How Does Effective Governance Accelerate SDGs Implementation for more Sustainable and Resilient Cities?
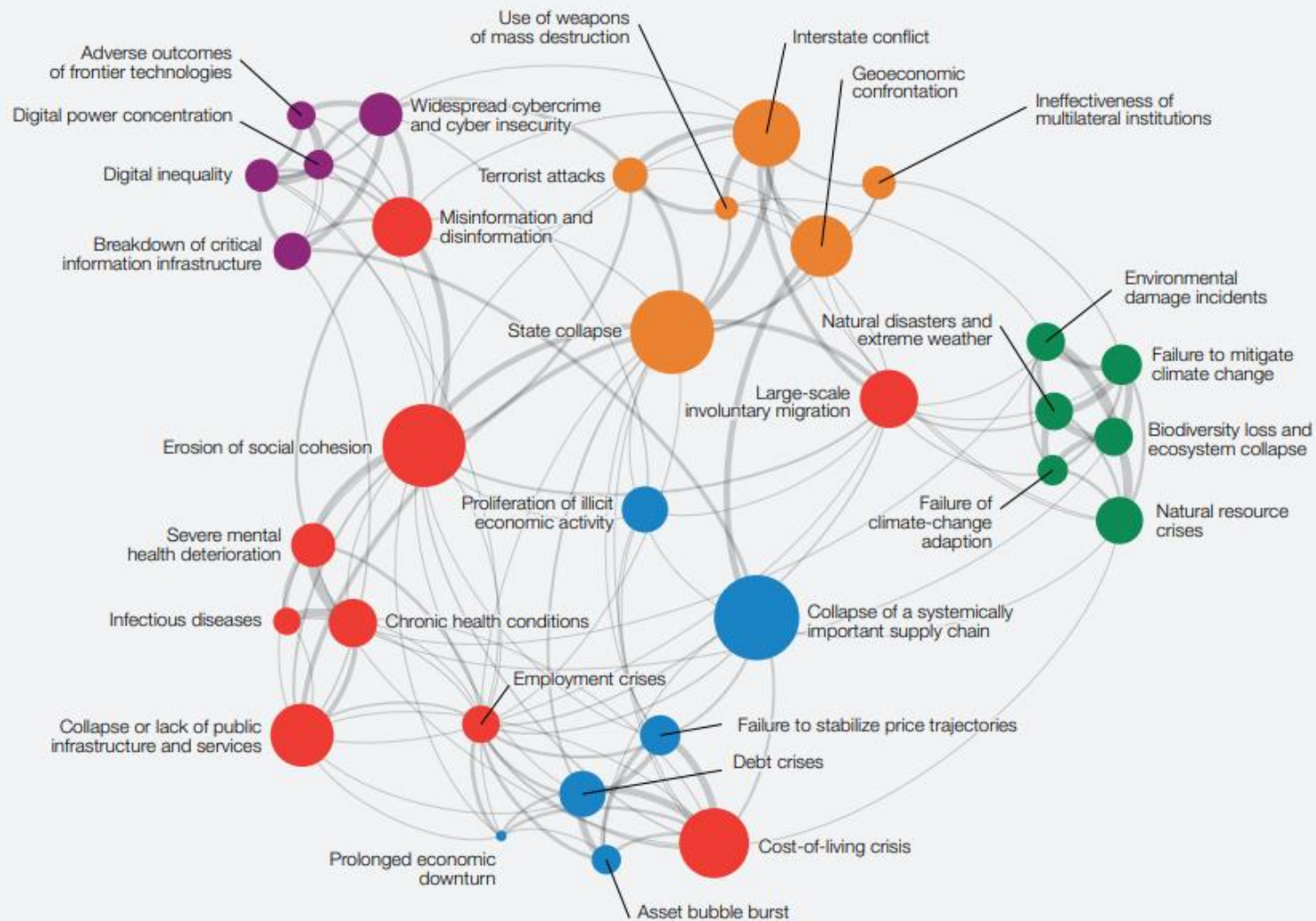
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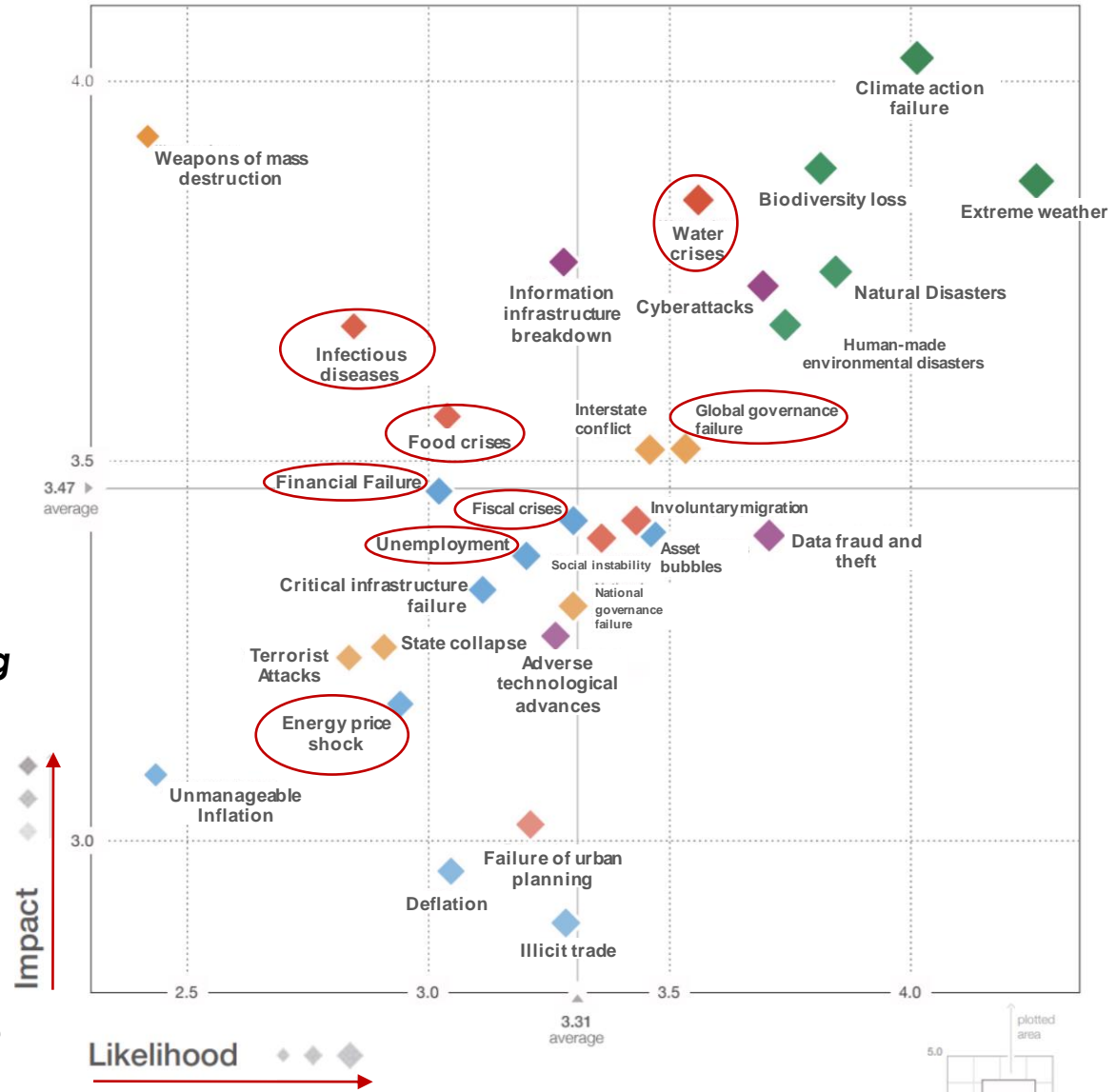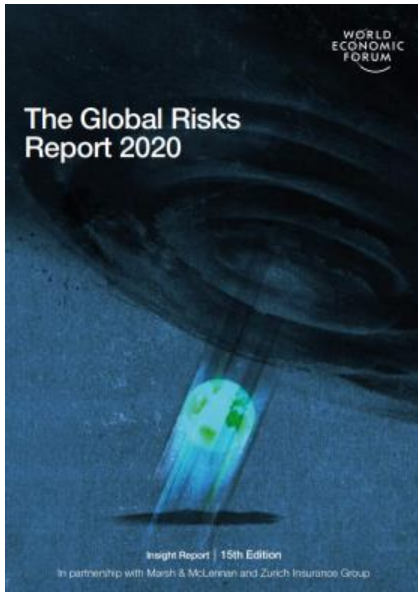
UN ESCWA | March 2, 2023

Global Risks Landscape 2023

(World Economic Forum, 2023)

Global Risks Landscape 2020

The Global Risks Report 2020

WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM

Insight Report | 15th Edition
In partnership with Marsh & McLennan and Zurich Insurance Group

Organization type

- International organizations 10.05%
- Business 37.73%
- Academia 20.63%
- Other 5.35%
- NGO 11.36%
- Government 14.88%

- ➢ Wide range of **complex challenges**
- ➢ **Highly interconnected** challenges
- ➢ **Hard to predict**
- ➢ Need for **systems thinking**
- ➢ Require **rapid response**
- ➢ Require **high level of cooperation**

- ➢ **Infrastructure for improving future resilience:**
  - environments to innovate at the interface of different disciplines; emergence of new disciplines
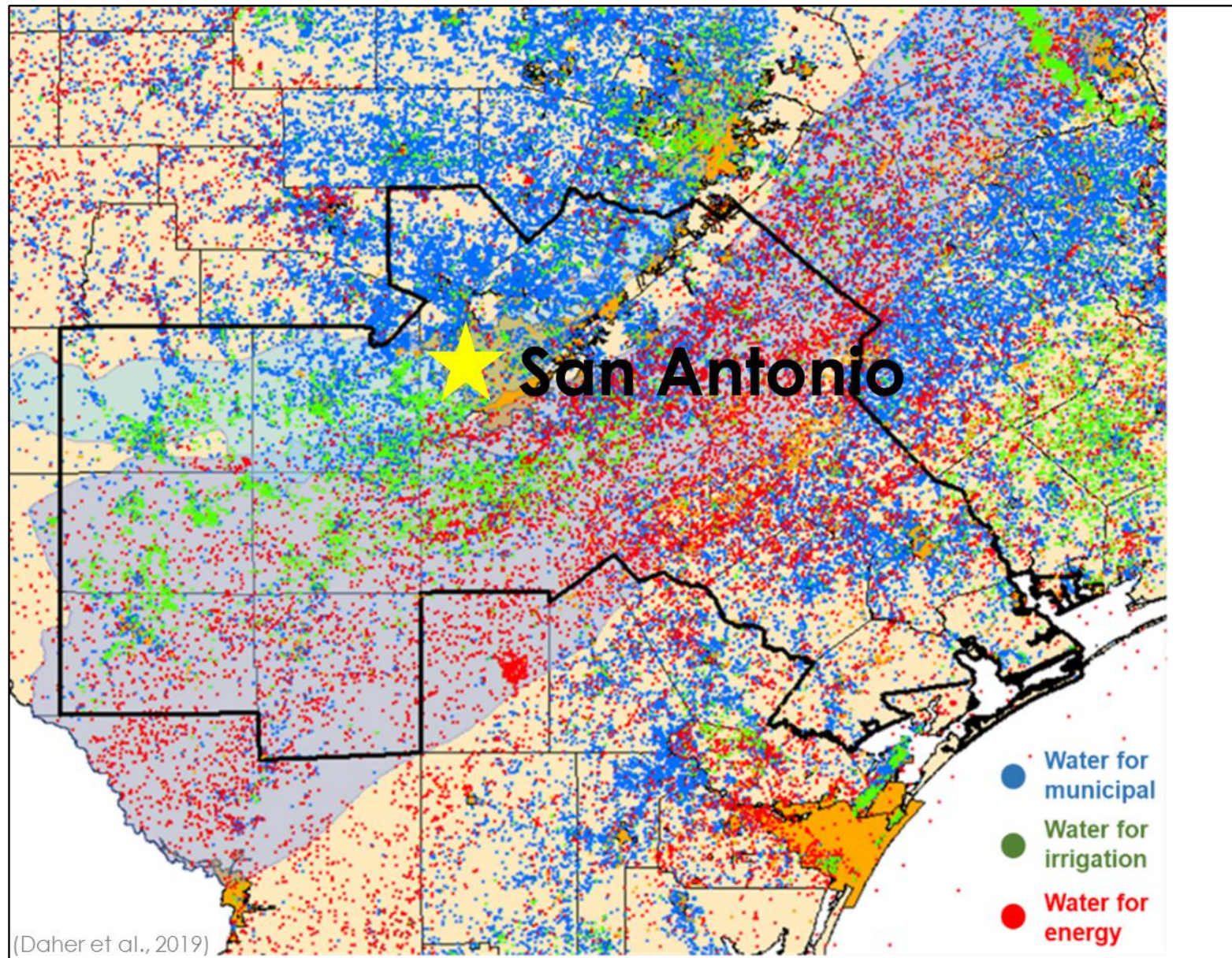 - environments to innovate in ways diverse actors cooperate

Risk landscape plot (Likelihood vs Impact):

- Climate action failure
- Weapons of mass destruction
- Biodiversity loss
- Extreme weather
- Water crises
- Information infrastructure breakdown
- Cyberattacks
- Natural Disasters
- Human-made environmental disasters
- Infectious diseases
- Interstate conflict
- Global governance failure
- Food crises
- Financial Failure
- Fiscal crises
- Involuntary migration
- Unemployment
- Social instability
- Asset bubbles
- Data fraud and theft
- Critical infrastructure failure
- National governance failure
- Terrorist Attacks
- State collapse
- Adverse technological advances
- Energy price shock
- Unmanageable Inflation
- Failure of urban planning
- Deflation
- Illicit trade

Impact average 3.47
Likelihood average 3.31

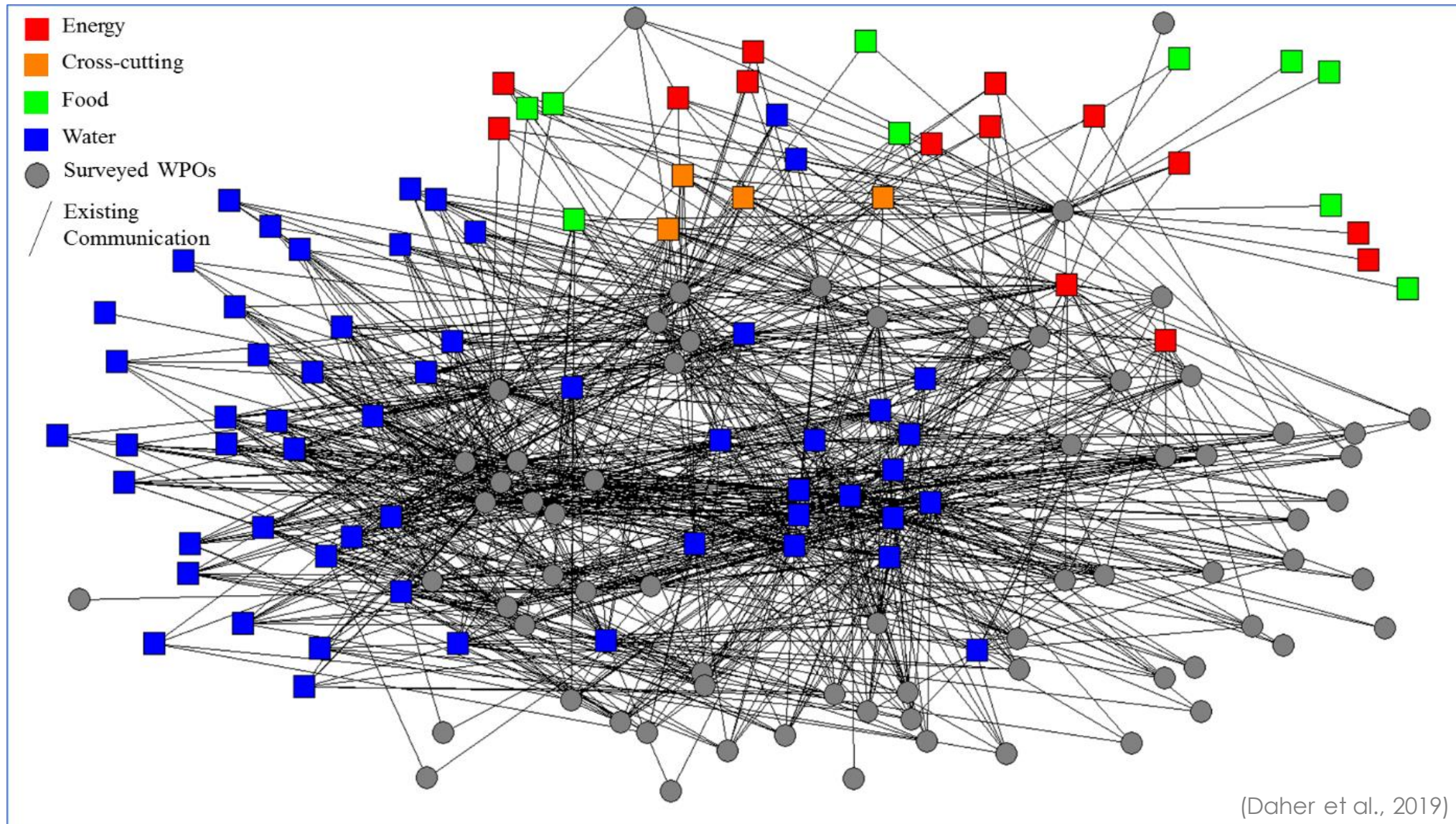# Interconnected Sustainable Development Goals

(Mohr, 2016)

Need to:

- Understand and quantify interconnections

- Develop coordination mechanisms and address barriers for integrative planning and governance

- Develop collective outcomes across different sectors

- Engage stakeholders in decision-making processes

Example: Water-Energy-Food Hotspot in San Antonio, TX

Water for municipal
Water for irrigation
Water for energy

(Daher et al., 2019)

Network Map: **any level** of communication

Legend:
- Energy (red)
- Cross-cutting (orange)
- Food (green)
- Water (blue)
- Surveyed WPOs (grey circle)
- Existing Communication (line)

90% No communication

10% some level of communication

(Daher et al., 2019)

Barriers to Communication

Stakeholder Engagement Meeting in San Antonio, TX

1. **Legal and procedural barriers**: Institutional mandates and lack of coordination mechanisms.

2. **Financial:** who will pay for the time and effort involved in pursuing increased communication?

3. **Uniformity of Language** (units, abbreviations, syntax and context of problems and solutions).

4. **Planning Horizons** differ for water, energy, and food (10 to 50 years) causing ideological differences and creating barriers.

5. **Different values systems** differ across sectors and organizations.

6. **Competition** between local, regional, global organizations and across industries leads to issues of confidentiality, restricted data.

7. **Self-interest versus collective goals** - Silo mentality

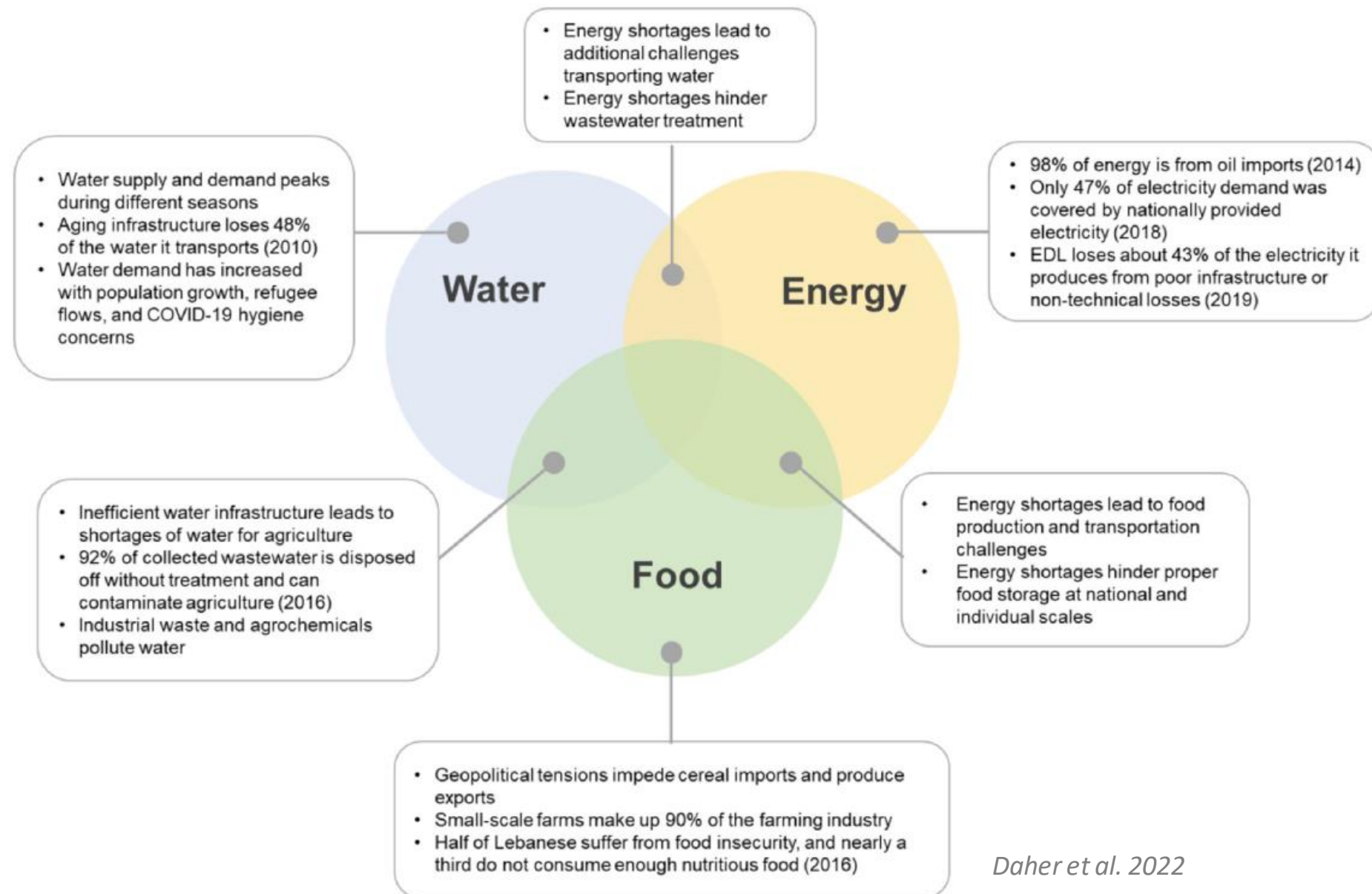8. **Lack of common goals** and collaborative projects

WEF Challenges in Lebanon

- Energy shortages lead to additional challenges transporting water
- Energy shortages hinder wastewater treatment

- Water supply and demand peaks during different seasons
- Aging infrastructure loses 48% of the water it transports (2010)
- Water demand has increased with population growth, refugee flows, and COVID-19 hygiene concerns

- 98% of energy is from oil imports (2014)
- Only 47% of electricity demand was covered by nationally provided electricity (2018)
- EDL loses about 43% of the electricity it produces from poor infrastructure or non-technical losses (2019)

Water

Energy

- Inefficient water infrastructure leads to shortages of water for agriculture
- 92% of collected wastewater is disposed off without treatment and can contaminate agriculture (2016)
- Industrial waste and agrochemicals pollute water

Food

- Energy shortages lead to food production and transportation challenges
- Energy shortages hinder proper food storage at national and individual scales

- Geopolitical tensions impede cereal imports and produce exports
- Small-scale farms make up 90% of the farming industry
- Half of Lebanese suffer from food insecurity, and nearly a third do not consume enough nutritious food (2016)

Daher et al. 2022

Underlying challenge, shocks, and impacts

Daher et al. 2022

Daher et al. 2022
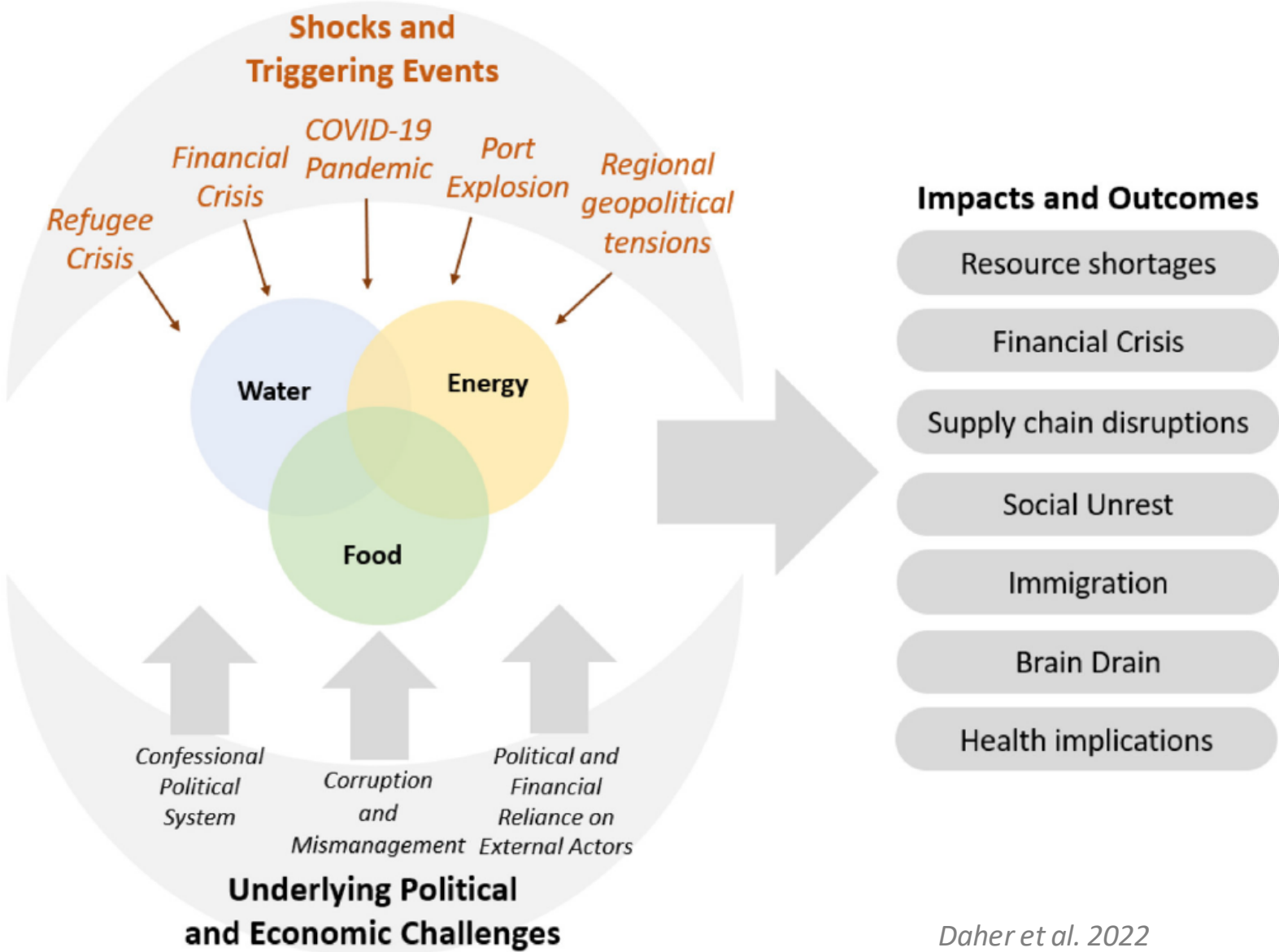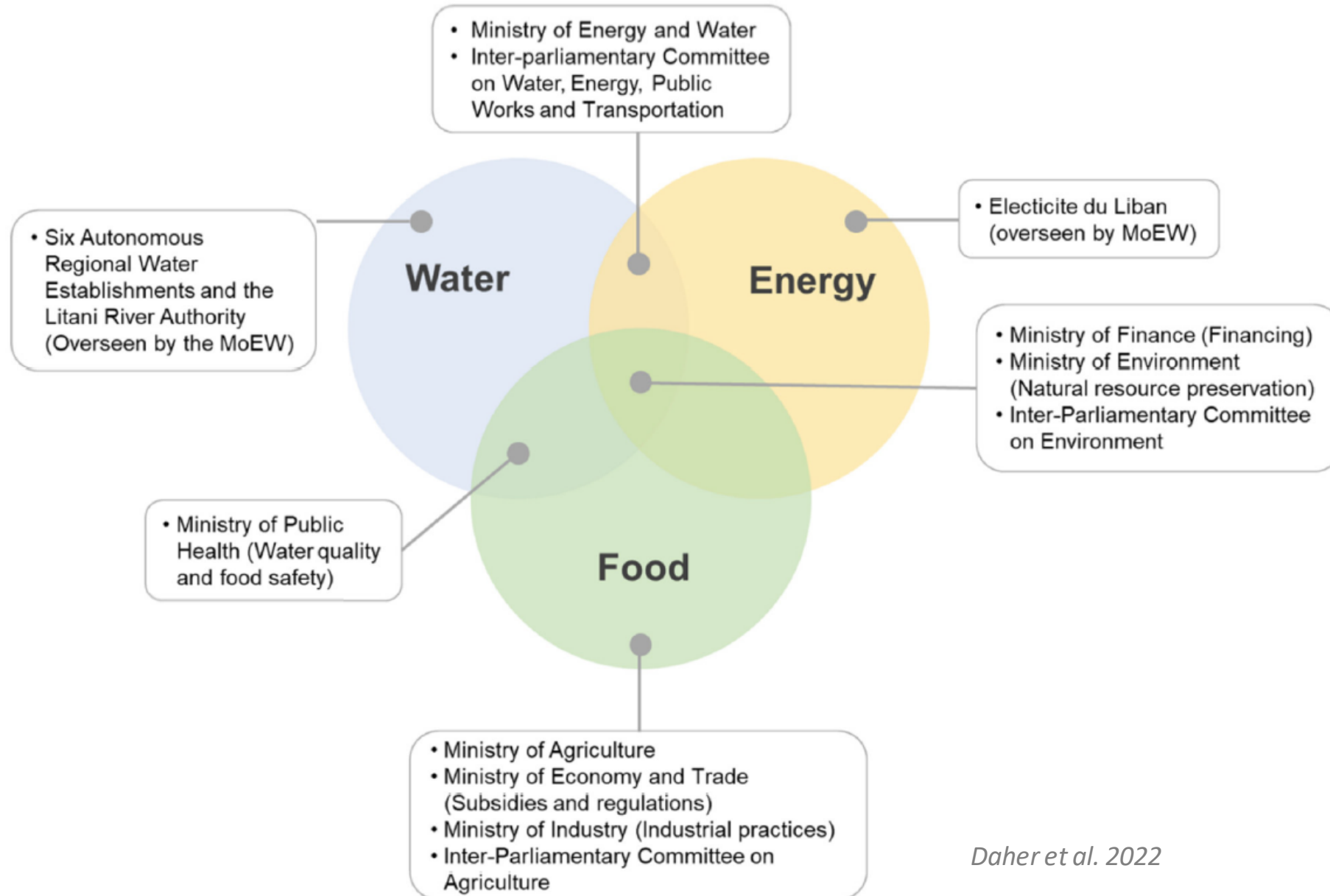
OPPORTUNITIES

Systems Thinking

- *Create mechanisms that encourage integrated management*
- *Platform for dialogue and planning (linking different sectors and stakeholders, aligning priorities, holistic strategies)*
- *System-level analysis*

Empowering decentralized initiatives

- *Empower local governance and formalize existing local water, energy, and food management systems*
- *They can bypass some of the underlying challenges at national level while being able to tailor solutions to local contexts*

Bridging systems thinking and decentralized initiatives

- *Decentralization doesn't mean fragmentation; benefits from direction at national level to maximize national outcomes*

- *Broad, systems-based reform reflects a top-down management framework that improves resource system resilience at the national level, while decentralized initiatives improve resilience from the bottom up.*

Daher et al. 2022

Key Messages

- Addressing complex challenges such as climate change and biodiversity loss **requires collaboration across sectors and stakeholder groups**

- Improving the management and resilience of interconnected resource systems requires an understanding of **underlying conditions** and **shocks** and **their impact**

- **Engaging diverse stakeholder groups** in governance processes can lead to more inclusive and equitable decision-making

- An **effective governance framework** is one that:
  - ensures **collaboration** and **coordination** among stakeholders, including government, civil society, and private sector, for efficient resource allocation and implementation.
  - promotes **transparency**, **accountability**, and **citizen participation** in decision-making, ensuring that the needs and priorities of all stakeholders are considered.
  - facilitates the **integration of SDGs into local policies, plans, and regulations,** enabling mainstreaming of sustainable and resilient practices in city development.
  - provides a **framework for monitoring and evaluation**, enabling regular tracking of progress and identifying gaps and challenges that need to be addressed for successful implementation of SDGs in cities.

Thank You

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