# Data and Systems for Resilient Housing Programs, Dominica

**Region:**
Caribbean

**Period:**
2024-2025

**Funding:**
US$ 499,861.54

● Dominica

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## 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

- Dominica ranks 4th globally for disaster risk exposure, facing a range of geohazards and meteorological events, such as earthquakes, volcanoes, hurricanes, flooding, storm surges, and landslides, which are increasing in frequency and intensity due to climate change. Low-income housing is highly vulnerable to these hazards, further exposing disadvantaged populations who struggle to recover from disasters.

- In 2018, the Government of Dominica established the Climate Resilience Execution Agency for Dominica (CREAD) to make the country the world's first climate-resilient nation. CREAD aims to achieve 20 targets by 2030, including resilient housing construction.

- While there has been progress in building new resilient housing, addressing vulnerabilities in existing housing stock has been limited due to a lack of data to assess the scale of the issue and guide government solutions.

A statistically viable dataset (of 500+ households) has been created for assessing exposure and vulnerability for Dominica's housing stock.

## Objective and Outputs

- Strengthen Dominica's housing resilience by generating data-driven solutions and practical guidance for existing homes.

- Develop a statistically viable baseline assessing the condition of existing housing to track progress in resilience-building programs.

- Create accessible guidelines for strengthening and upgrading housing, targeting homeowners and construction professionals.

- Design a government-led home strengthening program, including tools and systems, to mitigate disaster risks for vulnerable homes.

- Share project learnings and resources with other SIDS to enhance regional infrastructure resilience.

## Highlights

- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, with Build Change's technical assistance, conducted an extensive survey assessing vulnerabilities in local housing stock. Data from 500+ households now inform resilience planning. (*Completed: Q4 2024*)

- A vulnerability analysis incorporates an inclusion lens, ensuring housing solutions address the needs of women-headed households, indigenous communities, and people with disabilities. (*Ongoing*)

- Knowledge-sharing initiatives are underway to disseminate findings and best practices across SIDS. (*Ongoing*)

## Impact

- **Enhanced Housing Resilience:** The project will strengthen 25,113 dwellings, benefiting Dominica's 72,000 residents by implementing data-informed adaptation measures.

- **Targeted Support for Vulnerable Populations:** The project will provide tailored housing resilience solutions for economically disadvantaged households, ethnic minorities like the Kalinago, women, girls, and the elderly.

- **Economic Continuity and Tourism Sector Protection:** The project strengthens the resilience of Dominica's US$ 50 million tourism industry, ensuring faster recovery post-disaster and business continuity.



### Nodal Government Agency

Ministry of Housing and Urban Development



### Implementing Partner



### IRIS Donors