



General case study

Local ownership of LEGS and incorporation of LEGS tools in district level *dzud* planning, Mongolia

LEGS encourages local ownership, such as the development of LEGS-based guidelines that are adapted to local contexts and support local authorities to coordinate emergency livestock interventions. This case study illustrates how an international NGO supported LEGS local ownership in Mongolia, and how this support led to LEGS tools being incorporated into district level Disaster Protection Plans.

Use of LEGS

In 2016, Mercy Corps International began introducing LEGS tools and approaches across Mongolia. Mercy Corps first translated the LEGS Handbook into Mongolian. The translation was authorised by LEGS and funded by FAO. In partnership with FAO and the National Emergency Management Authority of Mongolia (NEMA), Mercy Corps conducted provincial and district level LEGS trainings. The translated Handbook was used during all trainings at the national and local level. More than one thousand copies of the Mongolian version of the LEGS Handbook were distributed to participants, partners and policy makers.

Mercy Corps and NEMA then developed a more contextualised training programme using parts of the LEGS curriculum. The training was adapted to local conditions and included:

- disaster risk management,
- livestock-based livelihoods,
- use of the national Short Messaging Service (SMS),
- LEGS approaches and tools, and
- active participation of district citizens in disaster plan development.

In order to reach district-level officials and citizens, Mercy Corps, NEMA and FAO trained local trainers at provincial, regional and national levels in this new curriculum including LEGS tools and approaches.

Activities

Between 2016 and 2019, Mercy Corps organised 351 direct LEGS trainings in 292 districts of 20 provinces. These localised 3-day trainings were attended by disaster risk reduction stakeholders including provincial Emergency Management Agencies, provincial Agricultural Departments, provincial-level civil society organisations and NGOs, district-level Chiefs of Staff, and district veterinarians. In order to determine knowledge capture and retention, 92% of the trainees were tested two-months after they participated in the training, with the majority (80.5%) demonstrating a high level of retention.

Outcomes

Through the work of Mercy Corps, LEGS was subsequently adopted by NEMA and applied to district level Disaster Protection Plans (DPP). Each district is required by law to have a DPP. DPPs plan for mitigating and responding to the eight most common disasters: *dzud* (severe winters), drought, flood, wildfire, outbreak of animal and human diseases, snowstorms, sandstorms and earthquakes. However, historically DPPs have been very general and have not reflected the needs of districts. They were frequently written as desk-top exercises from the district Governor's Office, with very limited consultation or involvement of local stakeholders. Most herders and local citizens never had any access to disaster plans and considered them to be classified documents.

Based on their experience with LEGS, in 2017 the local EMA staff from 11 target provinces designed a new template for the *dzud* protection part of a DPP and presented it to NEMA. NEMA reviewed and approved the new template in March 2018. By June 2019 a total of 292 districts had improved their *dzud* protection plans, and around 80% of all new DPPs were approved by their Local Emergency Management Authority. These have now been rolled out across the country to prevent, respond to and mitigate negative effects of natural disasters.

Sources: Mercy Corps Mongolia (2019) *Annual Report, January – December 2018* & Mercy Corps Mongolia (2020) *Annual Report, January – December 2019*, in Featherstone A (2020) *Putting the best foot forward: Localisation, Contextualisation and Institutionalisation*. A Discussion Paper for the Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards (LEGS). <https://www.livestock-emergency.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/LEGS-Institutionalisation-and-Localisation-Summary-Discussion-Paper.pdf>

LEGS case studies demonstrate good practice in livestock emergency response. They cover the six LEGS Technical Intervention areas, the eight LEGS Principles as well as the broader contexts covered in the third edition of the LEGS handbook. **Process case studies** illustrate the application of LEGS guidance and **impact case studies** reflect on the outcomes of LEGS interventions.

- ▶ You can access all of the LEGS case studies at [livestock-emergency.net/resources/case-studies](https://www.livestock-emergency.net/resources/case-studies)
- ▶ For more information see the Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards Handbook at [livestock-emergency.net](https://www.livestock-emergency.net)

