

FEBRUARY 2024

Post-Conflict Urban Regeneration

Re-imagining Urban Futures

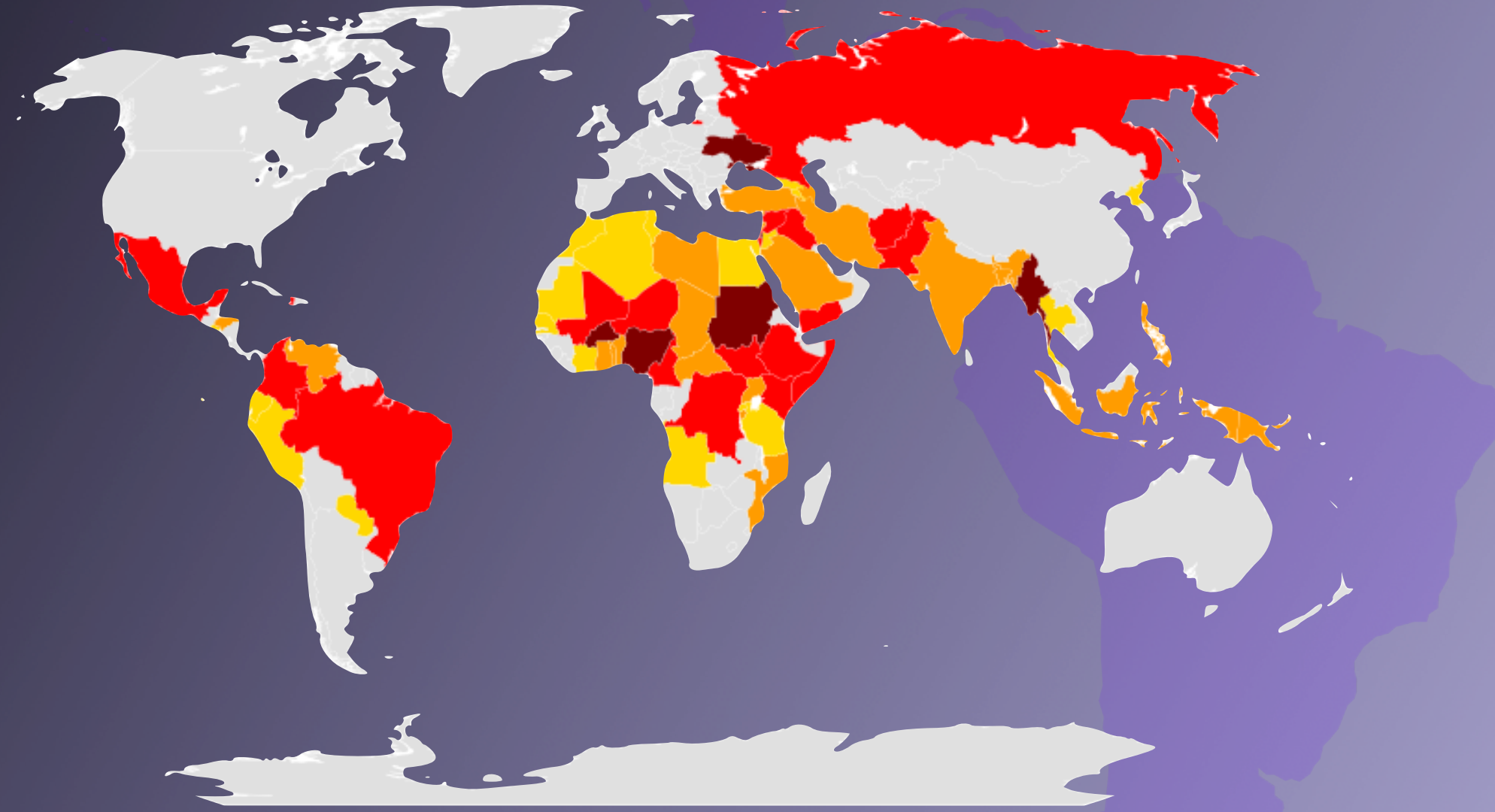
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ABOUT US

Introduction

Ongoing Armed Conflicts



+180

ACTIVE CONFLICTS WORLDWIDE

45

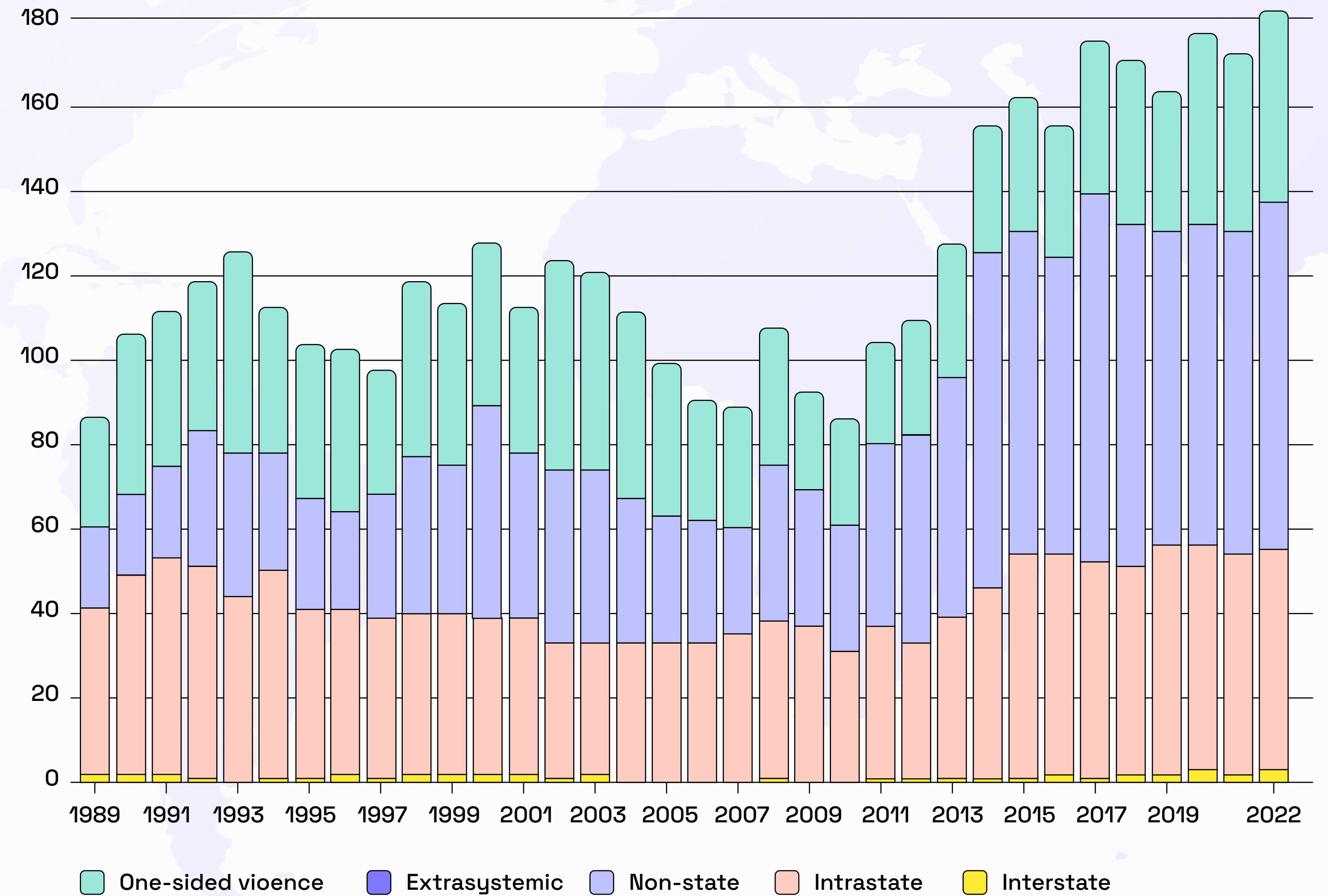
ACTIVE CONFLICTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Map of ongoing armed conflicts
(Number of combat-related deaths in current or previous year):

- Major wars (10,000 or more)
- Wars (1,000 - 9,999)
- Minor conflicts (1,00 - 999)
- Skirmishes and clashes(1 - 99)

INTRODUCTION

The last decade has experienced a constant rise in the number of active conflicts



Syria

Over 12 million
forcibly
displaced

Aleppo, Homs,
and Raqqa,
experienced
widespread
destruction

Gaza

60% of all urban
areas has been
destroyed

For each square
metre in the Gaza
Strip, there is now
over 107 kg of
debris

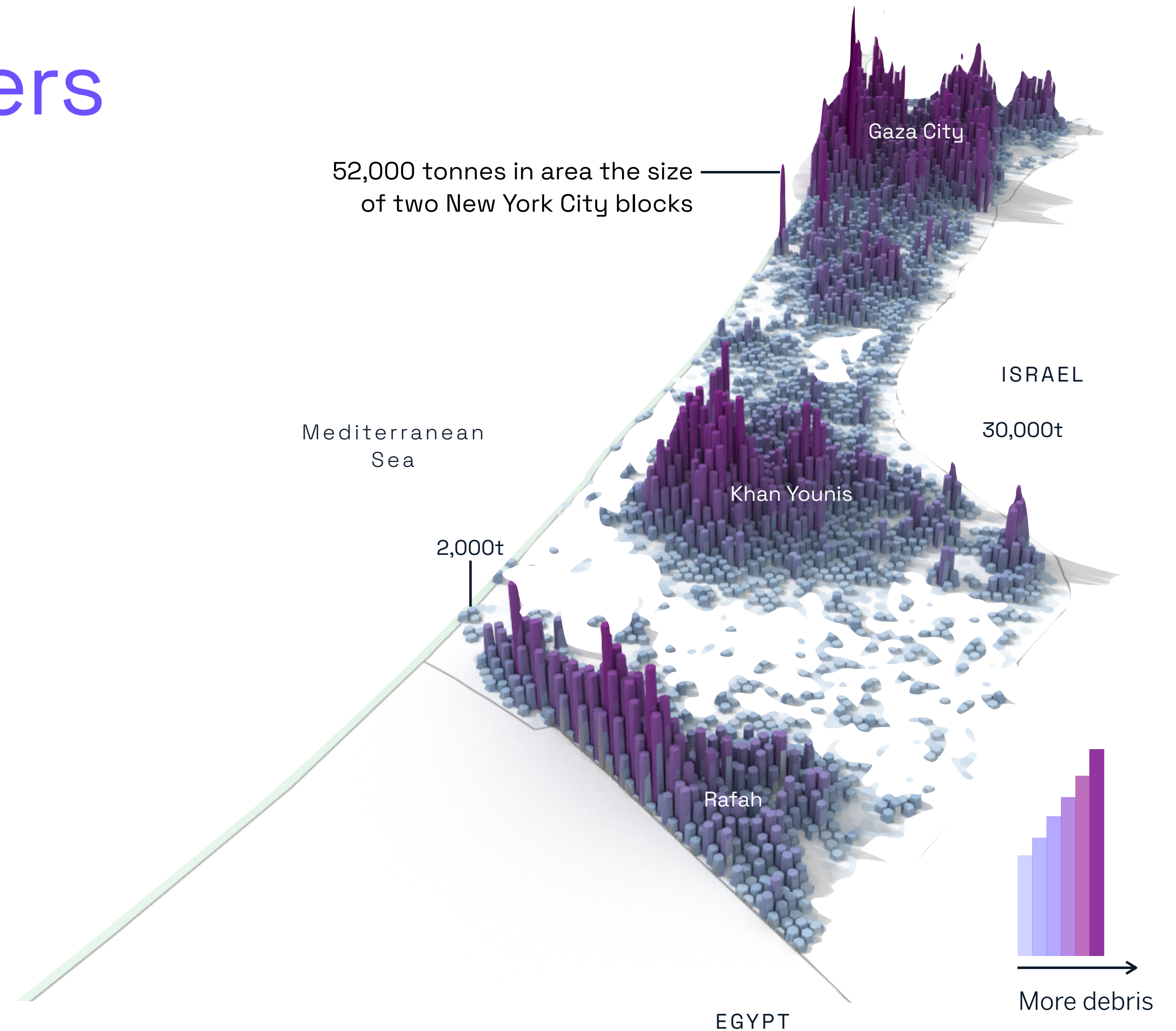
Yemen

About 20.7 million
people require
food assistance

Widespread
damage of Urban
Infrastructure

How Much Debris Covers the Gaza Strip

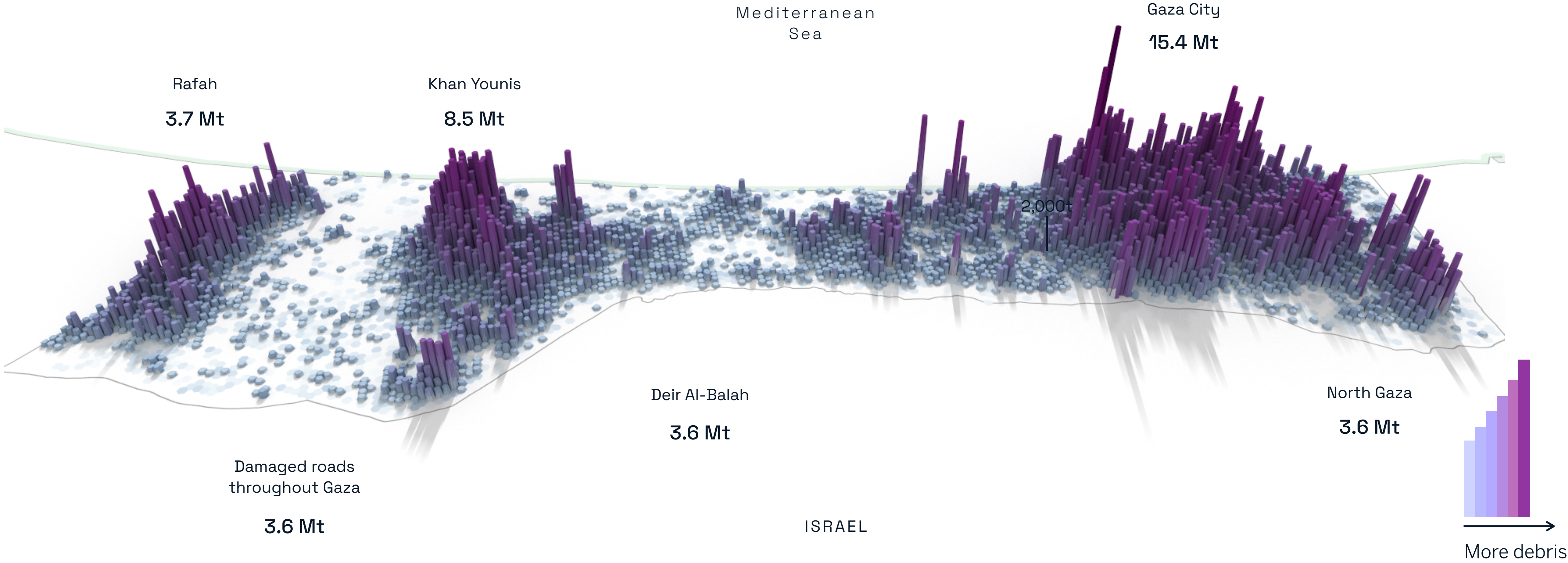
More than 42 million tonnes of debris across the Strip, according to the UN. That's enough rubble to fill a line of dump trucks stretching from New York to Singapore. Removing it all may take years and cost as much as \$700 million



SOURCE: BLOOMBERG

“What we see in Gaza is something that we have never seen before in the history of urbanism,”

Mark Jarzombek an architectural history professor at MIT



SOURCE: BLOOMBERG

FAILURES IN URBAN REBUILDING



Grozny, Chechnya (post-1990s conflicts)

a) Weak governance and institutional capacity
b) Over-reliance on NGOs and international aid
c) Lack of comprehensive urban planning
d) Failure to address underlying socio-economic issues
e) Insufficient community engagement in rebuilding efforts



Baghdad, Iraq (post-2003)

a) Ongoing sectarian violence and political instability
b) Inadequate infrastructure planning and execution
c) Corruption and misallocation of resources
d) Lack of coordination between international and local actors
e) Insufficient attention to social and economic recovery



Kabul, Afghanistan (2001-2021)

a) Persistent insecurity and conflict
b) Corruption and mismanagement of funds
c) Lack of long-term planning and sustainable development
d) Insufficient local ownership and participation
e) Overreliance on foreign aid and expertise



Port-au-Prince, Haiti (post-2010 earthquake)

a) Weak governance and institutional capacity
b) Over-reliance on NGOs and international aid
c) Lack of comprehensive urban planning
d) Failure to address underlying socio-economic issues
e) Insufficient community engagement in rebuilding efforts

Why Urban rebuilding fails so often?

Short-term focus vs. long-term needs

Lack of local ownership and participation

Unrealistic expectations

External dependency

Neglects environmental and social healing

Lack of flexibility and adaptability

Insufficient data and analysis

Profit Driven Approaches

SERVICES

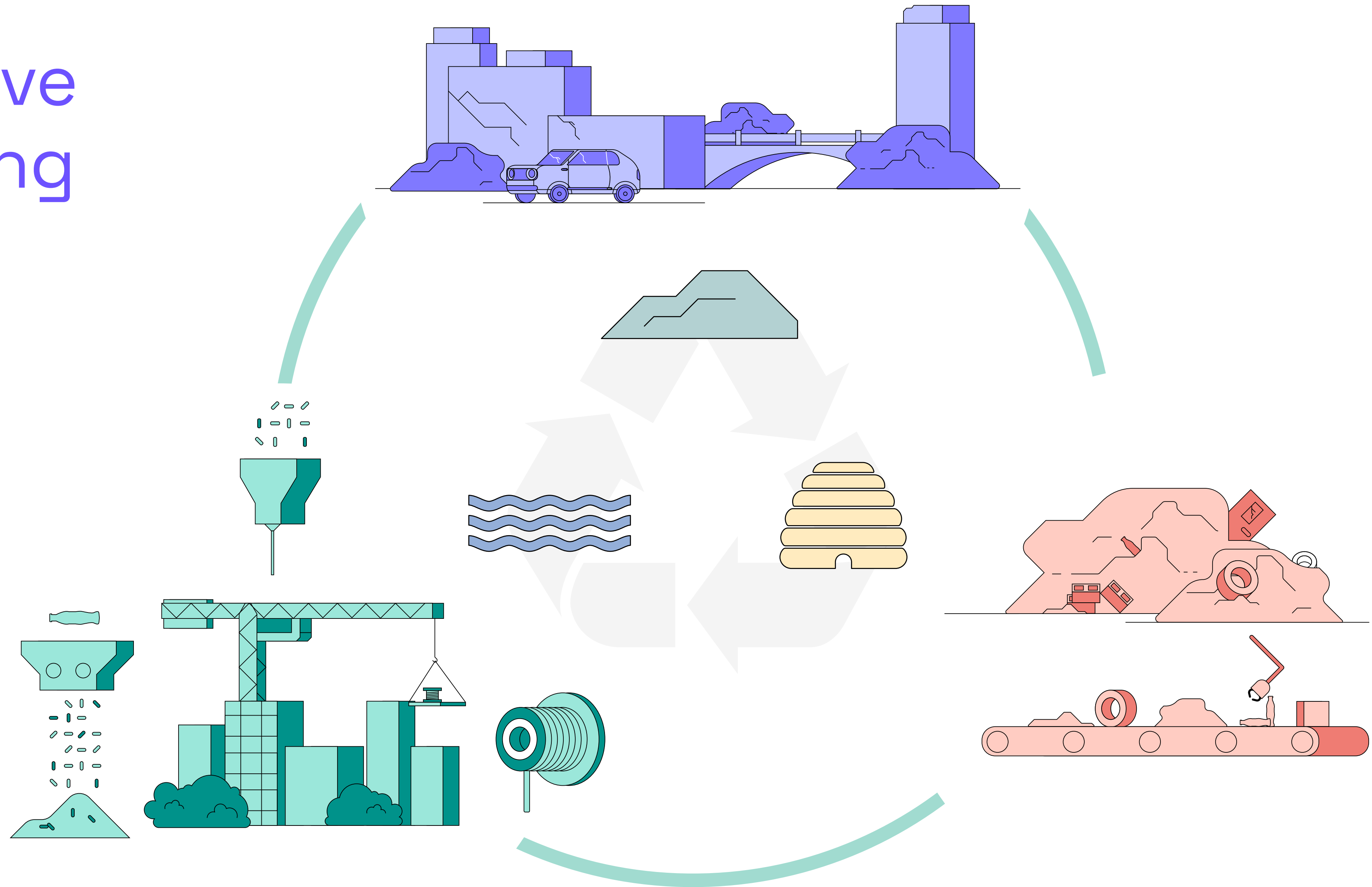
Our approach

OUR APPROACH

Ecosystemic Regeneration

SECTION

Regenerative Urban mining



SECTION

Regenerative Urban mining

Preparation

Raise money from international community.

Identify priority areas based on humanitarian needs.

Determine property rights.

Identify & prepare sites for disposal and recycling.

Initial Clean-up

Removal of undetonated explosives by skilled search teams.

Retrieval of any recyclable material.

Removal of human remains, with Imam present.

Recovery of any intact personal items.

Clearing what's left

Removal of debris from demolition

Demolition of unsafe building structures

Final disposal

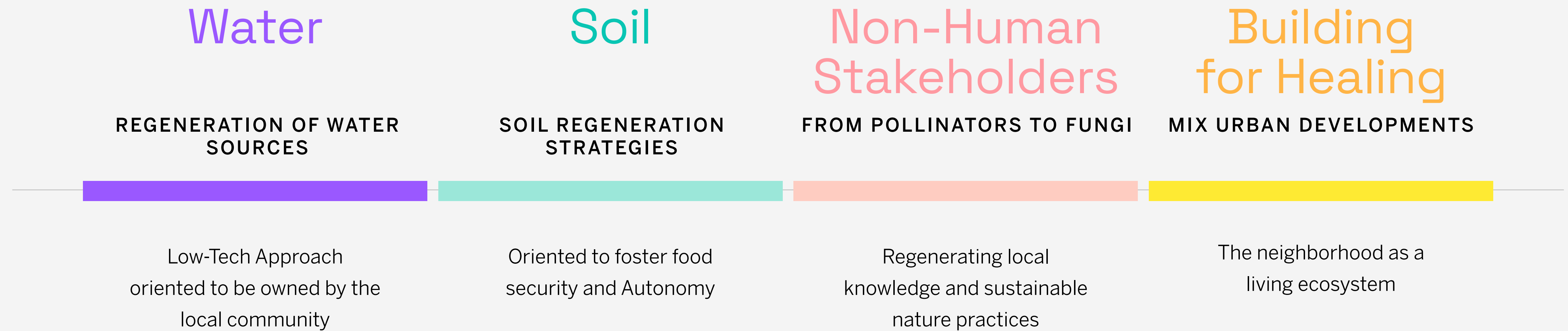
Non-recyclables taken to landfills

Rebuilding roads with recycled material

Recyclables crushed and tested

Hazardous waste taken to dedicated storage facilities

Ecosystemic Blueprint - Nature as Infrastructure



Core Principles

Afkar Collective advisors are embedded locally and guided by four ethical imperatives:

01

Transfer skills and co-create solutions to empower communities over creating external dependencies. We catalyse change through context-specific interventions owned and sustained by urban stakeholders.

02

Incentivise efficiency and meaningful impact over profit-driven motives. We link fees to successfully embedded solutions and measurable progress in line with ecological principles and community needs.

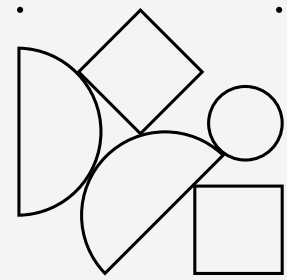
03

Center equity and social justice by embracing diverse lived experiences. Our global teams co-design adaptive initiatives elevating voices of marginalised groups towards holistic prosperity.

04

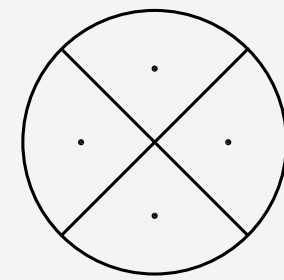
Take a long view grounded in systems science and evidence. We create policies and infrastructure for resilient, regenerative urban systems capable of thriving amid uncertainty through research

Elevating the urban together



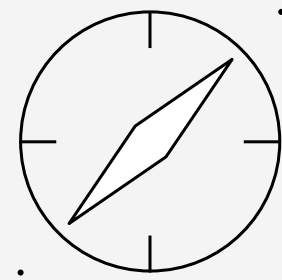
Framework

Support the generation of Strategic Urban Framework that blends cultural respect with sustainable best practices from across the globe.



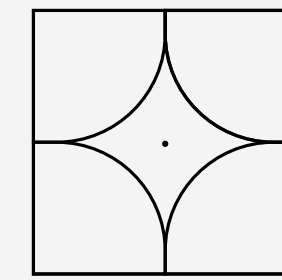
Community

Community involvement spearheaded by Afkar Collective will ensure that the transformation resonates with the residents, preserving cultural integrity while embracing innovation



Strategy

We can assist in navigating technology landscapes, leveraging existing assets, and identifying areas for impactful urban interventions



Thinking

Combining ecosystemic and human-centered design thinking we develop low, medium and hi-tech approaches to tailor made solutions for affected communities

OUR SERVICES

Deep Listening and Participatory Research

We start by listening—to the land, to the people, to the silent whispers of history that shape a place. Our approach is grounded in participatory research, ensuring that the voices of the community are not just heard but are foundational to the development process. This deep engagement allows us to understand the nuanced necessities of each project.

Adaptive and Flexible Methodologies

We recognize the fluid nature of urban development and community needs. Our methodologies are adaptive, designed to flex and evolve in response to new insights and shifting circumstances. This flexibility ensures that our solutions remain relevant, resilient, and responsive over time.

Holistic, Ecosystemic Strategies

Our strategies consider the full ecosystem of urban development, integrating economic, social, and environmental considerations. By viewing challenges and opportunities through an ecosystemic lens, we create holistic solutions that cater to the comprehensive well-being of the community.

Long-term Vision with Immediate Impact

While our services are designed to address the immediate needs of today, they are always aligned with a long-term vision for sustainable and inclusive growth. This dual focus ensures that our interventions deliver immediate benefits while laying the groundwork for future prosperity.

OUR SERVICES

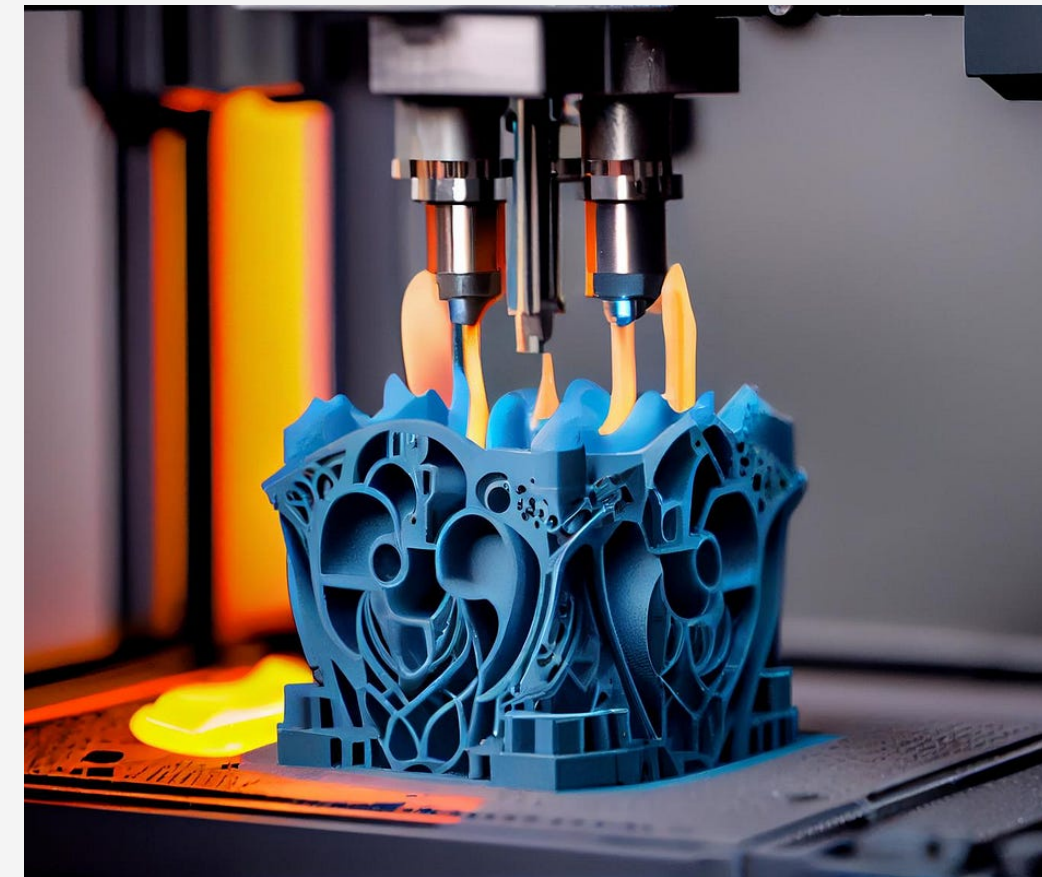
Redefining the relation with Technology

OUR APPROACH



Blockchain for Financial Transparency

- Traceability of donor money
- Reduced corruption and mismanagement
- Increased trust and accountability



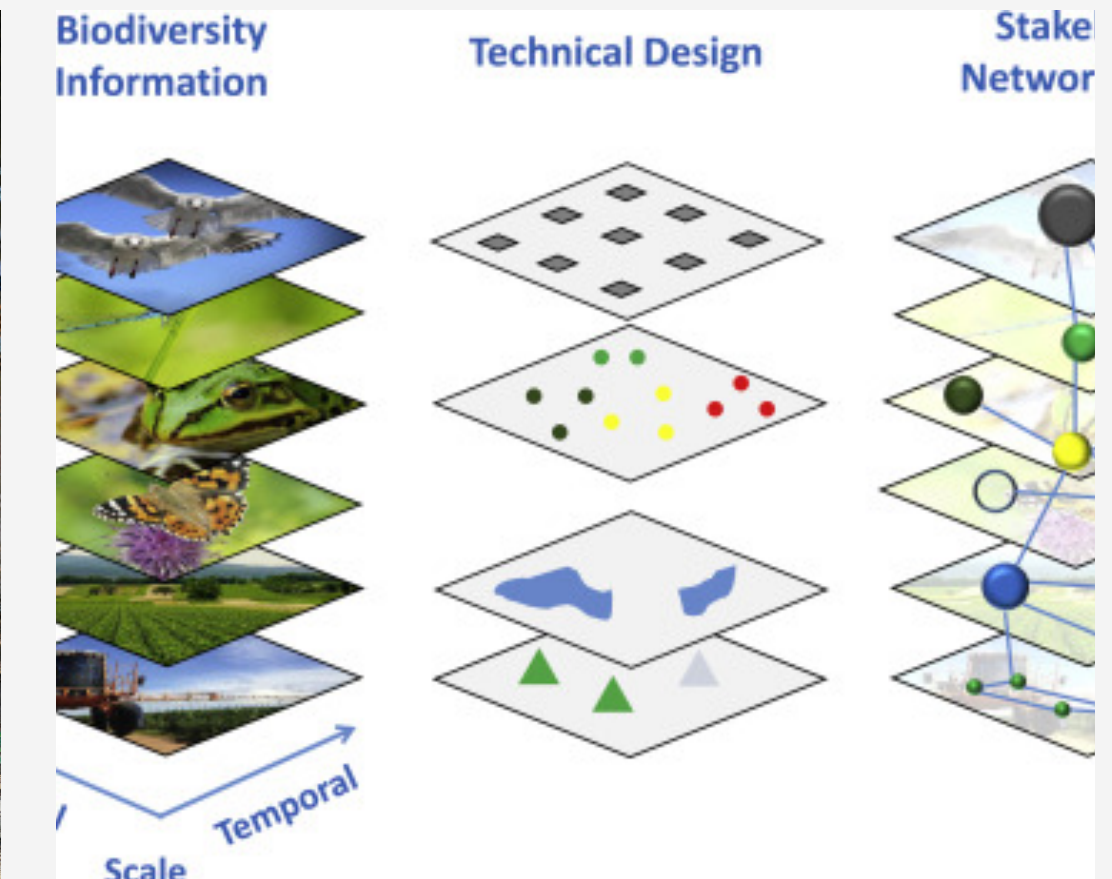
3D Printing and Urban Mining

- Rapid, cost-effective construction
- Utilization of local waste materials
- Reduced environmental impact



Repurposing Materials Strategies

- Multilayer facades supporting plant life
- Temperature regulation properties
- Enhanced energy efficiency
- Improved air quality
- Advanced recycling and upcycling processes



Biodiversity Monitoring and Enhancement

- DNA barcoding for species identification
- Robotic pollinators as backup for natural pollinators
- AI-powered ecosystems health monitoring

Turning Principles to Practice

At Afkar Collective, our commitment to revitalizing struggling districts and rebuilding communities post-disaster is unwavering. Our ecosystemic approach is meticulously designed to cater to the distinct needs of each project, ensuring that our initiatives are not only context-specific but hold the power to institute far-reaching transformation. Beyond the tangible outputs, our vision extends to redefining the metrics of success in urban development. We firmly believe that true progress is measured over generations, not just fiscal quarters. Hence, our projects are evaluated against rigorous benchmarks that encompass the quality of life, economic inclusion, and environmental sustainability.

Our goal is to lay the foundations for prosperity that will endure over a 100-year timeframe, ensuring that the environments we help create today can support and nurture the lives of countless future generations. This long-term perspective encourages us to think beyond immediate solutions and focus on legacy—on what it means to truly leave a place better than we found it.

Join us in crafting
the future of
urban innovation

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collective
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Unleashing Urban Alchemy: Afkar Collective ignites city landscapes with revolutionary ideas. We're not just thinkers—we're doers, fusing diverse talents to sculpt tomorrow's vibrant urban realms. Join us at the cutting edge of transformation, where every challenge is an opportunity to redefine city living. Afkar: Where audacious ideas become breathtaking realities

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