

FLOOD RESPONSE THROUGH LOCAL SERVICE PROVISION IN BANGLADESH

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Outline of today's presentation

Red thread

- The role of Local Service Providers during and beyond emergency response in Bangladesh

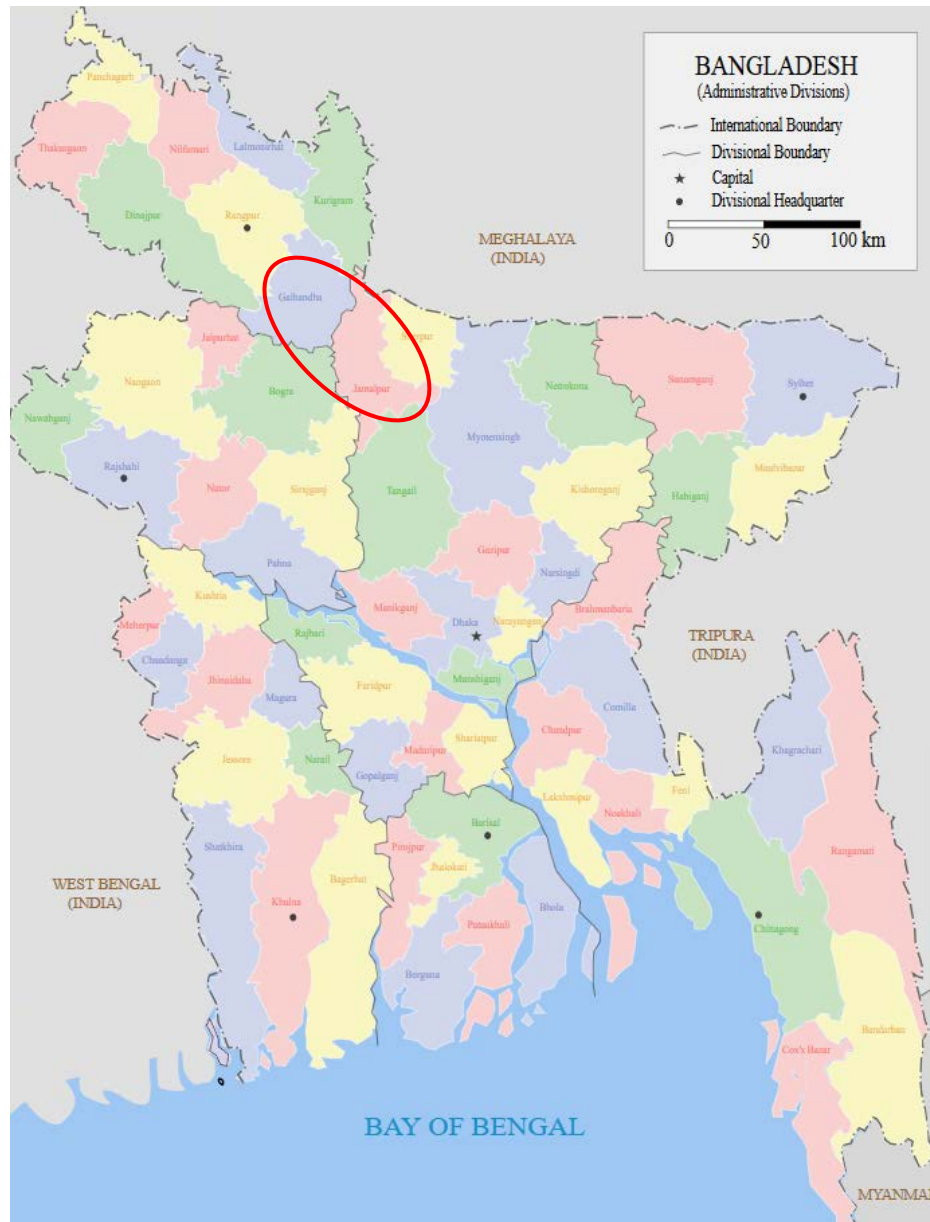
Main focus

- Flood response in Northern Bangladesh (2018)

Complementary outlook

- Recently started Rohingya crisis response project in Cox's Bazar (2019)

Context: Gaibandha & Jamalpur districts, Bangladesh



The two districts are among the 10 poorest districts from the bottom

Helvetas present in 2 sub-district in Gaibandha with SDC-funded Samriddhi project (before 2015), followed by the DFID-funded Improving Food Security and Livelihoods project (April 2015 – March 2018)

IFSL Project: Initiative for promoting agri-business

- IFSL assisted 450 Local Service Providers (LSP) and their 12 associations to integrate smallholder farmers in selected agricultural value chains

Value Chains:



Bull Fattening



Dairy Milk



Native Chicken



Medicinal Plant



Vegetables



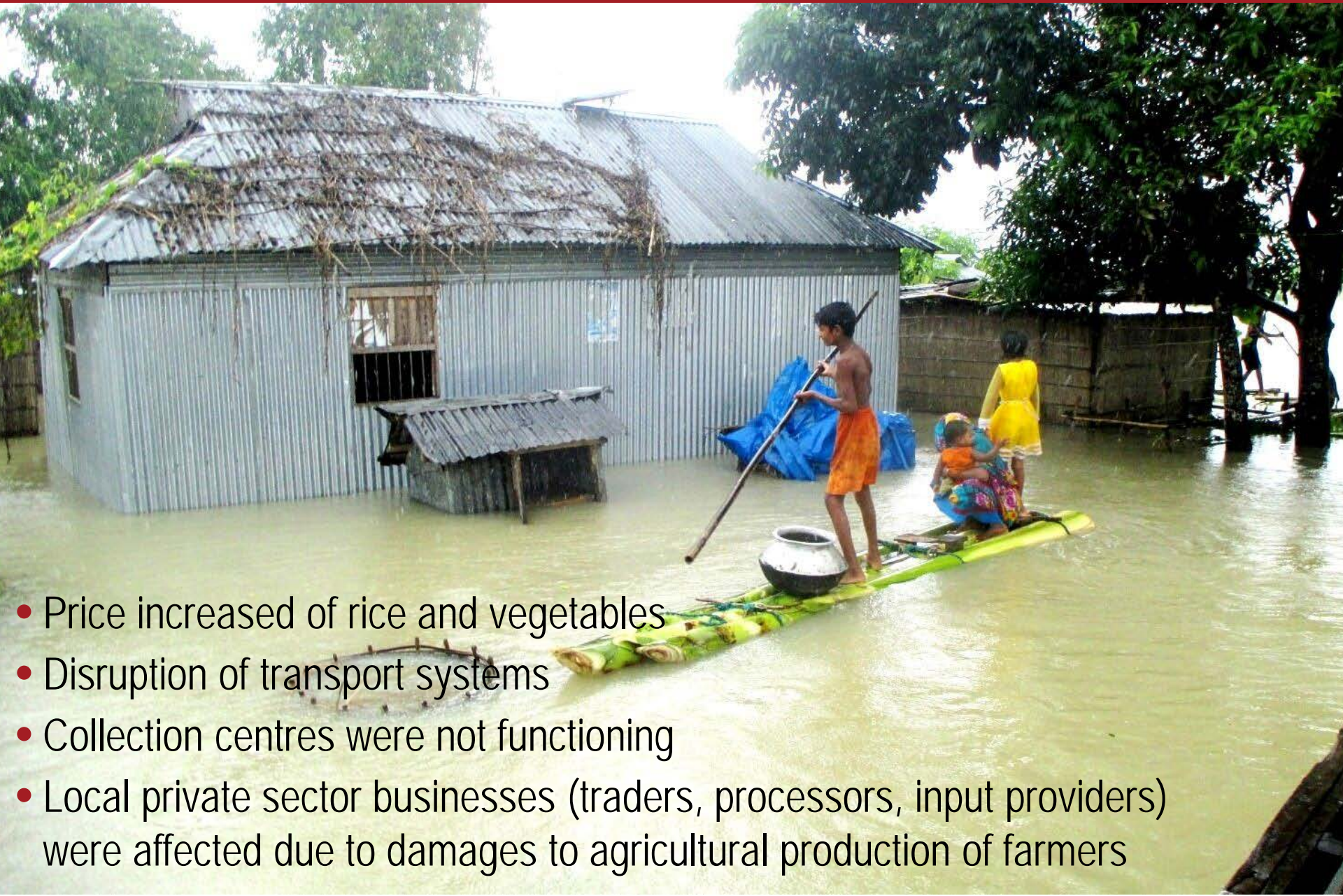
Chili

2017 floods: damages at production level

- Damages to productive assets, crop production, livestock and fish culture
- Diminished food stocks
- Damages on community infrastructure



2017 floods: damages in the wider market system



- Price increased of rice and vegetables
- Disruption of transport systems
- Collection centres were not functioning
- Local private sector businesses (traders, processors, input providers) were affected due to damages to agricultural production of farmers

Flood Loss Recovery Project

Key information

- Early Recovery of Extreme Poor Flood Victims project implemented with funding from SwS (Jan – June 2018) and Helvetas (Jul - Sep 2018)

Overall objective

- Contribute to improve the resilience of 2,800 flood affected extreme poor households of Gaibanda and Jamalpur districts, enabling them to withstand the negative effects of the flood through recovered agricultural assets and production enterprises, or income from non-farm business activities

Agriculture value chains

- vegetable, medicinal plants, dairy milk production, bull fattening and native chicken rearing.

Non-farm business activities

- bamboo mats, sales of snacks & tea, small trading etc.

Transfer of cash

- mostly through e-money for inputs and repairs.
- Collaboration with mobile operator (Airtel) and financial service provider (*bKash*).

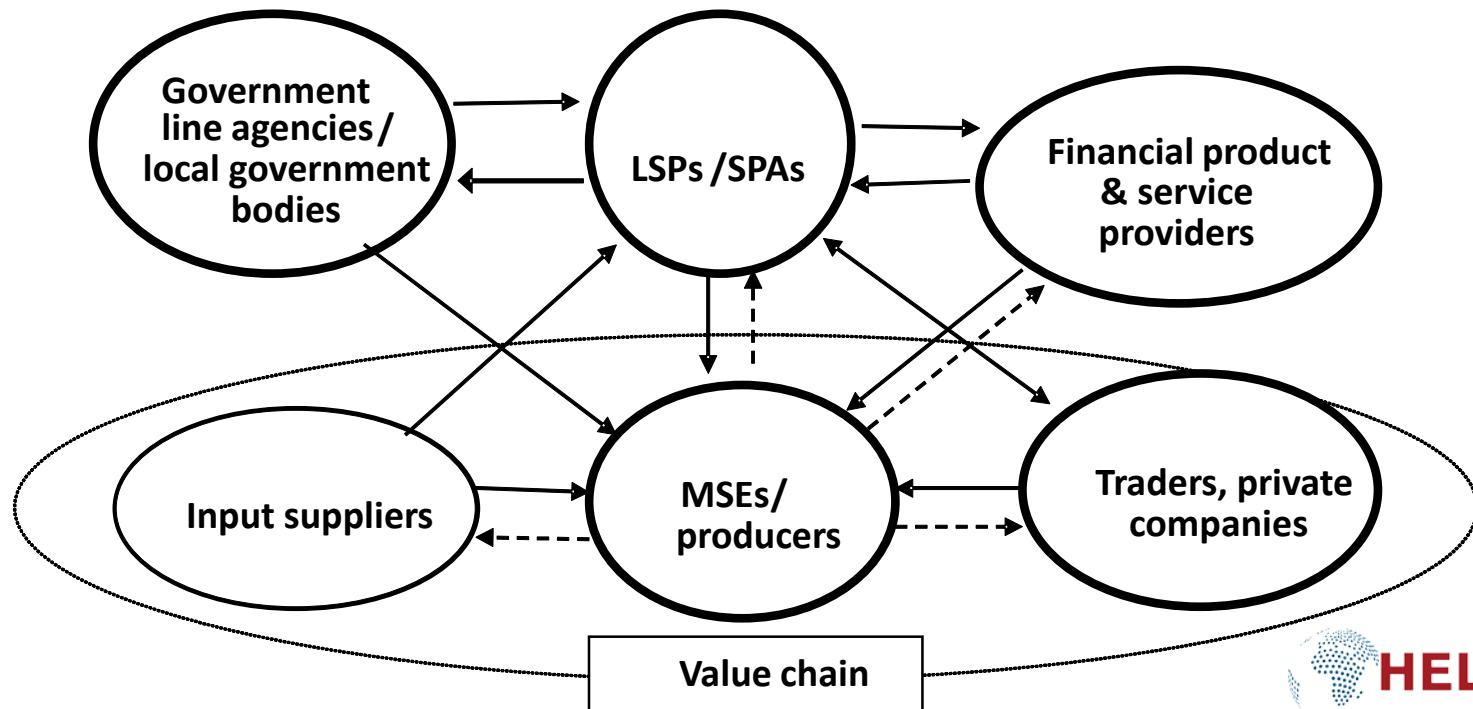
LSPs within the market and service provision system

LSPs

- Private extension service providers (men and women)
- Experienced in agriculture and/or related fields
- Living in the neighbourhood of the producers

SPAs

- LSPs are members of SPAs
- Functions: capacity building of LSPs, facilitate linkages with other market actors (private companies, government)



LSPs in the Flood Response and Recovery project

- Capacities of LSPs had been built through predecessors projects
- LSPs selected (24 incl 6 women) with support by SPAs
- LSPs involved in beneficiary selection and market assessments (non paid roles)
- LSPs providing services such as
 - Supporting business planning of beneficiary households (paid by project)
 - Linking producers with input suppliers to get quality input with competitive price (not paid by project)
 - Linking producers to traders / processors, managing collection centres (not paid by project)
 - Providing skills training and advice, mentoring and coaching to producers (paid by project)

« During the period of flood, I provided emergency supports to flood victim farmers to rescue their cattle and poultry birds »

« I am happy with my profession as LSP as I could generate significant income through my services to farmers »

Md. Aminul Islam, Gaibandha, Bangladesh
"Full-time LSP"







« I am always active to provide my client farmers with technical advice, access to quality input and sell produces at competitive price »

Md. Ashraful Alom , Gaibandha, Bangladesh

"Part-time LSP"

« My standing vegetables were washed away by flood water and my house was damaged »

« After the post flood support, I continued business relation with the LSP Mr. Ashraful for my vegetable farming business enterprise »

Md. Abu Bakkar, Gaibandha, Bangladesh
Vegetable Farmer



Results

- The planned 2800 beneficiaries (1900 ag / 900 non-ag) were reached
- Overall the beneficiaries were able to increase their income compared to during the time of the floods; more than 90% of the beneficiaries even increased their income compared to 2017 before the floods.
- Satisfaction with LSP services: 88% of beneficiaries highly satisfied, 11% satisfied
- **LSPs continue providing services at free or through commission**

LSPs and preparedness: preliminary findings

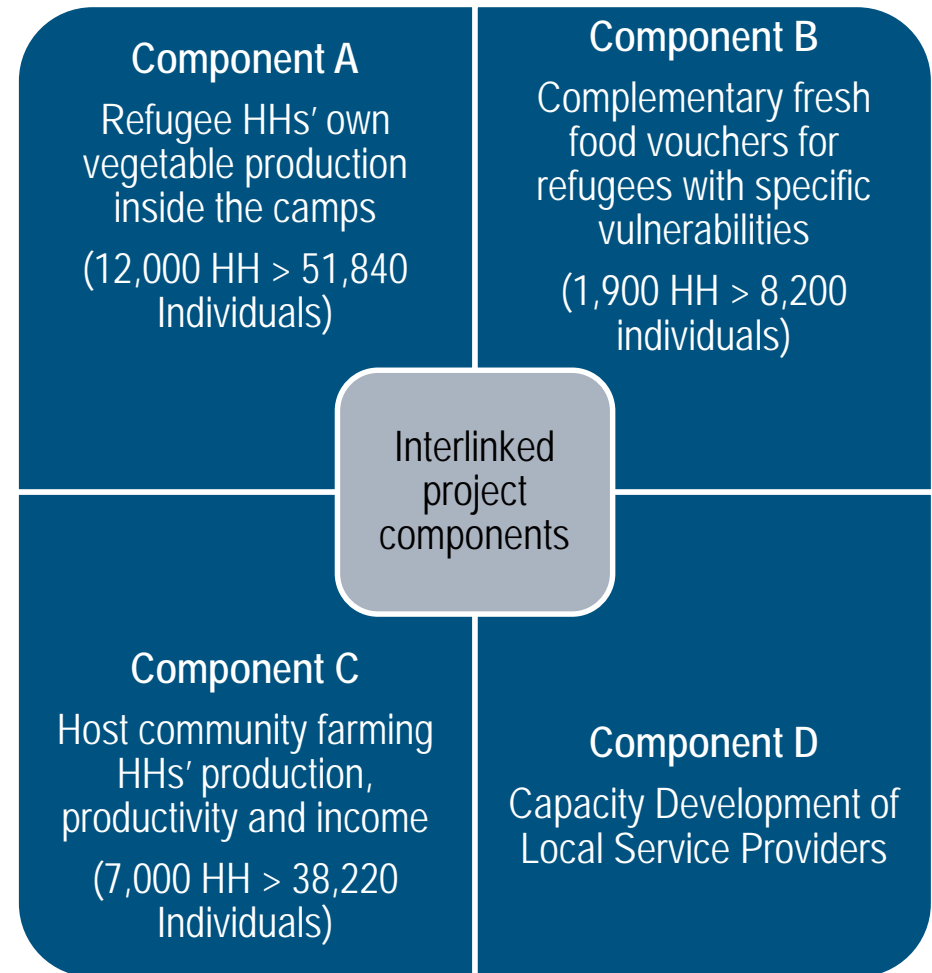
- LSPs generated skills and experience on post flood services
- LSPs understand their role in emergencies in the context of their LSP business
- LSPs proactive support during 2019 floods:
 - Support in rescuing livestock
 - Support in selling livestock as emergency response
- Union Parishads gained significant experience to address such disaster and provide post flood support through mobilising local market system actors

LSP MODEL IN COX'S BAZAR LIVELIHOODS PROJECT

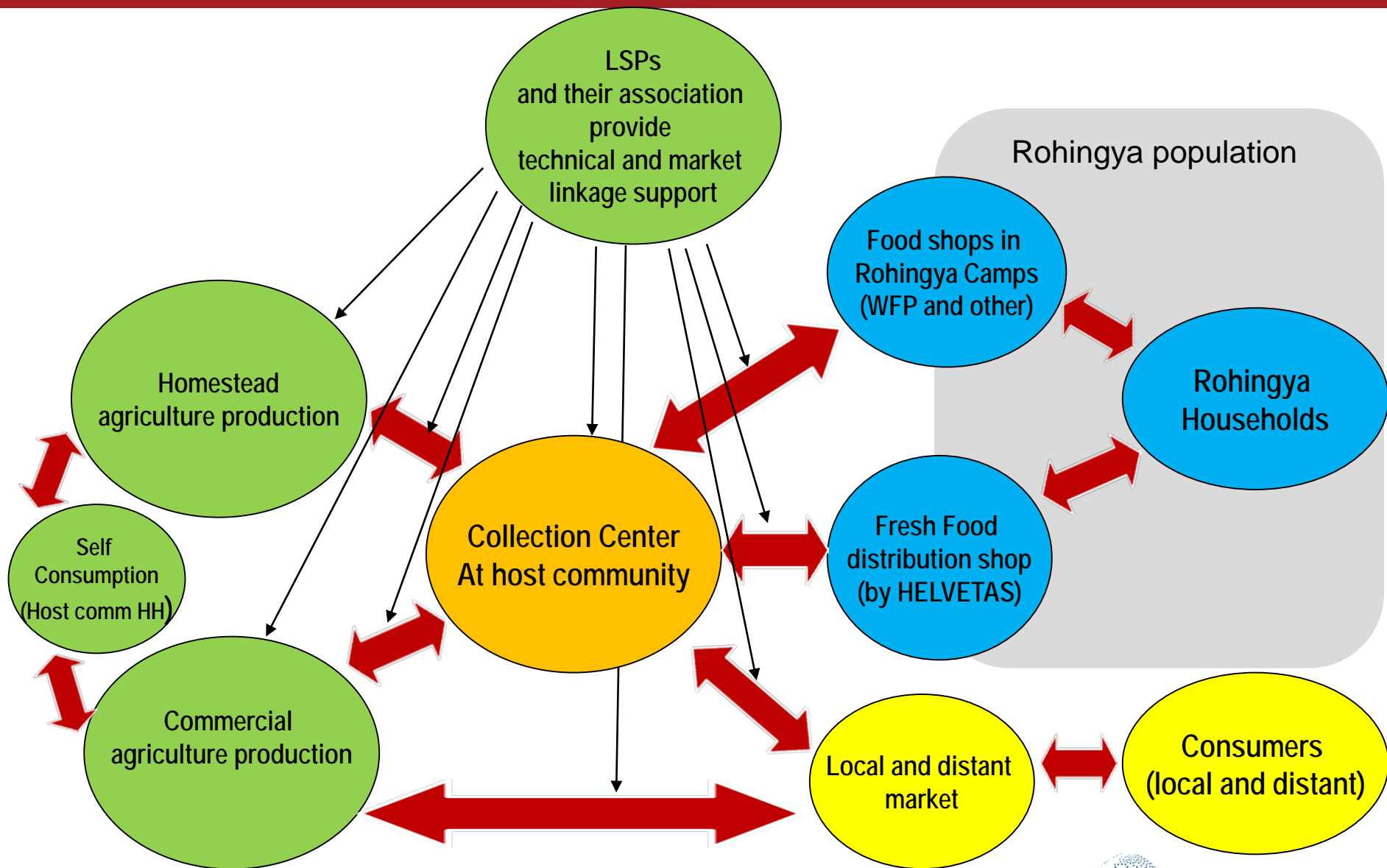


Livelihood project objective and strategy

- Enhance the food security and self-reliance of the Rohingya refugees, while strengthening, at the same time, the livelihood bases and resilience of impoverished host families that bear an excessive burden from the massive refugee influx
- Funded by SwS and Canton Geneva
- Duration: two years



Market links flow chart



LSP model

- 25 LSPs selected as to date
- Capacity building for different services: technical advice, business planning, market linkages with input and output companies
- Coaching by experienced LSPs from other districts and strong involvement of Department of Agricultural Extension (selection, training of LSPs)
- Medium term objective of host community HHs' contribution to payment of LSP services
- Initial idea to promote expert volunteers within the camps to provide technical support to refugees, but was not possible due to cash payment to volunteers was not accepted by government;
- Adaptation of strategy to take advantage of host community LSPs for technical training, input provision incl. advice (e.g. seedlings), etc. inside camps

Different context, different challenges

- Establishing the LSP model including their capacity building takes time
- Restrictions in the camps and regarding movements pose obstacles (SIM cards not allowed, increasing controls, etc.)
- Community cohesion and trust relationship not given between host community and refugee community





THANK
YOU!



HELVETAS