



## LEGS Operational Research Project Terms of Reference: Zimbabwe National Consultant

### Introduction to LEGS and Background to the LEGS Operational Research Project

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.

However, donors (and some implementing agencies) typically require that certain quality standards are met for the procurement and distribution of livestock-related commodities, particularly for veterinary pharmaceuticals, in order to ensure that the commodities are safe, effective, of good quality, and an acceptable cost. OFDA procedures include regulations on the sourcing of veterinary pharmaceuticals, and the need to apply for individual approval to purchase from non-prequalified wholesalers. Other donors may have similar requirements. These regulations are particularly important in the light of growing concerns about the poor quality of veterinary medicines in developing countries - either imported or locally manufactured with weak testing and licensing procedures.

Anecdotal reports indicate that some OFDA-funded implementers face difficult management decisions around how to provide beneficiaries with animal health service vouchers, whilst also being fully compliant with OFDA regulations regarding the procurement, storage, and distribution of veterinary pharmaceuticals. Other informal feedback suggests that similar challenges affect the procurement of fodder and the use of vouchers for livestock feed in projects supported by other donors.

Such operational barriers may be particularly relevant in drought-affected regions in the Horn, East Africa and Southern Africa. Many partners are currently implementing livestock projects including destocking, livestock feed supplementation and emergency animal health

activities. The application of LEGS is critical in these and other livestock responses to ensure that best practice standards are met.

## Operational Research

The LEGS Project (through its host, VetNetwork UK) has been awarded a grant from OFDA to examine this issue by conducting operational research to identify and test alternative program models for the application of LEGS standards while complying with key donor regulations - specifically in the area of animal health. The research question is:

*What are the potential models that will allow the application of the LEGS standards on the use of the local veterinary private sector and within the quality assurance requirements of OFDA?*

Three partner projects have been selected in three countries, either currently funded or about to be funded by OFDA, and include veterinary activities for livestock keepers affected by crisis. The operational research will involve the development and testing of models to address the research question, in order to develop a proof of concept, in partnership with the three implementing partners and with OFDA.

The research will be supplemented by a global survey of organizations and practitioners. The survey will identify the extent of the challenges of implementing LEGS veterinary support and feed supplementation standards; the root causes of these challenges; and innovations already developed by partners to overcome them. This will be complemented by key informant interviews in the three countries where the operational research is taking place and covering a range of implementers and donors.

The program was initiated in October 2017 and will run until September 2019.

## National Consultant Roles and Responsibilities

Three National Consultants are being recruited to manage the research, one for each of the three research sites. Each National Consultant will be responsible for the implementation of the in-country operational research alongside partner project staff at their research site, under the guidance and management of the International Team Leader, including:

- Support to the International Team Leader in the initial design and development of the research model
- With the Team Leader, develop a work plan with the partner project staff
- Field research (in conjunction as appropriate with partner project staff), based on key informant interviews, field surveys, and regular monitoring. The research will be carried out during approximately six visits to the partner project (10 days per visit) over the life of the research project.
- Collation and preliminary analysis of the research findings.
- Accompanying the International Team Leader during his visits to the partner project.
- Regular reporting to the International Team Leader through monthly written reports, supplemented by emails and skype/phone calls as required.

Proposed start date: 7<sup>th</sup> January 2019; contract for up to 60 days until September 2019.

## Person Specification

A partner project has been selected in Chiredzi District, Zimbabwe. The Zimbabwe National Consultant will therefore have the following experience and abilities:

- Veterinarian/livestock specialist with at least 5 years' experience in Zimbabwe, with specific experience in Chiredzi District.
- Experience of livestock emergency and development projects, including Community Based Animal Health Worker programmes
- Experience of carrying out research projects
- Ability to work independently and at a distance
- Experience of planning field visits and working closely with project partners
- Ability to travel and work in Chiredzi District for up to 3 weeks at a time
- Good writing skills
- Fluency in English and Shona essential and fluency in Shangani desirable
- Knowledge of LEGS (desirable)
- Experience of working with USAID/OFDA supported projects (desirable)

## Application PROCESS

Interested parties should submit a brief proposal including availability and daily fee, together with their CV to the Vetwork UK Technical and Project Manager ([bishop\\_suzan@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:bishop_suzan@yahoo.co.uk)) **by the deadline of 17<sup>th</sup> December 2018.**

For additional information on LEGS please see the LEGS website: [www.livestock-emergency.net](http://www.livestock-emergency.net), and for further information about these Terms of Reference please contact the LEGS Coordinator: [Coordinator@livestock-emergency.net](mailto:Coordinator@livestock-emergency.net).