

Fund Mid-year Report 2025

CDRI Multi-Partner
Trust Fund:
Infrastructure
Resilience
Accelerator Fund
(IRAF)

Table of Contents

| | |
|---|----|
| 1. Fund Priorities and Targets for 2025 | 3 |
| 2. Progress in the Fund Portfolio..... | 4 |
| 2.1. SIDS Funding Window and IRIS Programme..... | 4 |
| 2.1.1. IRIS First Cohort | 4 |
| 2.1.2. IRIS Second Cohort | 7 |
| 2.1.3. Preparation for IRIS Third Cohort..... | 9 |
| 2.1.4. IRIS Advocacy, Partnerships, and Knowledge Management | 10 |
| 2.1.5. Key Lessons Learned..... | 10 |
| 2.2. Urban Infrastructure Resilience (UIR) Funding Window and UIR Programme (UIRP) | 11 |
| 2.2.1. UIRP First Call for Proposals..... | 11 |
| 2.3. International Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (ICDRI) 2025 and other Global Events | 12 |
| 3. Progress in Fund Policies, Systems, and Tools | 14 |
| 3.1. Fund Project Application Portal | 14 |
| 3.2. Fund Monitoring & Evaluation and Quality Assurance | 14 |
| 3.3. Fund Communications Efforts | 14 |
| 3.4. Fund Risk Management | 14 |
| 4. Progress in Fund Resource Mobilization..... | 15 |
| 4.1. Fund Capitalization | 15 |
| 4.2. Preparation of the Fund Resource Mobilization Strategy | 15 |
| 5. Fund Receipt and Disbursement Status | 15 |
| 6. Fund Governance | 16 |
| 6.1. Trust Fund Management Committee | 16 |
| 6.2. Programme Steering Committees | 16 |
| 6.3. Fund Management Unit | 17 |
| 6.3.1. Fund Management Unit Recruitments..... | 17 |
| 6.3.2. FMU Capacity Building..... | 17 |
| 7. Plan For Next Six Months | 17 |

1. Fund Priorities and Targets for 2025

Building on the progress and results achieved during the second year (2024) of implementation of the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure's (CDRI's) Infrastructure Resilience Accelerator Fund (IRAF), the four main priorities set for the Fund in 2025 are the following:

1. **Grow the Fund's portfolio of projects** through new Calls for Proposals as well as the design of a new programmatic offering under a non-competitive window/programme.
2. **Grow the Fund's 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 Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI).
4. **Prepare for a planned transition** of the Fund administration to the CDRI Secretariat.

In support of these priorities, the Trust Fund Management Committee (TFMC) approved an annual budget allocation of \$8,665,161¹ for the year 2025 to deliver the following results:

1. **Disbursement of funds to projects under the two cohorts of the Infrastructure for Resilient Island States (IRIS) programme and the first cohort of Urban Infrastructure Resilience Programme (UIRP)**, including finalization and signing of the project documents, and convening inception meetings.
2. **Due diligence process for the Non-UN Organizations (NUNOs)** under consideration under the IRIS and UIRP Cohorts (Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers [HACT] and Prevention of Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Sexual Harassment [PSEAH] assessments), including the CDRI Secretariat, for direct access to the Fund.
3. **Implementation of the IRIS and UIRP programmes**: Monitoring visits to project sites; communications & outreach activities; training & capacity building; and external engagement & consultations in awardee countries.
4. **Ideation for the Third IRIS Cohort, Second UIRP Call for Proposals, and their launch.**
5. **Lead and support advocacy efforts and global network strengthening** for the Coalition and the Fund, including organizing CDRI's flagship event—the International Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (ICDRI) 2025—and participating in key global platforms such as COP30, the Third UN Ocean Conference (UNOC3), and other relevant events.
6. **Development and implementation of Fund strategies and plans** such as Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) Plan, the Resource Mobilization Strategy, preparatory work for conducting the mid-term evaluation of the Fund and scaling up of Fund communication efforts.
7. **Recruitments for the Fund Management Unit (FMU) functions**, both Administrative Unit (AU) and Technical Unit (TU), including recruitment for new positions—an Operations, Fund Risk Management, and Oversight Specialist and the UNDP Head of the FMU AU (to be based in New Delhi).

¹ All "\$" amounts refer to US Dollars unless otherwise specified.

8. **Build the capacity of the CDRI Secretariat** in both programmatic and operational aspects of Fund management.

2. Progress in the Fund Portfolio

2.1. SIDS Funding Window and IRIS Programme

2.1.1. IRIS First Cohort

Implementation is underway across the 11 projects under the First Cohort. The table below provides a summary of their progress to date.

Table 1: Status update under the IRIS First Cohort

| # | Project details | Key highlights on activities and results |
|---|--|--|
| 1 | Dominica Data and Systems for Resilient Housing Programmes Build Change | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compilation and assessment of Dominica's housing stock is completed. • Results of the assessment and Homeowners' Awareness Manual were disseminated at the Resilient Housing Fair in May 2025. • Technical manual and inspection manual being drafted. • Initial discussions with Ministry of Housing facilitated on developing the house strengthening programme. |
| 2 | Haiti Revision of the Haitian National Building Code Build Change | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical revisions, peer review, and the review and approval by the National Steering Committee of the Building Code Part A and Part B is close to completion. • Final National Steering Committee meeting scheduled for August to approve the revised building code and proceed for publication. • Drafting of the Construction Guide for Builders is in progress. • Initial discussions held with the Ministry of Public Works, Transport, and Communications (MTPTC) and relevant stakeholders for capacity building of builders. |
| 3 | Guyana Towards Developing Strategic Sustainable Integrated National Drainage and Irrigation Systems Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final drafts of the three technical studies – Resilient Drainage & Irrigation (D&I) Systems, GEDSI in D&I, and Integration of NbS into D&I Systems have been shared with the government. Feedback awaited. • Initial discussions facilitated with National Drainage and Irrigation Authority (NDIA) on capacity building of NDIA engineers and prioritization system for projects. |

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|---|--|--|
| 4 | Dominican Republic Dominican Republic National Multi-Threat Early Warning System (EWS) GGGI | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diagnosis of existing systems, data availability, and technical requirements completed. • Final draft of the EWS framework for transitioning into MH-EWS based on GIS, including a catalogue of financial options for EWS implementation, completed. • Institutionalization of the National Impact Registry completed by facilitating inter-agency coordination between the Emergency Operations Centre (COE) and the National Statistics Office (ONE), and supporting the design of stakeholder engagement and capacity building strategy to enable sustainable data sharing. • South-South knowledge exchange facilitated in collaboration with Mexican counterparts in May 2025. |
| 5 | Papua New Guinea Strengthening Institutional and Technical Capacity for Climate Resilient Transport Infrastructure Development GGGI | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consulting firms for the three components – capacity building, Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessments (CRVA) guidelines, and the regulatory framework – onboarded in May 2025. • South-South knowledge exchange on climate resilient road infrastructure planned in August 2025 in New Zealand. |
| 6 | Dominican Republic, Cuba, and Haiti Strengthening Capacities, Security, and Resilience of Critical Infrastructure United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Methodologies finalized for evaluation of school and water supply infrastructure (including identification of sites for evaluation) in consultation with respective nodal government agencies. • Workshop for training in safe school evaluation methodologies conducted in the Dominican Republic in May 2025 for government officials from Haiti and the Dominican Republic. • Workshop for training in safe water supply infrastructure evaluation methodologies conducted for government officials from Cuba, Haiti, and the Dominican Republic in June 2025 in Cuba. |
| 7 | Belize Strengthening Data Management Foundation for Disaster Risk Preparedness | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First tranche disbursed on 6 February 2025. • Kick-off meeting conducted on 24 February 2025. • Extension of the inception phase in Belize due to elections. |

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|----|---|--|
| | Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC/5Cs) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inception workshop conducted with representatives from Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change & Solid Waste Management, Ministry of Natural Resources, Petroleum & Mining, and Ministry of Public Service, Governance & National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO) on 12 June 2025. |
| 8 | Fiji Mapping, Assessing, and Planning for Comprehensive Multi-Hazard Early Warning Capabilities Live & Learn | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultations with National Disaster Risk Management Office (NDRMO), Telecom Fiji Limited (TFL), and Ministry of Waterways conducted to gain consensus on the scope of work. Finalization of revisions in the scope of work undertaken by the Live & Learn team. |
| 9 | Marshall Islands Roadmap for Health and Coastal Infrastructure Resilience United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparation of draft gap assessment report completed after the first mission on data collection in March 2025. Next mission planned in August 2025 with a focus on collecting remaining data and stakeholder consultations to prepare readiness and enabling environment assessment reports on health and coastal infrastructure. |
| 10 | Maldives Enhancing National and Sub-National Capacity for Resilient Infrastructure UNDP | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultation with Ministry of Construction and Infrastructure conducted to finalize the modality and regions for training sessions. Procurement of a firm for comprehensive risk assessment and insurance protection gap components ongoing. Onboarding of the firm is expected to be complete by August 2025. |
| 11 | Vanuatu, Kiribati, and Tonga National Surveys for Infrastructure Resilience Geospatial Databases to Support Exposure and Hazard Modelling The Pacific Community (SPC) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kick-off meeting conducted on 9 January 2025. Inception workshop conducted on 26 March 2025 along with the nodal government agencies from Vanuatu, Tonga, and Kiribati. Missions to Vanuatu, Tonga, and Kiribati planned for August 2025 to conduct surveys and trainings. |

In this reporting period, the CDRI-FMU conducted routine monthly meetings and quarterly progress review meetings to monitor the progress of projects, address challenges, and leverage opportunities with the Implementing Partners. The annual reports of the eight

ongoing projects have been published on the Fund Information Management System and can be accessed by the TFMC members.

The first IRIS Monitoring Mission to the Caribbean region was carried out in May 2025. The mission team reviewed the financial and programmatic progress of the Dominican Republic and Guyana projects along with the respective nodal government agencies. The team participated in the site visits to further understand the challenges and proposed plans to build resilience in infrastructure.

2.1.2. IRIS Second Cohort

The Fund has made progress in the formal contracting and implementation of the 13 Second Cohort projects, with five projects already being implemented since July 2025.

The FMU conducted orientation sessions with the 13 project teams to support the revision of project proposals prior to signing. This included strengthening the alignment of the projects' results framework with the IRIS focus areas. Concurrently, the FMU supported the revision of project budgets for seven proposals, including the reallocation of funds to prioritize the identification and delivery of tangible disaster-resilient infrastructure outcomes.

The table below provides an overview of the progress of the projects.

Table 2: Status update on the IRIS Second Cohort

| # | Project details | Status |
|-----------------------------|--|---|
| Implementation Stage | | |
| 1 | Mauritius Ensuring a Sustainable and Climate Resilient Water Supply in the Northern Part of Mauritius United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Signed Fund Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 12 December 2024 First tranche (20%) disbursed on 8 July 2025 Kick-off meeting conducted on 23 July 2025 |
| 2 | Vanuatu Strengthening Resilience of the Vanuatu Energy Sector against Climate-Induced Disasters UNDP | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> First tranche (20%) disbursed on 8 July 2025 Kick-off meeting conducted on 29 July 2025 |
| 3 | The Bahamas, Belize, Jamaica, and St. Vincent & the Grenadines 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 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Signed Fund MoU on 28 March 2025 First tranche (20%) disbursed on 8 July 2025 Pre-kick-off meeting conducted with UNDESA on 24 July 2025 |

| | | |
|--------------------------|--|--|
| | United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) | |
| 4 | Maldives Guidelines and Tools to Enhance the Resilience of Schools in the Maldives Build Change | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Financing Agreement signed First tranche (20%) disbursed on 4 June 2025 Kick-off meeting conducted on 22 July 2025 |
| 5 | Comoros Improving Schools' Resilience to Natural Disasters and Climate Adaptation in Comoros Build Change | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Financing Agreement signed First tranche (20%) disbursed on 13 May 2025 Kick-off meeting conducted on 18 June 2025 |
| Contracting Stage | | |
| 6 | Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Kitts & Nevis, and St. Vincent & the Grenadines Strengthening Power Sector Resilience in Caribbean Island States Caribbean Electric Utility Services Corporation (CARILEC) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HACT and PSEAH assessment completed Accreditation process ongoing |
| 7 | Antigua & Barbuda, Dominican Republic, and St. Lucia Socially Inclusive Strengthening of Climate Resilient Infrastructure and Action in Caribbean SIDS Integrated Health Outreach (IHO) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HACT and PSEAH assessment completed Accreditation process ongoing |
| 8 | Tonga Enhancing Resilience of Critical Subsea Telecommunications Connections for Tonga, Palau, and Other South Pacific Small Island Developing States National Oceanography Centre (NOC) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HACT and PSEAH assessments started. Significant delays in the submission of documentation. |
| 9 | Kiribati, Maldives, and Timor-Leste 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 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Document (ProDoc) signing ongoing. Government signature pending. |

| | | |
|----|---|--|
| | United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) | |
| 10 | Haiti Strengthening Haiti's Health Facilities for Disaster Resilience GeoHazards International (GHI) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HACT and PSEAH assessment completed • Accreditation process ongoing |
| 11 | Seychelles The Blue Economy and Climate Change: Risk Assessment and Adaptive Strategies for Improved Seaport Resilience to Climate Change in Seychelles Nature Seychelles | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PSEAH assessment is ongoing |
| 12 | St. Kitts & Nevis Disaster Resilient Utility Infrastructure – St. Kitts and Nevis Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC/5Cs) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Framework Agreement signed on 21 July 2025 |
| 13 | Jamaica Kingston Metropolitan Area Water Utility Infrastructure Disaster Mitigation and Climate Change Resilience Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association (CWWA) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HACT and PSEAH assessments yet to start • ProDoc finalization pending |

Between January to July 2025, the FMU facilitated key milestones in project initiation and oversight, including 3 inception workshops, 59 monthly coordination meetings with project teams, 9 quarterly review meetings, and 4 project kick-off meetings with the respective national governments overseeing project implementation.

2.1.3. Preparation for IRIS Third Cohort

CDRI organized the IRIS Expert Group Consultation in New Delhi from 28 to 29 April 2025, where experts identified priority areas for the third cohort. Some recommendations included emphasis on multi-country/regional proposals and replicable projects/demonstration models with high country coverage in terms of geographical spread; inclusion of dedicated innovation track (from the context/perspective of SIDS); an enabling mechanism to build a pipeline of projects to attract investments in SIDS; mainstreaming GEDSI across all projects; and designing for long-term impact. Building on this, a closed-door session at ICDRI 2025 brought together IRIS Implementing Partners, government representatives, and key stakeholders from SIDS. These consultations generated valuable insights on resilient infrastructure,

partnerships, GEDSI, and impact-focused design that will guide the third cohort's development.

2.1.4. IRIS Advocacy, Partnerships, and Knowledge Management

- Co-facilitated the CDRI UNDP Regional Workshop on *"Resilient Recovery and Build Back Better (BBB) - Central America and the Caribbean"* from 1 to 3 April 2025 in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, gathering participants from across the Caribbean SIDS to discuss construction and retrofitting challenges, and share insights on building standards and technical capacity in SIDS as well as GEDSI best practices.
- IRIS programme lessons and insights were shared in different fora including a [webinar](#) on the UN SIDS Partnerships Awards 2025; a panel on *"Strengthening emergency preparedness, readiness & resilience of health facilities & health systems in urban areas of the South-East Asia Region"* at the World Health Summit – Regional Meeting in New Delhi; the Pacific Regional Disaster and Emergency Managers Meeting in Nadi, Fiji; and the Regional Climate Finance Access Network (CFAN) Workshop in Fiji.
- Supported the participation of 35 key stakeholders from across SIDS in ICDRI 2025 in Nice, France from 6 to 7 June 2025. The IRIS team also designed and facilitated two key side-events on the IRIS programme and on resilience of critical infrastructure sectors in SIDS.
- Participated in a Regional Workshop on Resilient Hydraulic Infrastructures in Cuba: *"Strengthening the Capacities, Security and Resilience of Critical Infrastructures in the Dominican Republic, Cuba, and Haiti."* The IRIS team met with key government stakeholders (including the energy sector) to explore potential for embedding resilience in infrastructure planning and maintenance.
- Organized a webinar on ["Hurricane Beryl: Lessons for Disaster Resilience of Infrastructure"](#) on 22 May 2025.

2.1.5. Key Lessons Learned

Documentation of the FMU's established programme/project management processes per the grant lifecycle, in the form of an operating manual or Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), will be essential to ensure seamless knowledge transfer, programme efficiency, and preserving institutional memory.

There is a need to establish a robust knowledge repository for the programme to retain the experiences, outputs, and lessons from the projects being delivered under IRIS. The repository will aggregate and enable sharing of good practices, approaches, frameworks, and solution architecture across projects.

There needs to be a shift in the approach to programme management so as to include a value-for-money component in monitoring and reporting which will look at the impact of funded interventions in terms of scale and their contribution to achievement of national ambitions and regional efforts, as well as help unlock further opportunities for financing investments in resilient infrastructure.

Active engagement and coordination with multilateral agencies, regional organizations, and local donor representatives in the SIDS regions will be important to avoid duplication, to identify opportunities for complementing and synergizing with existing and new initiatives, and to advance the cause of disaster resilient infrastructure at the regional level.

2.2. Urban Infrastructure Resilience (UIR) Funding Window and UIR Programme (UIRP)

2.2.1. UIRP First Call for Proposals

By the 20 January 2025 deadline, 101 proposals were received. Following a completeness check, 83 proposals met the submission requirements and were advanced to the longlisting stage of the selection process, where 57 proposals were shortlisted for final evaluation.

The Urban Steering Committee (SC) was constituted with experts from the governments of Antigua and Barbuda, India, Ghana, Brazil, the EU-Global Covenant of Mayors, the United Kingdom's (UK's) Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), and the Agence Française de Développement (AFD). The inception meeting was held on 9 January 2025 to provide guidance on the project selection methodology and approach. The FMU conducted a thorough review to ensure alignment with the Call for Proposals criteria, including sectoral relevance, project scope, and budget compliance. 57 proposals were evaluated by the Technical Evaluation Committee (TEC), comprising 27 expert reviewers. From among these, 21 proposals were shortlisted and presented to the SC for further consideration on 25 February 2025. The third meeting of the Urban SC was held on 18 March 2025 to finalize the shortlist.

The sixth TFMC meeting, held on 30 April 2025, approved five projects for a total budget of \$2,495,370.50, with an additional two proposals placed on a reserve list. Out of the five organizations selected, three are already eligible to access the Fund (UNDP, UN Habitat, and Build Change) and the necessary due diligence processes are ongoing for the remaining two NUNOs. The orientation meetings with the Implementing Partners were held in the first week of July 2025. The CDRI Secretariat facilitated agreements on the Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) and data clauses with the selected organizations.

Table 3: Status update on the UIRP First Cohort

| # | Project details | Status |
|---|--|---|
| 1 | Brazil Urban Care Porto Alegre: Enhancing Resilient Street Infrastructure to Combat Extreme Heat and Inner-City Flooding with Active Travel and Water Sensitive Solutions Agência Gaúcha de Desenvolvimento (AGE-RS) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HACT/PSEAH to commence • ProDoc finalization ongoing |

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| 2 | Bhutan Enhancing Risk-Informed Planning, Data-Driven Decision Making, and Early Warning System for Disaster Resilient Urban Infrastructure in Major Cities of Bhutan UNDP | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ProDoc finalized and ready for signing |
| 3 | Honduras Promoting Climate and Disaster Resilient Health Infrastructure in Sula Valley, Honduras Build Change | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Financing Agreement to be signed ProDoc finalization ongoing |
| 4 | Sri Lanka Safe and Resilient Water Supply for Western Cities – Integrating Climate Resilience into Water Safety Plans of the Ambatale Water Supply Scheme UN-Habitat | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fund MoU signed on 22 July 2025 ProDoc finalized and ready for signing |
| 5 | India Building Small Town Water Resilience in Chikkaballapur district, Karnataka, India Indian Institute for Human Settlements (IIHS) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PSEAH assessment ongoing ProDoc finalization ongoing |

2.3. International Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (ICDRI) 2025 and other Global Events

ICDRI 2025 in Nice, France demonstrated the growing convening power of CDRI. Approximately 220 participants from 52 countries, representing national governments, multilateral development banks, international organizations, private sector entities, think tanks, academia, and media participated. Demonstrating the importance members attach to CDRI, and the relevance of the agenda for ICDRI, video messages were received from the Hon. Prime Ministers of India, Haiti, and Antigua and Barbuda, as well as the Presidents of Guyana and Nauru.

Key takeaways from ICDRI 2025:

- Empowered Local Communities and SIDS Leadership: SIDS are leaders and innovators in resilience and sustainability. Local experiences from locations such as Samoa and Jamaica highlight the importance of building local capacity, tailoring resilience to on-ground realities, and strengthening community preparedness and technical ecosystems.

- Holistic and Systemic Resilience: Resilience in vulnerable regions means more than just physical infrastructure—it involves protecting lives, livelihoods, and ensuring service continuity, while empowering communities to anticipate and manage risks. Resilience should be approached systemically, not just through isolated projects. This requires fostering long-term development through meaningful partnerships and collaboration among public, private, and community actors.
- Finance and Investment: Financing and international support must align with national priorities and be predictable, accessible, and affordable. Innovative finance models, such as blended finance and regional cooperation, are critical for infrastructure development in vulnerable regions. Quantifying “avoided losses” helps make a stronger case for resilience investments.
- Data, Technology, and Standards: Data is essential for planning and decision-making, and open, accessible data should be mandatory in projects funded by development partners. Technology and Artificial Intelligence (AI) are foundational, enabling better prediction of climate events, prioritization of actions, and more resilient infrastructure. Building codes should evolve from static regulations to adaptive tools, reflecting future climate risks and local realities.
- Regional and Global Collaboration: Collaboration is the “infrastructure” behind infrastructure, with coalitions of public, private, and community actors being essential for building resilience. Examples like the Caribbean electricity utilities’ shared repository show how regional cooperation can dramatically reduce downtime during crises. The Resilient Africa programme aims to address Africa’s specific challenges and ambitions, reinforcing the resilient infrastructure agenda and ensuring no one is left behind.

A closed-group session on “*Partnering for Impact*” was held on the sidelines of ICDRI on 6 June 2025, providing a platform to capture perspectives from SIDS stakeholders across the three regions on critical questions related to infrastructure resilience. The session was structured into three rounds of discussions, bringing together IRIS implementing and government partners, regional organizations, and key stakeholders from SIDS.

As part of the UNOC3 2025, CDRI co-hosted two key side events focused on advancing coastal resilience through integrated approaches:

- On 11 June, CDRI co-organized with the UNDRR a side event on “*Building Resilient Coastal Infrastructure: Bridging Science, Policy, and Finance for Climate Adaptation*,” which highlighted actionable pathways for climate-smart, risk-informed infrastructure solutions.
- On 13 June, CDRI and the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW) hosted a virtual side event on “*Bridging Science, Policy and Finance for Resilient Coastal Futures*.” The event addressed key challenges for coastal regions and SIDS, focusing on translating national climate policy into local action, strengthening tsunami early warning systems, leveraging data for coastal planning, and unlocking finance for adaptation.

3. Progress in Fund Policies, Systems, and Tools

3.1. Fund Project Application Portal

The FMU, with technical support from the CDRI Secretariat, developed an online platform for project proposal submission, which was launched for the UIRP Call for Proposals. The platform was subsequently enhanced to include features allowing access to technical reviews and scoring of the proposals and was piloted during the UIRP First Call for Proposals. This online fund management platform is a step towards developing in-house systems and structures within the CDRI Secretariat.

3.2. Fund Monitoring & Evaluation and Quality Assurance

With the recruitment of the Fund Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Specialist, the FMU started the development of a Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) Plan which will support the Participating Organizations implementing the projects to create robust project results matrices for effective monitoring. The Plan will further guide the Fund to strengthen the systems and processes at three levels, i.e., Fund, programmes, and projects. The performance criteria developed in the Plan could be used at various levels of monitoring. An internal rating system can be devised for all the projects and the overall programme.

3.3. Fund Communications Efforts

A range of communications efforts have strengthened visibility and stakeholder engagement of the Fund. The rollout of comprehensive project communications guidelines has helped the Participating Organizations implementing the projects to ensure consistent, impact-driven storytelling—particularly through compelling visual and narrative content. Quarterly IRAF Bulletins are being disseminated to keep TFMC members and key stakeholders informed and engaged. Impact stories from select IRIS projects in Guyana and Haiti have been published, alongside the creation of project factsheets for both IRIS and UIRP. In the second half of the year, the focus will be on sourcing high-quality content—photographs, videos, and testimonials—from the Implementing Partners, and developing targeted communications products such as case studies, digital stories, and policy briefs to further amplify the Fund's impact and reach.

3.4. Fund Risk Management

Following the quarterly update of the Fund Risk Dashboard² in June, the FMU has identified several issues of concern and prioritized mitigation measures:

- **Delays in signing of projects.** Despite the implementation of the Fast Track Delivery Plan, delays are still observed in the signing of IRIS Second Cohort projects by an average of six months. In some cases, the key government officials have changed and are reluctant to sign the ProDocs, resulting in delays. Efforts are being made to fast-track project signing such as early negotiations on IPR and ensuring proper and sustained engagement of government entities throughout the finalization of the project design.

² As per the Fund Risk Mitigation Strategy, the first version of the Fund Risk Dashboard (September 2024) identified a total of 35 risks (including 8 high risks, 10 medium risks and 17 low risks).

- **Delays in contracting projects and fund transfers to IRIS Second Cohort projects.** Some efforts towards improving FMU operational efficiency included bottleneck analysis for accreditation of NUNOs, digitization of the Fund Transfer Request (FTR), and delegation of authority for project contracting within the FMU.
- **Lower cash balance than the total project commitments.** The FMU has requested, or will be requesting, disbursements from the UK FCDO, the Government of India, and the European Union (EU).
- **Delays in establishing a proper Fund Risk Monitoring system.** The FMU is working towards establishing a functional system for risk monitoring with the TFMC Co-Chairs.

4. Progress in Fund Resource Mobilization

4.1. Fund Capitalization

In the second quarter, the Government of Australia disbursed the last two tranches for a total of AUD 2 million, fulfilling its commitment of AUD 6 million to IRAF.

The FMU, together with the UN MPTFO, prepared a revision of the EU Contribution Agreement for an additional EUR 5 million to support disaster risk reduction through earth observation and climate services in South Asia for 2026-2031. This would increase the total commitment to IRAF to \$41,759,627, subject to the prevailing exchange rates at the time of disbursement.

As of 1 August 2025, the IRAF capitalization is \$36,591,330, out of which \$14,096,626 has been received from donors.

4.2. Preparation of the Fund Resource Mobilization Strategy

The Fund Resource Mobilization Strategy will be prepared and scoping meeting(s) with donors, philanthropists, private sector, etc., will be organized.

5. Fund Receipt and Disbursement Status

Receipts from donors (from 1 January to 31 July 2025)

| S. No. | Donor | Receipts in \$ | Date |
|--------|---|-------------------|------------|
| | Fund receipts till 31 December 2024 (including interest and investment income earned) | 7,163,153 | 31.12.2024 |
| 1 | India | 5,839,550 | 31.03.2025 |
| 2 | AUS (DFAT) | 1,291,681 | 30.06.2025 |
| | TOTAL | 14,294,384 | |

Disbursements to approved projects (from 1 January to 31 July 2025)

| S. No. | Approved Projects | Disbursements in \$ | Reported Expenditure in \$ |
|--------|-------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 | IRIS Cohort 1 | 2,193,037 | 814,142 |
| 2 | IRIS Cohort 2 | 549,929 | - |
| | TOTAL | 2,742,966 | 814,142 |

6. Fund Governance

6.1. Trust Fund Management Committee

The Fund's governance body undertaking decisions related to the Fund—the Trust Fund Management Committee (TFMC)—convened its sixth meeting on 30 April 2025 with the participation of India, France, the United States of America (USA), Australia, Japan, Jamaica, Madagascar, EU, the UK FCDO, UNDP, and UNDRR, as well as the UN MPTFO as the ex-officio member. The TFMC decisions were as follows:

1. Fund allocation for the project "*Kingston Metropolitan Area Water Utility Infrastructure Disaster Mitigation and Climate Change Resilience*" for \$500,000 under IRIS Second Cohort;
2. Fund allocation for five projects under the UIRP First Call for Proposals for a total of \$2,495,370.50:
 - i. Urban Care Porto Alegre: Enhancing Resilient Street Infrastructure to Combat Extreme Heat and Inner-City Flooding with Active Travel and Water Sensitive Solutions (Brazil)
 - ii. Enhancing Risk-Informed Planning, Data-Driven Decision Making, and Early Warning System for Disaster-Resilient Urban Infrastructure in Major Cities of Bhutan
 - iii. Promoting Climate and Disaster Resilient Health Infrastructure in Sula Valley, Honduras
 - iv. Safe and Resilient Water Supply for Western Cities – Integrating Climate Resilience into Water Safety Plans of the Ambatale Water Supply Scheme (Sri Lanka)
 - v. Building Small Town Water Resilience in Chikkaballapur district, Karnataka, India
3. Requested the UN MPTFO to present the added safeguards and processes required for inclusion of government eligibility in the Fund TORs in the next TFMC and requested the members to provide their suggestions in writing to the FMU;
4. Approved the IRAF 2025 Annual Workplan and Budget for a total of \$8,665,161; and
5. Approved a "budget cap of up to 20 percent of the total project budget" for tangible demonstration of the project outputs on a case-by-case basis in projects.

The TFMC approved exceptional earmarking on a non-objection basis.

6.2. Programme Steering Committees

With the term of the first IRIS Steering Committee coming to an end, the CDRI Secretariat received expressions of interest for new representation from the Governments of Samoa for the Pacific region (replacing Fiji), Antigua and Barbuda for the Caribbean region (replacing Jamaica), and the Maldives for the Indian Ocean region (replacing Mauritius). The second term of the IRIS Steering Committee will be from May 2025 to April 2027. The next meeting is scheduled for August 2025.

The Urban Steering Committee was constituted with experts from the Governments of Antigua and Barbuda, India, Ghana, Brazil, the EU-Global Covenant of Mayors, the UK FCDO, and the AFD, and three meetings were held to facilitate the First Call for Proposals; the fourth meeting is scheduled for mid-August 2025.

6.3. Fund Management Unit

6.3.1. Fund Management Unit Recruitments

Following is the status of recruitments, as per the approved 2025 Fund Annual Workplan and Budget:

| S. No. | Recruitment through | Position | Status |
|--------|----------------------------|--|--|
| A.1 | Administrative Unit (UNDP) | Head of Fund Management Unit (AU) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terms of reference (TORs) finalized and agreed • Advertisement pending. |
| A.2 | | Operations, Fund Risk Management, and Oversight Specialist | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be readvertised as the candidate selected by UNDP declined the offer in 2025 |
| A.3 | | Fund Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Specialist | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruited by UNDP and joined on 20 March 2025 |
| B.1 | Technical Unit (CDRI) | Fund Management Consultant | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruited in 2024 |
| B.2. | | Fund Management Senior Specialist | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lateral movement within CDRI Secretariat |
| B.3. | | IRIS Programme Management Unit (PMU) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three Senior Specialists, in the Caribbean (joined on 10 February 2025), Pacific (joined on 17 February 2025) and CDRI Secretariat (joined on 17 March 2025) |
| B.4. | | Urban PMU | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Senior Specialist joined on 14 April 2025. |

6.3.2. FMU Capacity Building

A five-member delegation from CDRI-FMU participated in a week-long exposure visit to Geneva from 26 to 29 May 2025. The objective was to learn lessons from other funds managed by the UN MPTFO, UNOPS, and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. UNDP facilitated meetings with the Central African Forest Initiative, Global Fund for Coral Reefs, Systematic Observation Financing Facility, Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund, UN Road Safety Fund, and UNOPS Enhanced Integrated Framework. The delegation also held in-depth discussions with the IFRC's Disaster Response Emergency Fund and UNEP/GRID. The CDRI-FMU learned about fund governance mechanisms, programming, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, role of the Administrative Agent, and digital platforms for fund management.

7. Plan For Next Six Months

In the second half of 2025, the focus will be on meeting the disbursement target set for 2025, and completing the remaining set of Fund policies, systems, and tools.

1. **Launching the IRIS Third Cohort under the SIDS Funding Window** (communications and outreach plan) and **designing the UIRP Second Cohort under the Urban Funding Window**.
2. **Preparatory work for the mid-term evaluation of the Fund.**
3. **Completing the revision of the Fund TORs for TFMC approval**, including government and academia eligibility.
4. **Developing the Fund Transition Plan.**
5. **Developing the Resource Mobilization Strategy and Plan**, including private sector engagement.