The Desert Locust, *Schistocerca gregaria* (Forskål, 1775), is the world’s most dangerous migratory pest with a voracious appetite unmatched in the insect world. Within the Desert Locust’s distribution area, which is equivalent to 20 percent of the Earth’s land surface and stretches from North-West Africa to the Indian subcontinent, the insects can rapidly reproduce, concentrate and then form swarms able to move up to 150 kilometres per day in search of food. These swarms can even cross continents and oceans. A single Desert Locust swarm the size of Brussels could consume Belgium’s entire food supply in a single day.

Desert Locust swarms pose a constant threat to food supplies in some of the world’s poorest and driest countries. Established in 1955 by FAO, when the world was in the midst of a 12-year-long Desert Locust plague, the Desert Locust Control Committee (DLCC) is the primary forum that brings together locust-affected countries, donors and other agencies to discuss Desert Locust management under the FAO umbrella. DLCC is also the primary advisory body to the Director-General of FAO on all Desert Locust issues, and has met 40 times since its establishment till 2012.

The three working languages of DLCC are Arabic, English and French.

**WHAT DLCC DOES?**

The DLCC defines global Desert Locust prevention strategies and common management approaches that are implemented at the regional and national levels.

The activities of DLCC are those that benefit each member country affected by the Desert Locust, specifically:

- Monthly FAO Desert Locust Bulletin with six-week forecasts, supplemented by updates and warnings;
- 11-month training of national locust information officer at FAO headquarters;
- Technical publications such as the FAO Desert Locust Guidelines;
- Fellowships;
- Pesticide Referee Group for the independent evaluation of effective locust control products and potential impact on human health and the environment;
**KEY FACTS**

**FAO DESERT LOCUST CONTROL COMMITTEE**

**The Primary Global Forum Gathering Desert Locust-Affected Countries, Donors and Other Agencies to Discuss Desert Locust Management Under FAO Umbrella**

**Defines Common Desert Locust Prevention Strategies and Management Approaches Globally**

**Provides Guidance to the Three Regional FAO Desert Locust Commissions: CLCprO in the Western Region, CRC in the Central Region and SWAC in South-West Asia**

**Relies Solely on Annual Contributions of Member Countries to a Trust Fund Established in 1966 and Managed by FAO in Order to Carry Out DLCC Activities**

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**DESERT LOCUST CONTROL COMMITTEE: A GLOBAL COORDINATING BODY FOR LOCUST EARLY WARNING AND PREVENTIVE CONTROL**

- Support to the development of new technologies and tools for locust early warning and preventive control;
- Reproduction and distribution of locust-related technical papers;
- Management of the Locust Watch – Desert Locust website;
- Emergency contingency funds;
- Biannual forum for the discussion of all Desert Locust issues.

**INTERNATIONAL TRUST FUND**

The functioning of the DLCC depends on the resources from the Trust Fund established in 1966. Thus, DLCC relies solely on annual contributions from member countries to carry out its activities.

These contributions are extremely modest compared to the benefits that its members receive from the DLCC.

The current total of annual contributions is USD 207,780.

Out of 64 DLCC members, 35 should contribute to the DLCC Trust Fund every year: Afghanistan, Algeria, Bahrain, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, India, Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.

**IMPACT OF DLCC ON DESERT LOCUST CONTROL**

Since the last DLCC in 2012, 12 Desert Locust outbreaks developed in Yemen, Mauritania, Sudan, Eritrea, Saudi Arabia, and Somalia.

All of these outbreaks were brought under control thanks to intensive survey and control operations carried out by the national locust units in the affected countries, supported by the FAO Commissions for Controlling the Desert Locust with technical advice from the Desert Locust Information Service (DLIS) at FAO Headquarters.

Consequently, the situation did not deteriorate further and swarms were prevented from migrating to other countries and regions; hence, upsurges were avoided.

These efforts are a good example of the successful implementation of early warning and preventive control strategy.