

# South Asia's Interlinked Urban Multi-Crisis: From Fragmented Responses to Coordinated Action

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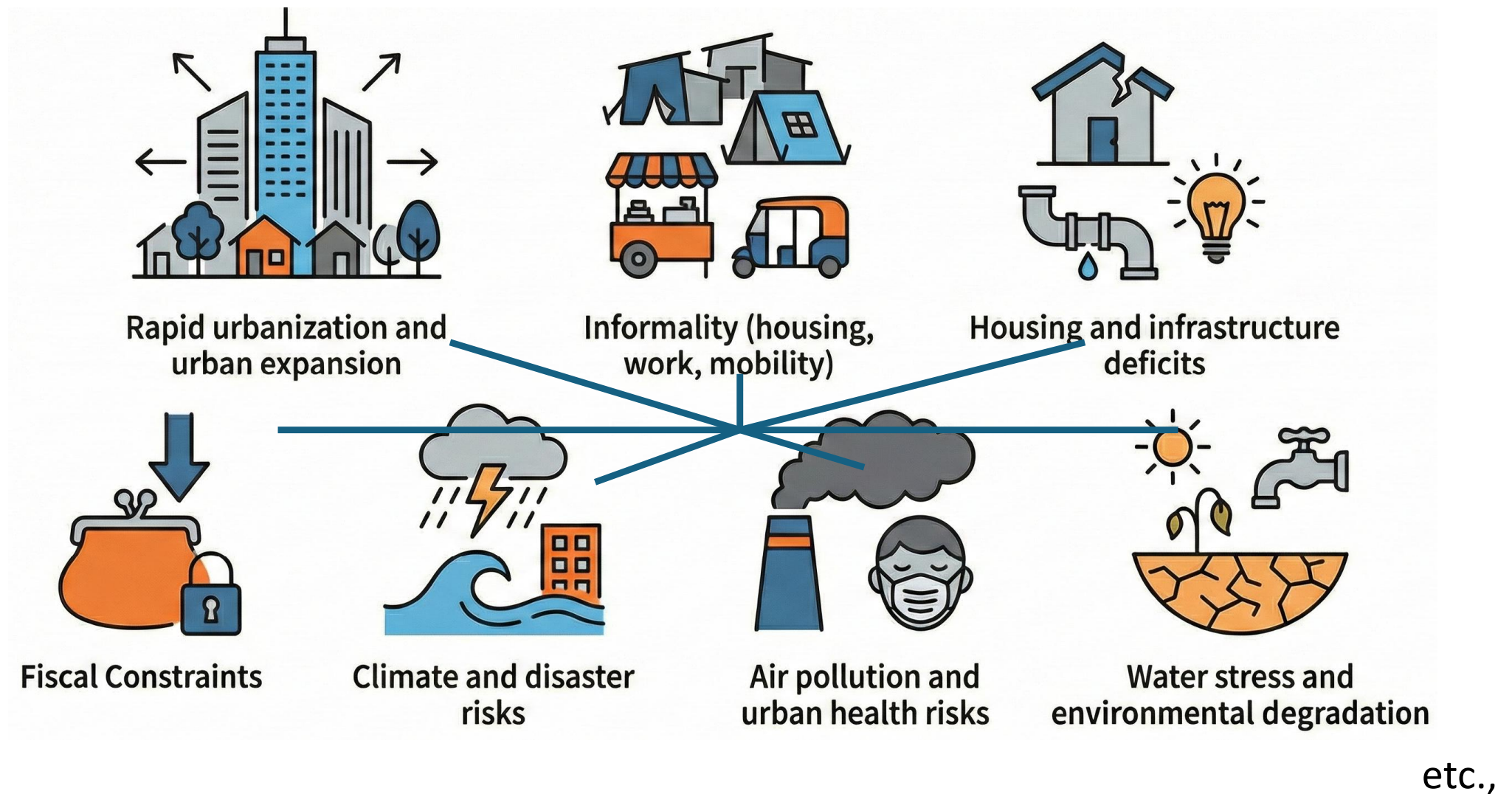


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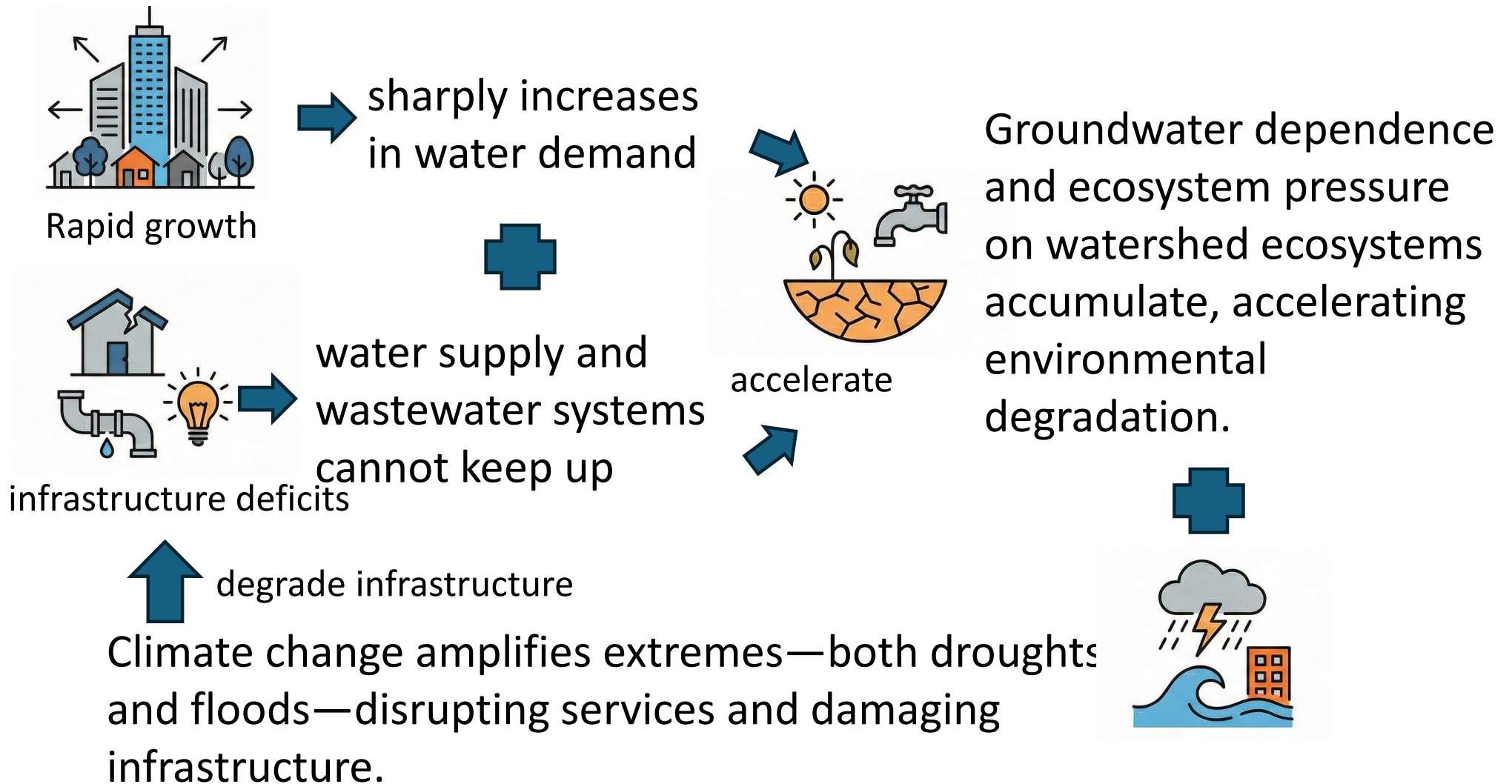
# Urban multi-crisis in South Asia



These crises overlap, reinforce each other, and create more complex risks.

These **interlinked** challenges reshape the scale of solutions.

# Interlinked Multi-Crisis



**The result is a metro-/basin-scale compounded crisis where water, environment, and disaster risks are tightly intertwined.**

# Interlinked Multi-Crisis

## Implications to address the crisis



Regional  
coordination

is essential  
because water  
systems and  
risks cross  
administrative  
boundaries.



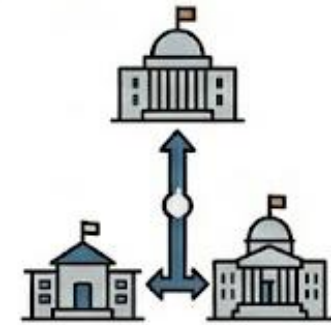
Cross-sector  
integration

is required  
across water,  
land use,  
housing,  
disaster risk,  
and public  
health.



Multi-stakeholder  
collaboration

strengthens  
delivery  
through public  
investment,  
private  
technology/  
operations,  
and community  
and citizen  
engagement.



Multi-level  
government alignment

is needed to  
connect national  
standards and  
major investment  
frameworks with  
local demand  
management and  
operations.

# Interlinked Multi-Crisis

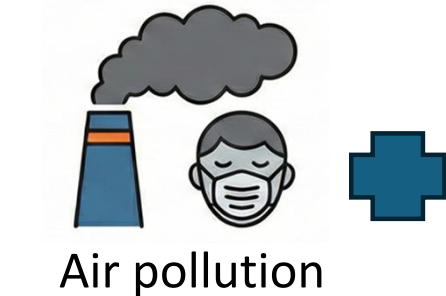


Increase exposure to natural disaster and potential losses



Extreme event

disrupt water, sanitation, mobility, and healthcare access.



fragile living conditions

raise baseline health risks



Disaster



translate into larger and longer-lasting human impacts.



Repeated shocks



strain local budgets and slow recovery, reinforcing vulnerability over time.

**The result is a compounded “risk–service–health” crisis that can exceed a single city’s capacity to manage.**



# Interlinked Multi-Crisis

## Implications to address the crisis



Regional  
coordination

is essential  
because  
evacuation,  
emergency care,  
and recovery  
resources often  
operate across  
metropolitan  
areas and  
corridors.



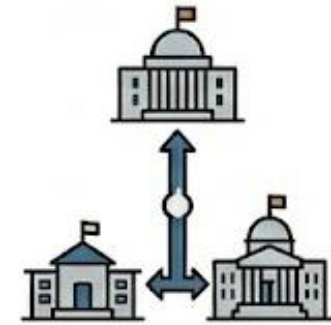
Cross-sector  
integration

is required  
across disaster  
risk reduction,  
land use,  
housing,  
transport,  
environment,  
and public  
health.



Multi-stakeholder  
collaboration

is critical  
because utilities,  
private  
operators,  
employers,  
NGOs, and  
community  
organizations  
are key to  
preparedness  
and recovery.



Multi-level  
government alignment

is needed to link  
national standards,  
early warning, and  
fiscal support with  
local land use  
control and  
service delivery.

# Interlinked Multi-Crisis

These interlinked urban crises cannot be addressed by a single city, a single sector, or a single actor.

→ Solutions require regional coordination, cross-sector integration, multi-stakeholder collaboration, and multi-level government alignment.



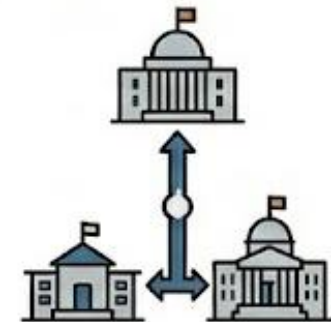
Regional  
coordination



Cross-sector  
integration



Multi-stakeholder  
collaboration



Multi-level  
government alignment

**If collaboration is necessary, why is it so hard to make it work?**



# Barriers to Collaboration

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## Common barriers across all types of collaboration

- Shared facts are missing: Data gaps, inconsistent indicators make it difficult to build a common understanding
- Priorities are not aligned: Different agencies or governments may face different pressures.
- Benefits and burdens do not match: One jurisdiction may pay, while another receives the main benefit.
- Capacity gaps across governments and partners: . Not all local governments and partners have the same talent, tools, or procurement ability.
- Low trust and high coordination costs

# Barriers to Collaboration

## Barriers for each type of collaboration



Regional  
coordination

suffers from  
benefit–burden  
mismatch and  
weak metro or  
basin  
institutions.



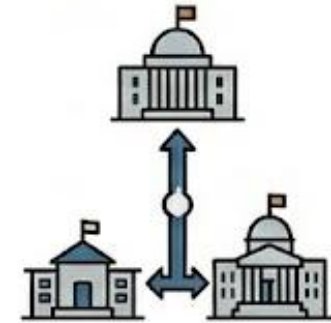
Cross-sector  
integration

is blocked by  
siloed budgets  
and conflicting  
standards and  
KPIs.



Multi-stakeholder  
collaboration

faces unclear  
risk-sharing  
and  
misaligned  
incentives.



Multi-level  
government alignment

struggles with  
misaligned  
mandates, fiscal  
gaps, and  
authority gaps.

# Overcoming the barriers to Collaboration

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## Minimum enabling conditions

- Minimum shared data & indicators
- Shared ways of working (common procedures & priority criteria)
  - different actors can plan and act together
- Benefit–burden alignment to make joint action politically and financially realistic.
- Capacity support across jurisdictions and partners
- Strong foundations of trust, transparency, and accountability



# Conclusion

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- South Asia's urban crises are not isolated; they become **interlinked challenges** through real-world combinations.
- Therefore, solutions inevitably require: **regional coordination, cross-sector integration, multi-stakeholder collaboration, and multi-level government alignment.**
- Yet **collaboration is not automatic.**  
We must put in place minimum enabling conditions.
- The key question is not whether we collaborate, but **at what scale, and what we should align first to make implementation move.**





**Thank you for your kind attention !**

