Proven Process for Self-Sustaining Communities

ForAfrika

ForAfrika facilitates a **continuum of transformation** from emergency aid towards self-sufficient communities. We achieve this through an integrated programming approach that is rooted in collaborative partnerships and capability transfers.

Our proven process model has been developed over four decades of working closely with local communities, listening to grassroots voices to direct localised solutions tailored to contexts.

Across rural villages and informal urban settlements, vulnerable African communities face interconnected socio-economic risks and barriers that undermine welfare. Climate change has accelerated the frequency of shocks, such as droughts and floods, that disrupt livelihoods and propagate malnutrition. Cycles of violence and epidemics strain barebone healthcare facilities already lacking essential resources and workforce capacities. Preventable diseases consequently soar as infrastructure limitations hinder continuous access and safety.
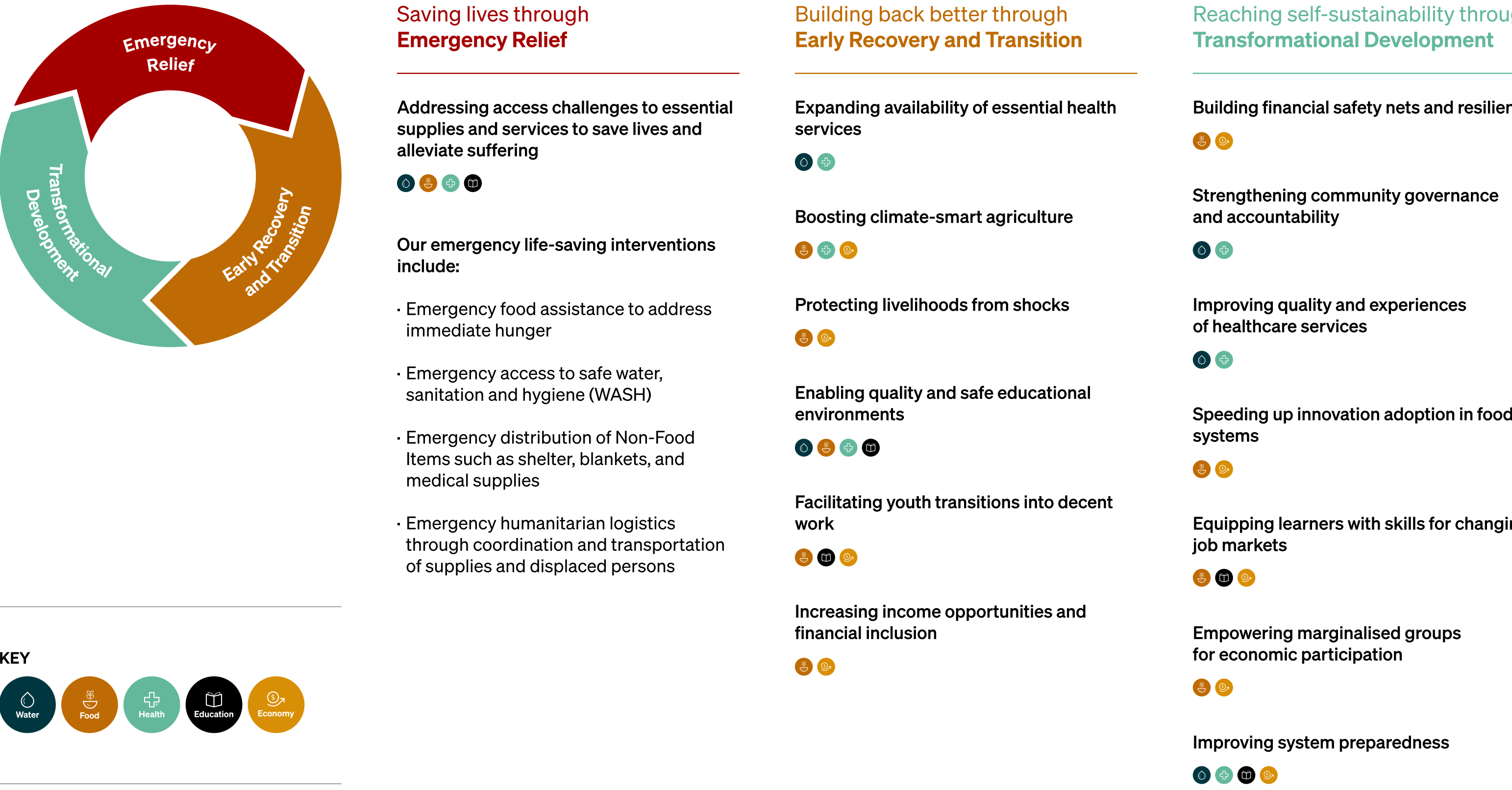
The migration to cities for income diversification provides minimal relief. Instead, it introduces new uncertainties such as inconsistent and informal employment, barriers accessing financial resources to stabilise incomes and capitalise on opportunities, and social marginalisation. Structural inequalities, such as gender, education levels and disability status, further limit workforce participation and asset ownership, sustaining intergenerational poverty.

Children growing up in these circumstances face multiple interconnected deprivations that hinder the development of their human capital in terms of health, learning and psychological well-being.

Dropping out of school often correlates with experiencing hunger, while skills mismatches decrease job prospects, leading many young people to engage in risky, irregular jobs that expose them to economic fluctuations. Families are often just one paycheck away from hunger or homelessness, with their assets susceptible to shocks from various sources.

Chronic stresses highlight interconnected vulnerabilities that are complex yet mutually reinforcing. For instance, the maternal health nurse recognises that delivering more babies per shift cannot solve malnutrition. Similarly, the agriculture extension agent understands that lower crop yields cannot be reversed solely through tackling degraded soils and increased pests resulting from climate shifts. Addressing these challenges requires coordinated responses that recognise the interconnected nature of instability, illiteracy, and insufficient crisis buffers. Fragmented interventions that focus on singular issues often overlook the systemic relationships that underlie the problem.

Our **Proven Process** involves an integrated programming approach executed across three stages of transformation: Emergency Relief, Early Recovery and Transition, and Transformational Development.

Saving lives through **Emergency Relief**

Addressing access challenges to essential supplies and services to save lives and alleviate suffering

Our emergency life-saving interventions include:

- Emergency food assistance to address immediate hunger
- Emergency access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)
- Emergency distribution of Non-Food Items such as shelter, blankets, and medical supplies
- Emergency humanitarian logistics through coordination and transportation of supplies and displaced persons

Building back better through **Early Recovery and Transition**

Expanding availability of essential health services

Boosting climate-smart agriculture

Protecting livelihoods from shocks

Enabling quality and safe educational environments

Facilitating youth transitions into decent work

Increasing income opportunities and financial inclusion

Reaching self-sustainability through **Transformational Development**

Building financial safety nets and resilience

Strengthening community governance and accountability

Improving quality and experiences of healthcare services

Speeding up innovation adoption in food systems

Equipping learners with skills for changing job markets

Empowering marginalised groups for economic participation

Improving system preparedness

KEY
Water · Food · Health · Education · Economy

Thresholds and scoring criteria are defined for each indicator in alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and sector best practices. By aggregating the indicator scores at the household and then community level, households can be categorised as self-sufficient or not based on specified thresholds. The SLI thus provides a multidimensional measurement of self-sufficiency rooted in decades of livelihoods research.

Success is measured through a Sustainable Livelihoods Index (SLI), which tracks 22 indicators spanning five domains of livelihood assets: natural capital, physical capital, human capital, financial capital, and social capital. These indicators signal household and community **self-sufficiency.**