

LEGS-SEADS JOINT ASSESSMENT TOOL: TERMS OF REFERENCE

INTRODUCTION

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.

SEADS is a set of international minimum standards that support humanitarian and development workers to design, implement, and evaluate crop-related crisis responses. Like LEGS, SEADS aims to improve the quality and impact of humanitarian assistance, but focuses on crops rather than livestock. SEADS is following a similar approach and learning key lessons towards institutionalization as LEGS, with guidance from NGOs as well as international agencies, such as FAO and ICRC, with global presence and reach. The first edition of the SEADS Handbook was published in 2022.

Both LEGS and SEADS are members of the Humanitarian Standards Partnership (HSP) alongside Sphere and other humanitarian standards initiatives.

BACKGROUND TO THE ASSESSMENT TOOL

The LEGS Handbook and the SEADS Handbook share some important elements, including core principles, participatory approaches to response identification, and the HSP-based structure of standards/key actions/guidance notes. Both contain guidance and question lists for initial assessment as the first stage of response planning.

In many cases the livelihoods of the crisis affected communities that LEGS and SEADS aim to support are based on both livestock and crop production. Throughout rural areas of low-income countries affected by crises, small-scale mixed farming systems are the norm and in many cases, rely on synergies between crop and livestock production. In these circumstances, any initial assessment during an emergency should ideally address agricultural production and livelihoods as a whole. Carrying out two separate assessments - one for crops and the other for livestock - would constitute a waste of time and resources, place an unnecessary burden on affected communities, and potentially miss important production and livelihoods linkages between livestock and crops. A Joint Assessment Tool is therefore planned to bring together LEGS and SEADS assessment processes in a user friendly and accessible way, to facilitate effective initial assessment in mixed farming and agro-pastoral communities.

The objective of the Joint Assessment Tool is *to develop a simple assessment process to address both livestock and crop production needs in emergency response, based on the content of the two Handbooks*

CONSULTANT'S ROLE

The Tool will draw on the assessment checklists and guidance already available in the LEGS and SEADS Handbooks, therefore only minimal new content is anticipated. This new content would ensure that the Joint Assessment Tool fully covers production and livelihoods synergies between crops and livestock in mixed farming, agro-pastoral and other similar systems.

The format will be accessible and facilitate use of the Tool in the field, hence some selection and editing of the relevant Handbook contents will be required. However, the Tool should include a selection of relevant or combined checklist questions, as well as guidance on preparing for assessment, approach and methodology.

The final draft of the Tool will be professionally edited and designed, then field tested by one of the SEADS Field Teams (location to be determined) through a simulation event designed and attended by the consultant. The Tool will also be shared with the LEGS Advisory Group and the SEADS Steering Group for additional feedback.

Once revised and finalised, the Tool will be prepared for publication as a pdf.

The tasks of the consultant are to:

- Participate in a briefing meeting with LEGS and SEADS representatives to discuss the task and agreed timeline.
- Review the assessment content in the LEGS and SEADS Handbooks, including both the checklists and the guidance on methodology, teams, process etc.
- Prepare a draft outline/contents page of the Tool for submission to LEGS and SEADS, and revise as appropriate based on feedback from LEGS and SEADS
- Prepare a draft of the Tool for submission to LEGS and SEADS for comment.
- Prepare a working version of the Tool based on this feedback, ready for design and field testing.
- Work with the selected SEADS Field Team to design and run an in-country simulation event, and attend the event *
- Consider any additional feedback on the draft tool provided by the LEGS and SEADS Coordinators (e.g. comments from LEGS Advisory Group and SEADS Steering Group members)
- Finalise the Tool based on feedback.

Anticipated start date: 15th March 2024

Duration of assignment: 19 days (12 days preparation and writing; 7 days travel for field testing)

Anticipated output: LEGS-SEADS Joint Assessment Tool (succinct, concise & user friendly)

Reporting to: LEGS Coordinator

Required competencies: Background and at least 15 years' experience in either livestock or crop emergency response (preferably both); livelihood assessment field experience; 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 1st March 2024: info@livestock-emergency.net.

**Travel logistics and costs will be provided by CRS, SEADS sub-contractor.*