



## The **LEGS** Handbook

The LEGS Handbook was first published in 2009, following broad consultation with a global mailing list of over 1,800 individuals and sector experts. The second edition was published in 2014 and provides standards and guidelines for appropriate and timely livestock-based livelihoods responses in emergencies, using a participatory and evidence-based approach.

The LEGS handbook covers the following topics:

- **Understanding livestock, livelihoods and emergencies**
- **Participatory response identification**
- **Core Standards common to all livestock interventions**
- **Technical Standards**

The LEGS Handbook is currently available in English, French, Spanish and Arabic. The handbook is available in print from directly from the publisher, Practical Action Publishing: [www.developmentbookshop.com](http://www.developmentbookshop.com) or in digital/PDF format, which can be downloaded for free from the LEGS website.

## **LEGS** Trainer Community

There are LEGS Trainers in over 80 countries in the world who have delivered more than 200 training courses. A comprehensive list of accredited trainers, their location and contact information is provided on the LEGS website.



## GET INVOLVED

Join the LEGS mailing list and receive regular updates on activities and future plans:

Contact the LEGS Coordinator  
[Coordinator@livestock-emergency.net](mailto:Coordinator@livestock-emergency.net)  
Visit our website  
[www.livestock-emergency.net](http://www.livestock-emergency.net)



# LEGS

Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards



## What is **LEGS**?

**The Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards (LEGS)** are a set of international standards for improving the quality of livestock programmes in humanitarian disasters.

**LEGS** is a formal companion to the Sphere Handbook, the *Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response*, and a member of the Humanitarian Standards Partnership.

**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.

**LEGS** is overseen by a Steering Group made up of individuals from the African Union, the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the Overseas Development Institute (ODI), and Vetwork UK, supported by the LEGS Coordinator.



# LEGS

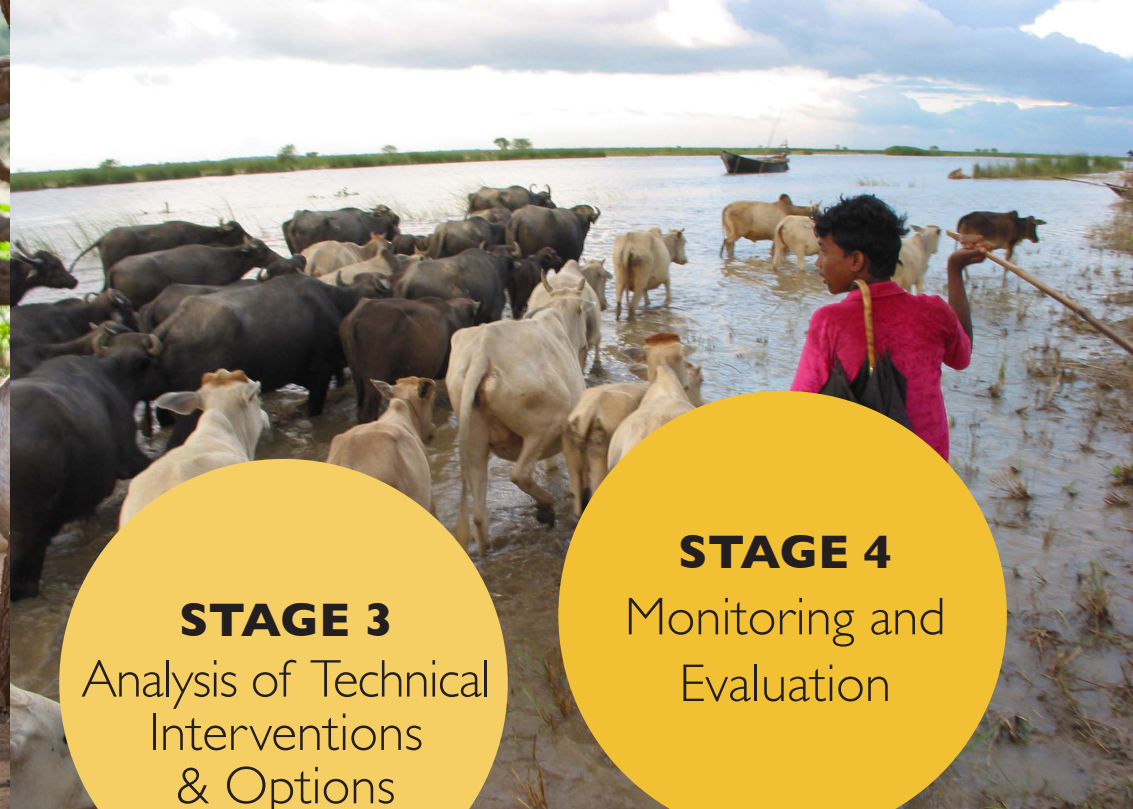
Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards





**STAGE I**  
Initial  
Assessment

**STAGE 2**  
Response  
Identification



**STAGE 3**  
Analysis of Technical  
Interventions  
& Options

**STAGE 4**  
Monitoring and  
Evaluation

## 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/Save the Children, Ana Urgoiti

## **LEGS** Impacts

As a result of the dissemination of the Handbook and the Training Programme, LEGS is increasingly 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. NGOs such as Save the Children and CARE use LEGS in the development of their programmes, while FAO and other donors in the Horn and East Africa expect emergency proposals to be guided by LEGS.

## Where **LEGS** Works

LEGS is global, focusing on regions prone to repeated or large-scale disasters: rapid, slow onset, complex and chronic. To date LEGS has provided training in over 50 countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Middle East, the Pacific and the Caribbean