Livestock plays a significant role in rural livelihoods and developing economies. It provides a huge source of income and employment for producers and others working within this sector and its complex value chains. It is also a crucial asset and safety net for the poor, especially for women and pastoralist groups, providing an important source of nourishment for millions of rural and urban households.

Across the developing world, 70 percent of the poorest households earn income from livestock, representing nearly 1 billion people. Livestock directly contributes to food security and nutrition by transforming vegetation from non-arable land, crop residues, by-products from food processing and organic waste into human food of high nutrient density and nutritional quality.1

Every year, millions of dollars are invested globally in livestock emergency, development and investment initiatives, implemented by numerous partners. These socioeconomic roles and others are increasing in importance as the sector grows due to the greater number of interventions implemented by these partners and donors. However, there is no standardized or global formal coordination mechanism for livestock activities. This has resulted in lower returns on investment, due to duplication, gaps or inappropriate choices of interventions.

Therefore, there is a need to ensure proper accounting and reporting of data and information regarding livestock interventions, hence the Livestock Investment Coordination System (LICS) – a joint initiative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Office of Emergencies and Resilience (OER) and the Animal Production and Health Division (NSA).

LICS includes an online, but protected, SharePoint database for each partner organization and each country where they are working. These multiple datasets could be easily merged into a unified global database. The template is pre-filled with back-end data ready for country offices to enter activity data under the training and guidance of the global office.

LICS provides partners with better monitoring, planning and evaluation of the impact of livestock interventions and provides real-time information for animal health interventions.
The goal of designing a new livestock coordination system is to provide standardized real-time information on the status of the implementation of activities in a country by project, location and type of activity and to provide livestock data in real time. A variety of data on livestock interventions can be provided, including how many animals have been vaccinated or treated, how many livestock have been distributed, how much livestock-related training FAO has delivered and how many tonnes of livestock feed the Organization has provided.

The system is also designed to answer the basic questions related to the 5Ws and provides access to basic data, early warning information and ex-ante impact.

**The 5Ws**
- What activities are being implemented?
- Where are the activities being implemented (up to administrative level 2)?
- Who are the partners providing the support (national and/or international partners)?
- To whom are these support or activities provided within a calendar year?
- When was the activity implemented?

**Impact assessment**
The Livestock Intervention Rapid Assessment (LIRA) is a component of the LICS initiative. This simple application supports the rapid appraisal of alternative investments accessible to a broad group of users. It also provides a ranking of investments, rather than a precise economic/financial appraisal.

**Early warning**
At this level, the system uses data on diseases (including epidemics, endemic diseases and parasitism) and natural disasters (such as droughts, floods and earthquakes) to forecast the impact of the interventions (mitigated vs. unmitigated) on various indicators.

**Benefits**
- LICS enables partners to better monitor, plan and evaluate the impact of livestock interventions.
- LICS provides real-time information and data for animal health interventions to investors and resource partners. It also allows regional, subregional and country offices to monitor their activities via an interactive dashboard that provides essential information called the Livestock Activity Information Database (LAID).

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