



Impact case study

Limitations of livestock vaccination during emergencies, Ethiopia

Livestock vaccination has been an institutionalised response to drought in pastoralist areas of Ethiopia for many years, with millions of doses of vaccine delivered through NGOs and government. An impact assessment of this approach aimed to measure its impact on livestock asset protection, and thus compare mortality by disease between vaccinated and non-vaccinated herds in drought years in three regions of the country. For herds of cattle, camels, and small ruminants, the results showed no significant difference in mortality in vaccinated and non-vaccinated animals from those diseases covered by vaccination programmes during drought. The lack of impact from vaccination was explained by reference to a range of technical issues, but the overall conclusion was that vaccination of livestock should take place during normal, non-crisis periods.

These findings led to emergency coordination bodies and donors in Ethiopia revising their support to veterinary care during drought, and placing more emphasis on veterinary voucher schemes with the private sector. More widely, the assessment showed the importance of understanding the livelihoods impact of livestock vaccination during emergencies, and the risk of assuming that vaccination automatically protects livestock assets and that it is a cost-effective approach in emergencies.

Source: Catley, A., Abebe, D., Admassu, B., Bekele, G., Abera, B., Eshete, G., Rufael, T. and Haile, T. (2009) 'Impact of drought-related livestock vaccination in pastoralist areas of Ethiopia', *Disasters* 33(4): 665–685
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/j.1467-7717.2009.01103.x>

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
- ▶ For more information see the Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards Handbook at livestock-emergency.net

