

# Urban Infrastructure Resilience Programme

**First Call for Proposals**





# 1. Context

---

## 1.1 About CDRI

The Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) is a global partnership of national governments, UN agencies, multilateral development banks, financing institutions, private sector, academic and knowledge institutions that aims to promote the resilience of infrastructure systems to climate and disaster risks, thereby ensuring sustainable development. CDRI's Infrastructure Resilience Accelerator Fund (IRAF) is the Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) established with the support of the United Nations to implement the Vision and Strategic Workplan of the Coalition.

CDRI promotes development of resilient infrastructure which supports economic growth and social development and is key to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, endorsed by 193 countries.

## 1.2 About the Urban Infrastructure Resilience Programme funding window

Cities play a pivotal role in the global economy, contributing to more than 80% of the global Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The world is witnessing an unprecedented period of urbanisation. More than half of the global population currently resides in urban areas, with the percentage expected to rise to 70% by 2050.

Climate variability and change is impacting cities' infrastructure, leading to damage of assets, service disruption, and loss of functionality. The damage or disruption of service of urban infrastructure has far-reaching impacts; creating compounding risks and has the likelihood of causing widespread service disruption.

### Box 1: Cities and Climate Trends

Globally, 70% of Average Annual Losses (AAL)<sup>1</sup> are attributed to climatic hazards, and these significantly impact urban population. Among these hazards, rising temperature extremes, increased flooding, and water scarcity and security impede cities sustainable development.

- Climate variability has given rise to compounding hazards, combining warming and precipitation extremes in various parts of the globe:
- June 2024 marked the 12<sup>th</sup> consecutive month of record-high temperatures surpassing the pre-industrial (1850-1900) average by 1.5°C. Projections suggest that by 2050, 45% of the global urban population will be vulnerable to extreme heat.
- Over the last two decades, flooding has been the most frequent disaster, accounting for 44% of total reported events. Further, much of the population (89%) which are at risk to floods live in Low- and Middle-Income countries (LMICs).

---

<sup>1</sup> UNISDR defines Average Annual Loss as a measure of annualized future losses over the long term, derived from probabilistic risk models.

The need for strengthening the resilience of cities against future climate scenarios is urgent as the world faces record-breaking occurrences and frequency of extreme weather events impacting infrastructure systems affecting lives and livelihoods.

Developing resilient infrastructure will help avoid asset loss, reduce spending on repair and minimise disruption of critical services. Additionally, it will support economic growth and social development through enhanced service resilience; reduced carbon emissions resulting in improved biodiversity, cleaner air and water.

CDRI's Urban Infrastructure Resilience Programme (UIRP) responds to the demand from member countries for technical assistance to ensure their investments are aligned towards the shared ambition of disaster and climate resilience of new and existing infrastructure.

This Call for Proposals (CfP), aligned with CDRI's Urban Infrastructure Resilience Strategy, will support informed infrastructure investments in cities within CDRI member countries.

The CfP is open to cities from 30 CDRI member countries; those members in Low- and Middle-Income countries<sup>2</sup> (LMICs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) (list is provided in Annexure I)<sup>3</sup>.

**Figure 1: List of eligible CDRI member countries**



These 30 countries face high levels of urbanization, increasing vulnerability and disaster risks. While LMICs account for only 33% of the exposed value<sup>4</sup>, they account for 54% of the infrastructure risk,<sup>5</sup> with a probable AAL of \$397 Billion. SIDS are particularly vulnerable due to their small size, geographical remoteness, dispersed populations, and extreme exposure to climate change and disaster risks. Existing infrastructure investment gaps, high vulnerability, and limited capacities exacerbate the challenges faced by cities in LMICs and SIDS, necessitating targeted interventions.

2 Low- and Middle-Income countries (LMICs) includes Low Income Countries, Lower-Middle Income Countries and Upper Middle-Income Countries. The list is as per the publication by the World Bank Group for the fiscal year 2025 <https://datahelpdesk.worldbank.org/knowledgebase/articles/906519-world-bank-country-and-lending-groups>.

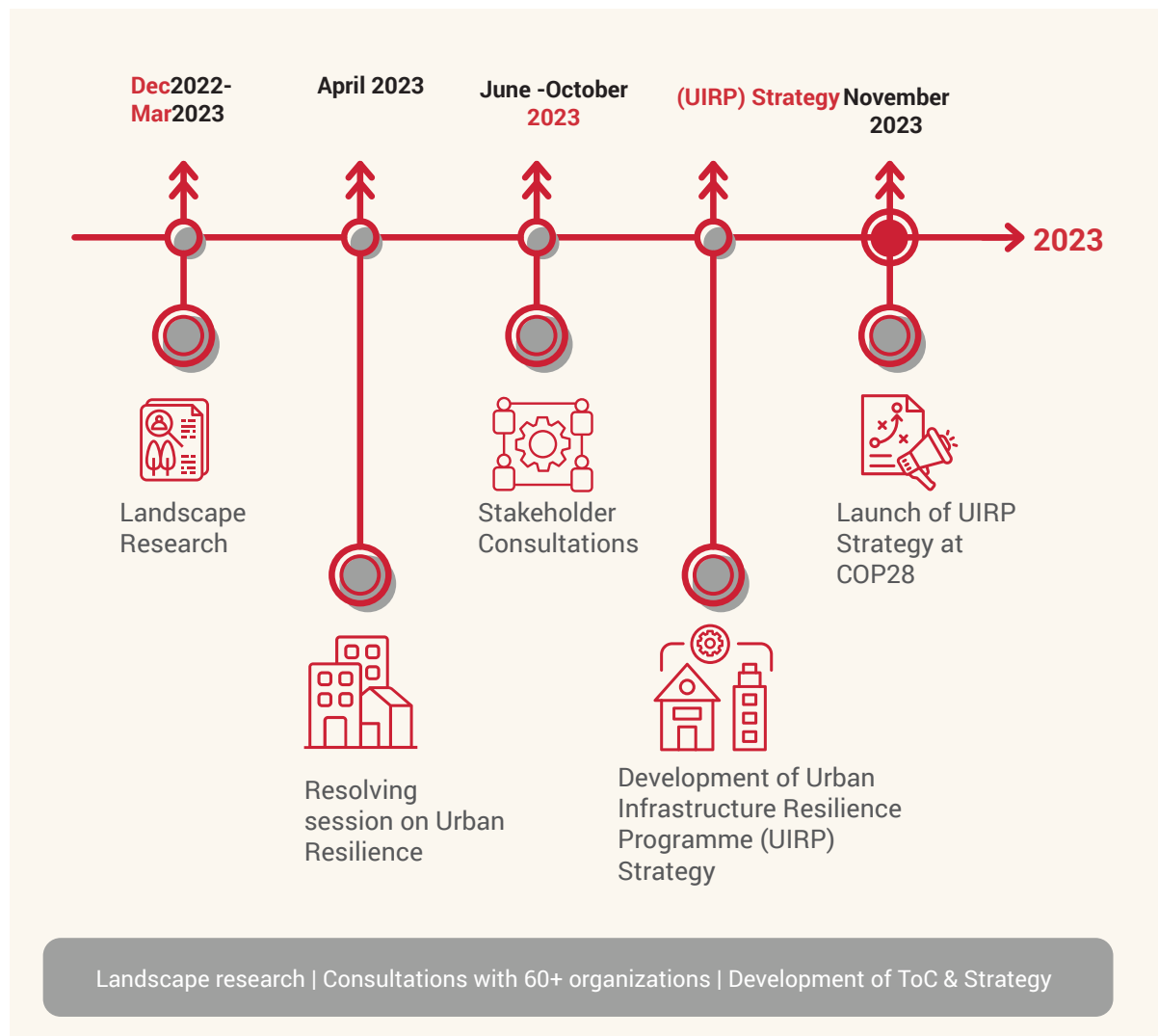
3 Proposals are invited from CDRI member countries listed as eligible under the programme. Additionally, proposals are welcomed from any new CDRI member country that meets the outlined criteria.

4 According to UNDRR, exposed value can be defined as the situation of infrastructure, housing, production capacities and other tangible human assets located in hazard-prone areas.

5 According to CDRI's Biennial Report (2023) Infrastructure asset risk reflects the concatenation of geological and climate related hazards, the exposure of infrastructure assets, and their vulnerability or susceptibility to loss and damage.

Further, much of the infrastructure in urban areas in LMICs are yet to be built and amount of the investment that will be done by 2030 will exceed \$29 Trillion. Therefore, embedding resilience in their design and execution provides the opportunity to lock in resilience as opposed to risk.

**Figure 2: Development process of UIRP**



The design of the UIRP and this CfP have been underpinned by a process of co-creation. Between 2022 and 2023, CDRI undertook in-depth landscape analysis and extensive stakeholder consultations to identify needs, opportunities, and challenges in the urban infrastructure resilience domain. These consultations guided the development of a Theory of Change, and identification of projects and programmatic areas. The UIRP strategy was launched at the UNFCCC Conference of Parties (COP) 28 in Dubai.

The need for immediate and targeted action in cities within LMICs and SIDS was unanimous amongst stakeholders. Their inputs underscored the requirements for technical support, robust data and tools, capacity enhancement, and the formulation of Standard Operating Procedures and guidelines specific to resilience of urban infrastructure systems.



## 2. Urban First Call for Proposals

---

### 2.1 Call for Proposal - Objective

This CfP aims to **support cities in LMICs and SIDS for application of data, tools and knowledge leading to improved design, operation and maintenance of infrastructure, and to mobilize further bespoke technical assistance.**

This CfP has two objectives:

- Enhancing access and application of data, tools and knowledge by Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) leading to improved design, operation, and maintenance of infrastructure.
- Increasing access to infrastructure finance through Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) / investment banks / financing corporations.

The expected outcomes of the projects funded within this CfP 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 to existing and new infrastructure.

#### **Outcome 2: Integrating resilience into infrastructure operations and maintenance**

Cities manage and operate infrastructure systems during extreme climate events and are equipped for resilient recovery.

#### **Outcome 3: Augmenting financial resources**

Cities get funding from financial institutions / Multilateral development banks (MDBs) and access to national budget

#### **Outcome 4: Improved awareness and capacities**

Practitioners are trained on urban infrastructure resilience to inform /influence projects, programmes and investments.

### 2.2 Criteria for Proposals

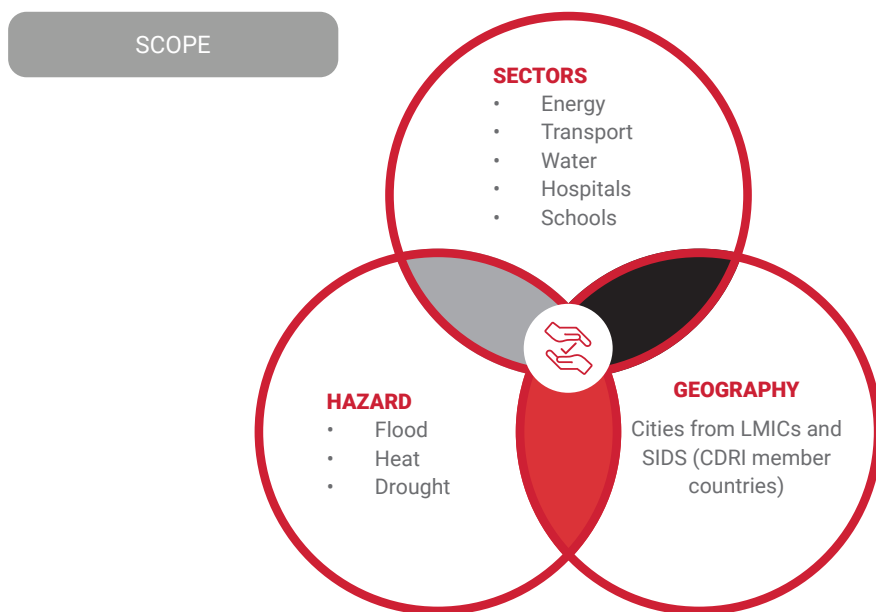
#### 2.2.1 Scope: Geography, Hazard and Sectors

The call is open to cities across 30 CDRI member countries (LMICs and SIDS). The ambition is to support building resilience against extreme temperatures and water challenges (flooding, drought, water scarcity, and security), which stood out in consultations as the critical threats confronting cities. Proposals can be for a single city or for multiple cities (within same country) that aligns with the sectors in focus.

Project proposals under this CfP must additionally align with one or more of the following infrastructure sectors:

- **Energy:** distribution systems, substation design, etc.
- **Social infrastructure:** hospitals and schools.
- **Transportation:** buses, railways, metro rail, paratransit, etc.
- **Water:** water supply, sanitation, water treatment plants, stormwater drainage, canals, lakes, rivers etc.

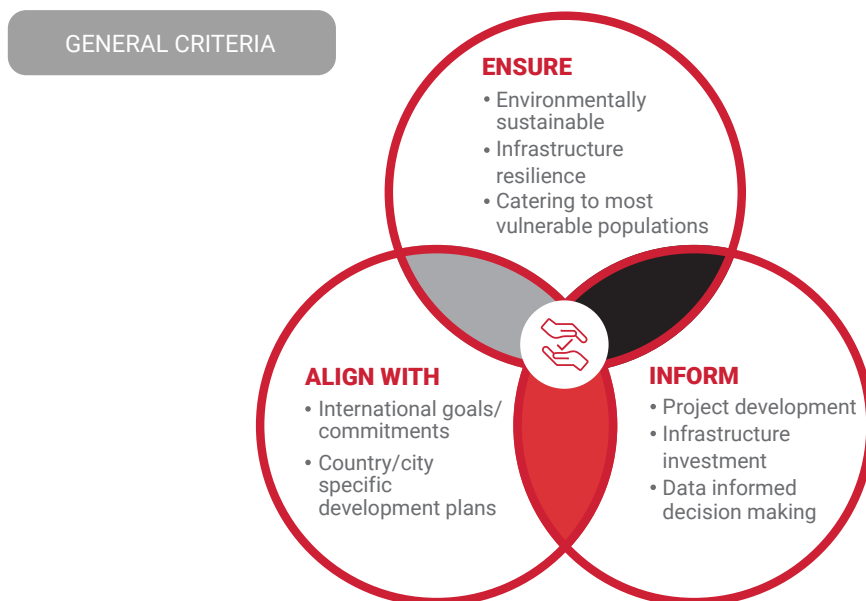
**Figure 3: Scope - Geography, hazard and sectors**



### 2.2.2 General criteria

Proposals must align with CDRI’s vision and mission and substantially contribute to UIRP objectives and outcomes by contributing to the General criteria of the CfP:

**Figure 4: General criteria**



### 2.2.3 Thematic criteria

The CfP shall support project development for risk informed planning, data for decision making, resilient recovery and climate adaptation investment strategies, including integration of nature-based infrastructure solutions.

Project proposals may focus on the indicative list of interventions provided below. This list should not be considered exhaustive, other interventions will be considered. Other innovative project proposals can also be proposed, if they are aligned with the UIRP theme and outcomes.



## **Theme 1: Project development support for risk informed urban infrastructure design and planning**

Given the current context of climate variability and the infrastructure investments opportunities in LMICs and SIDS, designing and integrating disaster risk information into cities' urban development plans, projects and programmes is imperative. Proposals could focus on enhancing urban infrastructure resilience by incorporating climate risk information and disaster resilience into various stages of urban planning and development.

### **Potential interventions:**

- Developing and integrating climate and disaster risk information into national and local urban development, master plans, land suitability analysis, city building bylaws and codes with a focus on public and social infrastructure.
- Integrating climate and disaster resilience into urban infrastructure project planning, contract, and procurement documents.
- Including climate and disaster risk resilience in project feasibility reports, investment reports, comprehensive project development, detailed project reports, and appraisal reports for planned projects where implementation funds are available.
- Designing, developing, and implementing infrastructure governance including monitoring, and evaluation mechanisms to improve the resilience and quality of planned infrastructure investments.
- Feasibility assessment for investment planning to catalyze funding for risk-informed urban infrastructure development.

## **Theme 2: Data for decision making including impact based early warning systems**

Access to data platforms will aid cities in collating information, geospatial visualization, and interpreting it into actionable steps. Risk assessment using regional and granular urban data provides vital insights to embed resilience in design and planning of urban infrastructure. Proposals could focus on informed decision-making by strengthening access to climate risk information and enhancing capacities to analyse spatial data. In addition, this theme emphasizes the role of early warning systems to enhance safety and resilience of infrastructure systems in the face of emerging threats.

### **Potential interventions:**

- Development of hazard, vulnerability, and risk information, and design of adaptation/mitigation options for urban infrastructure projects in the pipeline.
- Assessing the performance of urban early warning systems to enhance data surveillance for managing climate risks and to develop impact-based warnings and advisories for critical infrastructure sectors.
- Developing data collection and management strategies to integrate early warning, weather, and climate information for informing urban infrastructure operations and management.
- Designing and implementing city-level data systems to monitor the availability, accessibility, and quality of infrastructure service delivery for vulnerable communities/groups.
- Mainstreaming ISO codes for urban infrastructure resilience by establishing processes for data collection and management systems in cities where data initiatives of local government are underway.

Please note, all proposals under this theme should include clear activities and results for the application of data and early warning systems to critical infrastructure sectors.

### **Theme 3: Support for resilient recovery**

Assessment of existing urban infrastructure data, damage and loss databases, and socio-economic recovery needs are crucial for risk-informed rebuilding. In cities where funds for implementation are available, ensuring the quality of infrastructure and enhancing the capacities of urban professionals could play a vital role in building systemic resilience. Proposals could focus on supporting the resilient recovery of urban infrastructure systems in post-disaster scenarios. In addition, this theme emphasizes the need for review and revision of building codes /byelaws to safeguard against future climate scenarios.

#### **Potential interventions:**

- Developing recovery and rebuilding strategies for urban infrastructure systems.
- Retrofitting options for urban infrastructure systems to safeguard against future climate extremes (where funds for implementation are available).
- Conducting reviews and revisions of city building bylaws and codes to safeguard against future climate extremes.
- Developing financing strategies for post-disaster recovery and reconstruction efforts of urban infrastructure systems.
- Enhancing the capacities of infrastructure managers to enable risk-informed recovery planning.

Please note, while CDRI does provide support for Post Disaster Needs Assessments, this particular CfP will not support such activities.

### **Theme 4: Resilient infrastructure and climate adaptation investment strategies, including nature-based infrastructure solutions**

Given the multifaceted benefits nature-based infrastructure solutions offers to cities, including flood defence, extreme heat and stormwater runoff management, incorporating them within infrastructure projects and investments is key. However, operation and management challenges have limited their widespread adoption. Proposals could focus on promoting resilient infrastructure and climate adaptation investment strategies in public infrastructure projects. In addition, this theme emphasizes the use and application of tools, designing and piloting financing mechanisms.

#### **Potential interventions:**

- Developing guidelines for the integration and implementation of nature-based infrastructure solutions within planned urban projects and programmes.
- Implementing monitoring, evaluation, and governance mechanisms to improve the quality of urban infrastructure investments within planned initiatives or ongoing projects
- Promoting the development and use of open-source tools and applications for risk assessment and the identification of resilience options within urban planning and infrastructure development.
- Technical support in designing and piloting financing mechanisms such as credit enhancement, blended finance, and municipal/green bonds to leverage public and private sector capital for promoting resilience and climate adaptation within infrastructure investments.
- Designing parametric insurance for urban services (where funds for implementation are available as this grant cannot be used to support insurance payouts).



## 2.3 Funding Value and Duration:

This CfP will support a minimum of five (5) cities, with funding of around US\$2.5 Million. The duration of funded projects must range from 12 to 24 months from award to implementation.

A single city proposal can range from US\$150,000 to US\$500,000 and a multi-city proposal (within the same country) can range from US\$250,000 to US\$750,000.

**Single city proposal:** The proposals submitted by applicant should be endorsed by the relevant city government / national government. The applicant and partner organizations together should have proven experience in the specific theme / sector and adequate technical and institutional capacity to implement the project.

**Multi city proposal:** A joint proposal for providing technical support for multiple cities within same country that aligns with the theme/sector can be submitted. A multi-city proposal should be endorsed by the concerned urban local bodies or provincial or national government which will be the recipient of the technical assistance.

Preference will be given to proposals where the technical support is likely to inform the infrastructure project pipeline or investment plans in cities where funds for implementation are already in place. Co-funding is not mandatory, however.

## 2.4 Exclusion:

This CfP will not support:

- Applications covering cities in any country not listed in Annexure I.
- Construction, refurbishment and operations and maintenance of the physical infrastructure assets.
- The procurement of goods, tools and physical assets as a primary purpose.
- Post disaster needs assessments.

## 2.5 Application process

Proposals should be submitted using the CDRI's Online Proposal Submission Platform.

## 2.6 Who can apply?

A single organization or consortium of organizations will be eligible to apply for the CfP. However, each project proposal must select and identify one primary organization for purpose of financial transactions and contractual commitments. Organizations that are eligible to receive funding under the IRAF MPTF include:

- a. United Nations
- b. Non-United Nations Organizations (NUNO):
  - International Organizations
  - Multilateral and bilateral cooperation agencies
  - Non-Governmental Organizations

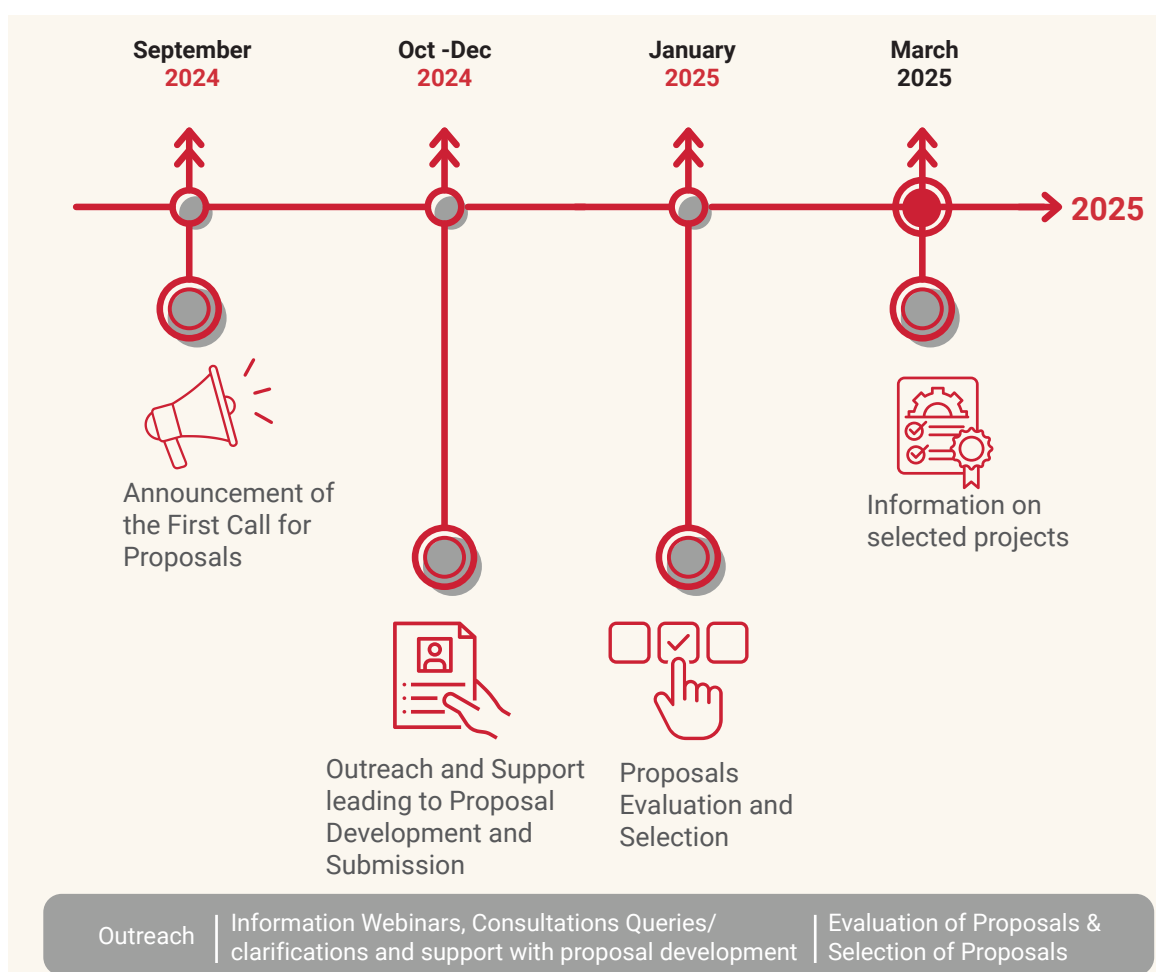
The following procedures will apply for successful applicants:

- UN Organization will need to sign the Fund Memorandum of Understanding.
- Non-UN organizations will need to be accredited based on the UNSDG clearance of non-UN organizations modality including the Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfer (HACT) risk assessment<sup>6</sup> and the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment (PSEAH) risk assessment<sup>7</sup>.

## 2.7 Timeline

The deadline for the proposal submission is 23 December 2024, 23.59 GMT. Selected proposals will be informed by March 2025.

**Figure 5: Call for Proposal (September 2024-March 2025)**



## 2.8 Monitoring and evaluation

The objective of this CfP is to put in place replicable and scalable solutions to enhance infrastructure resilience in LMICs and SIDS. Consequently, applicants are expected to report transparently on project activities and commit to UIRP’s learning culture.

<sup>6</sup> UNSDG | Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers Framework

<sup>7</sup> UN IP PSEA Common Assessment - Final (interagencystandingcommittee.org)



- **Outcome reporting:** Implementing agencies are expected to define specific indicators to monitor the impact of the UIRP support in their proposal and provide baseline data, mid-line and end-line results to demonstrate positive outcomes. Mid-line and end-line results will be examined by the UIRP Steering Committee.
- **Progress reporting:** Implementing agencies will provide succinct monthly progress reports against the proposed work plan to Fund Management Unit (FMU). The report should cover key project developments (activities, results and risks) and interim financial reports (template will be shared with the selected applicants).
- **Knowledge management and learning:** Implementing agencies should document project implementation process and learnings. The implementation partners will participate and present in knowledge sharing sessions organized by CDRI or its partners.
- **Access to Project Results:** The Implementing agencies shall share and provide access to all the Project Results. The Project Results include but are not limited to all studies, drafts, documentation, information, illustrations, drawings, calculations, designs, image files, raw data, processed data, analysed data and any other materials produced or procured for implementation of the Project. The Project Results should be provided in the appropriate open data format.

Further details on the project implementation, monitoring and evaluation requirements will be shared with the implementing partners of successful applications.

## 2.9 Selection criteria

### 2.9.1 Essential requirements:

The applicant should ideally have presence within the city / cities proposed, and failing that within the country, and should have endorsement from the relevant city government / national government / respective infrastructure management agency.

The applicant and partner organizations together should have proven experience in the specific theme/ sector and adequate technical and institutional capacity to implement the project.

**Documents to be submitted** (Applicants not fulfilling the criteria will not be considered):

- A letter of support to the primary applicant from the relevant city government in charge and/or from respective infrastructure management agency. In multi-city project proposals, endorsement by government agencies from all concerned urban local bodies where the technical assistance will be provided is required<sup>8</sup>
- Organization profile and details of sectoral experience

### 2.9.2 Evaluation criteria:

The evaluation criteria for selection will be based on the following parameters:

Sl.No	Criteria	Weightage (%)
A	Participating Organization Qualification and Eligibility	10
B	Rationale, Approach and Methodology	50
C	Expected Impact and Results (and alignment with CDRI UIRP outcomes)	10
D	Implementation Plan	10
E	Sustainability and Mainstreaming	10
F	Alignment to City, National and International Commitments	10

<sup>8</sup> Template for letter of support and organization profile are provided in the CDRI Online Proposal Submission Platform.

**A. Participating organization qualification and eligibility:** The applicant and partner organization should have proven experience in the specific theme or sector of the proposed project and demonstrate adequate implementation capability in the proposed country or city (most preferable). The applicant is required to submit the following details:

- **Mission and mandate:** Organizations' mandate / mission statement.
- **Geographical coverage:** Organizations' past work supporting resilient urban infrastructure planning or implementation in last 5 years and Applicants' regional/ country office details.
- **Thematic expertise relevant to the project:** Overview of maximum 5 projects implemented in the last 10 years relevant to the theme/ sector of the proposed project.
- **Human resources:** Organizations' size and details of proposed technical experts (gender segregated) including their relevant expertise in relation to the proposed project and the countries they are based. One page CV of at least 5 key resources (technical and non-technical) that would be associated with this project.
- **Organization portfolio:** Experience in implementing projects of similar scale in country/city including turnover (USD) in the last 3 years.

**B. Rationale, approach and methodology:** The proposal should include an overview of city infrastructure systems, climate impacts, and risks to establish the need for CDRI technical assistance. The project vision, goal, objectives, key deliverables, approach and methodology should be described in detail. The proposal should specify the following:

- **Rationale:** Background information on the city and rationale on how this project will improve the infrastructure resilience of the city<sup>9,10</sup>.
- **Objectives:** What the project intends to achieve.
- **Deliverables:** Key deliverables (at the most 5) that will help in achieving the said objectives.
- **Approach and Methodology:** Specific processes, and tools that will be used to achieve the intended project goals and deliverables. Where applicable, the methodology should provide information on how data will be collected, analysed, and used to inform project and measure its progress. It should also include details on stakeholder engagements, including local governments, communities, and other relevant parties, during the project lifecycle.
- **Risk:** Any anticipated risks or delays (if any) and how they are likely to be addressed.

**C. Expected Impact and Results (and alignment with CDRI UIRP outcomes):** The proposal should indicate the expected outcome and impact (s) (direct and indirect) in line with the UIRP and proposed project objectives. The proposal should specify the following:

- Extent of infrastructure investment (in USD) that will be influenced through this proposed intervention.
- Benefit (if any) of this intervention to existing infrastructure's operations and maintenance processes.
- Expected number of people likely to be benefited due to this proposed intervention (disaggregated data where applicable).
- Expected improvement in awareness and capacity of the city stakeholders.

<sup>9</sup> Indicate alignment with any existing /ongoing government policy / initiative/ investment (if applicable). Supporting government reports/ documents should be submitted to validate the submission.

<sup>10</sup> Applicants would be required to submit additional data/ documents, during review of proposals (where needed). The indicated information should be submitted within one week of intimation, failing to which the application may be rejected.

**D. Implementation Plan:** Appropriate time and resources for each activity should be indicated accounting for anticipated risks and delays. The proposal should specify the following components<sup>11</sup>:

- **Timeline:** Timeline of activities, output and key milestones from inception phase to project closure (Gantt chart should be submitted).
- **Budget:** Programme and project cost including results-based budget (against output and activities). Other possible sources of funding such as co-financing from government, participating organization (if any) should be provided.
- **Key Stakeholders:** Names and details of the organizations that will be engaged for the proposed intervention and how they are likely to contribute to the project outcomes.
- **Staffing plan:** Teaming structure for the proposed intervention along with their name, qualifications and details of their role & responsibilities.

**Note: Procurement plan:** If there is procurement of services greater than \$100,000, a detailed procurement plan should be included.

**E. Sustainability and Mainstreaming:** The proposal should describe how it will ensure city level ownership, uptake of project results and deliverables, and lasting impact after the project completion. The proposal should include the following components:

- **Gender and inclusion:** Mainstreaming of gender equality, disability and social inclusion in and through the project.
- **Scalability:** Potential for replication or scalability across the city/ country/ region.
- **Innovation and uniqueness:** Uniqueness of the project in terms of its innovation (if any).
- **Financing potential:** Details of this proposals' potential to leverage financing from development banks, the private sector, or international financial institutions<sup>12</sup>.
- **Knowledge management and learning:** Details of how the process of implementation and learning emerging from the intervention will be documented and disseminated.

**F. Alignment to City, National, and International Commitments:** The proposal should identify how it will contribute to national/ international commitments, global frameworks, regional and national priorities and city level initiatives for building infrastructure resilience. The proposal should specify its contribution to one or more of the following:

- Existing or proposed city government programmes, infrastructure projects or initiatives.
- Existing or proposed national government programmes, infrastructure projects or initiatives.
- Specific SDG targets this intervention will support.
- Pillars of the Sendai Framework this intervention will contribute.
- Contribution to The Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS).
- Contribution to Paris agreement.

---

<sup>11</sup> Template for Gantt chart, budget, key stakeholders are provided in the CDRI Online Proposal Submission Platform.

<sup>12</sup> Even though not mandatory, preference may be given to proposals with appropriate co-financing opportunities.

# Annexure I:

---

## List of Eligible CDRI Member Countries (LMICs<sup>13</sup> and SIDS)<sup>14</sup>

1. Afghanistan
2. Antigua and Barbuda
3. Argentina
4. Bangladesh
5. Bhutan
6. Brazil
7. Cuba
8. Dominican Republic
9. Fiji
10. Ghana
11. Guatemala
12. Guyana
13. Haiti
14. Honduras
15. India
16. Jamaica
17. Madagascar
18. Maldives
19. Mauritius
20. Mongolia
21. Nauru
22. Nepal
23. Peru
24. Samoa
25. South Sudan
26. Sri Lanka
27. Tajikistan
28. Tonga
29. Türkiye
30. Vietnam

---

<sup>13</sup> The list is as per the publication by the World Bank Group for the fiscal year 2025 <https://datahelpdesk.worldbank.org/knowledgebase/articles/906519-world-bank-country-and-lending-groups>.

Note: All SIDS that are CDRI member countries are eligible to apply for this call (irrespective of their income group).

<sup>14</sup> Proposals are invited from CDRI member countries listed as eligible under the programme. Additionally, proposals are welcomed from any new CDRI member country that meets the outlined criteria.








## Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)


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

**Email:** [info@cdri.world](mailto:info@cdri.world)

**Telephone:** +91 1140445999

**Website:** [www.cdri.world](http://www.cdri.world)

 [@cdri\\_world](https://twitter.com/cdri_world)

 [coalition-for-disaster-resilient-infrastructure](https://www.linkedin.com/company/coalition-for-disaster-resilient-infrastructure)

 [@cdri.world](https://www.facebook.com/cdri.world)

 [@coalitionfordri](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)