Update on the Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards (LEGS)

Agriculture Working Group, gFSC, 4th October 2022
Consultation on 2\textsuperscript{nd} edition (2021): regional workshops, online survey, discussion papers and webinars

Chapter champions and LEGS technical Advisory Group reviewed all feedback

Chapter revision authors produced draft chapters

Advisory Group review

Design commissioned

Public consultation using Interactive Handbook platform (August 2022): 485 comments received
Key changes

- Further development of LEGS tools for response planning
- Update on key issues and themes: inclusion, local ownership, cash...
- Refreshed technical content and new case studies
- More user friendly – design, graphics and language
Publication

- English: May 2023
- French, Spanish and Arabic: July 2023
- Hard copy and online (HSP interactive handbook site)
Other Activities
LEGS Core Training - online

- Online version of 3-day training
- Combination of self-paced learning and online workshops
- Now available in English, French and Spanish
- Rolling out via LEGS Trainers
- In-person training continues (Core Training and TOTs)
Institutionalising LEGS

- Piloting support to institutionalization strategy development in three countries
- First workshop held in Kenya in August
- Draft strategy developed, task force and focal point to take forward
- Similar process in two other countries
Ensuring the quality of veterinary medicines is a key challenge for veterinary practitioners and policy makers around the world. The International Federation of Animal Health has estimated the illegal veterinary medicines trade to be worth $1 billion USD annually—roughly 7% of the value of the legal veterinary market.

The use of poor quality pharmaceuticals directly or indirectly leads to livestock keepers’ losses by putting the health of their key assets (livestock) at risk, treatment failures, adverse reactions and substandard, resistance and serological resistance (AMR) all to lead increased morbidity and mortality. Furthermore, it can lead public confidence in Community Based Animal Health Systems - a well-trained and informed animal health service provider (AHPS) will not be able to successfully treat an animal if the pharmaceuticals used are therapeutically deficient. Ultimately, poor quality pharmaceuticals provide a food safety and human health and environmental risks.

The diagram (Figure 1) below highlights the multiple factors contributing to the quality of a drug from the intrinsic quality of the product to its handling throughout the supply chain, including pharmacokinetics and proper disposal. Poor disposal of pharmaceuticals is a One Health concern in terms of the environment (e.g. risks of groundwater contamination), animal health (pharmaceutical reactions or serological reactions), and human health (potentially beneficial or risk of contact with improperly disposed drugs or equipment such as needles). An overwhelming pre-requisite for maintaining the quality of the supply chain is the regulatory framework of the country and the effectiveness of its enforcement.

Livestock and Nutrition

Livestock are ubiquitous in low income communities across the developing world. As estimated 68% of rural poor households keep some type of livestock (Pera-Castillo et al., 2010). Livestock are a source of income and food, support crop production and provide insurance and social status for these households (Figure 1). Recently, there has been more focus on the potential for nutrition-sensitive agriculture and livestock interventions to improve human nutrition including the release of technical guidelines by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO 2021).

Contribution of animal source foods to nutrition and dietary diversity

Animal source foods (ASF) are rich in micronutrients and proteins. As such, consumption of even small quantities of meat, milk and eggs can contribute substantially to the alleviation of malnutrition. Organizations like the World Health Organization (WHO) recommend that they are included as part of balanced diets for nutritionally vulnerable groups. While ASF have traditionally made up a large part of the diet of some minority groups such as pastoralists, for most rural low-income households they are newly eaten because they are voluntarily more expensive than foods from other food groups. There are many studies in the past 15 years that have found positive associations between livestock ownership and dietary quality [1,2], health status [3,4], child and women’s food and other measures, with increased intake of essential micronutrients such as vitamin A and iron. Evidence of associations between livestock ownership, intake of ASF and nutritional status outcomes such as wasting and stunting is however more limited. Much of the evidence comes...
LEGS Contacts

LEGS website: www.livestock-emergency.net

LEGS Mailing List: sign up on the website

LEGS on Twitter: @TheLEGSProject

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Photo credit: David Hadrill
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- Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
- ODI
- International Committee for the Red Cross
- Oxfam GB
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Thank you