

# NUTRITION- SENSITIVE ADVISORY SERVICES AT HELVETAS

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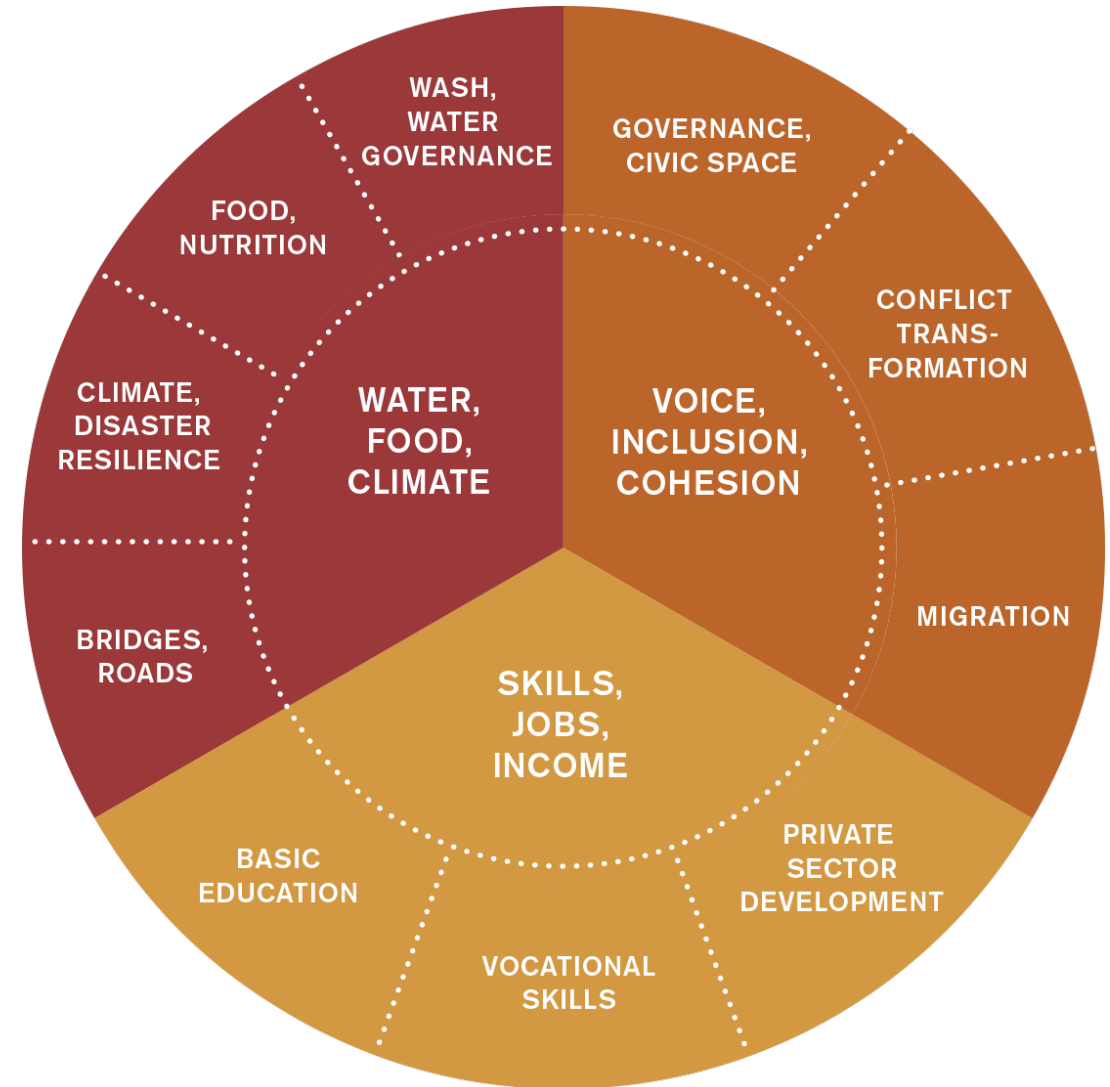
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Women discussing adequate child feeding after receiving nutrition education as part of NUFNIP - Helvetas

# Nutrition services at Helvetas

- Nutrition explicitly highlighted in the new organizational structure
- Applying nutrition-sensitive programming in all our food system-related interventions
- Proven track record in applying market systems development approach with local services playing a key role
- Close collaboration with local service providers
- Past and present flagship projects addressing malnutrition through service provision



# Key n-RAS projects

HELETAS projects highlighted in this presentation:

- Lao Northern Upland Food and Nutrition Security Improvement Project (NUFNIP), 2016-2020
- Lao Upland Development In Nonghet (UDIN) project, 2010-2018
- Bangladesh Leadership to Ensure Adequate Nutrition (LEAN), 2018-2023
- Nutrition in Mountain Agro-ecosystems (NMA), multi-country project, 2015-2021

# Best practices LAO

- Projects provided rural advisory services using LANN (Linking Agriculture, Nutrition and Natural Resources Management) as an comprehensive approach to improve nutrition outcomes
- Example NUFNIP:
  - Increased food production through communal vegetable gardens and goat raising
  - Improved natural resource management through effective community management of wild food resources (also contributing to increased food availability), the establishment of fish conservation zones and support for toilet building
  - Increased nutrition awareness through education on nutrition, mother and child care, hygiene

# Best practices LAO

- Best practice also included establishing integrated village plans linking nutrition to NRM and income generation (UDIN)
- Projects established strong linkages between food and water system for improved nutrition outcomes → contributed to strong results



- UDIN: Clean water supply systems – Helvetas

# Best practices BANGLADESH

- Provision of advisory services to producers through trained Local Service Providers (LSP) - LSPs are advanced farmers and from the same community (as the target community)
- Successful match making between producers and input and output market actors and financial service providers in the selected value chains through LSP service
- Women empowerment: Conducting trainings of women entrepreneurs to establish Women business centers (WBCs) to deliver nutrition sessions
- Facilitating multi-stakeholder joint initiative to establish and operation of local collection and sales points



Women harvesting her field in Rangamati district - Helvetas

# Best practices BANGLADESH

- Services being piloted
  - Multiplication of moringa (Drum Stick) saplings through seeds through collaboration between private company and LSP
  - Promotion of water use efficient, low cost and simple drip irrigation technology/system for vegetable/fruits production through joint initiative of LSP and public agriculture extension agency
  - Offer cost efficient and quality WASH and DNI products and related advice to rural consumers of extreme remote locations through collaborative initiative between a large Social Marketing Company and village based women business centers and SPAs
  - Promotion of “Zero cost Natural Breeding/Hatching Techniques for native chicken” through LSP
  - Promotion of community level poultry vaccination service with lowering cost through collaborative initiative between LSP and public livestock extension agency

# Best practices NMA

- Objective: Scaling up of sustainable agriculture practices in mountain ecosystems to promote improved nutrition and resilience through services offered by Rural Service Providers (RSPs)
- NMA supporting the establishment of micro initiatives (NMA I), which were later upscaled to SUNSAI (NMA II) – overall 35 SUNSAIs with each one under the responsibility of a RSP
- RSPs mostly providing services for their own community → high degree of ownership and motivation, responding to a local nutrition-related concern (high degree of relevance)
- Wide range of services provided across all SUNSAI → SUNSAIs reflecting high degree of creativity by the RSPs



# Conclusion

- Widening the thematic focus of RAS beyond agricultural production is important and nutrition services should be considered in a holistic manner linking food, water and ecology-related aspects
- Empowering local stakeholders to offer nutrition services is recommended as they know the local nutrition challenges best and are often very committed to improve the situation in their community
- The economic dimension and market linkages of the nutrition services have to be considered when designing nutrition-sensitive RAS



Thank you very much  
for your attention!