



United Nations
Small Island
Developing States
Partnerships Awards

CDRI 

Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure



Infrastructure Resilience Accelerator Fund

INFRASTRUCTURE FOR RESILIENT ISLAND STATES

Socially Inclusive Strengthening of Climate Resilient Infrastructure and Action in Caribbean SIDS Antigua and Barbuda, Dominican Republic, and Saint Lucia



Location:

Antigua & Barbuda,
Dominican Republic,
St. Lucia



Period:

2025-2027

About IRIS

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

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

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

Context and Background

- The Caribbean is the second most disaster-prone region globally with a 38% rise in storms from 2019–2022 (OCHA & UNDRR, 2023). Countries like Antigua and Barbuda and the Dominican Republic rank among the most exposed to tropical cyclones (Statista, 2023).
- Schools in the Caribbean remain highly exposed to severe infrastructure damage and disruption to education due to natural hazards (UNESCO, 2023).
- Despite regional commitments like the Caribbean Safe School Initiative, gaps remain in school vulnerability assessments, strategic disaster resilience planning, and staff capacity for implementation.
- The project addresses these gaps by assessing infrastructure in 20 schools across Antigua and Barbuda, the Dominican Republic, and Saint Lucia, and building local capacity, strategic plans, and financing solutions for inclusive disaster resilient education infrastructure.



Antigua & Barbuda,
Dominican Republic,
St. Lucia

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Objective and Outputs

The project aims to strengthen socially inclusive and resilient educational infrastructure to increase school to ensure continuity post-disaster by:

- Assessing schools' capacity to withstand adverse events and strengthen guidelines, actions, and road maps.
- Developing and strengthening an inclusive roadmap for the disaster resilience of education infrastructure and capacity training.
- Promoting sustainability by strengthening institutional and school-level capacities, leveraging co-financing opportunities, and enhancing knowledge sharing among SIDS through strengthened partnerships and disaggregated databases.

Impact

- The project will better equip schools to withstand disasters and climate risks over the long-term.
- It will enhance and scale up resilience initiatives in schools across the Caribbean and other SIDS.
- Schools will have strengthened capacities to assess and enhance their resilience.
- The project will expand access to co-financing options for developing disaster resilient education infrastructure.
- It will strengthen national capacities in project countries to achieve SDG4 targets.



Nodal Government Agency

Ministry of Education, Sports and Creative Industries, Antigua & Barbuda

National Council for Climate Change and Clean Development Mechanism, Dominican Republic

Ministry of Finance, Economic Development and the Youth Economy, St Lucia



Implementing Partner

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