

The **LEGS** Handbook

The LEGS Handbook is available in English, French, Spanish (and Arabic forthcoming) from the publisher, and also as soft copy pdfs which can be downloaded free from the LEGS website

The LEGS handbook covers the following topics:

- **Rapid assessments of livestock and livelihoods; participatory response identification**
- **Common Standards:**
 - Participation
 - Initial assessment
 - Response and coordination
 - Targeting
 - M&E and livelihoods impact
 - Technical support
 - Contingency planning and preparedness
 - Advocacy and policy
- **Technical Standards:**
 - Destocking
 - Veterinary Services
 - Feed
 - Water
 - Shelter
 - Restocking /provision of livestock



LEGS

Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards



Livelihoods-based livestock interventions in disasters

What is **LEGS**?

- LEGS (the Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards) is a set of international standards for improving the quality of livestock programmes in humanitarian disasters.
- LEGS is global, focusing on regions prone to repeated or large-scale disasters: rapid, slow onset, complex and chronic.
- LEGS is a formal companion to the Sphere handbook, the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response.
- Sphere is underpinned by international humanitarian and human rights laws and conventions

LEGS Support

- African Union
- Department for International Development (UK)
- European Commission
- European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO)
- Feinstein International Center, Tufts University
- Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
- International Committee for the Red Cross
- Office for Foreign Disaster Assistance, USAID
- Oxfam GB
- Trócaire
- Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium
- World Society for the Protection of Animals
- Vetwork UK

Get involved with **LEGS**:

To join the LEGS mailing list and receive regular updates on activities and future plans, contact the LEGS Coordinator: Coordinator@livestock-emergency.net; or see the website at www.livestock-emergency.net

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Where did **LEGS** come from?

The LEGS Project grew out of concerns that livestock responses in emergencies were frequently inappropriate, poorly designed and/or delivered too late. The livelihoods of livestock-owning communities were often not taken into account by such interventions and in some cases livelihoods were undermined by the emergency response. For example, 'dumping' veterinary medicines during disasters weakens private sector structures that support livestock.

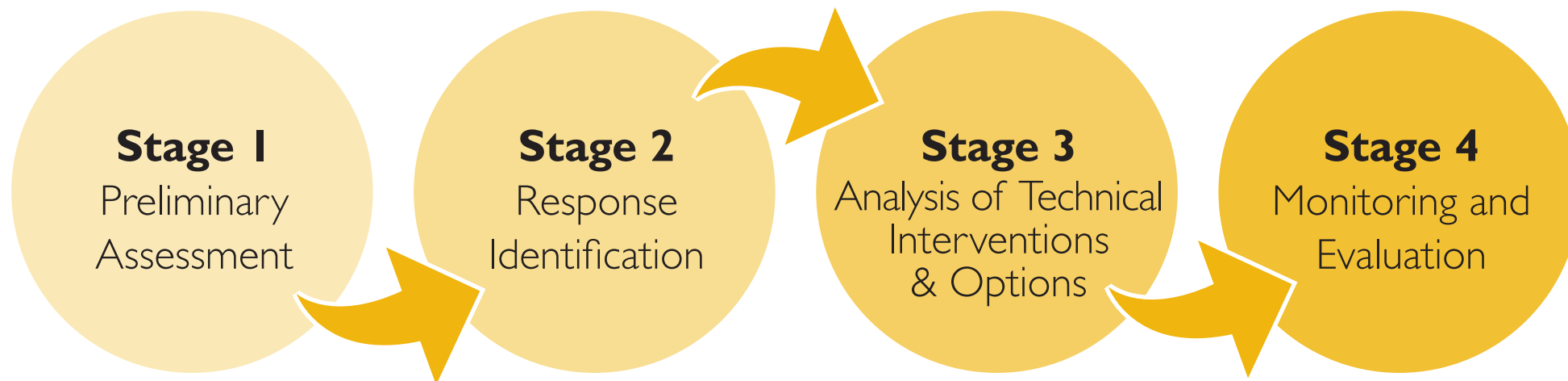
The LEGS Handbook was published in 2009, following broad consultation with a global mailing list of over 1800 individuals and sector experts. It is available in English, French or Spanish from the publisher, Practical Action Publishing: www.developmentbookshop.com or via the LEGS website.

LEGS is overseen by a Steering Group supported by the LEGS Coordinator. This Group is made up of individuals from the African Union, the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Tufts University, Vetwork UK, and the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA).



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Stages of the **LEGS** Response

Each technical chapter in the LEGS Handbook provides minimum standards, timelines and a discussion of the various options with their advantages and disadvantages. Decision-trees and other tools support the process of identifying which options could be the most appropriate, feasible and timely in any given context to provide both immediate relief and longer term livelihood support to livestock keepers affected by disaster. Together, these standards and tools form the four stages of the LEGS Response (see diagram above).



Photo credits: Kelley Lynch, Andy Catley, Tim Leyland, Ana Urgoiti

Uptake of **LEGS**

The LEGS Project has carried out fifteen regional Training of Trainers (TOT) courses and more are planned. A short, half-day awareness session for decision makers and donors is also being rolled out. A total of 260 people have been trained as LEGS Trainers. Between them they have carried out over 120 LEGS Trainings in 26 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America, reaching over 2600 participants.

As a result of the dissemination of the Handbook and the Training Programme, LEGS is increasingly being used as a key point of reference. Practitioners use LEGS to design emergency interventions in livestock-keeping areas, and donors use LEGS to inform their funding decisions.

For example, FAO and other donors in Ethiopia expect emergency proposals to be guided by LEGS. NGOs such as Save the Children USA and CARE use LEGS in the development of their programmes.

'LEGS is the most useful and comprehensive tool for livestock-focussed interventions that I have come across. It covers all major emergencies, and provides necessary planning and implementation guidance for experts and non-experts alike'

(Saeed Ullah Khan, International Rescue Committee, Pakistan)

www.livestock-emergency.net