund Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) Specialist and Fund Operations & Oversight Specialist were initiated by UNDP. The recruitment of the Fund M&E Specialist was completed, and the incumbent is expected to join in early 2025. In late 2024, the position for a Fund Senior Specialist for Communications was advertised, and a Fund Senior Operations Consultant was recruited.

The FMU Administrative Unit served as a liaison with the UN-MPTFO for the access of five new NUNOs and coordinated the due diligence in preparation for the access with the completion of the HACT and PSEAH assessments. The AU extended day-to-day support to the selected Participating Organizations in the revision of their project proposals and budgets, as well as the alignment of their results frameworks as part of the effort to strengthen Monitoring and Evaluation.

The IRAF Fund risk management system identified low delivery as one of the highest risks, with the potential to jeopardize the strategic objectives of the Fund. Responding to the TFMC recommendation to develop a plan to accelerate the disbursement rate and streamline processes, the FMU prepared a Fast-Track Delivery Plan drawing on the lessons learned from the First Call for Proposals. The FMU first conducted an analysis of operational and programmatic issues that have led to delays, with a view to draw lessons and identify corrective actions to enhance operational efficiency in the management of the IRIS Second Call for Proposals. The Plan identifies a set of concrete prevention and mitigation measures to avoid such delays in future Calls for Proposals, to be tested in the Second Call for Proposals.

7

Capacity Building for Fund Transition

CDRI and UNDP prepared the first draft of a sequenced capacity-building plan to build CDRI's fund management capacities and prepare for CDRI access to receive IRAF funding. This draft Transition Capacity Building Plan (2024–2027) is meant to build the organizational capacity of the CDRI Secretariat to manage an international multi donor fund in line with the plan of transitioning IRAF from the UN-MPTFO to CDRI in due course. CDRI recruited a short-term consultant to support the the implementation of the Transition Capacity Building plan. The Fund transition milestones and timelines will be further refined in 2025.

In the first half of 2024, UNDP facilitated a series of orientation sessions on the HACT and PSEAH requirements to prepare for CDRI Secretariat's accreditation to the Fund.

In the second half of 2024, the development of the project application portal to receive project proposals in response to Calls for Proposals was another step towards developing the capacity of the CDRI Secretariat for Fund Management.

As part of CDRI's capacity building for transition, the exposure visits that were planned for 2024, to learn about the governance mechanisms, grantee management systems, and legal frameworks and treasury functions of similar Trust Funds, have been postponed to the first half of 2025.

8

Lessons Learnt and Risks

Lessons learnt

1. **Contextual/political.** To prevent delays in project contracting due to political transitions that are beyond the competence of the Fund, it is recommended to systematically elevate any such issue to the TFMC Co-Chairs for them to undertake the needed mitigating measures.

2. **NUNO capacity constraints.** Considering certain capacity constraints amongst NUNOs to comply with the HACT/PSEAH requirements, it is suggested that the FMU provide early guidance on these requirements.

3. **FMU/MPTFO efficiency.** Some delays are caused by lack of clarity on access requirements, lack of human capacity, as well as technical issues with the newly established MPTF digital platform. These need to be addressed and streamlined.

4. **More TFMC attention is required ex ante on the Call for Proposals selection criteria** to avoid any ex post facto discussion on the criteria at the final project selection stage.

5. **Emphasis on quality assurance.** The CDRI Secretariat's expertise has been instrumental in providing on-demand support for project quality assurance. This needs to be institutionalized and systematized.

6. **Project M&E alignment.** Significant progress was made in alignment of the projects' results with the programmatic priorities of CDRI in order to enhance impact measurement at the programme and Fund levels.

7. **Longer inception period for regional proposals.** Regional multi-country proposals require a longer inception phase period. It is recommended to allocate a minimum of four months for consultations on the project implementation approach with countries.

Risks

1. A small project size contributes to under-spending and high transaction costs, affecting overall operational efficiency.

2. The inability of the FMU to recruit its Operations & Oversight Specialist after two re-advertisements, coupled with the need to provide risk management, oversight and advisory support services for an increasing number of projects.

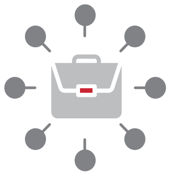
3. Delays in the setup of a functioning risk monitoring and management mechanism by TFMC Co-Chairs.

4. Deviation from the UN-MPTF legal framework (for instance, on IPR) puts the Fund partners at risk.

9

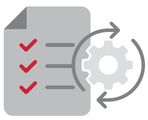
Looking Ahead

The Fund will focus on four main priorities in 2025:

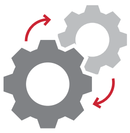


1. **Grow the Fund portfolio of projects** by supporting the management of new Calls for Proposals as well as the design of new programmatic offer under a non-competitive window/programme.

2. **Grow the Fund capitalization** by designing and implementing the Fund resource mobilization strategy and scaling up the Fund communications efforts.



3. **Institutionalize systems and processes** for quality assurance, risk management, monitoring and evaluation, and GEDSI.



4. **Prepare for a planned transition** of the Fund administration from UN-MPTFO to the CDRI Secretariat.

Annex 1: Reporting Against Annual Targets

CDRI Infrastructure Resilience Accelerator Fund Multi-Year Results Framework

It may be noted that CDRI programmatic activities undertaken in the year 2024 (from January to December) implemented through IRAF are highlighted in 'Beige', whereas those undertaken through CDRI Secretariat are highlighted in 'Light Grey'.

Outcome 1: Strengthened global partnerships to drive global, regional and local DRI action			
Outcome indicator: Increase in number of CDRI members, disaggregated by regions and country typology (MIC, LDC, SIDS)	**Target for the indicator:** By 2027, a Coalition of 75 members focused on developing countries including Southeast Asia, Africa and SIDS	**2024 target:** At least 5 new members every year, out of which 1 from Southeast Asia, Africa and SIDS	**Progress against the annual target:** 2 new countries joined the Coalition in 2024: Cuba and Vietnam
Output 1.1 CDRI Secretariat organizational capacity to manage a Multi-Partner Trust Fund and implement at scale established			
Outcome indicator: Increase in IRAF financial resources disaggregated by number of financing partners	**Target for the indicator:** By 2027, at least US$50 million will be mobilized from at least 4 partners and securing additional commitments of US$100 million from at least four more partners including from the private sector	**2024 target:** At least US$10 million mobilized and an additional commitment of at least US$10 million every year including from the private sector	**Progress against the annual target:** US$21.9 million was mobilized through signed agreements with the Governments of India and Australia. As of 31 December 2024, IRAF capitalization reached US$36.1 million (signed agreements with India, the United Kingdom, the EU and Australia) and a total of US$6.96 million has been received.

Outcome indicator:	Target for the indicator:	2024 target:	Progress against the annual targets:
Number of programmatic window and programmes and number of calls for proposals	By 2027, 6 thematic or geographical funding windows or programmes designed and 15 calls for proposals published	1 thematic or geographical window or programme, and 2 calls for proposals published	The Second Call for Proposals for IRIS was completed. 1 new funding window for UIRP was created and the First Call for Proposals was rolled out.
Output 1.2 Creation of opportunities to network and collaborate to mainstream DRI agenda			
Outcome indicator: Number of global and regional conferences organized	**Target for the indicator:** By 2027, 4 annual ICDRI and 4 regional conferences, and 8 advocacy sessions	**2024 target:N/A** One ICDRI and one CDRI regional conference and two advocacy sessions in global or regional events	**Progress against the annual targets:** The activities were undertaken by the Coalition but not funded through IRAF.
Outcome indicator: Increase in number of institutions and professionals engaged in multi-stakeholder platforms for global advocacy	**Target for the indicator:** By 2027, engagement in global advocacy events covering over 100 institutions and 1000 professionals	**2024 target:N/A** Engagement in at least 2 global events and at least 20 new institutions and 200 professionals	**Progress against the annual targets:** The activities were undertaken by the Coalition but not funded through IRAF.
Outcome 2: Global DRI research, knowledge and innovation are generated, disseminated and made accessible to promote risk-informed policy and practice			
Outcome indicator: Increase in number of beneficiaries of capacity building opportunities through training, peer learning, certification, academic network including women	**Target for the indicator:** By 2027, at least 15,000 people have accessed capacity-building opportunities (training, peer learning, certification, academic network) including 30% women	**2024 target:N/A** As of year 2, at least 3,500 people have accessed capacity building opportunities (training, peer learning, certification, academic network) including 30% women	**Progress against the annual target:** The activities were undertaken by the Coalition but not funded through IRAF.

Output 2.1 Enhanced understanding of infrastructure systems resilience with regard to emerging risks, uncertainties and vulnerabilities			
Outcome indicator: Number of DRI knowledge resources made available on public website or DRI Connect Platform	**Target for the indicator:** By 2027, at least 1,000 DRI knowledge resources to be made available on DRI Connect Platform for registered users	**2024 target:N/A** At least 200 DRI knowledge products made available on public website or DRI Connect Platform annually	**Progress against the annual target:** The activities were undertaken by the Coalition but not funded through IRAF.
Outcome indicator: Number of DRI tools developed	**Target for the indicator:** By 2027, four tools developed for better budgetary planning and decision making on infrastructure investment	**2024 target:N/A** As of year 2, one tool launched every year	**Progress against the annual target:** The activities were undertaken by the Coalition but not funded through IRAF.
Output 2.2 Countries have timely access to knowledge and peer-to-peer engagement opportunities			
Outcome indicator: Number of users of DRI knowledge products	**Target for output indicator:** By 2027, the DRI Connect platform is launched (Y1) and used by at least 10,000 people with unique registration of 1,000 members	**2024 target:N/A** At least 500 users (Y2), 1,500 users (Y3), 2,500 users (Y4), 5,000 users (Y5)	**Progress against the annual targets:** The activities were undertaken by the Coalition but not funded through IRAF.
Outcome indicator: Number of capacity-building opportunities such as training, peer learning visits, scholarships, internships and fellowships offered to men and women	**Target for output indicator:** By 2027, at least 50 training and capacity building modules developed jointly/ made available in collaboration with members and partners; 30 scholarships; 30 internships; 5 cohorts of fellows	**2024 target:N/A** An average of 10 training or capacity building modules, 6 scholarships, 6 internships and 1 cohort of fellows	**Progress against the annual targets:** The activities were undertaken by the Coalition but not funded through IRAF.

Outcome 3: Countries have increased access to knowledge and resources to increase the resilience and inclusivity of their existing and future critical infrastructure systems			
Outcome indicator: Increase in number of countries that have adopted enhanced disaster-resilient and inclusive standards for infrastructure system development and post-disaster recovery	**Target for the indicator:** By 2027, 10 countries adopt enhanced disaster-resilient and inclusive standards for infrastructure system development	**2024 target:** As of year 2, at least 3 countries have adopted enhanced disaster-resilient and inclusive standards for infrastructure system development	**Progress against the annual targets:** Impact measurement at outcome level will be possible as of year 3 (in 2025).
Output 3.1 SIDS are better equipped with knowledge and resources to increase the resilience and inclusivity of their critical infrastructure systems			
Outcome indicator: Increase in number of SIDS countries receiving technical support in DRI-inclusive policies, plans, standards and/ or enhanced DRI gender- and age-disaggregated and open-source data	**Target for the indicator:** By 2027, 20 SIDS countries receive technical support in DRI-inclusive policies, plans, standards and/ or enhanced DRI gender- and age-disaggregated and open-source datasets	**2024 target:** At least 5 SIDS countries received technical support in DRI-inclusive policies, plans, standards, and/or enhanced DRI gender- and age-disaggregated and open-source datasets	**Progress against the annual targets:** 7 SIDS have received technical support (Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Guyana, Haiti, Marshall Islands and Papua New Guinea)
Outcome indicator: Number of DRI/ resilient recovery knowledge products that are locally relevant in SIDS contexts and promoting inclusion, community knowledge and/or nature-based solutions, disseminated to public and private sector stakeholders through various global and regional networks	**Target for the indicator:** By 2027, at least 10 locally relevant DRI solutions promoting inclusion, community knowledge and/ or nature-based solutions and widely disseminated to public and private sector stakeholders in SIDS through global and regional networks	**2024 target:** An average of 2 locally relevant DRI solutions promoting inclusion, community knowledge and/or nature-based solutions, and widely disseminated to public and private sector stakeholders through at least two networking events (global/ regional)	**Progress against the annual targets:** Participation in 3 global networking events for SIDS: SIDS4 Conference, COP29 and CHOGM 2024.

Output 3.2 Enhanced city infrastructure environment, services and systems to improve urban infrastructure resilience across low- and middle-income countries			
Outcome indicator: Increase in number of cities receiving technical support and training in DRI-inclusive standards	**Target for the indicator:** By 2027, 20 cities receive technical support in urban DRI-inclusive standards and training provided to over 5,000 Urban Local Bodies officials	**2024 target:** An average of 5 cities received technical support in urban DRI-inclusive standards	**Progress against the annual targets:** The Urban First Call for Proposals was launched with a four-month window, allowing applicants to ideate and submit their proposals during this period.
Outcome indicator: No. of DRI/resilient recovery knowledge products that are locally relevant in SIDS contexts and promoting inclusion, community knowledge and/or nature-based solutions, disseminated to public and private sector stakeholders through various global and regional networks	**Target for the indicator:** By 2027, at least 10 locally relevant DRI solutions promoting inclusion, community knowledge and/or nature-based solutions are widely disseminated to public and private sector stakeholders in SIDS through global and regional networks	**2024 target:N/A** An average of 2 locally relevant DRI solutions promoting inclusion, community knowledge and/or nature-based solutions, are widely disseminated to public and private sector stakeholders through at least 2 networking events (global/regional)	**Progress against the annual targets:** The activities were undertaken by the Coalition but not funded through IRAF.
Output 3.3 Countries across high mountain regions are equipped with knowledge and resources to increase the resilience and inclusivity of critical infrastructure systems			
Outcome indicator: Increase in number of mountainous countries receiving technical support in DRI-inclusive policies, plans, standards and/or enhanced DRI gender- and/or age-disaggregated and open-source datasets	**Target for the indicator:** By 2027, 4 mountainous countries received technical support in DRI-inclusive policies, plans, standards and/or enhanced DRI gender- and age-disaggregated and open-source datasets	**2024 target:N/A** As of 2026, 2 mountainous countries received technical support in DRI-inclusive policies, plans, standards and/or enhanced DRI gender- and age-disaggregated and open-source datasets	**Progress against the annual targets:** The activities were undertaken by the Coalition but not funded through IRAF.

Outcome indicator: Number of DRI/ resilient recovery products and services that are locally relevant in high mountain regions and promoting inclusion, community knowledge and/or nature-based solutions, disseminated through various global and regional networks	**Target for the indicator:** As of 2026, 4 DRI/ resilient recovery products and services	**2024 target:N/A** As of 2026, 2 products and services are offered on an annual basis	**Progress against the annual targets:** The activities were undertaken by the Coalition but not funded through IRAF.
Output 3.4 Selected institutions engaged in critical infrastructure systems (including power, transport, telecom, health) are capacitated to address infrastructure vulnerability to disaster and climate risks through targeted capacity building			
Outcome indicator: Number of DRI sectoral studies and tools for critical infrastructure available in the knowledge repository with at least 50% that include provisions for specific population groups (such as women and people living with disabilities)	**Target for the indicator:** By 2027, over 2,000 case studies from member countries compiled and at least four sectoral tools/ frameworks developed out of which 50% include provisions for specific population groups (such as women and people living with disabilities)	**2024 target:N/A** An average of 400 sectoral studies collected on an annual basis and one sectoral tool/framework developed with provisions for specific population groups (such as women and people living with disabilities)	**Progress against the annual targets:** The activities were undertaken by the Coalition but not funded through IRAF.
Outcome indicator: Number of practitioners from member countries supported to use DRI tools and frameworks emerging from sectoral studies and to apply an inclusivity lens to DRI investment planning	**Target for the indicator:** Over 10,000 practitioners supported to use DRI tools and frameworks emerging from sectoral studies and to apply an inclusivity lens to DRI investment planning	**2024 target:N/A** An average of 2,000 practitioners supported to use DRI tools and frameworks emerging from sectoral studies and to apply an inclusivity lens to DRI investment planning	**Progress against the annual targets:** The activities were undertaken by the Coalition but not funded through IRAF.

Annex 2: Provisional Financial Figures for 2024

Resources Mobilized and Expenditures (till December 2024)	
Resources Mobilized	**US$**
Commitment from donors to IRAF	36,100,562
Receipts from donors to IRAF	6,965,395
Expenditures	
Committed to projects approved by TFMC	15,519,447
Disbursement to projects	2,639,850
Project expenditures reported	863,021
Cash balance available (funds received/transferred to projects)	4,325,545

Status update on Fund transfers and delivery to 11 Projects under IRIS First Cohort*, #

No	Countries Participating Organization	Project Start date	Approved Budget (US$)	Total Transfers (US$)	Reported Expenditure (US$)	Expenditure against Transfers (%)
1	Dominica **Build Change**	12-Jan-24	499,862	349,903 (70%)	211,228	60.4
2	Haiti **Build Change**	12-Jan-24	499,752	349,827 (70%)	164,422	47.0
3	Guyana **GGGI**	01-Apr-24	499,947	349,963 (70%)	130,907	37.4

4	**Dominican Republic** **GGGI**	01-Apr-24	464,268	323,490 (70%)	146,953	45.4
5	**Papua New Guinea** **GGGI**	03-Apr-24	499,998	100,000 (20%)	43,061	43.1
6	**Dominican Republic, Cuba, Haiti** **UNDP**	21-Jun-24	749,384	149,877 (20%)	41,386	27.6
7	**Fiji** **Live & Learn**	14-Aug-24	500,000	100,000 (20%)	9,590	0.0
8	**Maldives** **UNDP**	06-Sep-24	499,990	99,998 (20%)	0	0.0
9	**Marshall Islands** **UNOPS**	06-Sep-24	350,000	70,000 (20%)	9,762	13.9
10	**Vanuatu, Tongo, Kiribati** **The Pacific Community (SPC)**	24-Dec-24	750,000	150,000 (20%)	0	0.0
11	**Belize** **Caribbean Community Climate Change Center (CCCCC/5Cs)**	Not com-menced till 31 December 2024	499,929	0	0	0
			5,813,130	**2,043,058**	**757,309**	**36.6%**

Note: * This table reports the status update on fund transfers and delivery of the 10 projects under the IRIS First Cohort, which commenced in the period from 01 January 2024 to 31 December 2024.

Real-time data on fund transfers to the Participating Organizations can also be found on the IRAF webpage on UN-MPTFO.

UN-MPTFO 2024 annual certified financial report shall prevail, once it is released.