

Resilience: from concept to practice



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Bern, 21 March 2016

Outline

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 - b. Definition
 - c. Added value
 - d. Critique
 - e. Resilience and DRR
 - f. 'Resilience revolution'
2. Partners for Resilience approach
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 - c. Key principles
 - d. Characteristics of resilient communities
3. Key references and Conclusion



Resilience : origins

- From Latin: “resiliere”: to resile or bounce back from a shock or stress.
- Term was originally used in ecology, child psychology, engineering, economics and system analysis.
- Appeared in humanitarian/DRR thinking around 2005 in Hyogo Framework for Action: “*Building the resilience of nations and communities to disasters*”.



Definition

- Many definitions exist, but there is no universally accepted one yet:
 - UNISDR (2009) defines resilience as:

*“The ability of a system, community or society to **resist, absorb, accommodate to and recover** from the effects of a hazard in a timely and efficient manner, including through the preservation and restoration of its essential basic structures and functions”.*
 - IFRC (2012) describes resilience as:

*“The ability of individuals, communities, organisations, or countries exposed to disasters and crises **to anticipate, reduce the impact** of, cope with, and recover from the effects of adversity”.*
 - Rockefeller Foundation (2016) explains it as:

*“The capacity of individuals, communities and systems to survive, **adapt**, and grow in the face of stress and shocks, and even **transform** when conditions require it”.*

Static <-> Dynamic views:

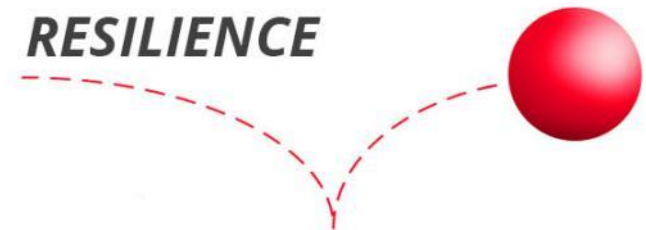
1. Static/re-active view:

ability to resist, absorb, accommodate to and recover from shocks and stresses.

2. Dynamic/ pro-active view:

ability to anticipate, adapt and transform or 'bounce back forward'

-> Pro-active view has become dominant

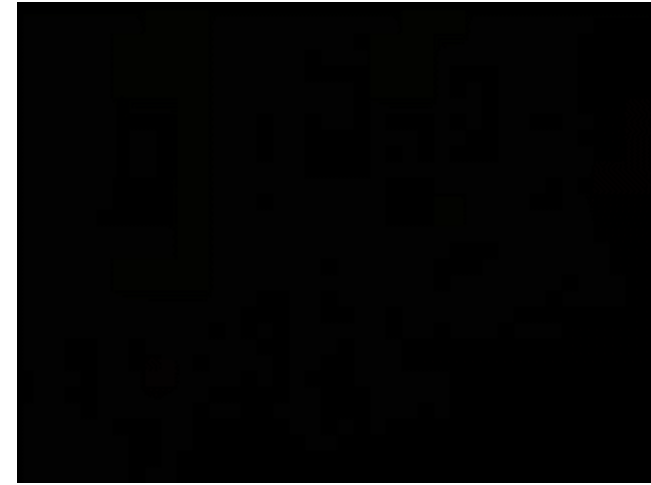


VIDEO

What is Resilience ? (Stockholm Resilience Centre)

Ability to:

1. Withstand a shock without losing its basic functions.
2. Adapt to changing circumstances.
3. Transform to a different way of life



Added value:

- Positive focus on **capacity/ability** rather than on vulnerability.
- Is an **overarching** term which allows for the integration of a wide variety of areas, such as DRR, CCA, health, natural resource management, food security, livelihoods...
- Has a **bridging** function between humanitarian and development work.
- Combining short term **shocks** with longer term **stresses**.

Resilience and DRR:

- Resilience has raised the **profile of disaster risk** and crisis within the development agenda.
- Resilience allows to go beyond DRR and assess and address people's vulnerability to a **variety of shocks and stresses**, such as climate variation and change, economic shocks, conflict etc...
- Resilience allows to build programmes that respond to '**stresses and uncertainty**' as well as '**shocks**'.

Critique:

- Part of a neo-liberal agenda: removing state responsibility
- Insufficient attention paid to power relations and politics (<-> vulnerability)
- Because of its wide application, it risks becoming a largely meaningless term, 'Sustainability 2.0'
- Insufficient ownership in South: push-back from local practitioners: 'new tyranny'.



‘Resilience Revolution’:

- Has strong political appeal. It has now moved into the mainstream of the humanitarian, climate and development debate.
- Has become the main framing concept for DRR/CC and referred to in all recent international agreements.
- Is now widely applied in:
 - Climate change
 - Disaster risk management
 - Food Security and Agriculture
 - Conflict and security
 - Water
 - Urbanisation
 - Infrastructure and reconstruction
 - Economics

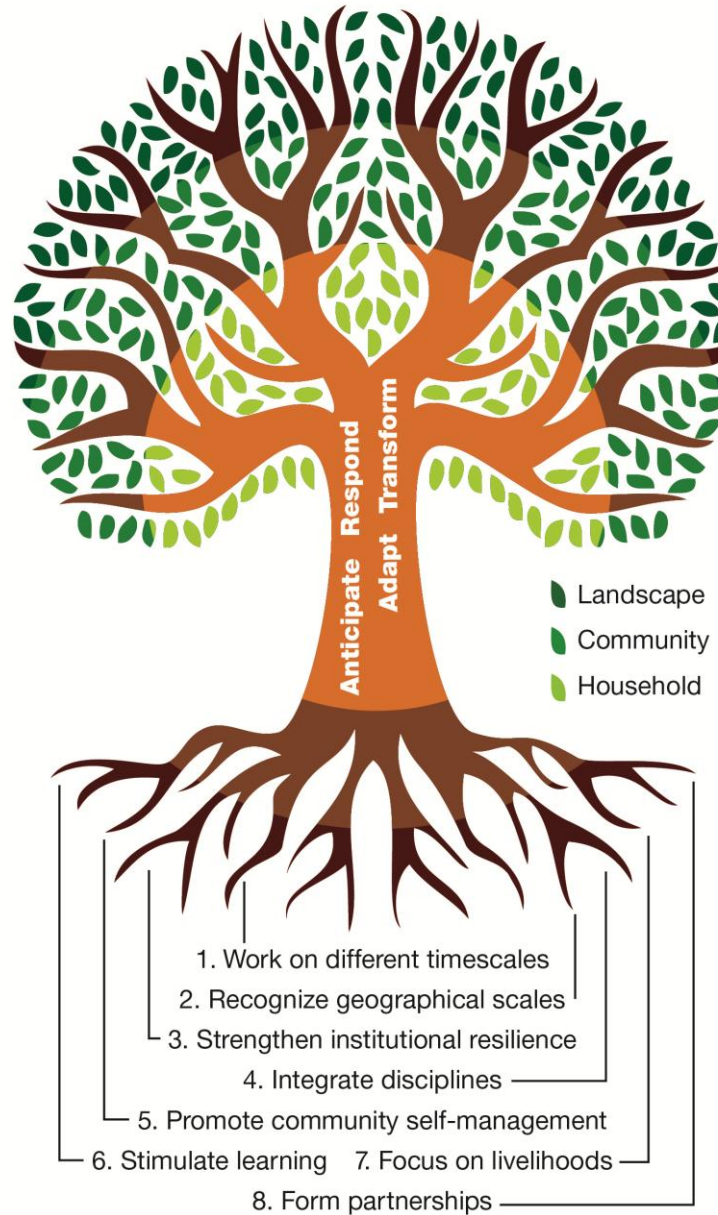


PARTNERS FOR RESILIENCE



Vision on Resilience

Growing a vision for Resilience



Levels

**Building blocks/
Intervention areas**

Key principles

Building blocks/ Intervention areas



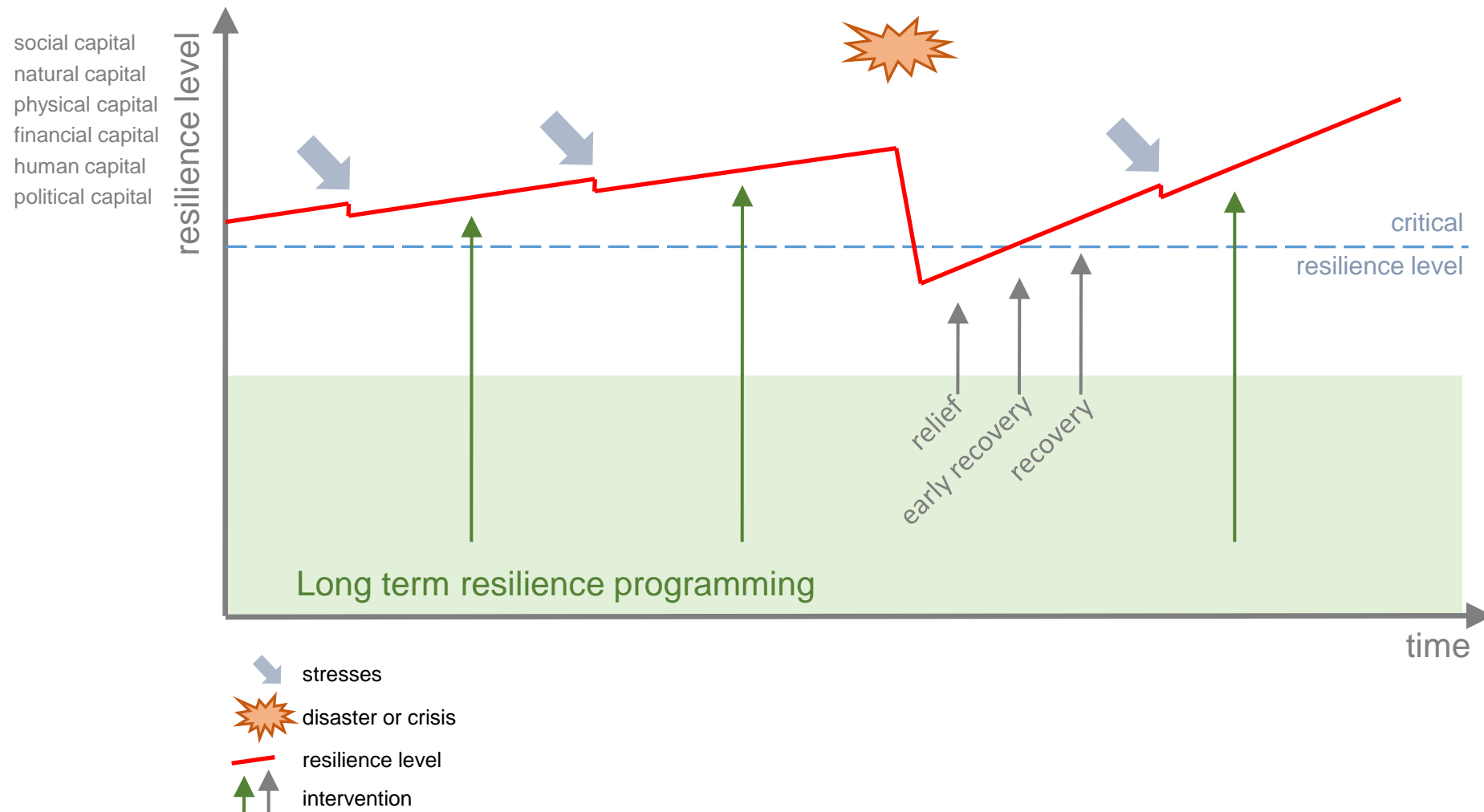
RESPOND

ANTICIPATE

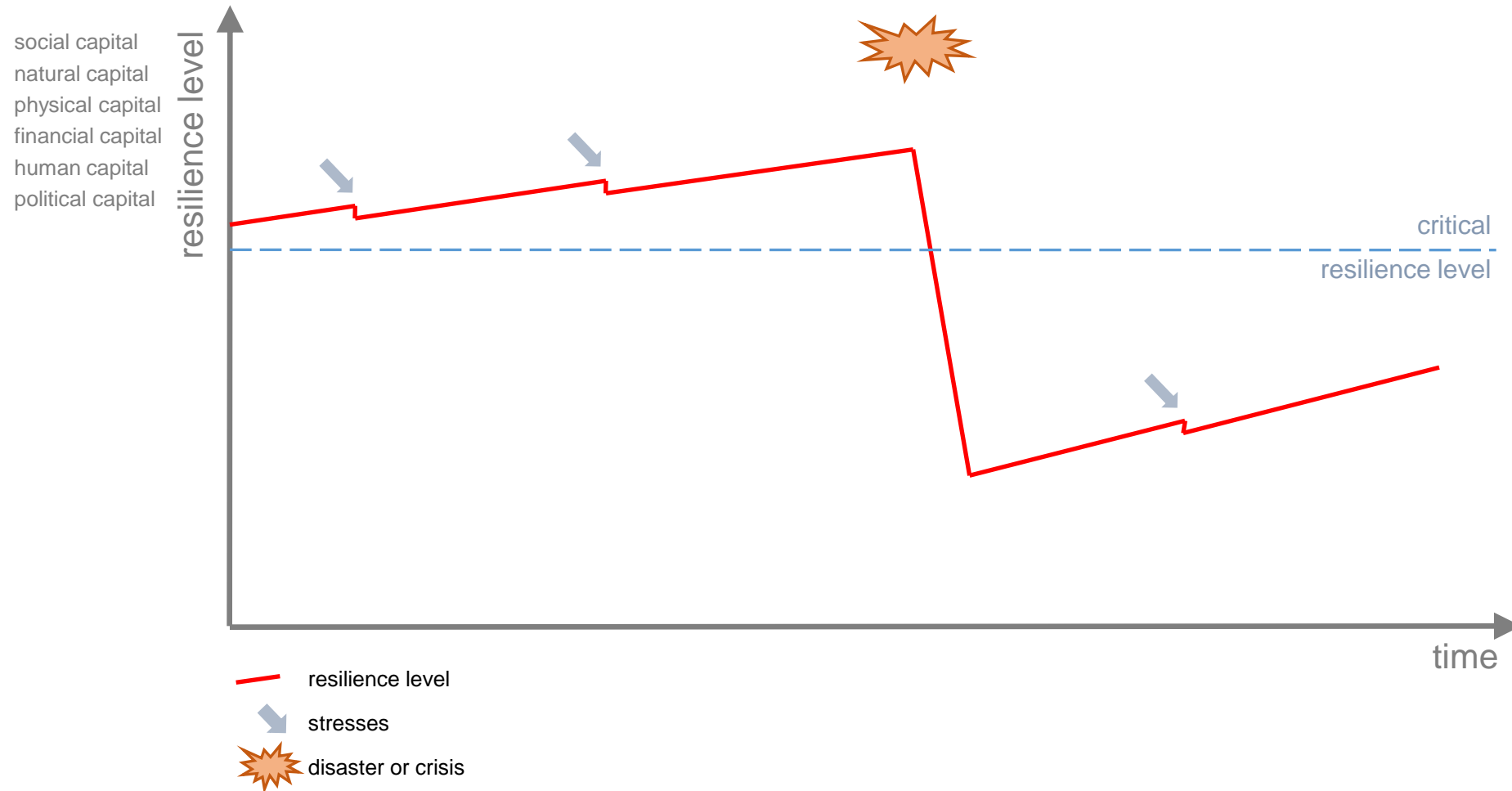
ADAPT

TRANSFORM

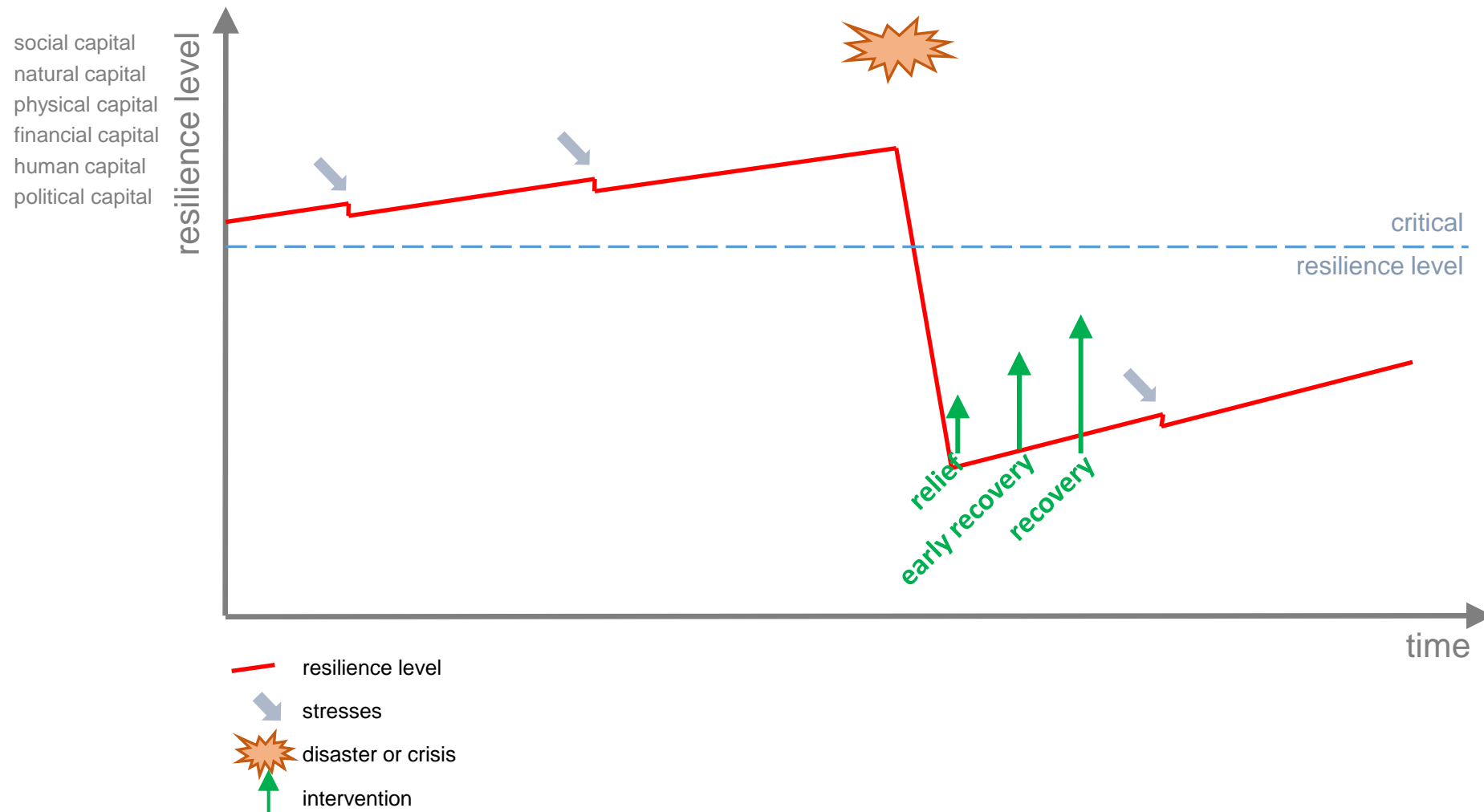
Visualising Resilience



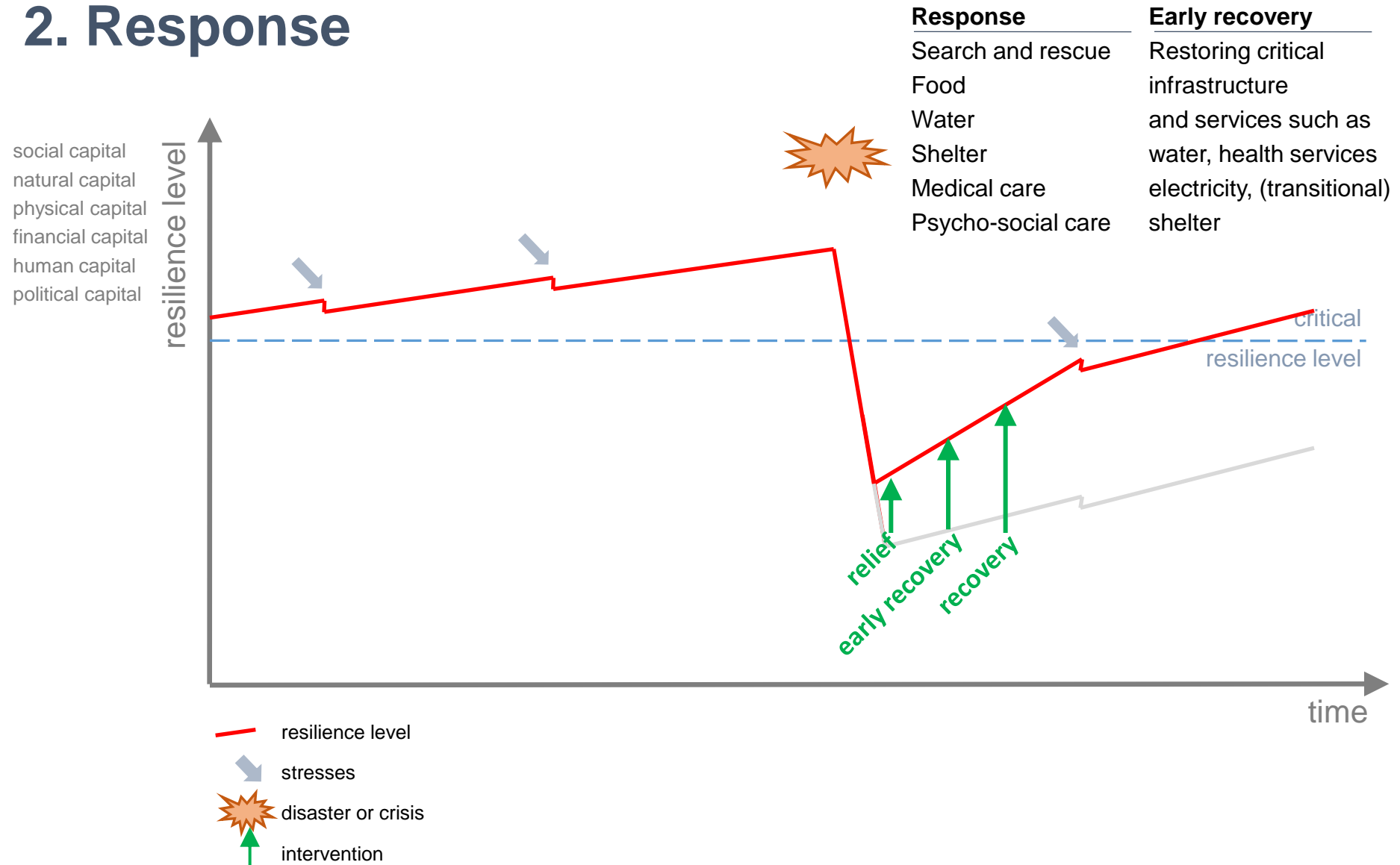
1. No intervention



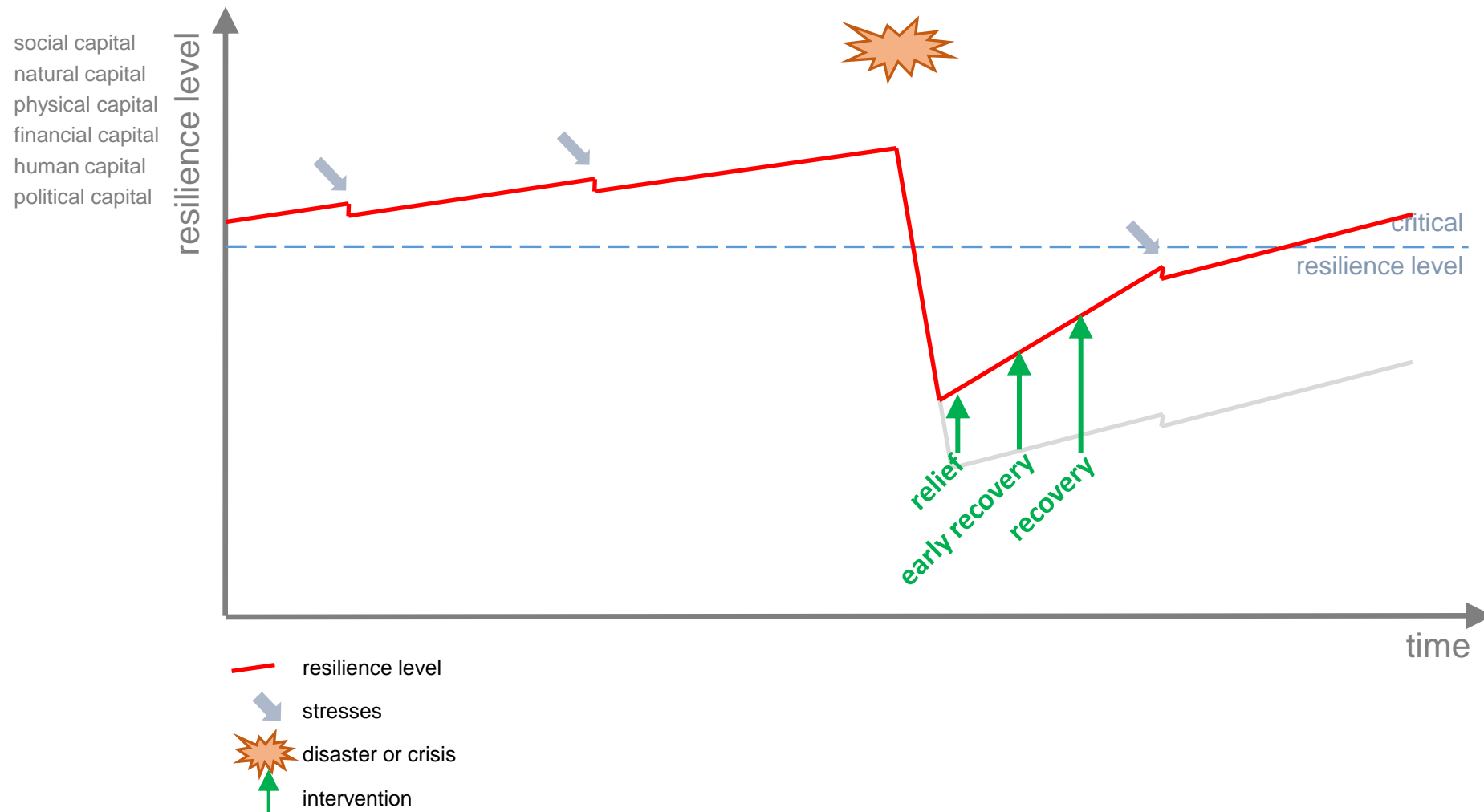
2. Response



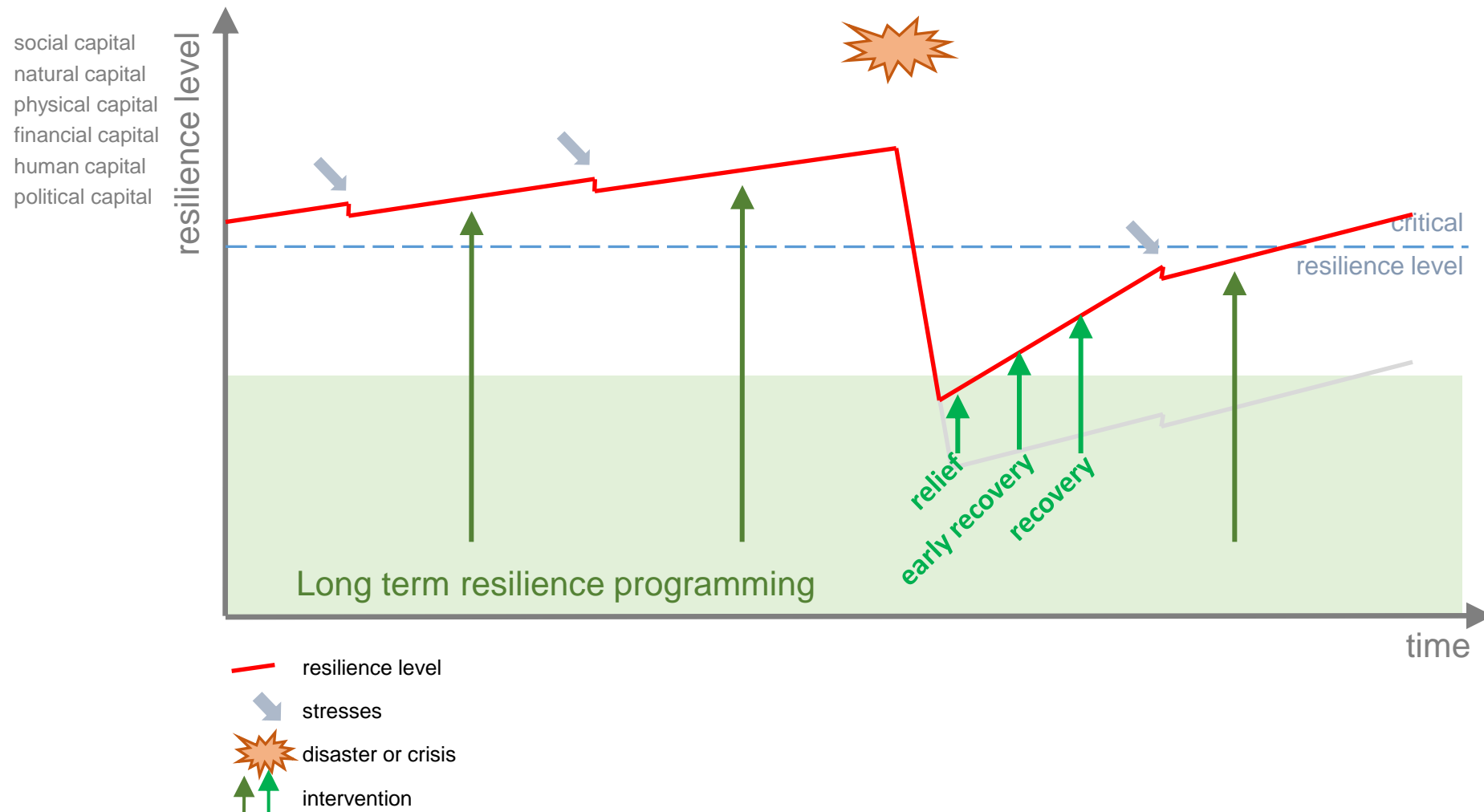
2. Response



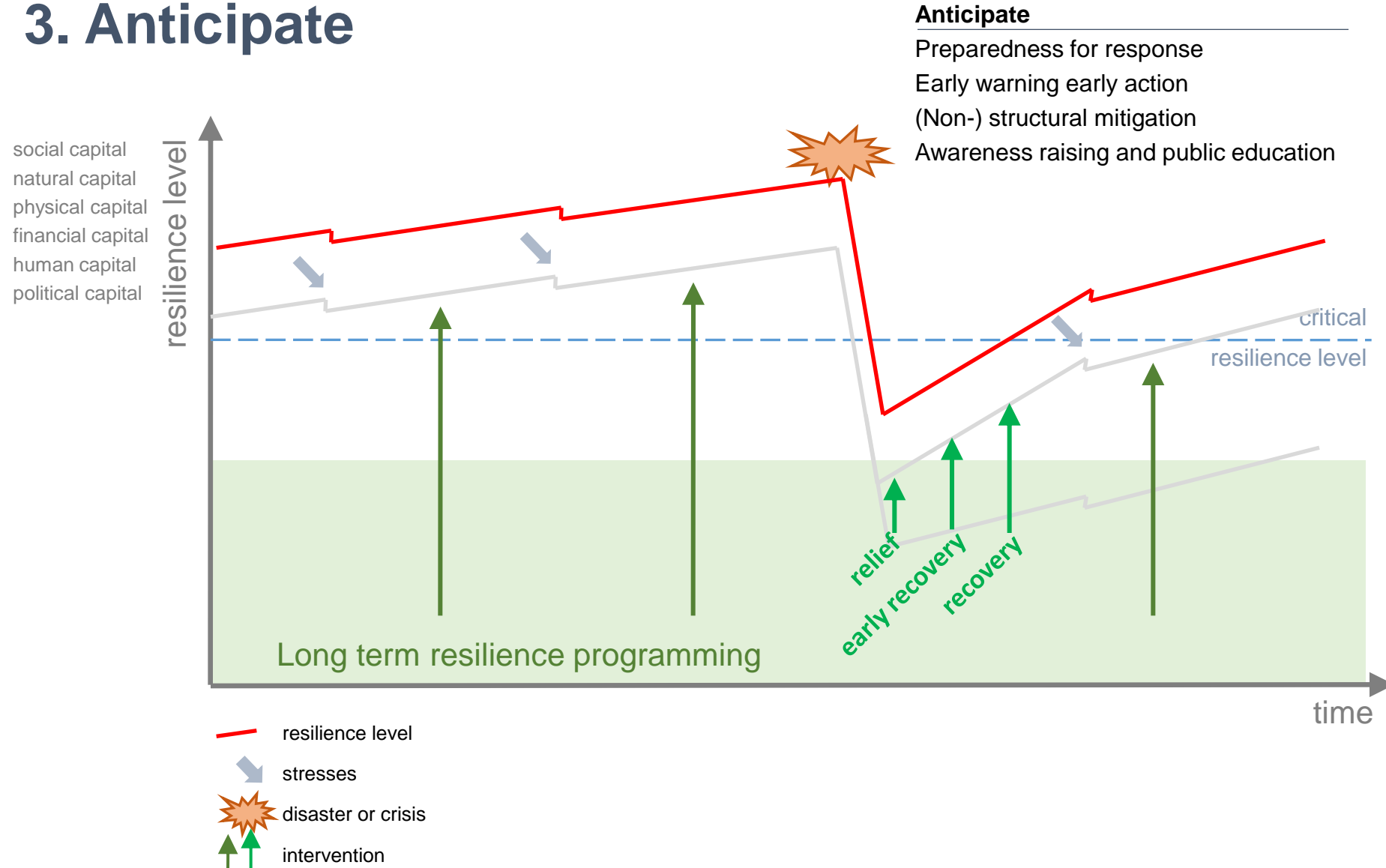
3. Anticipate



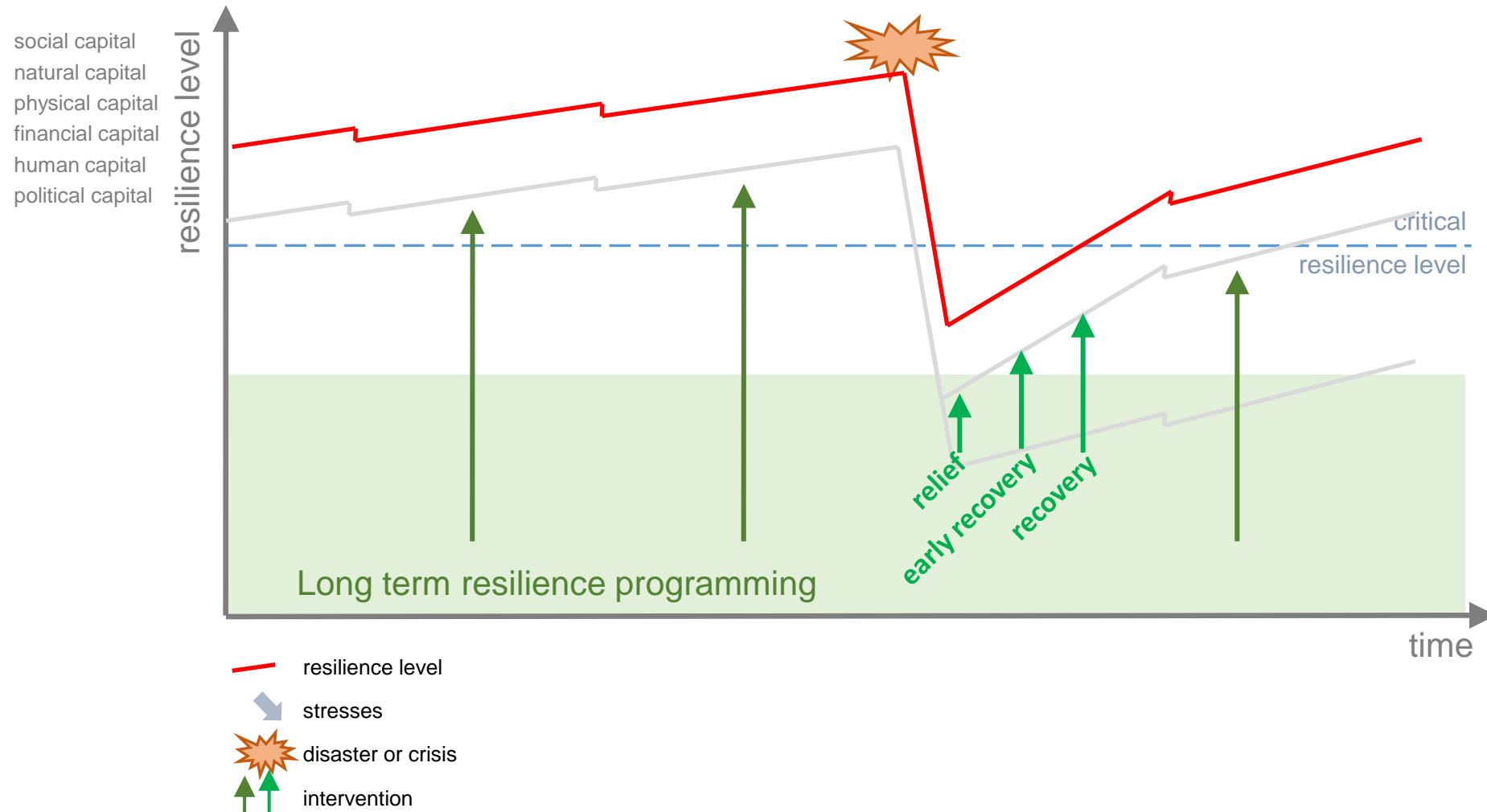
3. Anticipate



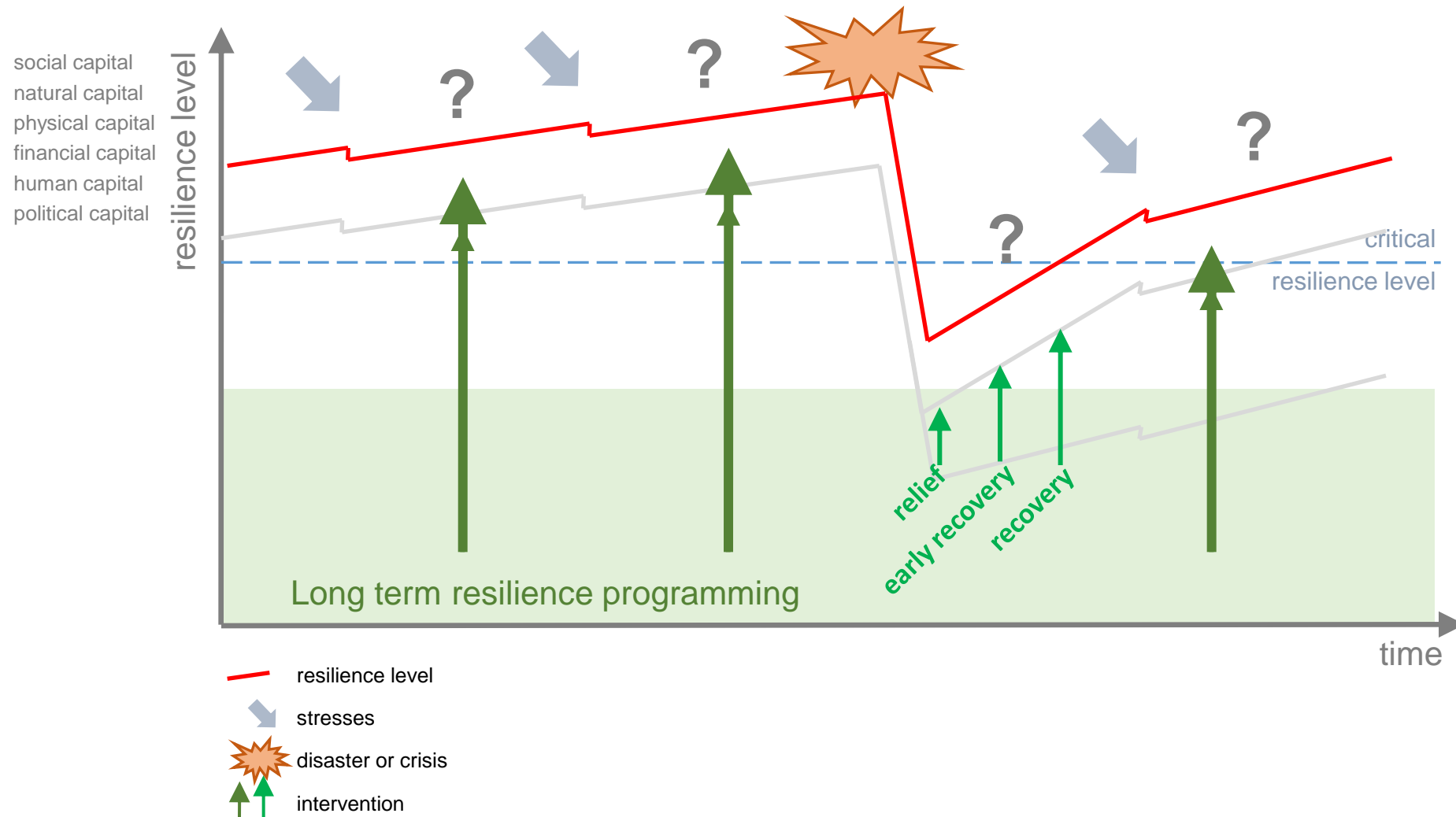
3. Anticipate



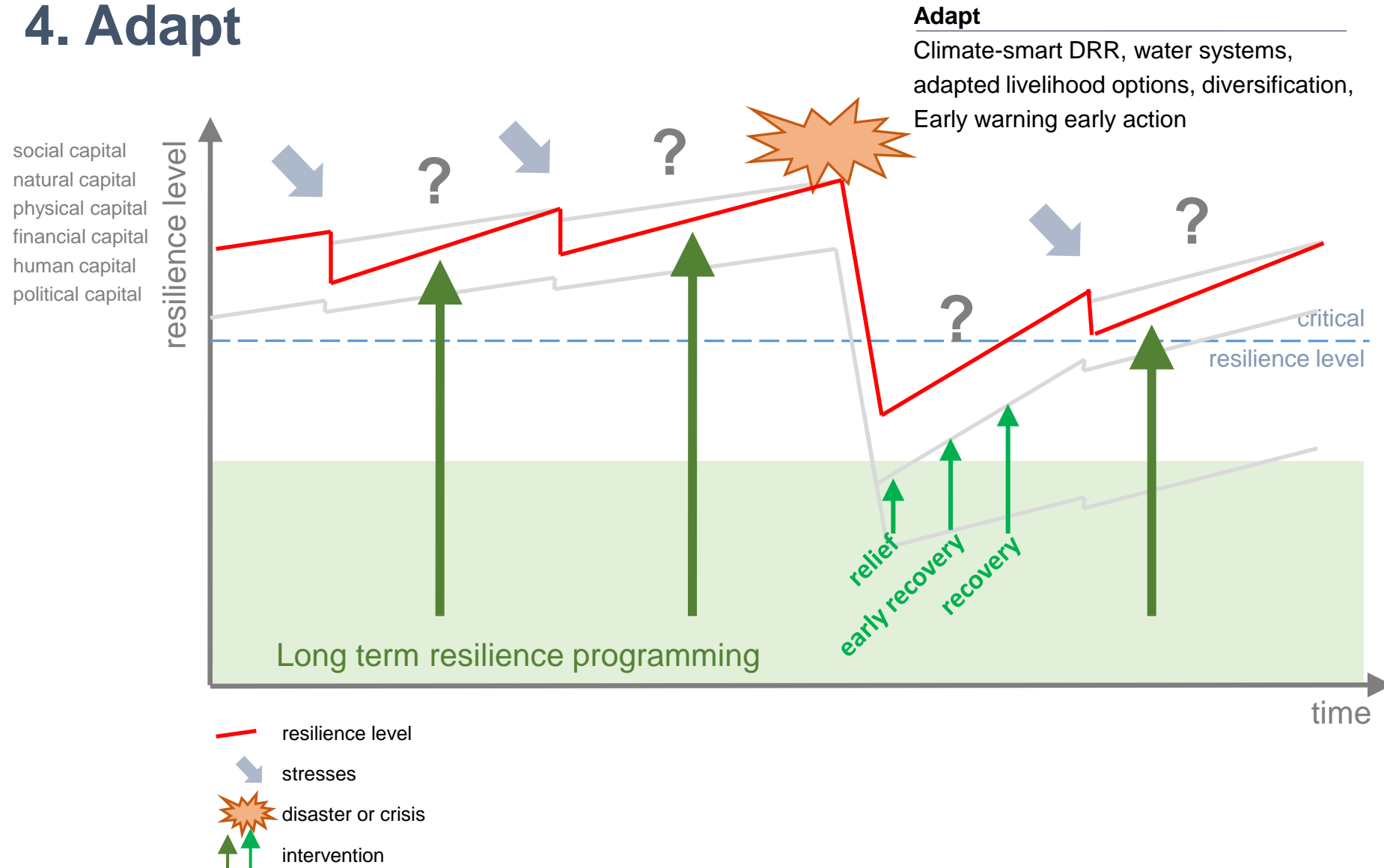
4. Adapt



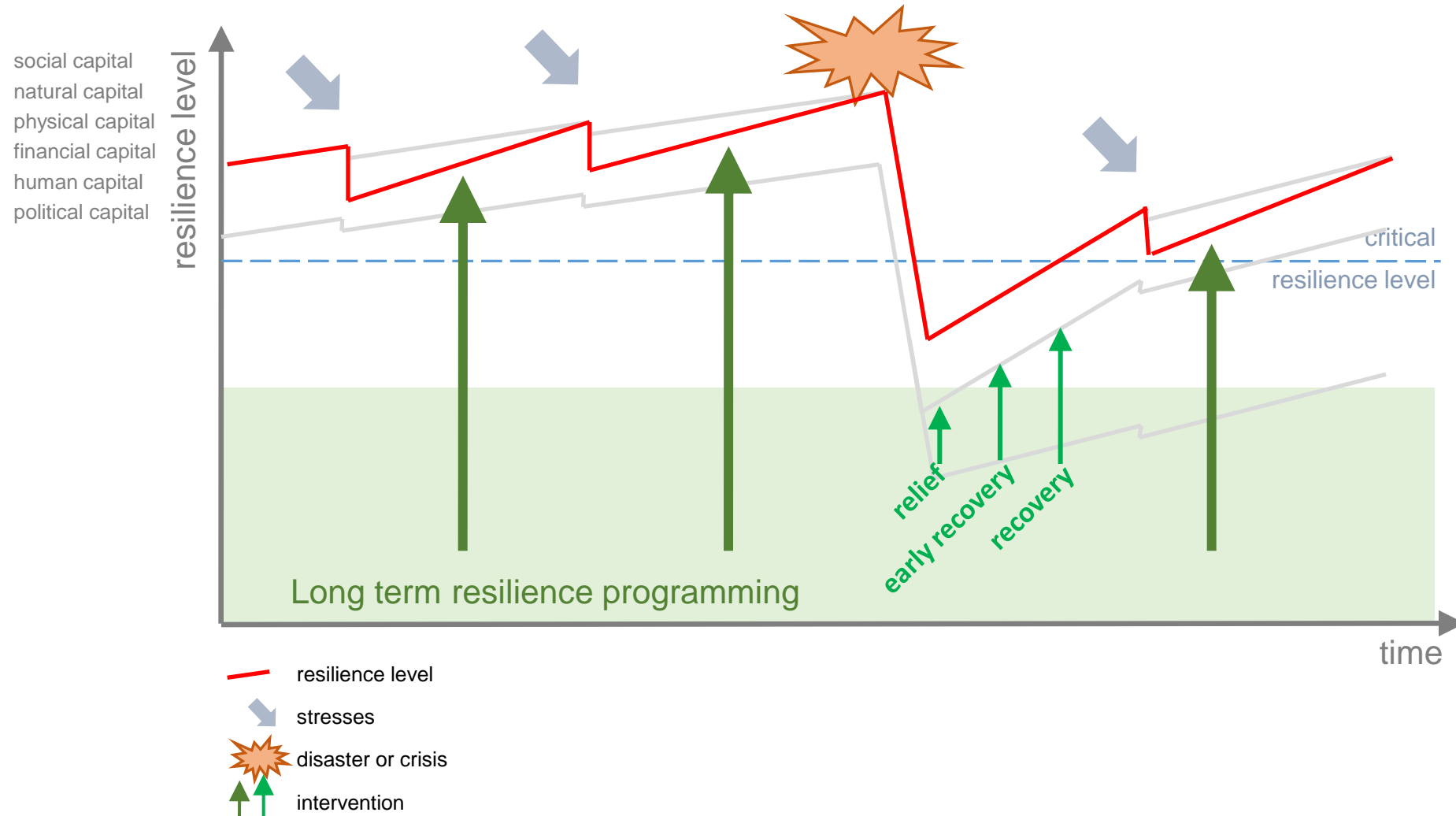
4. Adapt



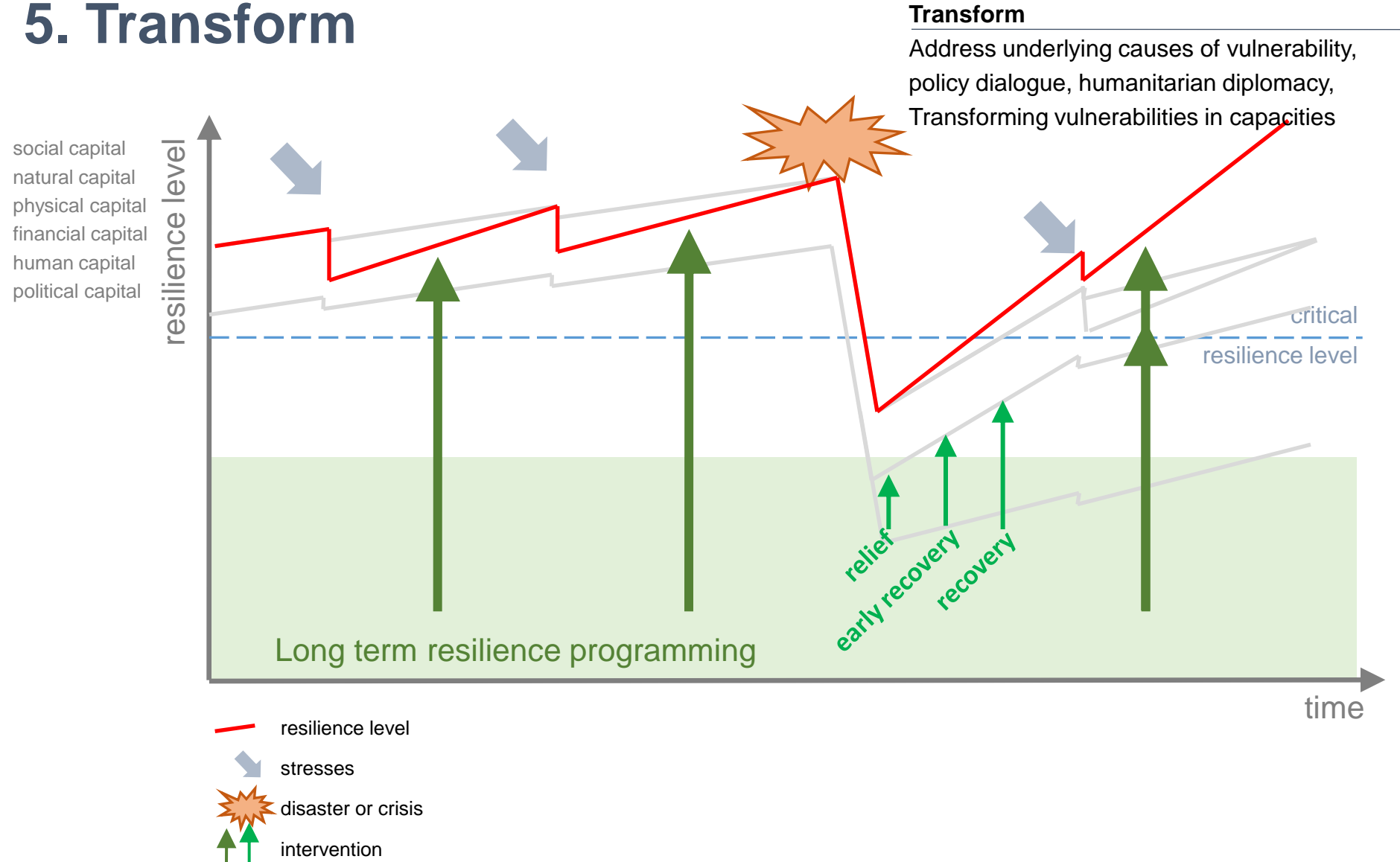
4. Adapt



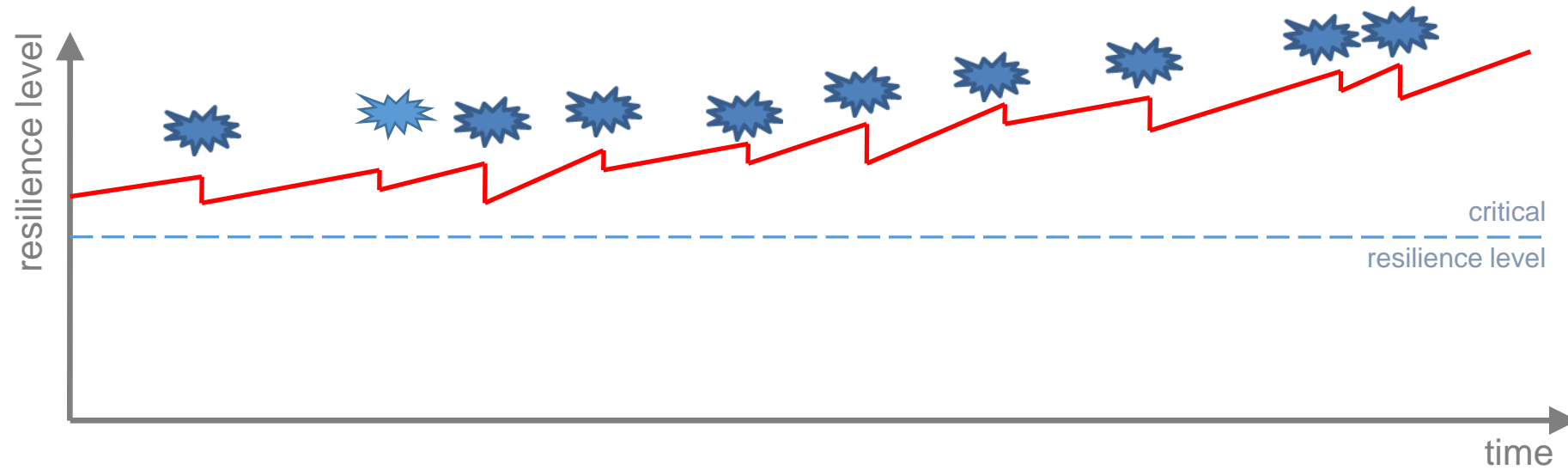
5. Transform



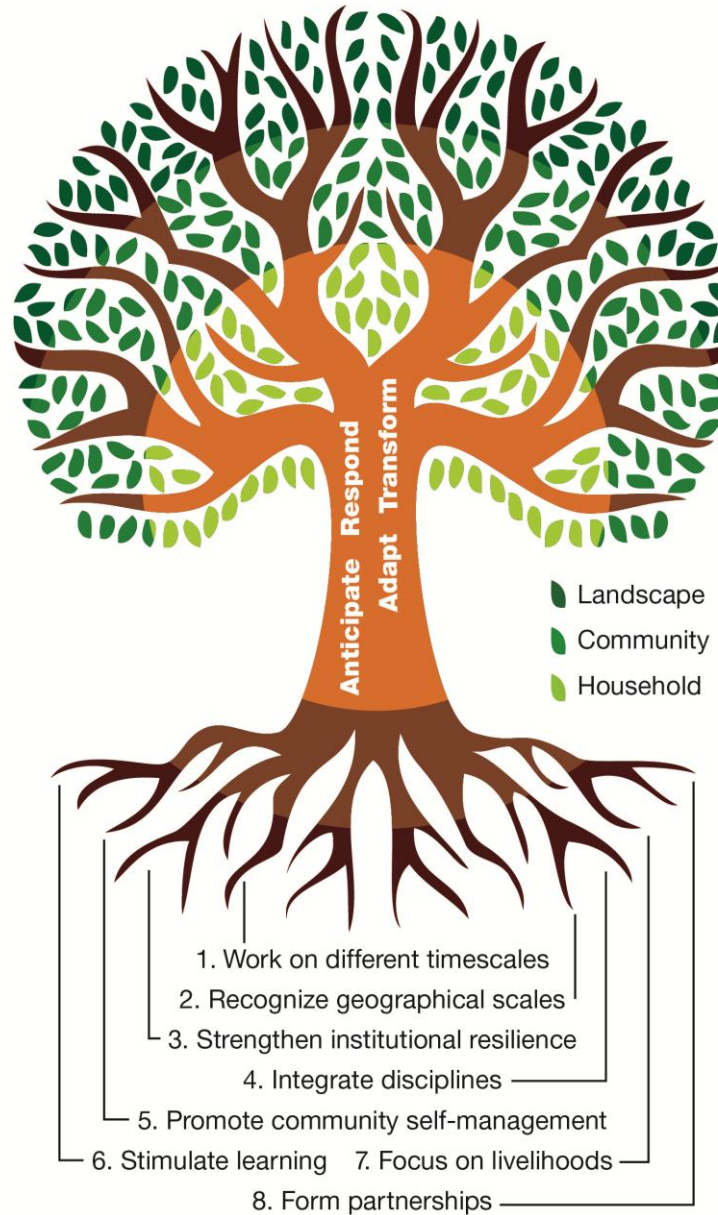
5. Transform



Building long-term resilience



Growing a vision for Resilience



Levels

Building blocks

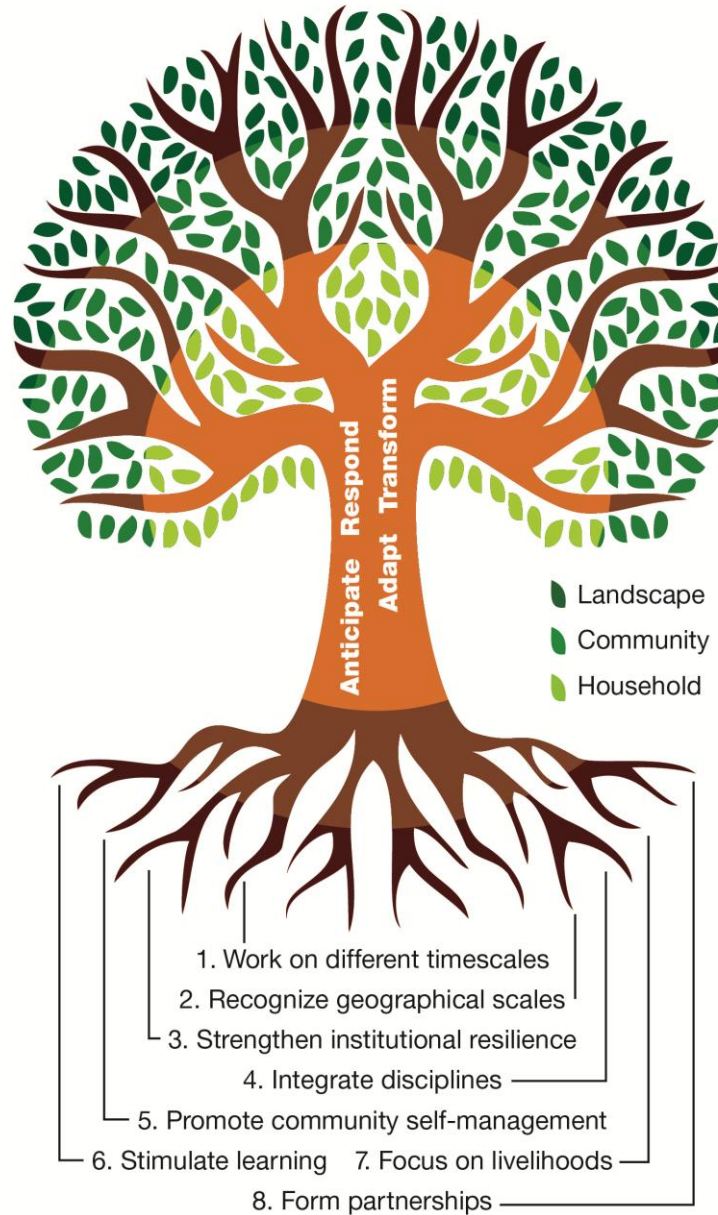
Key principles

Levels:

These building blocks apply on several LEVELS, from the **individual**, to the **households** and the **communities** they form, up to the **landscape** in which they are situated and with which they interrelate.

Also **the policy level** plays an important role to create an enabling environment.

Growing a vision for Resilience



Levels

Building blocks

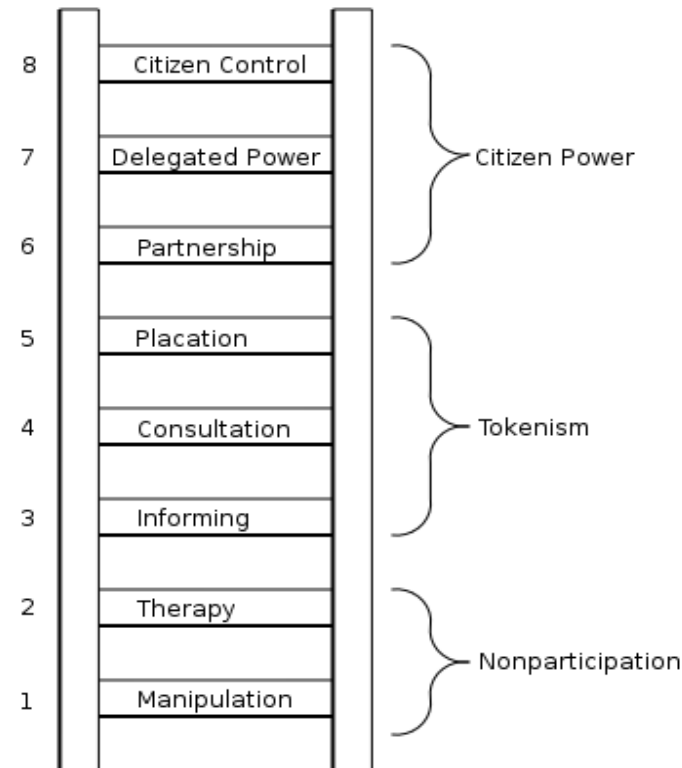
Key principles

Key principles:

What principles contribute to resilience building?

1. Promoting community self-management

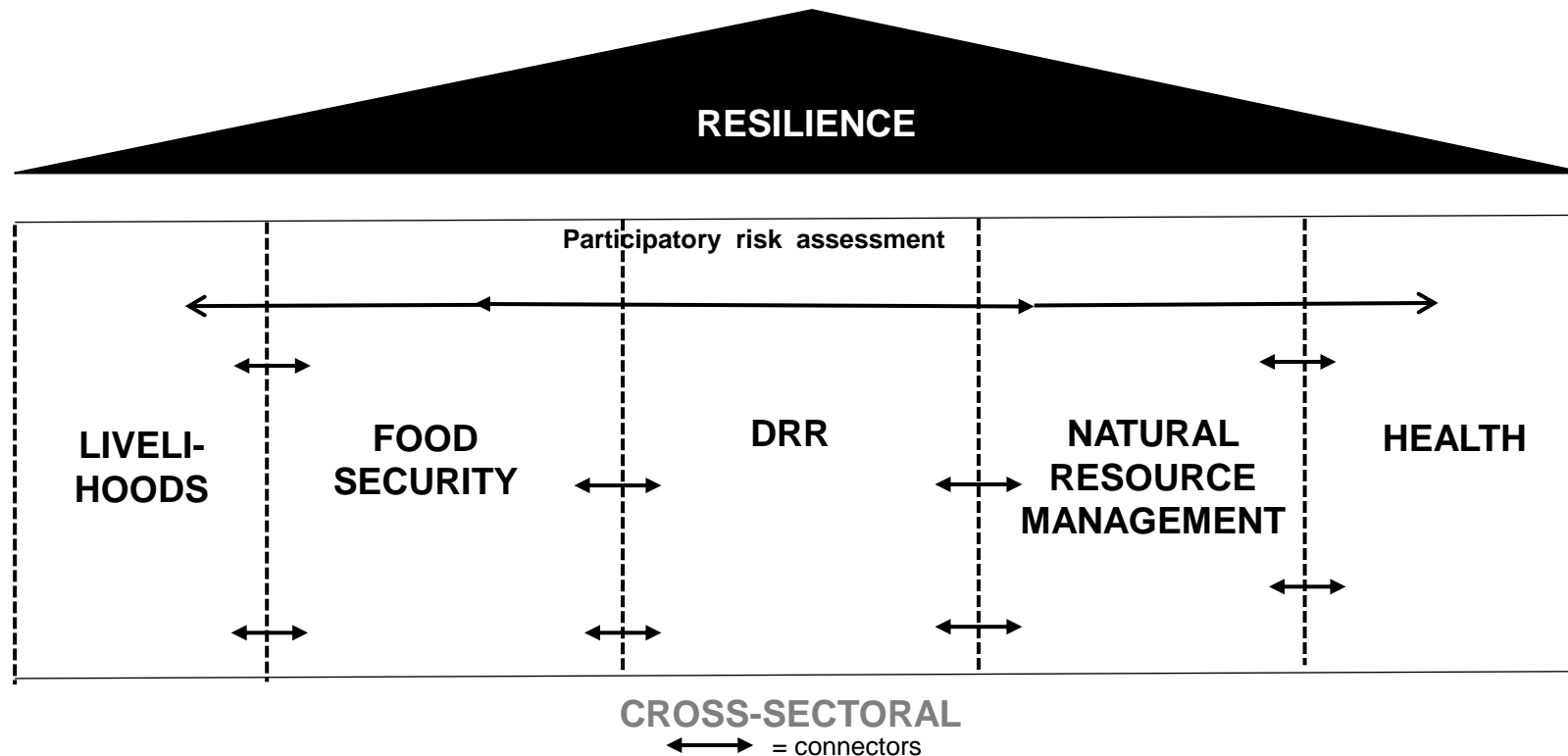
“Community empowerment and local ownership are essential for communities to be in the driving seat of developmental processes.”



The ladder of participation

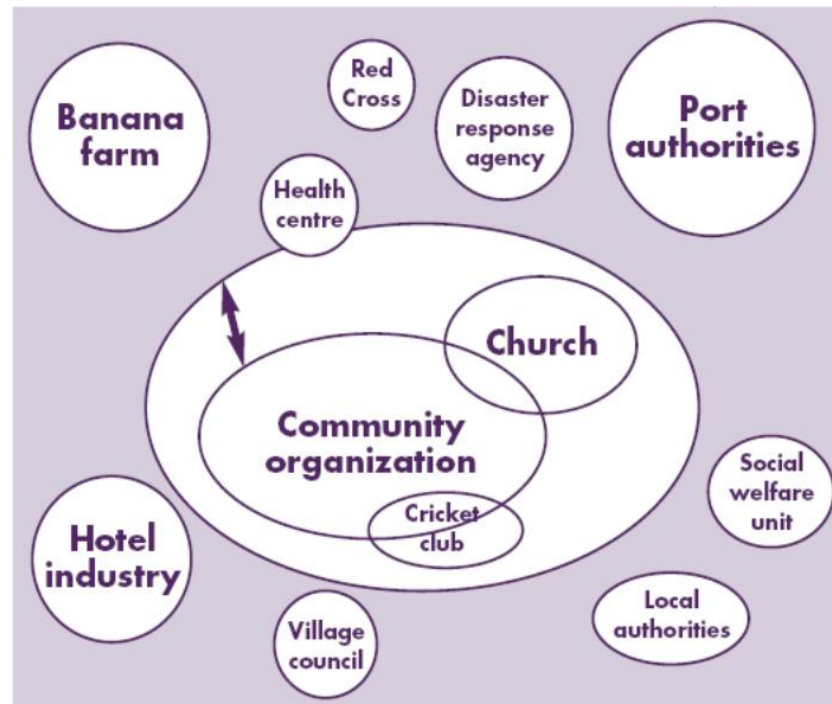
2. Cross sectoral approaches

“ Resilience work requires building bridges across established thematic divides: therefore comprehensive assessments, design, planning and implementation across various sectors are needed .”



3. Partnership approach

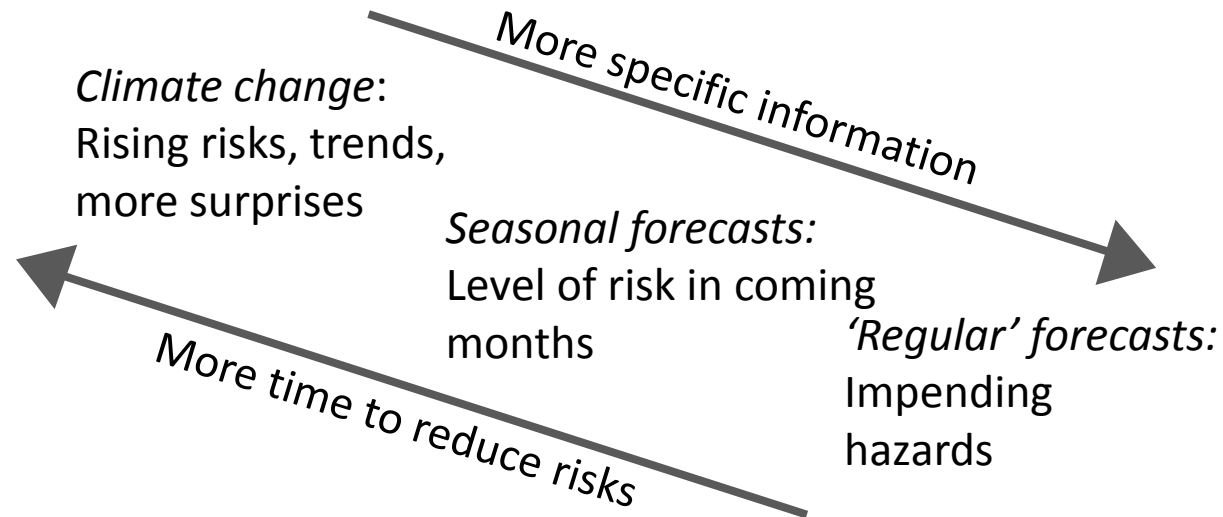
“Partnerships based on mutual complementarity are essential in order to strengthen community resilience. Organizations should seek collaboration with local government, NGOs, businesses and knowledge centres in areas which are not their specific expertise or mandate”.



4. Working accross time-scales

“ Making full use of climate information available for the short-, medium-, and long-term to routinely take action in anticipation of a future disaster risk.”

Early Warning, Early Action:
bridging time scales



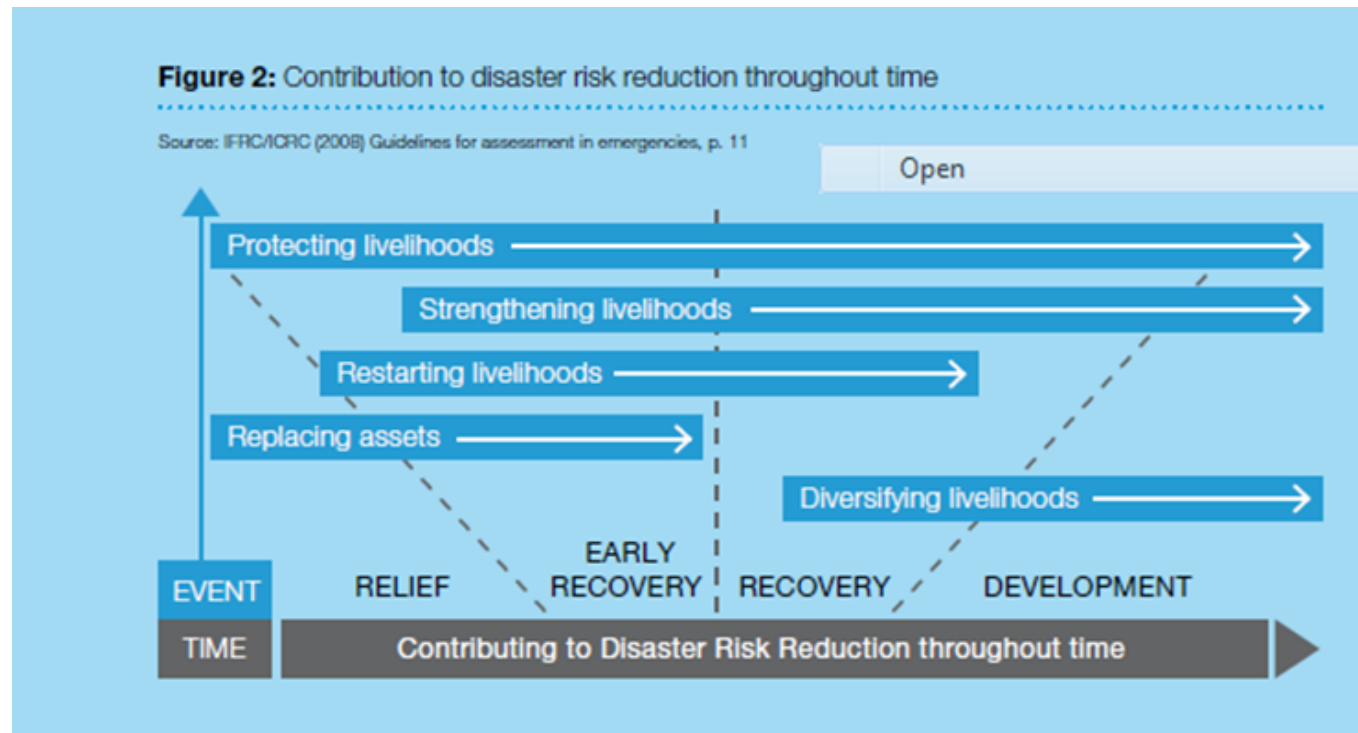
5. Working accross spatial scales

*“A resilience approach requires understanding the interconnectedness of levels :
from individual to household and community to national and global level. “*



6. Livelihood- centred approach

“Resilience work in essence focuses on strengthening livelihood capitals in their human, social, physical, financial, natural and political dimensions through a variety of interventions”.



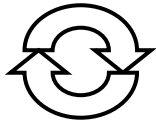
7. Strengthening institutional resilience

“Resilient institutions reinforce community resilience, meaning that programmes will be better embedded into the local context and focused on long-term, sustainable impact”.

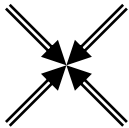


8. Promoting a learning culture

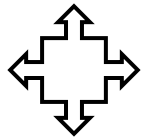
“Sharing lessons learned and good/bad practices within and between communities, between CSOs and communities as well as with external actors, such as knowledge centres and local authorities. This also means combining traditional and scientific knowledge.”



1. Internal to internal - *“Learning from each other”*



2. External to internal - *“Incorporating external knowledge.”*



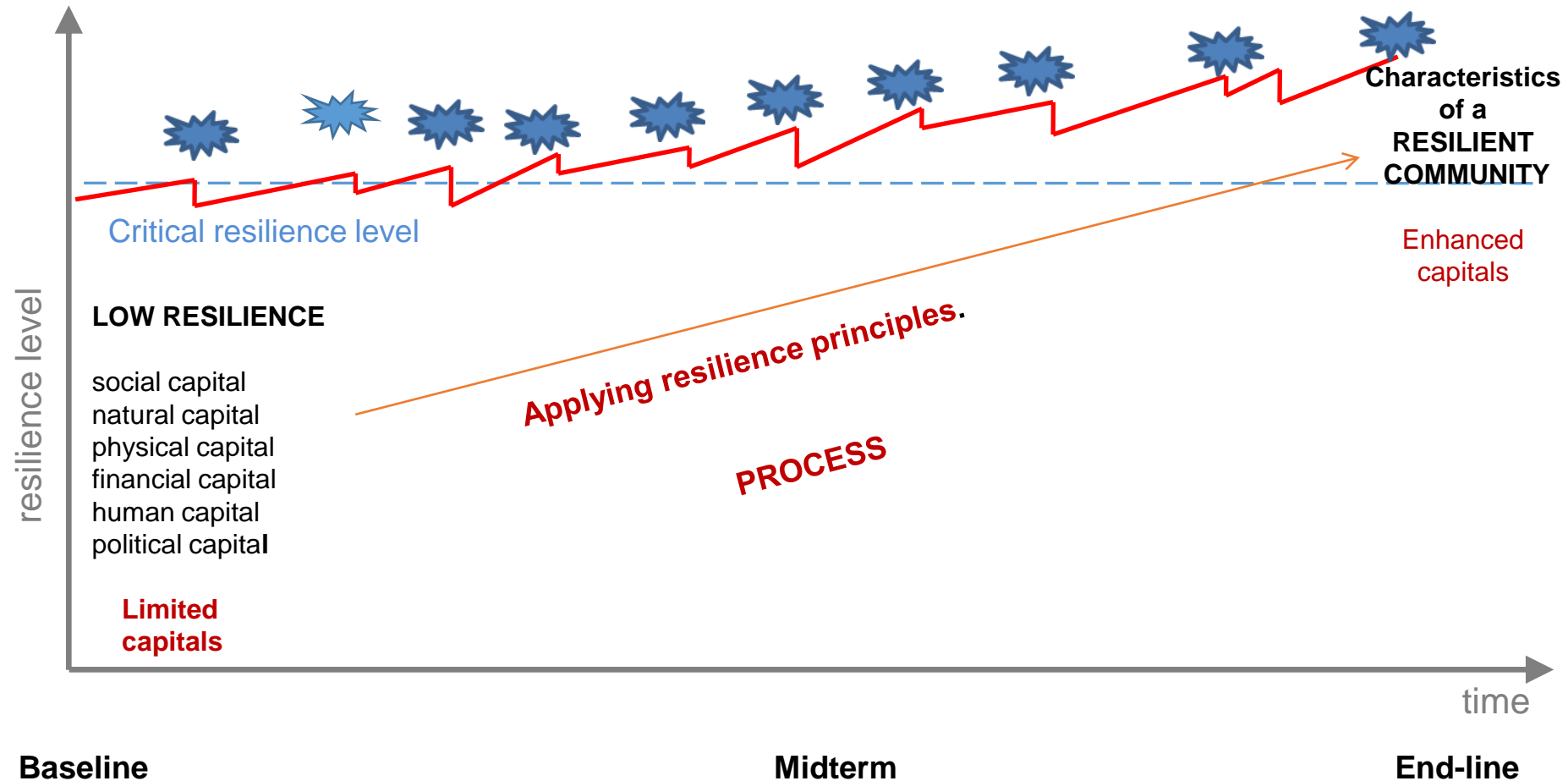
3. Internal to external - *“Documenting and communicating to others”*

Characteristics:

Goal is a resilient community which:

- Is knowledgeable and healthy (human capital)
- Is well-organised and connected (social capital)
- Is engaged in the development of local policy (political capital)
- Has robust infrastructure and services (physical capital)
- Has economic opportunities (financial capital)
- Can sustainably manage its natural assets (natural capital)

Bringing it together: building long-term resilience:



Key Tools

- ODI Navigator Tool: http://bwa-presentation.co.uk/odi_reviews/index.php
- OECD Guidelines for Resilience Systems Analysis: <http://www.oecd.org/dac/Resilience%20Systems%20Analysis%20FINAL.pdf>
- ECHO Resilience markers: http://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/policies/resilience/resilience_marker_guidance_en.pdf

Conclusion

- More than just a buzzword. Allows us to think of our work more holistically and refresh traditional approaches.
- But: wide variety of angles: as a result, there is still no consensus on concept and/or practice.
- The use of a common language has been beneficial for integration between fields, but such integration has rarely been easy.
- Main challenges are:
 - Internalisation into strategy and policy
 - Operationalisation: what does it mean in practice?
 - Measurement
 - Evidence base



Thank you! Merci vielmals!