



General case study

LEGS-based livelihoods interventions following floods in Vietnam

Background and use of LEGS

In September 2010, the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA), now known as World Animal Protection (WAP), conducted a LEGS workshop for its Disaster Liaison Officers (DLOs) from the Asia-Pacific region, together with other partners. Participants included two DLOs from Vietnam and a representative from the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) that WAP had worked with in late 2009. After the flooding in Quang Binh Province in October 2010, WAP, with support from MARD, used LEGS to carry out an assessment and design an intervention.

The assessment process highlighted one particular area, Tan Hoa Commune in Minh Hoa District, where the local population is very dependent on their livestock for food, income and draught power. The floods had destroyed crops and pasture, and also damaged homes, animal shelters and infrastructure—including the office of the commune veterinarian. Many of the population were busy ploughing and replanting their crops, using their surviving cattle and buffalo as draught power. Those who had lost their own animals were reliant on family, friends and neighbours for the use of their draught animals, as the cost of getting this work done mechanically was well out of reach of the majority of the population.

The floodwaters destroyed pasture and fodder reserves. The price of commercial feed was too expensive for most livestock owners due to the remoteness of the commune. Many people were spending two to three hours a day collecting leaves and the trunks of banana trees to feed their livestock. Pigs are commonly kept in this area to supplement income and some livestock owners were sharing the rice they had received from the government and NGOs with their pigs, in order to keep them alive.

With the beginning of winter approaching, livestock owners were concerned about the lack of shelter for their stock. Many had not had time to repair the thatched livestock shelters damaged by the floods, because of the large amount of time spent replanting crops and collecting livestock feed. They were also unable to get help from the commune veterinarian and village para-veterinarians (for livestock vaccination or treatment) as the flood had destroyed all their vaccines, drugs and equipment. The only option was to call the district veterinarian, a journey of at least 45 minutes each way.

Process and outcomes

The LEGS-based assessment and planning process, identified three response priorities, namely, feed, shelter and veterinary support. WAP provided 91 tonnes of concentrate **feed** for 600 cattle and buffalo and 750 pigs for 3 months to cover the winter period, benefitting approximately 400 of the poorest families in the commune. The feed was distributed in two instalments, to prevent spoilage of feed during storage over a long period. At the time of distribution, representatives from the feed company were available to inform livestock owners about appropriate quantities and feeding methods for this concentrate.

In addition, 5,000 metres of plastic sheeting was provided to make cattle and buffalo **shelters** rain and windproof for the coming winter, benefitting 350 families. **Veterinary support** was also provided via the commune veterinarian and village para-veterinarians to enable them to treat and vaccinate animals in their area. Small fridges and drug cabinets were provided to replace the ones lost in the floods, as well as cool boxes and veterinary kits.

In April 2011, WAP conducted a LEGS training course for MARD staff in Hanoi, with the long-term aim that MARD would fully adopt LEGS for use in their future disaster response work with livestock. By using LEGS in the assessment and design of the intervention, WAP was able to gain a better understanding of the relationship between livestock and their owners. This enabled staff to design more appropriate responses that met the needs of both livestock and their owners, and greatly increased the effectiveness of the response. The use of LEGS also helped WAP in its efforts to show others the importance of considering livestock in disaster response and planning, and the benefits of good animal welfare in protecting livestock-based livelihoods.

Source: Wallis W and Watson C (2013) *Livelihoods Standards in Humanitarian Practice, MERS and LEGS*. World Conference on Humanitarian Studies <https://www.livestock-emergency.net/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/Livelihoods-based-standards-in-humanitarian-practice-Istanbul-Conference-Final.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)

