

Update for the SADC LTC Gaborone, 26-28.11.08. LEGS with the publishers and will be launched in January 2008. Negotiations with DFID and EU/ECHO advanced for a post-launch phase.

Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards

Livelihoods-based livestock interventions in disasters

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LEGS is a collaborative venture led by Tufts University, the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, International Committee for the Red Cross, African Union and VSF Europa

Concept Note

Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards: Raising Awareness, Ensuring Uptake

Post-publication activities 2008 to 2010

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Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards (LEGS)

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1. Overview

The Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards (LEGS) are being developed as a set of international guidelines and standards for the design, implementation and assessment of livestock interventions to assist people affected by humanitarian crises.

The LEGS process:

- Grew out of recognition that livestock are a crucial livelihoods asset for people throughout the world, and livestock interventions are often a feature of relief responses. Yet to date, there are no widely-available guidelines to assist donors, programme managers or technical experts in the design or implementation of livestock interventions in disasters.
- Mirrors the process for developing the *Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response* - the Sphere Project. The process is based on multi-agency contributions and broad reviews and collation of practitioner experience. LEGS liaises closely with the Sphere Project and intends to become one of the first Sphere 'Companion Modules'.
- Recognizes the value of livelihoods thinking and the need to harmonize 'relief' and 'development' approaches. This means promoting more long-term thinking and response in emergencies. This approach is particularly important as climatic trends are causing more frequent and varied humanitarian crises, particularly affecting communities such as pastoralists who rely heavily on livestock.
- Will result in an independent publication available as hard copy and CD-ROM. Soft copies will also be available on the website. LEGS will also run a series of awareness-raising and training events to promote the use and future revision of the standards and guidelines.

1.1 Background to LEGS

From early 2000 various agencies and individuals involved in livestock relief work began to question the quality and professionalism of their interventions. For example, inputs such as emergency veterinary care often arrive too late to be of any value and when delivered to people free-of-charge, undermine local service providers. In these situations, although some animals may have been saved in the short-term, the capacity of local services to provide more long-term support is damaged by the relief response. These kinds of problems are compounded because donors and NGOs often lack in-house livestock expertise and decisions on livestock programming are made without professional input.

Over time, these concerns were linked to current thinking on livelihoods and the concept of 'saving lives and livelihoods'. Some agencies started to explore ways to deliver emergency livestock destocking programmes using local traders. Others began to deliver emergency veterinary care through the private sector.

The LEGS process brings these and other initiatives together to produce a single set of international standards and guidelines for livestock emergency interventions.

1.2 LEGS and the Humanitarian Charter

Drawing on international humanitarian law, the 'Sphere Project' is a set of minimum standards, indicators and guidelines for disaster response, based on a Humanitarian Charter. LEGS will complement the Sphere handbook by expanding the current references to livestock with detailed standards and guidelines. LEGS will assist donors and programme managers to identify appropriate types of livestock intervention and design these interventions with communities and local service providers. LEGS will also direct users to further technical information for livestock-related livelihoods support in emergencies.

LEGS builds on the lessons learned from the Sphere process, including the value of consulting a wide range of stakeholders to ensure the quality of the content and to increase ownership of the output;

the involvement of both policy makers and practitioners; the linkages with human rights; and the independence from any single organisation, to help ensure a wide uptake and acceptance.

1.3 LEGS Scope and Contents

LEGS is based on three livelihoods objectives:

- Providing immediate assistance to crisis-affected communities
- Protecting the livestock-related assets of crisis-affected communities
- Assisting the re-building of key assets among crisis-affected communities

The current content of LEGS is structured as follows:

- Assessment
- Common Standards
- Commercial off-take of livestock
- De-stocking, emergency slaughter and meat distribution
- Supplementary feeding and water for livestock
- Veterinary care
- Shelter for livestock
- Provision of livestock to disaster-affected communities
- Annexes

The complete 'LEGS Package' will include:

- LEGS available in hard and soft copies
- A computer based decision support module, and
- FAO will publish an accompanying series of technical 'how to' manuals covering the main livestock interventions.

1.4 LEGS Steering Group

Steering Group has been established to oversee the production of the standards and guidelines. The role of the Steering Group is to coordinate the production process, provide quality control, facilitate consultation processes with a wide range of stakeholders, and foster the establishment of a network. The Steering Group is made up of the following individuals:

- Robert Allport, Regional Programme Manager for East Africa Coordinator, VSF Belgium (a member of VSF Europa)
- Dr. Andy Catley, Research Director, Feinstein International Center (FIC), Tufts University
- Dr. Solomon Hailemariam, African Union/Department for Rural Economy and Agriculture
- Dr. Simon Mack, Senior Officer, Livestock Production Group, Food and Agriculture Organization
- Dr. Piers Simpkin, Regional Livestock Adviser, International Committee for the Red Cross
- Cathy Watson, Consultant, LEGS Coordinator

1.5 LEGS: where are we now?

- A first consultative draft of LEGS was developed in 2006-2007 and posted on the website in June 2007. Via an email list of 1800 contacts, people were invited to comment on the draft.
- In October 2007 the LEGS Steering Group reviewed all the feedback submitted online and by email, and developed a plan for adoption of relevant comments as needed.
- A plan was also agreed for testing LEGS via field use by up to 15 collaborating agencies, plus, three simulation workshops in different regions.
- LEGS continues to liaise closely with the Sphere Project to develop LEGS as one of the first companion modules to the Sphere handbook.

- LEGS is on track to meet a deadline for final manuscript preparation in April 2008, and final publication of the hard copy, CD ROM and on-line copy in October 2008.

2. Post-publication activities: Raising awareness, ensuring uptake

The process for publishing LEGS in English and disseminating to key agencies (as outlined in section 1.5) is already fully funded using grants from OFDA and Oxfam GB, and in-kind contributions from FAO (who are also funding the electronic decision support software and accompanying technical guidelines), ICRC, AU and Tufts University.

To ensure the successful uptake of LEGS, the LEGS Steering Group is now seeking additional support from August 2008 in order to:

- Translate and publish LEGS in three languages, other than English.
- Conduct post-publication awareness raising and training in developing regions globally.
- Provide technical support.

These activities are informed by the experiences of Sphere, in which translation and post-publication events were considered to be central to ensuring a common understanding and wide use of the document.

2.1 Activities

2.1.1 Translation and publication

The LEGS Steering Group will seek advice from the Sphere Project on the most appropriate languages for translation of LEGS. For planning purposes, it is assumed that LEGS will be translated into three languages e.g. French, Spanish and one other. Translation tasks will be sub-contracted to professional companies, as advised by the Sphere Project and the publishers.

Given the high cost of translation and publishing in other languages, LEGS is intending to make all non-English language versions available free-of-charge via the LEGS website.

2.1.2 Awareness-raising and training

Experience from Sphere indicates that direct explanation of LEGS to potential users is an important part of ensuring uptake. In general, LEGS has identified two main user groups within donors, UN agencies, NGOs, governments and other actors:

- livestock experts with limited experience of livelihoods-based thinking or humanitarian assistance
- humanitarian generalists who are knowledgeable on emergency policies and programming but who lack knowledge on livestock programming.

Given that topics such as humanitarian law and principles, or livelihoods analysis are difficult to learn or understand by reading per se, a series of LEGS awareness-raising and training events are proposed to cover the regions most affected by humanitarian crises. These events will target both senior management staff in humanitarian agencies and livestock experts, and will be convened regionally with the assistance of FAO and/or Red Cross organizations (depending on region).

The proposed, provisional target regions are:

- Africa - east, west, central and southern
- Asia - Middle East, Pakistan-Afghanistan, India-Bangladesh, SE Asia

The training process would involve:

- A facilitator’s workshop to agree a common training approach and content with all of the LEGS facilitators working in different regions.
- Regional workshop in the eighth regions listed above. Each workshop would provide training to up to 30 participants, and would be facilitated by a LEGS trainer. Where possible, these events would be integrated with general Sphere training sessions in different parts of the world.

2.1.3 Technical support and backstopping the LEGS process

The provision of a technical support facility providing email, phone or mission (on a cost sharing basis) support to countries, agencies and institutions implementing LEGS.

2.1.4 Maintaining the LEGS process

In addition to the specific activities described above, the LEGS process needs to be maintained. This means keeping an up-to-date website, revising and updating the LEGS, monitoring and evaluating the uptake of LEGS and holding biannual Steering Group meetings.

3.0 Indicative Costs

The LEGS Steering Group has indicated that a wide range of financing mechanisms can be considered which can be discussed on a case-by-case basis. The indicative costs for a proposed two-year, post-launch activities to ensure that LEGS is fully utilised, evaluated and updated are estimated at **US\$2.0 million**. This is approximately broken down into:

➤ Staff costs: (LEGS Coordinator and Professional fees)	US\$ 250 000
➤ Translation and Printing:	50 000
➤ Awareness raising and Training	1 000 000
➤ Technical Support	250 000
➤ LEGS Maintenance, Updating and Evaluation	250 000
➤ Miscellaneous	200 000

In kind contributions will be provided by FAO, VSF Belgium, African Union, ICRC and Tufts University to continue the participation in the LEGS Steering Group and limited administrative and office support will be provided by the Tufts University office in Addis Ababa.

For a more detailed breakdown or a proposal tailored to specific circumstances, please contact one of the LEGS contact points.
