



LEGS BRIEFING PAPER ON QUALITY OF VETERINARY MEDICINES:

CONSULTANT TOR

LIVESTOCK EMERGENCY GUIDELINES AND STANDARDS (LEGS)

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 second edition in 2015. LEGS draws on evidence-based good practice from around the world, which is incorporated into the Handbook, training materials and other resources. LEGS tracks and uses evaluations, reviews and impact assessments of livestock and livestock-related projects as part of this evidence base. The LEGS standards also promote impact assessment and learning as part of the LEGS Approach to support quality livestock-based responses in emergencies.

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), the Overseas Development Institute (ODI), Sphere India, and Tufts University.

LEGS BRIEFING PAPER ON THE QUALITY OF VETERINARY MEDICINES

LEGS is commissioning a series of Briefing Papers on current issues of relevance for the LEGS community of practice, to review internal and external learning in order to feed into the preparations for the next edition of the LEGS Handbook, which is planned for 2021/22.

The main objective of the Briefing Papers will be to inform the LEGS technical Advisory Committee about key and emerging issues and trends that are not yet, or not adequately, covered in the second edition of the LEGS Handbook. The Briefing Papers will be produced in hard and soft copies and will be promoted through the LEGS website and Mailing List. A series of webinars will be held, focusing on each of the Briefing Papers, open to the LEGS community of practice to discuss and promote the topic further.

The Briefing Papers will focus on evidence-based good practice, presenting key areas where the LEGS Handbook can take these issues into account and, where possible, providing case studies to enhance the existing collection of case studies in the Handbook.

The quality of veterinary medicines is a key issue for livestock responses in emergency situations. This includes the elements of the supply chain as well as the pharmaceuticals themselves, and also growing concerns about how antibiotic and anthelmintic medicines are used (and misused) in the context of the developing global problem of anti-microbial resistance (AMR)/antibiotic resistance.

LEGS has recently completed an USAID/OFDA-funded operational research project *Operational Barriers to Applying LEGS*, with the research question: ‘*what are the potential models that will allow the application of the LEGS standards on the use of the local veterinary private sector within the quality assurance requirements of USAID/OFDA?*’ The research model included five key elements, each with criteria deemed essential for the provision of quality veterinary pharmaceuticals through a voucher scheme. The research results were shared at three learning events in Nairobi, Addis Ababa and Harare, at which the implications of the findings for the next edition of the LEGS Handbook were also discussed.

LEGS is commissioning a Briefing Paper to review this issue, drawing on both the operational research report and learning events reports, and on new research findings and documentation that have been produced since the publication of the current edition of the LEGS Handbook.

The Briefing Paper will bring together current thinking on the issue of veterinary pharmaceutical quality and usage in the context of emergency response, and provide detailed recommendations for the incorporation of this issue into the next edition of the LEGS Handbook. In particular it will address the following topics:

- Ensuring the provision of quality pharmaceuticals including the issue of counterfeit pharmaceuticals
- Ensuring the quality of the supply chain, including: procurement, storage, transport, distribution, dosage and disposal
- Anti-microbial resistance/antibiotic resistance
- The pros and cons of different purchase options for NGOs and government¹

and highlight how the next edition of the LEGS Handbook should address these issues.

CONSULTANT TERMS OF REFERENCE

The objective of the Briefing Paper is:

- *to provide detailed recommendations for the LEGS Steering Group on how issues regarding the quality of veterinary medicines can be better represented in the revised edition of the LEGS Handbook.*

The Briefing Paper will:

- consist of two sections:
 - first, a summary and analysis of the topic to promote the issue among practitioners and policy makers. This will include a brief review of selected secondary literature, and production of one to three short case studies in the same format as those in the current Handbook [i.e. maximum 4 paragraphs, illustrating the impacts of livestock emergency responses, not just a description of activity]
 - second, targeted information and recommendations to the LEGS Advisory Committee for the new edition of the LEGS Handbook, in a detachable annex
- focus on adjustments and additions to the LEGS Handbook, bearing in mind that the length of the Handbook cannot be increased and that the overall structure (including the chapter headings) is unlikely to change.
- be no more than 15 pages in length, including annexes
- have the LEGS Advisory Committee as its key audience
- take into account that LEGS uses a rights-based approach with links to international humanitarian law and hence be written from a humanitarian standpoint.
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The consultant will therefore:

- Carry out a review of selected secondary literature, coupled with email and/or Skype discussions with a small number of key informants, bearing in mind the global reach of LEGS. This review should provide the context in which the proposed changes to the Handbook are set. The key contacts should

¹ This could be presented as a matrix showing different procurement option (for example: local purchase using whatever medicines are available locally – includes locally manufactured and counterfeit drugs; local purchase using only “high quality” imported products sold by these suppliers – but with some risk of counterfeit drugs; and international purchase using only “high quality” imported products – where the NGO controls the procurement process) set against indicators such as cost, timeliness of delivery, risk of poor quality/limited therapeutic effect, risk of contributing to resistance, strengthening local private sector, treatment outcomes.

include specialists in veterinary pharmaceuticals and livestock emergency response, and other key contacts [details to be provided by LEGS]

- Clearly indicate concise and careful editorial changes to the LEGS Handbook regarding veterinary pharmaceutical quality relating to livestock emergency response, using only evidence-based material
- Provide links to or copies of appropriate resources and/or tools that should be referenced in the LEGS Handbook
- Submit an initial draft of the Briefing Paper and case studies for comment and feedback by the LEGS Steering Group, before finalising and completing the paper.

Anticipated start date:	1 st April 2020
Duration of assignment:	8.5 days
Anticipated output:	Briefing Paper of maximum 15 pages including annexes
Reporting to:	LEGS Coordinator
Required competencies:	veterinarian with background and at least 10 years' experience in livestock emergency response; excellent understanding of livestock issues; excellent writing skills; previous knowledge of LEGS

Interested parties should submit their CV and a brief technical proposal (max 1 page) outlining their suggested methodology and timeline to the LEGS Coordinator by **20th March 2020**: Coordinator@livestock-emergency.net.