



Terms of Reference

Preparation of a Technical Brief on Winter Storms and Extreme Cold Weather Events to guide livestock-based emergency preparedness, response, and recovery

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, the second edition in 2015 and the third edition in 2023. LEGS draws on evidence-based good practice from around the world, which is incorporated into the Handbook, training materials and other resources.

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), ODI, Sphere India, and Tufts University.

Background to the Technical Brief

The LEGS Handbook provides standards and guidance for six technical response areas: destocking; veterinary support; feed; water; livestock shelter; and provision of livestock, based on good practice from around the world. This guidance can be applied to most emergencies affecting livestock keepers and their livelihoods, including drought, floods, earthquakes, volcano eruptions and protracted conflict-based crises.

To complement the LEGS Handbook guidance, LEGS has developed a Drought Tool (also available as an online learning module), published a review of the application of LEGS in volcano contexts and a technical brief on floods and tropical storms. These resources help users to apply the LEGS approach in the context of particular emergency types.

Winter storms and extreme cold weather events, such as severe weather in the Himalayas, or *dzud* in Mongolia, can have a significant impact on livestock as well as on the lives of their owners, as the LEGS Handbook notes, including:

- Livestock deaths
- Temporary or longer-term loss of grazing resources
- Loss of water supplies
- Increase in livestock diseases, for example: respiratory disease, abrasion wounds to feet and mouth affecting ability to feed
- Displacement of livestock keepers affecting access to feed and water resources and also affecting access to livestock shelter
- Disruption of markets so that livestock keepers cannot sell their stock or livestock products, or purchase feed or other services

It is therefore proposed that a Technical Brief is developed focusing on the application of LEGS guidance in the context of winter storms and extreme cold weather events **in Asia**. The objective is to *produce a Technical Brief that reviews knowledge and good practice in response planning and delivery for livestock-dependent communities in the context of winter storms and extreme cold weather events in Asia, and provides LEGS-based good practice guidance to support better preparedness and response and help safeguard livestock livelihoods.*

The consultant will deliver the following outputs:

A Technical Brief that meets the objective above, presenting good practice guidance to support livestock keepers affected by winter storms and extreme cold weather events **in Asia**. The Brief will draw on published and grey literature, including case studies, as well as the LEGS Handbook and other LEGS resources.

The contents will include:

- Introduction to winter storm and extreme cold weather contexts in Asia and the application of LEGS
- Overview of the impact of winter storms and extreme cold weather on livestock and livestock keepers in Asia, including:
 - ✓ any significant gender-related differences in different parts of Asia:
 - ✓ distinguishing the impacts on livestock keepers between livelihoods impacts and nutritional impacts, to capture the links between livestock losses and human malnutrition
 - ✓ if and how winter events are changing due to global climate change, including how summer droughts are being followed by winter storms/extreme cold periods in some countries
 - ✓ highlighting cases studies of early warning systems that have been used in these areas and any cases of anticipatory action if available.
- Relevant LEGS planning tools, with illustrations including 2-3 case studies from winter storm and extreme cold weather contexts in Asia:
 - ✓ Initial Assessment Checklists.
 - ✓ Response planning including application of the LEGS Participatory Response Identification Matrix.
 - ✓ Technical response options and standards.
- Sources of further information, including detailed cross-references to the LEGS Handbook and other resources.

The Technical Brief is expected to be 8-10 pages in length, plus annexes as required. The Brief will be published on the LEGS website following professional editing and design.

The consultant will therefore:

- Participate in a briefing call with LEGS to agree the scope and focus of the Brief
- Identify and review published and grey literature from appropriate sources on the impact of winter storms and extreme cold weather events on livestock livelihoods and good practice responses
- Draft a contents page for the Brief, to be discussed and agreed with LEGS
- Submit an initial draft of the Brief for comment and feedback from LEGS
- Produce a final version of the Brief

Anticipated start date: 1st May 2024

Duration of assignment: 10 days

Anticipated output: Technical Brief of maximum 10 pages excluding annexes

Reporting to: LEGS Coordinator/LEGS Technical and Project Manager

Required competencies: Background and at least 12 years' experience in livestock and emergency response, with particular understanding of livestock-based livelihoods; experience of working in winter storm and cold weather affected areas of Asia; excellent writing skills.

Interested parties should submit their CV and a brief technical proposal (max 1 page) outlining their suggested methodology and timeline, together with a sample of their writing, to the LEGS Finance Manager by 12th April 2024: info@livestock-emergency.net.