



Process Case Study

LEGS and national disaster preparedness and response protocols – Central America

A key objective of LEGS is that it becomes a main point of reference for livestock assessments, project design, implementation and evaluation in official government policies, strategies or guidelines of national disaster management agencies and related technical ministries (livestock or agriculture). Training in LEGS should be normalized across relevant government and non-governmental actors. The role of LEGS is one of facilitator rather than implementer, through the provision of support, training and other tools and materials, working alongside key partners who will take this process forward in the longer term.

This case study documents the work of the Brooke¹ Latin America and Caribbean Office (BLAC) to support the incorporation of LEGS into National Disaster Preparedness and Response Protocols in Central America.

Nicaragua

- Nicaragua has an estimated livestock population of 6.2 million, which includes 300,000 equids. In 2019 the Brooke began working with the Disaster Risk Management entity of Nicaragua (SINAPRED) to raise awareness of the importance of including LEGS in national disaster risk management protocols as a means of establishing welfare guidance for working horses, donkeys and mules. These animals play a key role in the livelihoods of many families and make considerable household economic contributions e.g. in cocoa production².
- With the support of Brooke, SINAPRED has drafted the first National Protocol for the Protection of Animals in Emergency in Nicaragua, which incorporates LEGS guidance, specifically the four technical standards on feed, water, veterinary support and shelter. The document recommends that actions for each of the four interventions should be included in response plans, with the relevant entities being responsible for implementing the plans. SINAPRED is also updating Community Disaster Preparedness and Response Plans in the 153 municipalities of Nicaragua, which for the first time will include animal protection mechanisms based on LEGS.
- Twelve members of the National System for Preparedness, Prevention and Response of Nicaragua are now LEGS trainers, and they have cascaded trainings to more than 600 people in the municipalities most vulnerable to disasters and with the largest livestock populations (including around 50,000 working animals).
- SINAPRED and Brooke held the first National Drill on Disaster Preparedness and Response on March 30th 2023, which included, for the first time in the history of Nicaragua and Central America, the protection of production and working animals using LEGS.
- The Brooke is currently working with the Agricultural Protection and Health Institute (IPSA) to increase their knowledge of working equines and ensure that working equids are included in their plans and activities.

¹ The Brooke is a registered charity in England and Wales which aims to protect and improve the lives of working horses, donkey and mules which people use for their livelihoods.

² Murillo, F. A. and Valdivia Flores, F (2022). Economic contribution of working equines in cocoa production in two communities of Waslala, Autonomous Region of the North Caribbean Coast, October 2021 to March 2022. Brooke Latin America and Caribbean Regional Office.



Photo Credit: The Brooke Latin America and Caribbean Regional Office

Other countries in the Region

Brooke is now expanding the work of promoting LEGS to other countries in the region, which include the following the key activities:

- In Honduras in 2022, during the symposium on Disaster Risk Management, the Brooke held a LEGS awareness event together with the Permanent Contingency Committee (COPECO³), equipping first responders for emergencies in the Department of Cortés, in San Pedro Sula, with technical guidance to protect and care for livestock following disasters. In 2023 COPECO and the Brooke signed an agreement to focus on the inclusion of LEGS as the international standard and reference point for livestock protection and care in emergencies in the national disaster risk management legal framework, tools, and trainings centres. This work aims to support the country's livestock population of 2 million which includes more than 300,000 working equids.
- In Panama, in 2023, Brooke held an awareness side event on LEGS during the Regional Drill for Response to Disasters and Humanitarian Assistance, coordinated by the Regional Secretariat of Disaster Risk Management for Central America and Dominican Republic (CEPREDENAC⁴), with the participation of more than 30 staff from humanitarian agencies, embassy delegations, universities, and Disaster Risk Management institutions from Central America.
- In 2022 the Brooke brought together Disaster Risk Management representatives from six countries across Central America to receive LEGS training together, a very positive accomplishment for a region with such diverse priorities, cultures and politics. This was the first step towards developing medium and long-term regional awareness in disaster preparedness and response, which could support around 22.7 million families and 1.8 million working equines in the next 3-5 years through CEPREDENAC, which is the

³ The Permanent Contingency Commission of Honduras (COPECO), is an entity created to coordinate public and private disaster relief efforts in the framework of the National Risk Management System of Honduras

⁴ The Coordination Center for the Prevention of Natural Disasters in Central America (CEPREDENAC) is a Central American network of governmental disaster relief agencies

specialized institution of the Central American Integration System (SICA) for natural disaster prevention, mitigation, and response.

Source: Fredred Valdivia Flores, Regional Director for Brooke in Latin America and the Caribbean, and Veronica Artola, Disaster Risk Management Project Officer, Brooke Latin America and Caribbean Regional Office.

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

