

# Infrastructure for Resilient Island States

## Limited Call for Proposals for Jamaica

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

#### Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

**1. What is the Infrastructure for Resilient Island States (IRIS) Programme?**

Infrastructure for Resilient Island States (IRIS) is the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure's (CDRI) flagship programme dedicated to Small Island Developing States (SIDS). IRIS aspires to equip SIDS with the knowledge, tools, and partnerships needed to achieve disaster and climate resilient infrastructure. For more details, please refer to [IRIS Vision 2022-30](#).

**2. Which country and geographic area does this IRIS Limited Call for Proposals intend to support?**

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

**3. What thematic areas are covered under this Limited Call for Proposals?**

The IRIS Limited Call for Proposals for Jamaica aims to strengthen the resilience of critical water infrastructure systems in the Kingston Metropolitan Area, Jamaica. Applicants may propose interventions focused on improving knowledge, data, institutional capacity, and project preparation processes required to integrate climate and disaster risk considerations into infrastructure planning and investment.

**4. What sectors are covered under this Limited Call for Proposals?**

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.

**5. What will be the funding value and duration of the project?**

The proposed budget for the project should be up to US\$ 500,000. The duration of the project should not exceed 24 months.

## **6. Are there any interventions that fall outside the scope of funding through this Limited Call for Proposals?**

This Limited Call for Proposals will not support construction, refurbishment and operations and maintenance of physical infrastructure assets in SIDS. The funds from this Limited Call for Proposals cannot be used for the procurement of goods and physical assets as a primary purpose.

The following examples demonstrate project proposals that **will not qualify** for funding under this call:

- Procurement of equipment for emergency operating centres
- Improvement of emergency shelters for hurricane response
- Construction of hybrid seawalls
- Community awareness campaigns
- Procurement of Early Warning System equipment or its installation
- Disaster response/relief through direct cash transfer

## **7. Which organizations are eligible to apply for funding under the Limited Call for Proposals?**

Proposals are invited from UN organizations, non-UN organizations, and academia that satisfy 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 focused on disaster resilient infrastructure.
- The applicant should have demonstrated the capacity to implement projects of similar scale and magnitude.
- Non-UN organizations applying for the grant should have successfully cleared the Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfer (HACT) micro-assessment and documented capacities for meeting standards on Prevention of Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment (PSEAH) assessment in the last five years - mandatory to be considered eligible to receive funds.

## **8. Are there specific requirements for a UN organization if it is awarded the grant?**

Requirements for a UN organization awardee include:

- Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the UN organization and the UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTFO), if one has not already been signed
- Signing of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), negotiated outside of the Multi-Partner Trust Fund, directly between CDRI and the applicant UN organization.

## **9. Are there specific requirements for a non-UN organization if it is awarded the grant?**

Requirements for a non-UN organization awardee include:

- Signing of Framework Agreement and Project Financing Agreement with UN-MPTFO
- Signing of IPR, negotiated outside of the Multi-Partner Trust Fund, directly between CDRI and the applicant organization.

## **10. Can a consortium of organizations apply?**

Yes. However, one organization must be designated as the main applicant, responsible and accountable for managing the project funds and all other contractual commitments with CDRI and MPTFO. The other organizations in the consortium will be partners (implementing partners) to the applicant.

Under the Infrastructure Resilience Accelerator Funds (IRAF) Multi-Partner Trust Fund legal framework:

- There can be only one applicant organization per project proposal. The applicant organization will go through the due diligence process to assess whether it can be entrusted with the responsibility to manage funding from IRAF donors. The applicant organization is, therefore, the designated organization that will be a signatory to the Framework Agreement and Project Financing Agreement with UN-MPTFO (contingent upon successfully clearing the due diligence process).
- The applicant organization will be fully accountable for the use of the project resources as well as for the project results on behalf of the consortium.
- On signing the Framework Agreement, the applicant organization is considered a “Participating Organization” by the Fund. There can be only one Participating Organization per project.

## **11. Can the Participating Organization engage a third party for implementation?**

Yes. The Participating Organization may engage third parties in implementation through a contracting/partnership agreement to implement selected project deliverables. These include NGOs, UN organizations, international or regional organizations, governments, universities or private entities.

## **12. How many organizations can be part of a proposal?**

There is no limit on the number of government bodies and implementing partners per proposal, provided a lead agency is clearly identified. The CDRI IRIS Programme Team will liaise with the lead agency only, which will be liable for all aspects of their proposed action. Please note that the mandate and qualifications of implementing partners will form part of the evaluation criteria.

**13. In case of a consortium, will only the applicant organization be accountable for fund management and project delivery?**

Yes. The applicant organization, accredited as a Participating Organization, will be the project signatory solely responsible and accountable for the management and implementation of the project. Other partners that may be part of the consortium need to have a grant agreement in place with the Participating Organization as per its own policy, rules and regulations.

**14. Is an international non-profit organization registered in a non-SIDS country eligible to apply?**

Yes. International non-profit organizations are eligible to apply, provided they have a legal registration to work in the target SIDS country where interventions are planned.

**15. Can applicants who have applied for previous IRIS Call for Proposals apply?**

Yes. Applicants who previously applied through the IRIS First and Second Call for Proposals are eligible to apply.

**16. Are private/for-profit organizations eligible to apply?**

No. Private/ for-profit organizations are not eligible to apply for funding under the IRAF Multi-Partner Trust Fund.

**17. Can an eligible Participating Organization sub-contract a private/for-profit organization for a specific deliverable within a project activity? Is there any limitation regarding indirect costs in such a contractual arrangement?**

Yes. Eligible Participating Organizations are allowed to sub-contract a private/for-profit organization for specific deliverable(s) within a project. The procurement or partnership policies, rules and regulations of the Participating Organization will apply in such arrangements.

**18. Can this fund be used as part of a wider programme?**

Applicants are encouraged to align their proposed interventions with ongoing and planned research, capacity building or investment programmes in the disaster resilient infrastructure domain and clearly indicate these initiatives in the designated section of the proposal.

**19. Can my budget exceed the prescribed funding value?**

No. Proposal budgets must fit within the funding value specified in the Limited Call for Proposals (i.e., up to US\$500,000). Applicants seeking larger funding envelopes are encouraged to leverage IRIS support to secure co-financing, reduce the scope or duration of their proposed project or design stand-alone implementation phases.

**20. What indirect/overhead costs are allowed in the budget, and what is the maximum allowable percentage?**

Indirect costs are general overhead and administration expenses that support the entire operations of the organization. They typically include the Participating Organization's headquarters rent, utilities, equipment, and associated information systems and support and administrative staff such as HR, general finance, accounting, IT, and legal who are not directly engaged in the project implementation.

Under this grant, indirect/overhead costs (administrative fee) are capped at a maximum of 7 percent of the total project budget. In case the grant has sub-recipient(s), meaning budget is transferred as grant to counterparts (unlike procurement), the total indirect costs cannot exceed 12 percent of the budget for the activities sub-granted to the sub-recipient. For example, if \$X is transferred as grant to counterparts, then the primary recipient and the sub-recipient cannot receive more than 12 percent of \$X as indirect cost. It is recommended that the primary recipient charges 7 percent overhead and the sub-recipient charges a maximum of 5 percent. Any exception to the maximum 5 percent total overhead costs for the sub-grantee requires a waiver from the TFMC. Any such exception shall not constitute a precedent for future grant requests.

**21. Does the UNSDG budget have to match the Results Based Budget?**

The UNSDG budget and the Results Based Budget must match exactly. They represent the same budget (total fund), presented in two different formats. In the Results Based Budget, the indirect costs (7%) must be included under each budget line.

**22. Does the proposal need to align with international frameworks and commitments?**

Yes. Proposals should demonstrate alignment with and complementarity to relevant international commitments, including Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS), Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), the Sendai Framework, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Proposals should also align with key international infrastructure quality principles, such as the G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment and/or relevant regional principles, such as the Pacific Quality Infrastructure Principles.

**23. How can proposals ensure gender equality, disability and social inclusion?**

Proposals should include strategies for mainstreaming gender equality, disability and social inclusion, such as:

- Ensuring equal participation of women and marginalized groups in project activities
- Addressing the specific needs of vulnerable populations in infrastructure planning
- Promoting gender-sensitive approaches in capacity building and decision-making processes

## 24. What types of risks should applicants consider in their proposals?

Applicants should consider risks such as:

- **Political risks:** Local political leaders may be unaware of or unwilling to cooperate with the project
- **Institutional risks:** Local bodies may be slow to respond, lack adequate staffing, or have insufficient data to support the project)
- **Operational risks:** Local security issues, logistical challenges, or disruptions that could delay implementation.
- **Regulatory risks:** Delays due to bureaucratic processes or regulatory approvals
- **Data risks:** Challenges in data collection or accessing required information
- **Coordination risks:** Difficulties managing multiple stakeholders, particularly in multi-country projects
- **Financial risks:** Cost overruns or funding gaps

All proposals should include risk mitigation strategies to address these existing and potential challenges.

## 25. Can I apply in my native language?

Proposals must be submitted in English.

## 26. What are the selection criteria for awarding proposals?

For the full scoring criteria, please refer to *Section 2.8: Selection Criteria* in the Limited Call for Proposals document. Proposals will be evaluated based on alignment with CDRI's vision, thematic relevance, expected impact, scalability, and potential for leveraging additional financing.

## 27. How does the selection process work?

The decision-making body of the IRAF Multi-Partner Trust Fund is the Trust Fund Management Committee (TFMC). A Technical Evaluation Committee composed of various experts will be constituted to evaluate the proposals. Based on the scoring, the IRIS Steering Committee will make recommendations to the IRAF TFMC, which will make the final decision.

## 28. What is the application process and deadline?

Completed proposals, using the prescribed template including all requisite attachments, should be submitted to [proposals.iris@cdri.world](mailto:proposals.iris@cdri.world). The deadline for submission is **19 May 2026, 23:59 IST**. For the complete application package, please refer to *Section 2.4: Application Process* of the Limited Call for Proposals document.

For further questions, please contact us at [iris@cdri.world](mailto:iris@cdri.world).