

Istanbul

Aim

To analyse the systemic risks and impacts of disasters on Istanbul's urban dynamics, focusing on demography, social economy, and the built environment.

Why

Istanbul represents megacities facing natural and human-made threats, with significant impacts on both local and global scales.

Why Istanbul

As a megacity with over 10 million residents, Istanbul experiences unique challenges, including earthquakes and floods, alongside rapid population growth and urban expansion.

Where do we want to go

Develop strategies for disaster risk assessment and mitigation to improve resilience and quality of life in Istanbul.

Geographical area



Istanbul, 41.022376, 28.998964

Hazards



Earthquake induced Hazards



Earthquake

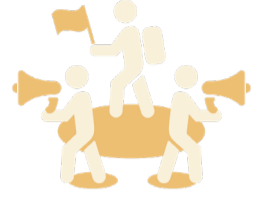
Stakeholders involved



Government officials



Academic institutions

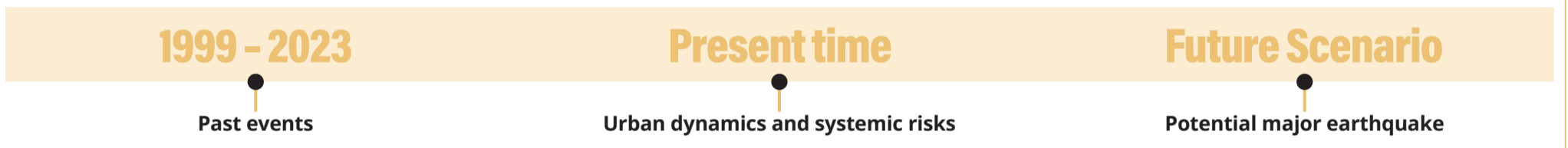


Civil society organizations



Urban planners

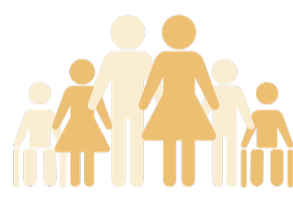
Timeline of impact chains



Sectors



Systemic risks



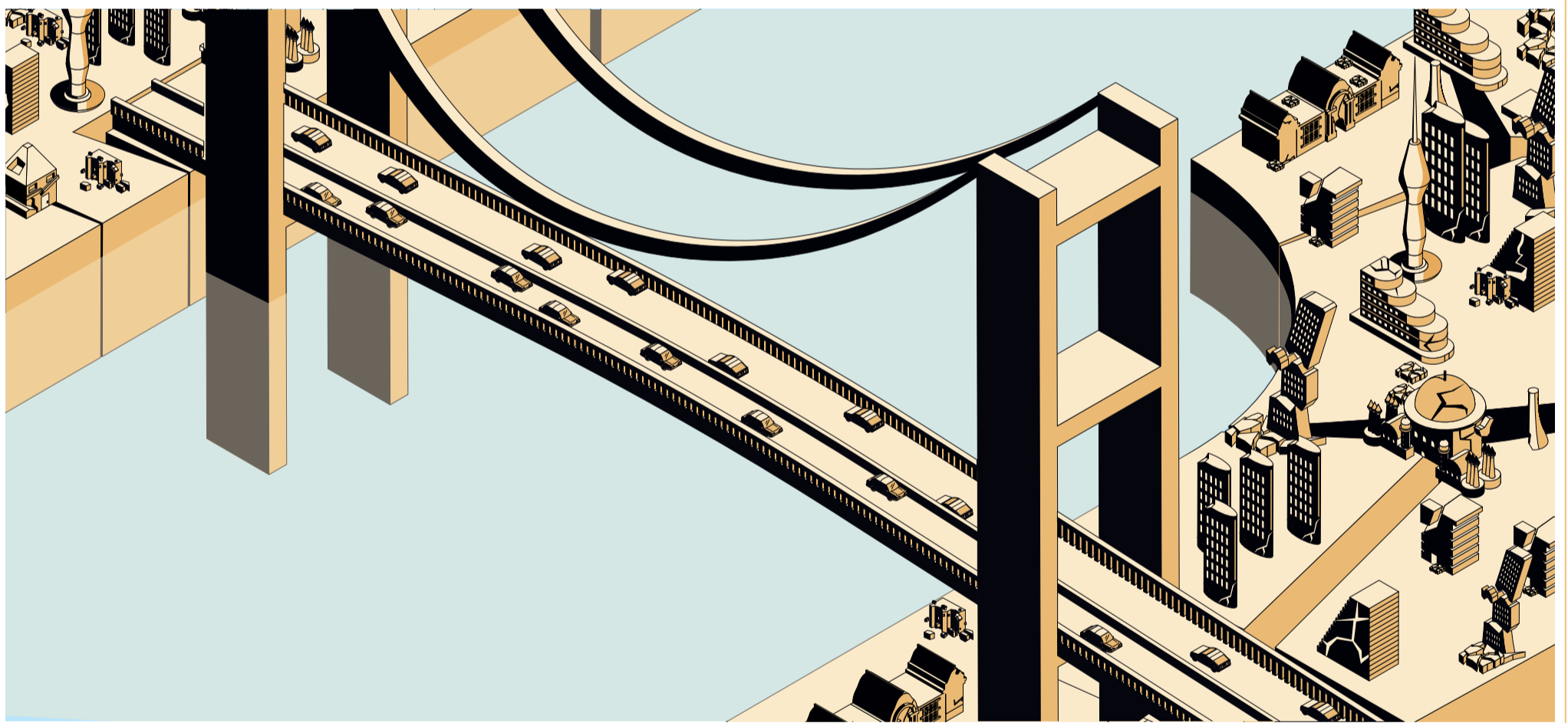
Society



Built-up environment



Economy



Research Methodology

Since the 1999 Izmit Earthquake, **the population of Istanbul has increased from around 8 million to 15 million.** Population growth rates, urban expansion speed, composition and integration of new migrants (native, foreign and refugees from countries like Syria and Afghanistan) contribute to the **increasing disaster risk.**

The **income and welfare gap between wealthier and disadvantaged groups** is more visible in such big agglomerations. Consequently, **disadvantaged groups become more vulnerable** once considered disasters. **Primate cities pioneer the country's economy,** but they also behave as global representatives within their role in international urban networks.

This means that **the impacts of certain shocks will be propagated through diverse channels to other cities.** After the 1999 earthquakes, which hit the most industrialized zone of Turkey, some industrial businesses in other parts of the country urged to import some intermediate goods as they could not purchase them from Kocaeli because of the large-scale destruction.

Most of the Istanbul's population is internal migrants who still have connections to their city of emigration. After devastating earthquakes, it has been noted that people tend to turn to these cities of emigration temporarily or permanently.

This mobility can create some real estate pressure in target cities, mostly by means of the rental price increase. **Employing a mixed-methods approach, the research combines quantitative data analysis, GIS mapping, and qualitative assessments through stakeholder interviews and community surveys.**

This methodology allows for a **nuanced understanding of vulnerabilities and capacities at various scales.**

Expected Results

01 In the case study of Istanbul, we plan to focus on urban dynamics (demography, social, economy, built-up environment, etc.) to reveal systemic vulnerabilities.

02 Anticipated outcomes include a detailed mapping of risk profiles across Istanbul, identification of critical infrastructure vulnerabilities, and recommendations for enhancing urban resilience.

03 The project aims to foster a culture of preparedness, inform policy development, and guide investments in risk reduction and emergency management infrastructure.



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