Resilient economies and a secure future for SIDS

Limited Call for Proposals for Jamaica

Infrastructure for Resilient Island States

Kingston Metropolitan Area Water Utility Infrastructure Disaster Mitigation and Climate Change Resilience

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1. Context

1.1 Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure

Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) is a global coalition dedicated to enhancing the resilience of infrastructure systems to climate and disaster risks. Its members include national governments, international organizations, and businesses, collaborating to share knowledge, conduct research, and invest in disaster resilient infrastructure. The Infrastructure Resilience Accelerator Fund (IRAF) is CDRI's Mult-Partner Trust Fund established with the support of the United Nations, to implement the vision and strategic workplan of the Coalition. The key function of the Fund is to mobilize resources from donors, channelize resources for implementation, and report back to donors. The Trust Fund Management Committee (TFMC) is the governing body of the Fund and is responsible for making programming and resource allocation decisions.

1.2 Infrastructure for Resilient Island States

Infrastructure for Resilient Island States (IRIS) is a flagship programme of CDRI. IRIS aspires to equip Small Island Developing States (SIDS) with the knowledge, tools, and partnerships needed to achieve disaster and climate resilient infrastructure. In line with the IRIS guiding principles of co-curation, complementarity, institutional absorption capacities, and social inclusion, this Call for Proposals aims to provide the Jamaican government with technical support and knowledge products for promoting resilient infrastructure. Through the Call for Proposals, IRIS aims to deliver the overarching goal to foster resilient economies and a secure future for SIDS.

Most SIDS are characterized by small population sizes and territories that are most exposed and vulnerable to both geophysical and hydro-meteorological hazards. The effects of climate change, including but not limited to extreme weather events and sea-level rise, are likely to affect current and future infrastructure investments. SIDS also encounter unprecedented challenges that are unique to their geographies, such as small and dispersed populations and a limited pool of skilled labour, leading to higher per capita investment needs for infrastructure services. High population density in some areas leads to intense pressure for land use planning. Due to their remoteness, in the event of disasters, the access time and cost of aid delivery are high.

Anchored on the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action Pathway (SAMOA Pathway 2014-2024), IRIS was launched at the World Leaders Summit at COP26, Glasgow. IRIS adheres to the following five guiding principles:

1) **Co-creation and demand-driven -** Will work with SIDS to identify opportunities for partnership and technical collaboration to strengthen systems for promoting resilient infrastructure.
2) **Complementarity -** Will proactively build synergies with past, ongoing, and planned initiatives that support disaster and climate resilient infrastructure in SIDS.
3) **Absorptive capacity and ownership -** Will consider the absorptive capacity of SIDS,

designing SIDS-specific initiatives that simultaneously enhance their capacity. IRIS will strive to foster SIDS ownership and leadership in these initiatives.

4) **Flexibility -** Will have flexibility in choosing projects, geographical areas, and countries, through funding or in-kind support such as the deployment of experts, technical services, and knowledge products.

5) **Inclusion, equity, and respect for diversity -** Will extend support to all SIDS, irrespective of their CDRI membership status. IRIS will be based on principles of equity so that the most vulnerable countries have priority access to technical and financial support.

IRIS contributes to the Antigua and Barbuda Accord for SIDS (2024-2034) to deliver on closely interrelated outcomes that can contribute to building resilient, sustainable and inclusive infrastructure in SIDS:

- **Outcome 1:** Improved resilience of SIDS infrastructure to climate change and disaster risks
- **Outcome 2:** Strengthened knowledge and partnerships of integrating resilience in SIDS infrastructure
- **Outcome 3:** Gender equality and disability inclusion promoted through resilient SIDS infrastructure

Under the IRIS First and Second Calls for Proposals, 23 grants were approved to 24 SIDS. For more information, visit https://cdri.world/sids/ and https://mptf.undp.org/fund/irf00

2. IRIS Limited Call for Proposals for Jamaica

2.1 Need and Objective

The National Water Commission (NWC) is the largest supplier of potable water to about two million of Jamaica's total population of 2.828 million people. The Kingston Metropolitan Area (KMA) has a population of approximately 1 million people, and the drinking water demands are met by two water supply systems. The deteriorating water infrastructure has led to reduced capacity. It is also vulnerable to disasters as it transverses across hilly terrains with numerous bridge crossings. Disruptions in the supply from these systems would significantly reduce the available supply, affecting livelihood and economic activities to an area where about 25% of Jamaica's population resides.

Jamaica, the third largest island in the Caribbean, is highly vulnerable to hurricanes, storm surges, and tropical cyclones. The island is also susceptible to flooding and landslides due to its geographic setting and inadequate drainage infrastructure. These issues are further exacerbated due to impacts related to climate change, including weather variability and sea level rise. Additionally, the island is also threatened by periodic earthquakes, which can have devastating impacts on infrastructure. During the dry season, the poor structural integrity of the water storage infrastructure causes severe water scarcity. Disruptions in the supply from these systems have the potential to significantly impact citizens, affecting their day-to-day lives and economic activity.

The scheduled water lock-offs in the KMA have curtailed domestic activities in residential homes, businesses, and educational institutions. This negatively impacts the life of economically and socially impoverished people, who rely on public standpipes for domestic water. At the household level, it is the women and children who collect water from the public standpipe for domestic consumption. This population cohort is at critical risk for water-borne diseases and subsequent disruptions to educational and economic activities.

CDRI seeks proposals utilizing technological solutions to assess and analyze the KMA water supply infrastructure, including hazard and vulnerability analyses based on climate change scenarios, develop an implementation plan for increased infrastructure resilience and minimized risks to supply disruptions, and develop a pipeline of bankable projects for future financing. A key component of the proposal should include capacity building to strengthen the government's capacity to implement resilient infrastructure investments in the KMA water utility. The proposal should demonstrate synergy between this project and initiatives pursued by Jamaican agencies such as the Climate Change Division (CCD), the Meteorological Service Jamaica (MSJ), and the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM).

2.2 Geographic Scope

This call for proposals is specifically targeted to provide technical assistance to Jamaica, specifically the Kingston Metropolitan Area.

2.3 Criteria for Proposals

2.3.1 General

The projects proposed under this Call should cater to the following general criteria:

- Projects under this Call should help Kingston Metropolitan Area (KMA), Jamaica to develop and/or achieve their long-term vision of building climate and disaster resilience of water infrastructure.
- Projects may provide support to the respective government in piloting water infrastructure resilience initiatives that could be replicated or scaled across geographies. The project should be anchored on the overall objective of knowledge sharing amongst SIDS.
- Proposals should be aligned to infrastructure resilience projects that have potential for strengthening partnerships or increasing co-financing options.
- Proposals should demonstrate alignment and complementarity with international commitments such as ABAS, Nationally Determined Contributions, National Adaptation Plans, Sendai Framework, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and promote disaster and climate resilience of infrastructure.
- Proposals should demonstrate alignment with key international infrastructure quality principles and standards, such as the G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment and/or relevant regional principles, such as the Pacific Quality Infrastructure Principles.
- Gender equality, disability, and social inclusion (GEDSI) should appropriately be mainstreamed in the proposed projects.
- Projects should ensure that infrastructure assets designed with support from the funds are built, managed, and maintained to be resilient to a level that appropriately addresses the disaster and climate risks, and wherever possible, promote community resilience.
- Proposed projects can also focus on integrating resilience within an ongoing infrastructure initiative; the interventions can be at the stage of ideation, design, implementation, learning, or evaluation.
- Proposed projects should focus on strengthening the governance of infrastructure and contribute to building a resilient, inclusive, and sustainable future.

2.3.2 Thematic scope

The project contributes to strengthening the resilience of critical water infrastructure systems in the Kingston Metropolitan Area (KMA), Jamaica. The intervention focuses on improving knowledge, data, institutional capacity, and project preparation processes required to integrate climate and disaster risk considerations into infrastructure planning and investment. All steps and components are undertaken through a prioritization approach, and in consultation with key stakeholders:

The following steps identify the technical scope of the project:

- **Hazard and vulnerability analysis:** Multi-hazard analysis to assess the exposure and vulnerability of infrastructure to risks such as landslides, earthquakes, and climate-related hazards.
- **Infrastructure condition assessment**: Assessment and documentation of the physical and operational condition of critical infrastructure sections within the water supply system.
- **Identification and prioritization of critical and vulnerable infrastructure segments**: Identification of infrastructure sections most exposed to hazards and most critical for maintaining continuity of water supply.
- **Development of resilience and mitigation measures**: Identification of engineering and operational measures to strengthen infrastructure resilience and reduce the risk of water supply disruption.
- **Preparation of technical assessments, design concepts, and investment cases**: Preparation of technical reports on the assessment results and development of preliminary designs and costing for identified mitigation and strengthening interventions, and creation of bankable projects.
- **Data sharing, technical collaboration, and capacity building**: Collaboration with national institutions, universities, and technical agencies to access and share hazard, geological, and engineering data to support analysis, modelling, and resilience planning.
- **Capacity building and knowledge transfer**: Training and engagement of key stakeholders to strengthen institutional capacity for risk-informed infrastructure planning and resilience in collaboration with relevant institutions.

2.3.3 Sectors in Focus

Project proposals submitted for funding should align with the **water infrastructure sector**. This would include, but not limited to, project proposals on resilience in infrastructure addressing water security, water resource management, impacts of saline water intrusion, wastewater management, drainage and irrigation etc.

2.4 Application Process

Application in the prescribed form and with all attachments should be submitted online to proposals.iris@cdri.world. No other form of submission will be considered eligible.

Complete application package, including the following, should be sent in one single email/folder to the above email address.

1) Application/proposal (Annexure 1)
2) Budget (Annexure 2)
3) RBM and Work plan (Annexure 3)
4) CV of key resource people (Annexure 4)
5) Declaration on Anti-Corruption (Annexure 5)
6) Procurement plan (if the value of procurement is above $ 100,000)
7) Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfer (HACT) micro assessment report conducted within the last five years for non-UN organizations.
8) Prevention of Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment (PSEAH) assessment conducted within the last five years for non-UN organizations.

2.5 Eligibility of the applicant

Proposals are invited from UN organizations, non-UN organizations, and academia. To be considered eligible for this Call for Proposals, organizations need to fulfil the following criteria:

- The applicant should be legally registered as a local/national/regional/ international organization in Jamaica or have a duly registered local partner as part of the consortium applying for the funds.
- The applicant should have significant experience implementing projects on disaster resilient infrastructure.
- The applicant should have demonstrated the capacity to implement projects of similar scale and magnitude.
- Applicants that are non-UN organizations should have successfully cleared the HACT micro assessment and PSEAH assessment in the last five years[1]

2.6 Funding value and duration

A grant of five hundred thousand US dollars ($ 500,000) is available for this Call from IRAF. The budget proposed by the applicant must be within $ 500,000.

There shall be only one award under this Call.

The duration of the project should not be more than 24 months.

2.6.1 Exclusions

This call for proposals will not support construction, refurbishment, operations, and maintenance of the physical infrastructure assets in Jamaica. The scope is limited to institutional strengthening, technical support, and studies. Any goods procured must have a direct link to the project outcomes and will be evaluated as part of the selection process.

[1] HACT and PSEAH assessment

2.7 Deadline to receive proposals

The deadline for the proposal submission is 19 May 2026, 23:59 IST. Proposals submitted later than this deadline will not be considered.

2.8 Selection criteria

The selection criteria for the award will be based on the following parameters.

No.	Criteria	Description	Weightage (%)	Information/Documents required in the proposal
1	Organizational capability	The Applicant should have proven experience in the specific theme/sector of the proposed project and adequate implementation capability in the proposed SIDS.	20	• Demonstrated Expertise & Experts on Sector/Theme/ Country (Region) • Organization Profile & Portfolio
2	Project Design	The proposal should include a comprehensive situation analysis with credible data and evidence that illustratesthe rationale for the proposed project. Project goals, objectives & key deliverables should be well-defined in line with the approach & methodology. Methodology should be technically sound. Gender equality, disability, and social inclusion should be appropriately mainstreamed in the proposed project methodology. A detailed results framework on the project outcomes, outputs with measurable indicators, & quality control measures. The proposal will elaborate on how the project outputs and results will assist the government(s) to address the infrastructure resilience needs.	30	• Situation Analysis • Goals, Objectives, Key Deliverables • Expected Impacts • Approach & Methodology • Results Framework *[Outcomes, Outputs, Indicators, Means of Verification (MoV), Baseline, Targets]*
3	Project Implementation	Key stakeholders in the project are identified with their roles and responsibilities defined. The budget & resources allocation are sound and commensurate with the planned outputs & activities. Budget is detailed across activities/ outputs. The workplan gives appropriate time for every activity accounting for anticipated risk and delay.	40	• Roles & responsibilities of key stakeholders • Results-based budget • Procurement plan • Workplan • Staffing plan • Risk management
4	Alignment and complementarity	The proposed project should demonstrate alignment with international commitments, global frameworks, regional and national priorities and long-term vision for disaster and climate resilient infrastructure.	10	• Relevant policies/ programmes/projects demonstrating alignment and complementarity

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

CDRI
Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure

Website: https://cdri.world/sids/

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