



Terms of Reference: Preparation of a Technical Brief on the role of LEGS in complex emergencies: how can LEGS contribute to protecting livestock-related livelihoods as part of coordinated humanitarian response?

The Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards (LEGS) are a set of international standards and guidelines for the assessment, design, implementation and evaluation of livestock interventions to assist people affected by humanitarian crises. The ultimate aim of LEGS is to improve the quality and livelihoods impact of livestock-related projects in humanitarian situations. LEGS is recognized and promoted by a growing number of donors globally and is implemented by a broad range of operational organizations, including NGOs as well as international agencies such as FAO and ICRC. The LEGS Handbook was first published in 2009, with the third edition becoming available in 2023. LEGS draws on evidence-based good practice from around the world, which is incorporated into the Handbook, training materials and other resources.

The *Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards – LEGS* organisation is a non-profit entity registered in the United Kingdom, managed by a Board of Trustees, and supported by a technical Advisory Committee made up of individuals from the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), ODI Global, Sphere India, and Tufts University.

The LEGS Handbook provides standards and guidance for six technical response areas: destocking; veterinary support; feed; water; livestock shelter; and provision of livestock, based on good practice from around the world. This guidance can be applied to emergencies affecting livestock keepers and their livelihoods, including drought, floods, earthquakes, volcano eruptions and protracted conflict-based crises.

Background to the Technical Brief

Complex emergencies can have an enormous impact on the lives and livelihoods of millions of livestock dependent people globally, as well as those where livestock make an important contribution to livelihoods, and lead to significant humanitarian challenges. Complex emergencies, which can be defined as a 'humanitarian crisis in a country or region in which authority has totally or substantially broken down due to multiple causes and where people's lives, wellbeing and dignity are affected' often involve conflict or civil unrest.¹ Many complex emergencies are protracted which has important implications on funding, programming and evaluation. There is a global context of changing and perhaps increasingly complex and diverse conflict situations, including the emergence of major protracted conflicts in middle-income countries e.g. Syria, and industrialised countries e.g. Ukraine. At the same time, there are complex emergencies in the Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan and Somalia, for example.

¹ Definition taken from Sphere and used in the current edition of the LEGS Handbook.

In addition to the loss of life, injury and trauma, people affected by complex emergencies are often faced with struggles to access essential resources and services. They may be displaced or living in camps. Family circumstances may change such as the loss of family members or injuries, or men seeking income elsewhere or being conscripted. All these issues may dictate a change in livestock management practices and also a change in gender roles.

In situations where livestock contribute to livelihoods, complex emergencies can impact in numerous ways including livestock deaths, destruction of feed stores, disruption of access and insecurity that makes livestock movement unsafe and disruption of services (e.g. animal health, feed supplies). In addition to the livelihoods impacts, there is also an impact on livestock-based responses and how they can be delivered in the challenging context of complex emergencies. Complex emergencies can also become more complex e.g. when a slow onset (e.g. drought) or sudden onset (e.g. floods) crisis occurs in the same area and on top of a complex emergency.

It is therefore proposed that a Technical Brief is developed to look at the role of LEGS in protecting livestock-related livelihoods, in the context of complex emergencies. The Brief will also consider the approaches required by humanitarian workers to work safely and effectively in these contexts.

The consultant will deliver the following output:

A Technical Brief that meets the objective above, of the role of LEGS in protecting livestock-related livelihoods the context of complex emergencies. The Brief will draw on published and grey literature, including case studies, as well as the LEGS Handbook and other LEGS resources.

The contents will include:

- Introduction to complex emergencies and recent trends focusing on how LEGS is relevant in a global context of changing and increasingly complex and diverse emergency situations
- Overview of the impact of complex emergencies on livestock and livestock owners/keepers, and gendered impacts
- Application of the LEGS principles as a framework to analyse the challenges and potential solutions of applying these principles in complex emergencies
- Explanation of the importance of including livestock responses in broader, coordinated humanitarian responses and how their inclusion can be promoted
- Two or three case studies from different regions that describe what has been done in terms of livestock-based responses in complex emergencies, with or without the application of LEGS. This should focus on examples of the livelihood impacts and benefit-cost of LEGS-type responses in complex emergencies.

The Technical Brief is expected to be a maximum of 3500 words in length, plus annexes as required. The Brief will be published on the LEGS website following professional editing and design.

The consultant will carry out the following activities:

- Participate in a briefing call with LEGS to agree the scope and focus of the Brief

- Identify and review a sufficient body of published and grey literature on the impact of complex emergencies on livestock livelihoods and good practice responses to ensure that the Brief is comprehensively referenced
- Draft a contents page for the Brief, to be discussed and agreed with LEGS
- Submit an initial draft of the Brief for comment and feedback from LEGS
- Produce a final version of the Brief

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| Anticipated start date: | 1 st February 2025 |
| Duration of assignment: | 10 working days |
| Anticipated output: | Technical Brief of maximum 3500 words excluding annexes |
| Reporting to: | LEGS Coordinator/LEGS Technical and Project Manager |
| Required competencies: | Background and at least 15 years' experience in livestock and emergency response, with particular understanding of livestock-based livelihoods; experience of working in complex emergencies; excellent writing skills. |

Interested parties should submit their CV and a brief technical proposal (max 1 page) outlining their suggested methodology and timeline, together with a sample of their writing, to the LEGS Finance Manager by 14th January 2025 : info@livestock-emergency.net.