



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

**MINISTRY OF EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY, THE ASALs AND  
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

*Office of the Cabinet Secretary*

**REMARKS BY CS FOR THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY THE ASALS  
AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT HON. REBECCA MIANO MBS, AT  
THE OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE LIVESTOCK EMERGENCY  
GUIDELINES AND STANDARDS (LEGS) ON 5<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2023 AT  
RADDISON BLUE HOTEL, UPPER HILL NAIROBI**

**Invited guests**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

**Good morning**

1. It is my great pleasure to be here today as we Launch the 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition of the LEGS Handbook. National Drought Management Authority which is officially the national institution focal point for LEGS is a Semi-Autonomous Government Agency (SAGA) in the Ministry of East African Community the ASALs and Regional Development. I welcome you to this forum.
2. **Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards (LEGS)** is a set of international guidelines and standards for designing, implementing, and evaluating livestock interventions to help people affected by humanitarian crises, based on three livelihoods objectives; to **provide rapid assistance**, to **protect livestock assets**, and to **rebuild the livestock assets of crisis-affected communities** thus saving lives and livelihoods. The state Department for the ASALs and Regional Development through National Drought Management Authority (NDMA) has transitioned to be the national institutional focal point for coordinating LEGS and thus being the institutional link to the global LEGS Organization.

3. These guidelines sync well with the NDMA mandate of coordinating drought risk management in ASALs and Kenya in general where approximately 70% of livestock are domiciled. These guidelines can revolutionize ASALs planning and preparedness to ensure livestock interventions during humanitarian crises becomes an opportunity for development in the country, by increasing employment opportunities, improving standard of living, narrowing of the income gaps and poverty alleviation.
4. More than **2.6 million** livestock mortalities were registered in the drought affected counties in 2022. Therefore the LEGS guidelines come at an opportune time when there are lessons learnt during the drought period and thus rebuilding livestock assets is of paramount importance.
5. LEGS focuses on the areas where emergencies, livelihoods, and livestock overlap, emphasizing the need to protect livestock during emergencies as well as to help with rebuilding livestock assets afterwards covering all types of livestock, from small species such as chickens to large animals such as cattle or camels, including animals used for transport or draught power among rural communities, farmers and pastoralists.
6. LEGS is structured around livelihoods objectives, underpinned by a rights-based approach, notably the right to food and the right to a standard of living, in line with the Sphere minimum standards (Sphere, 2011). The LEGS livelihoods perspective also means that the guidelines are concerned not only with immediate emergency response but also with recovery-phase activities and links to long-term development. It's worth noting that preparedness is a significant aspect of emergency response in LEGS, as is the importance of preserving livelihood assets to protect future livelihoods and to save lives.

7. As we launch this handbook, the onus is on us to implement its provisions based on the lessons learnt in the implementation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition of the LEGS Handbook, this will give impetus to the development of the ASALs wealth line.
  
8. As I conclude, I am optimistic that, together, we will contribute to the success of interventions aimed at provision of rapid assistance in protection of livestock assets rebuilding the livestock assets of crisis-affected communities. The Ministry will continue to be a reliable partner in this noble cause of improvement and investment of livestock resource for the social-economic development of our Nation.

It's therefore my distinguished honour to officially launch the 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition of the LEGS Handbooks.

Thank you.