

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

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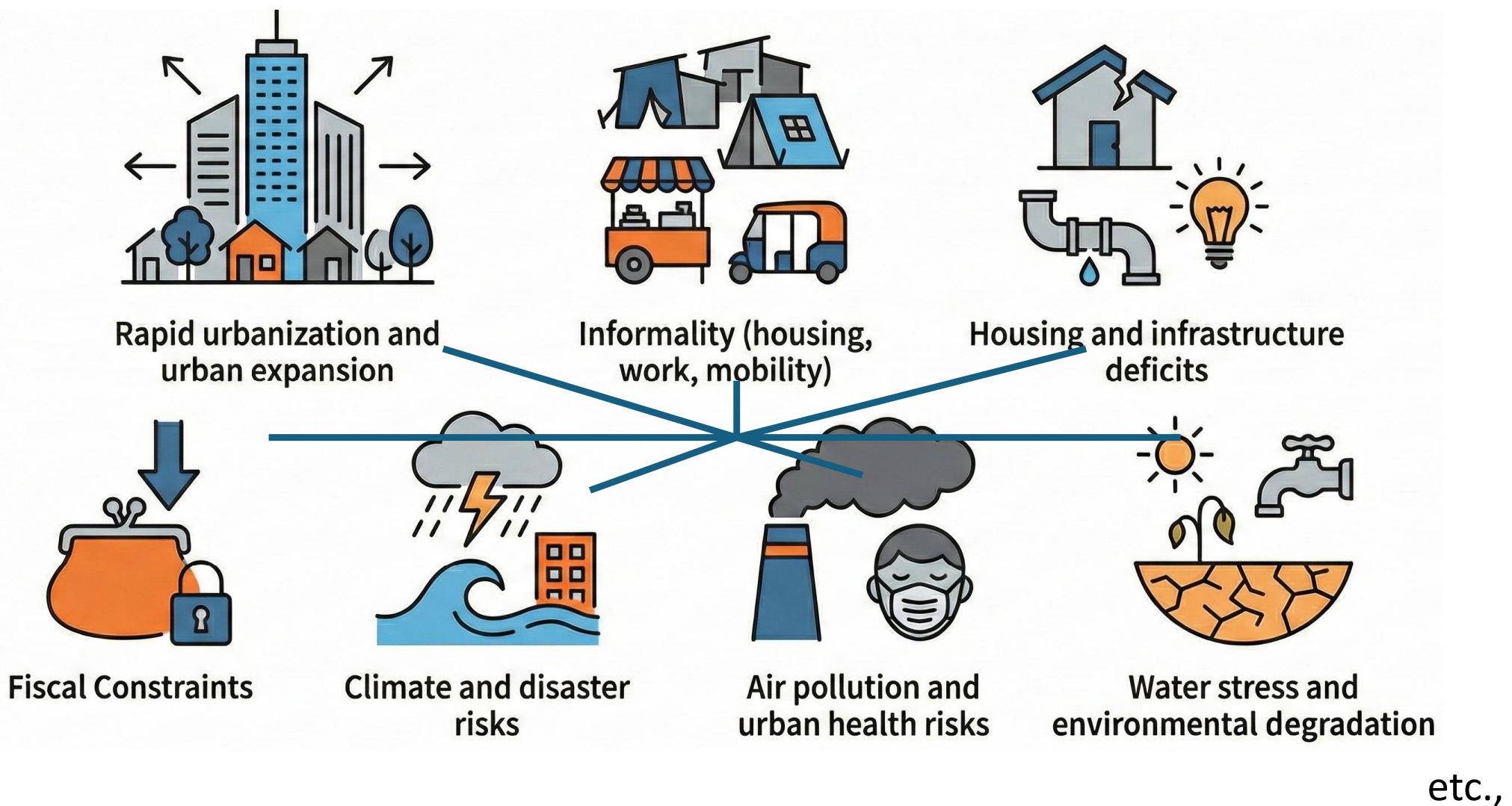
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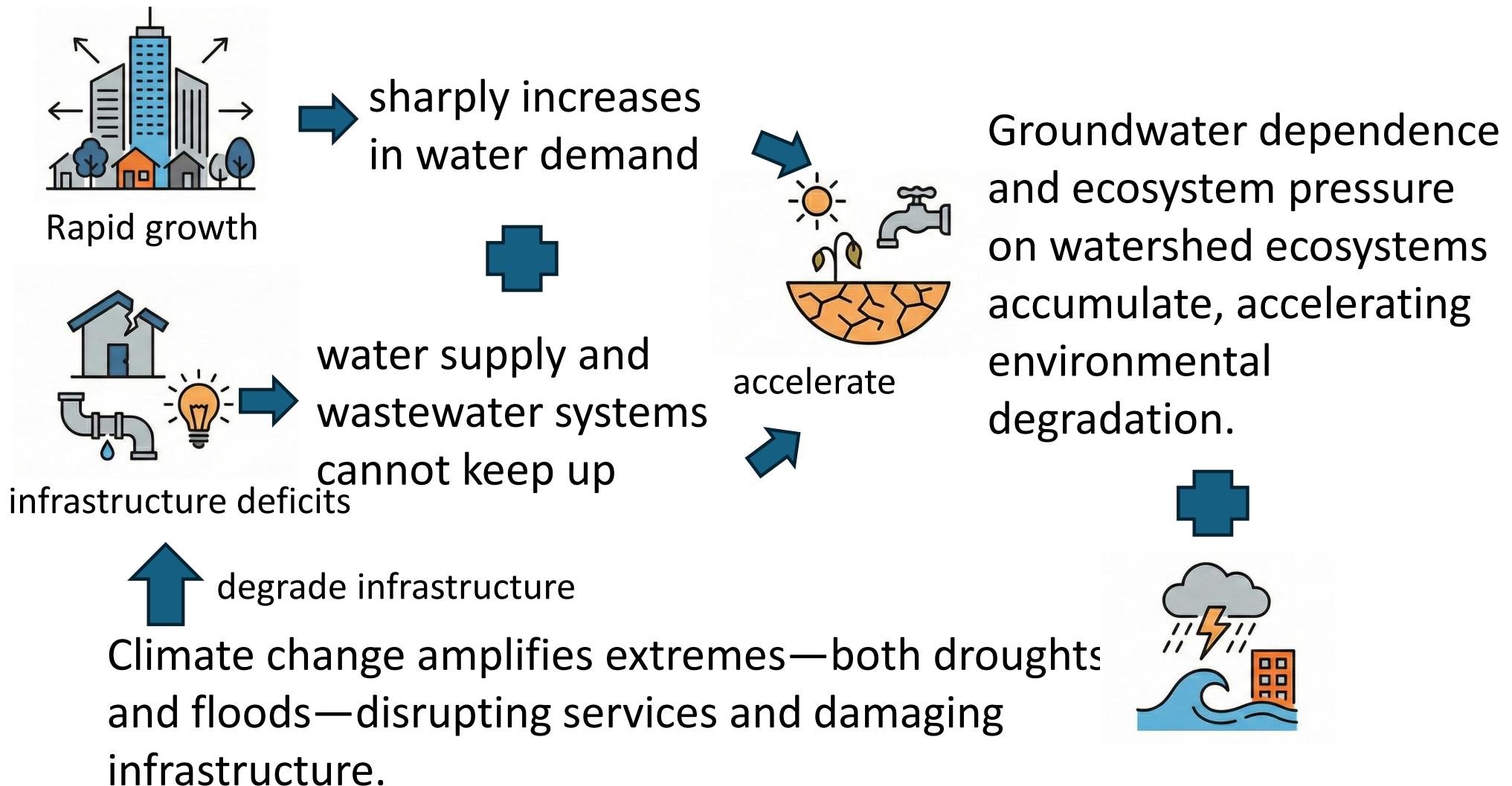
Urban multi-crisis in South Asia



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

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

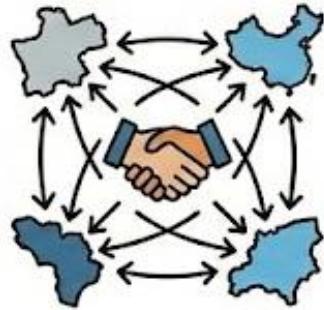
Interlinked Multi-Crisis



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



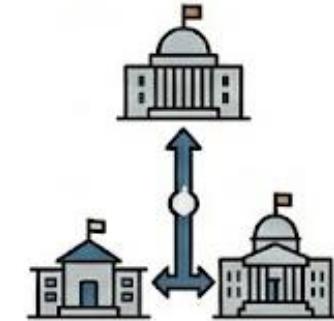
Regional coordination is essential because water systems and risks cross administrative boundaries.



Cross-sector integration is required across water, land use, housing, disaster risk, and public health.

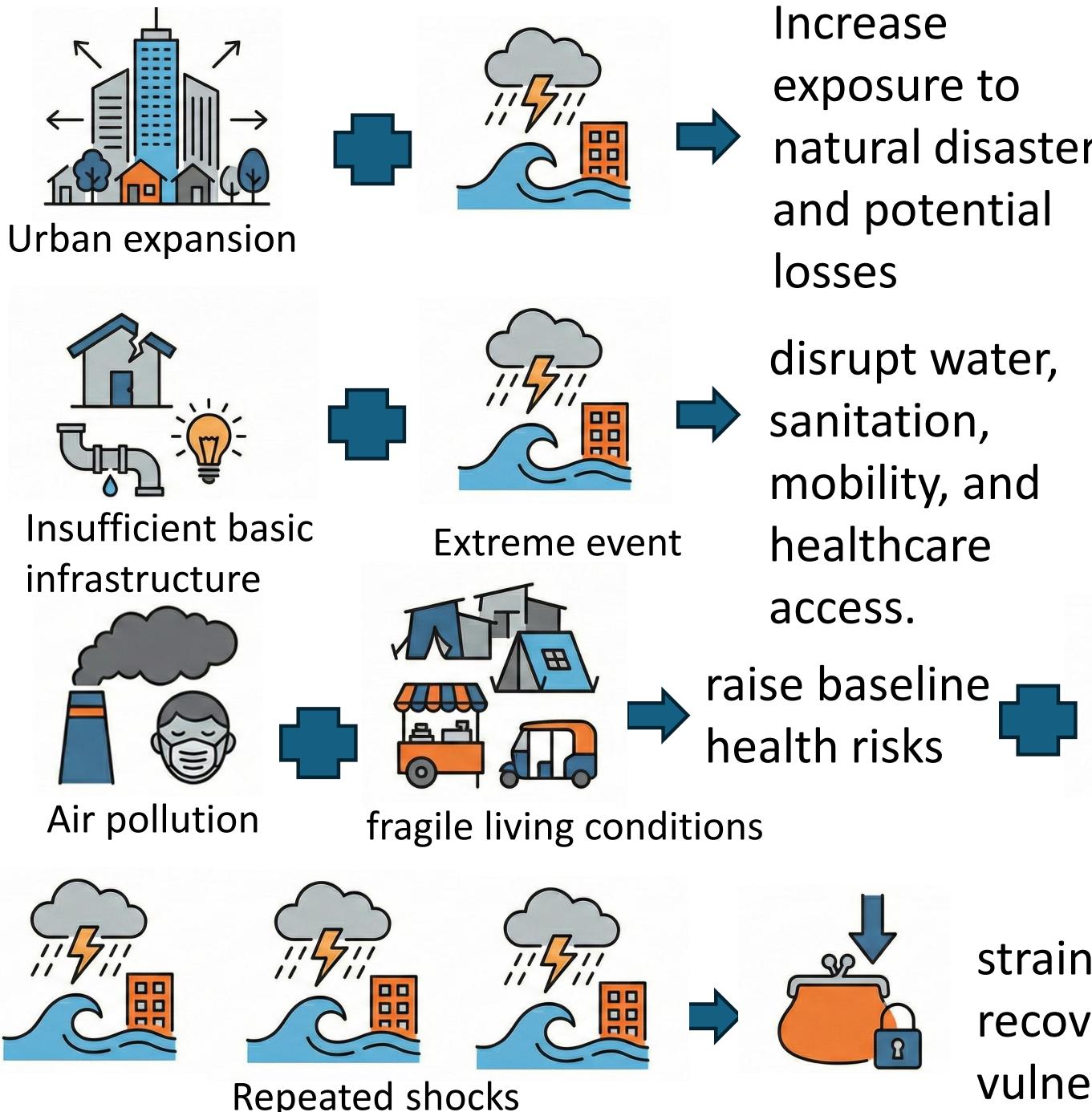


Multi-stakeholder collaboration strengthens delivery through public investment, private technology/operations, and community and citizen engagement.



Multi-level government alignment is needed to connect national standards and major investment frameworks with local demand management and operations.

Interlinked Multi-Crisis



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

translate into larger and longer-lasting human impacts.

Interlinked Multi-Crisis

Implications to address the crisis



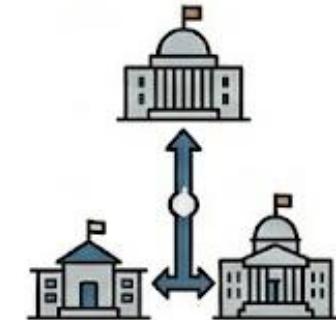
Regional coordination is essential because evacuation, emergency care, and recovery resources often operate across metropolitan areas and corridors.



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.

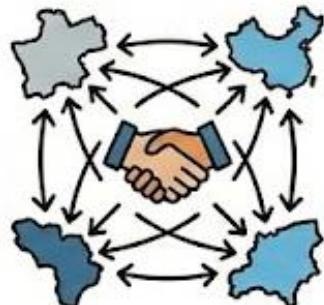


Multi-level government alignment is needed to link national standards, early warning, and fiscal support with local land use control and service delivery.

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**.



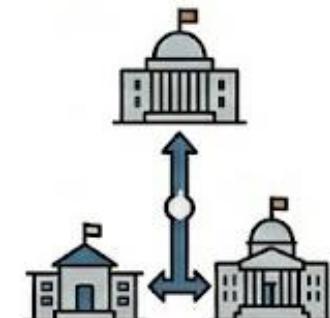
Regional coordination



Cross-sector integration



Multi-stakeholder collaboration



Multi-level government alignment

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

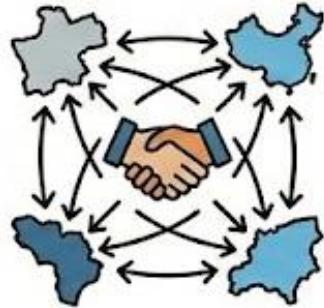
Barriers to Collaboration

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

Barrers for each type of collaboration



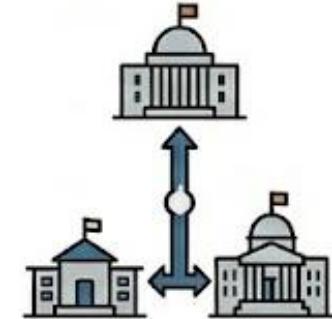
Regional coordination



Cross-sector integration



Multi-stakeholder collaboration



Multi-level government alignment

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

is blocked by siloed budgets and conflicting standards and KPIs.

faces unclear risk-sharing and misaligned incentives.

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

Overcoming the barriers to Collaboration

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

- 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 !