

## Job Description

### Lead Specialist– Water Sector Resilience Expert

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)</b>
<b>Location</b>	<b>New Delhi, India</b>
<b>Grade and No. of position</b>	<b>Lead Specialist (1)</b>
<b>Salary and Benefits</b>	<b>Competitive</b>
<b>Contract</b>	<b>Fixed Term Contract (3 years), extendable for up to another 3 years, Full-Time, Open to both International/National Hire.</b>
<b>Applications Closing date</b>	<b>Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis, with priority given to early submissions during the shortlisting and selection process. The position will remain open until it is filled.</b>

#### About CDRI

The Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) is a partnership of national governments, UN agencies and programmes, multilateral development banks and financing mechanisms, the private sector, and knowledge institutions that aims to promote the resilience of new and existing infrastructure systems to climate and disaster risks in support of sustainable development.

#### Mission

“To support countries to upgrade their systems to ensure disaster and climate resilience of existing and future infrastructure.”

#### Impact (that CDRI aims to achieve)

By 2050, over US\$10 trillion new and existing infrastructure investments and services are resilient to natural hazards and climate change through enhanced capacity, informed policy, planning, and management, leading to improved quality of environment, livelihood, and life of over 3 billion people.

#### CDRI Mandate & Value Proposition

CDRI has been envisioned and established as a global network to advance the agenda, support coordinated action among stakeholders and focus on bringing voices from vulnerable geographies and populations to international policy forums. Internationally agreed-upon goals in the SFDRR, the SDGs, and the Paris Climate Agreement provide the foundational framework that guides the Coalition’s vision and mission.

As a global partnership, the Coalition aims to ensure that the investments of its members and partners are aligned and well-coordinated in support of the shared ambition of disaster and climate resilience of new and existing infrastructure. The two unique yet interconnected roles that CDRI shoulders in this direction are:

- A Strong Coalition Driving Collaborative DRI Action: In 2025, CDRI stands as a partnership of 46

national governments and seven international organizations. The Coalition enjoys robust political support, which propels its efforts to advance the interests of its members and partners.

- A Solution-Focused Centre of Excellence for DRI: As a Centre of Excellence for DRI, the Coalition strengthens the individual and collective capacities of its members and partners by aggregating and sharing knowledge, brokering need-based partnerships, and strengthening capacities through collaborative learning and action.

## Strategic Work Plan 2023-2026

CDRI's Strategic Work Plan 2023-26 describes the broad contours of its priority actions and planned initiatives in the next four years. The Strategic Work Plan sets out a clear direction for the Coalition to pursue a transformational agenda for DRI in response to a changing risk landscape and evolving on-ground realities of its members. In the next four years, the Coalition will continue to leverage the expertise of its Member Countries and partners to develop context-specific, innovative solutions for resilient infrastructure towards the achievement of national priorities and global commitments of its members.

With the strategic work plan for 2023 – 2026, CDRI has set out the following strategic outcomes.

**Strategic Outcome 1:** A strong Coalition that has the membership, resources, and global leadership to drive global, national, regional, and local DRI action.

**Strategic Outcome 2:** Global DRI research, Coalition-led peer engagement, and CDRI- curated and generated knowledge promote risk-informed policy and practice.

**Strategic Outcome 3:** Enhanced capacities of government, private enterprises, and communities to implement post-disaster recovery and DRI action at scale.

## CDRI Head Quarter (Secretariat)

The CDRI headquarter is established in New Delhi, India, to act as the Secretariat of the Coalition. The Secretariat functions under the direction of the International Governing Council and Executive Committee to implement the programmes of CDRI.

### Position

The position is open to candidates of all nationalities.

For candidates demonstrating considerable international experience, an international salary and benefits package will be offered. Candidates will have to demonstrate considerable experience in at least 5 countries across two UN geographic regions (from Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, Northern America, and Oceania) to meet the criteria for international hire.

### Objective of the position:

CDRI seeks experienced professionals to initiate and lead the formulation of water sector resilience initiatives in CDRI member countries and support the implementation of technical assistance and capacity-building initiatives for critical water infrastructure systems.

The individual recruited for this position (Water Sector Resilience Expert) will play a key role in conceptualizing water sector resilience projects and initiatives under the Critical and Social Infrastructure Programme. This includes designing and implementing activities aimed at enhancing the resilience of water-related infrastructure systems such as water supply, stormwater, sanitation, and integrated water resource management across member countries, in alignment with CDRI's mandate to advance disaster and climate-resilient infrastructure globally.

## **Key Roles and Responsibilities:**

### **Program Development – Water Sector Resilience**

- Lead the design, development, and operationalization of water sector resilience projects and initiatives as part of the larger critical and social infrastructure programme, focused on advancing climate adaptation and resilient infrastructure development across CDRI member countries and globally.
- Identify strategic opportunities for collaboration and support technical initiatives that align with global frameworks such as the Paris Agreement, Sendai Framework, and SDGs.
- Coordinate with sectoral experts, multilateral institutions, regional partners, and co-develop adaptive pathways for resilient water infrastructure.
- Facilitate the integration of resilience thinking into national planning, investment, and development cycles for water infrastructure in disaster-prone regions.
- Guide the development of technical roadmaps, investment strategies, and policy frameworks tailored to enhance water infrastructure resilience.
- Promote cross-sectoral synergies with power, transport and other critical and disaster management, and urban development sectors for integrated water resilience outcomes.

### **Technical Assistance:**

Lead the conceptualization and provide technical assistance initiatives in coordination with sectoral departments/agencies in member countries, knowledge institutions, technical experts, and others to support strengthening the initiatives.

- Provide technical leadership and guidance in areas relating to water infrastructure resilience.
- Develop and implement water resilience strategies and plans, considering long-term sustainability and adaptation to changing environmental conditions.
- Mobilizing relevant experts from coalition members and partners to address specific technical assistance needs in member countries.
- Designing, executing and managing technical studies focusing on water sector resilience.
- Facilitating risk assessments related to the design of water systems to identify physical risks related to natural hazards and climate change.
- Supporting the incorporation of innovative technologies and approaches in the financing, planning, design and implementation of water infrastructure systems.
- Addressing gaps in codes and standards.
- Supporting the development of programmes and projects to mobilize disaster and/or climate financing.
- Introduce a life-cycle approach within project planning and management including but not limited to identifying opportunities to embed resilience in various stages of project development, strategy formulation, planning and design, procurement, operations and utilization, and the end-of-life phase for water infrastructure systems.
- Coordinating closely with government agencies, development partners, the private sector, insurance companies and other relevant stakeholders concerning disaster-resilient water infrastructure systems and maintaining up-to-date information on their activities and programmes.

### **Capacity Building:**

Contribute to capacity-building initiatives in coordination with other experts within the Secretariat and partner organizations to deepen the understanding of resilience amongst the water sector professionals

in member countries and within the CDRI Secretariat. Initiatives could include:

- Preparing policy and advisory documents related to resilient water infrastructure.
- Support in leading the water community of practice towards the development of guidelines and standard operating procedures.
- Support in the development and delivery of training modules and other capacity-development initiatives documenting case studies and best practices.
- Building partnerships with academic and non-academic institutions engaged in capacity building and knowledge management in member countries.

### **Management:**

Contribute to Secretariat's management functions, including:

- Programme and Project management.
- Developing Key Results Areas and Key Progress Indicators for the practice and Programme team.
- Reporting to CDRI governing bodies and funding agencies.
- Representing CDRI in global dialogues related to resilient infrastructure.
- Convening and conducting strategic consultations with external stakeholders, as required.
- Oversee the execution of water resilience programs and projects.

### **Skills**

- Demonstrated expertise in planning, design of water systems, including water supply, stormwater drainage, wastewater networks, flood management systems, and nature-based water solutions, with a focus on building resilience to climate-induced risk and disaster-related disruptions.
- Strong background in water infrastructure recovery and continuity planning, such as backup water supply networks, redundant pumping systems, and resilient treatment plants, ensuring service continuity in emergencies and post-disaster contexts.
- Demonstrated ability to integrate early warning systems, water-sensitive urban design (WSUD), and digital monitoring platforms for enhanced disaster preparedness and adaptive water management.
- Collaboration experience with global and regional water sector institutions and platforms such as UN-Water, Global Water Partnership (GWP), International Water Association (IWA), World Bank Water Global Practice, UNICEF WASH, ADB Water Sector Group, and national regulatory agencies, aligning with international standards and compliance frameworks.
- Familiarity with deploying smart water systems, including IoT-enabled leak detection, real-time quality and flow monitoring, and automated control systems to increase operational resilience in high-risk areas.
- Experience in addressing water-related vulnerabilities in urban, peri-urban, and rural settings, including integrated water resource management (IWRM) and nature-based solutions for flood and drought resilience.
- Working knowledge of spatial analysis software, GIS, and project management software (e.g., Primavera, MS Project, WaterGEMS, InfoWorks), and a track record of designing and implementing monitoring and evaluation systems for resilience outcomes.
- Strong leadership in managing multi-disciplinary teams, and an ability to engage with engineers, urban planners, climate scientists, and social specialists in complex, cross-sectoral programs.
- Excellent communication, interpersonal, and strategic planning skills with the ability to navigate institutional and government systems, especially in developing countries.
- In-depth understanding of global policy frameworks, including the Sendai Framework for DRR, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – particularly SDG 6 and SDG 13, and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

- Experience working with international organizations and diverse partners, including governments, UN bodies, multilateral institutions, private sector, and research organizations across multiple countries and geographies.

**Qualifications:**

- Master's in water resource engineering/management, environmental science/engineering/planning, hydraulic engineering, infrastructure planning, natural resource management, integrated water management, natural water ecosystems management, wetland management, disaster risk management (DRM) or an equivalent technical field. Candidates with international education are desirable.

**Experience:**

- 10+ years of relevant professional experience, including at least 4 years in a leadership role at the national or international level. The candidate must demonstrate technical expertise in water resource management, with applied experience in disaster risk reduction (DRR), infrastructure resilience, and climate change adaptation. Prior experience working in Coalition member countries or comparable international contexts is essential.

**Reporting Line:**

- The incumbent will report to the Director or the appropriate role per the approved organizational structure.

**Language Requirements:**

- Fluency in English, both oral and written.
- Proficiency in UN languages other than English will be an asset.

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