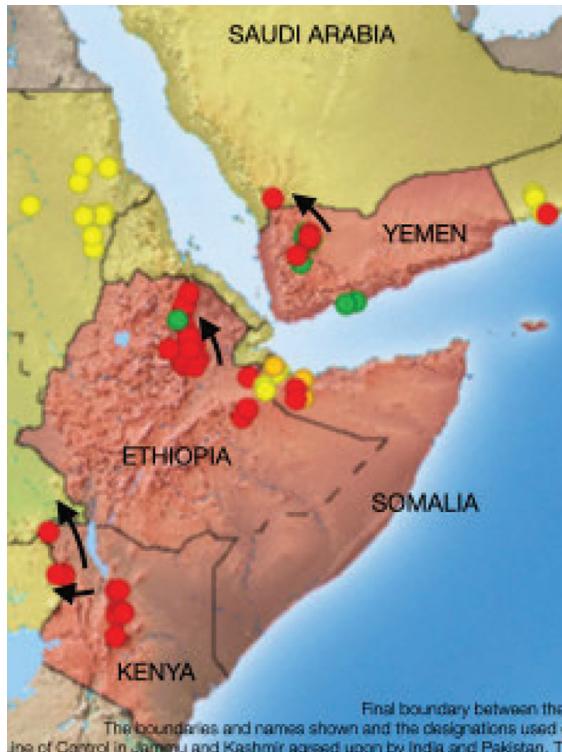




Desert Locust Emergency in Somalia

23 August 2020 | UPDATE 7

CURRENT SITUATION



The Desert Locust situation in Somalia remains classified as **Dangerous**.



During July, immature swarms formed in Somalia and continued to be present in the northwest and northeast throughout August. Similar infestations were reported in adjacent areas of eastern Ethiopia. In Yemen, breeding continued to cause hopper bands and swarms to form in interior and coastal areas.



Government surveys confirm the presence of immature swarms in groups, some solitary adults and isolated hopper bands in Puntland, Somaliland and Galmudug.



Aerial and ground control operations targeting the immature swarms continued in Somaliland. Ground control was carried out against adult infestations in Galmudug and Puntland.



Preliminary results from impact assessment indicate Desert Locust swarms driving food insecurity in affected areas.

Ongoing Control Operations

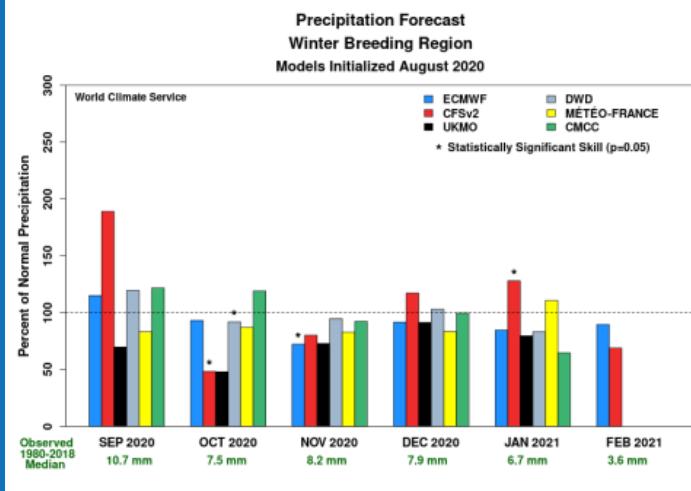
HECTARES CONTROLLED	BIO PESTICIDES	VEHICLES
 Area Treated 53 770 ha	 Procured 11 525	 Procured 17
VEHICLE MOUNTED	KNAPSACK SPRAYER	HOUSEHOLDS
 Procured 40	 Procured 108	 Planned 74 500
 Delivered 34	 Delivered 4 950	 Reached 24 295

REGIONAL RESOURCES & COMMUNICATIONS TOOLS

- [A day in the life of a helicopter pilot](#)
- [Greater Horn of Africa – Desert Locust Crisis Appeal \(January – December 2020\)](#)
- [FAO Somalia Twitter page](#)
- [Making gains in fight against Desert Locust in East Africa](#)
- [UN activities in Somalia, June 2020](#)
- [Locust hub](#)
- [FAO Desert Locust Dashboard](#)
- [FAO Desert Locust Crisis page](#)



>>> FORECAST



According to the World Climate Service, the long term forecast for Somalia predicts good rains for August and September that may support summer breeding of Desert Locust in Somalia. Some of the immature adults that were observed in July and late August will mature and begin to breed in parts of northwest Somalia to form groups of immature adults from late September to early October.

Conditions in Yemen remain wet and conducive for Desert Locust development. Adult swarms and hopper bands reported in Yemen are likely to find their way into Somalia and increase the Desert Locust population size.

Impact on Food Security in Somalia

Desert Locust are transboundary, can spread over a large area in a short time and cause extensive loss to crops and pasture. *Gu* (April-June) is the main cropping season in Somalia. Based on preliminary assessment results, Desert Locust have already caused *Gu* crop and pasture loss in northern Somalia and pose a risk to late planted 2020 *Gu* season crop harvest in central and southern Somalia. As breeding continues in Galmudug, Somaliland and Puntland as well as neighbouring countries, Desert Locust continues to pose a threat to crop production and pasture at least through the end of 2020.

Late planted *Gu* crops in the south and *Gu/Karan* crops in the north are not yet ready for harvest and remain at risk. Con-

tinued rainfall and wet conditions during the typically dry *Hagaa* (July-September) season have created favourable conditions for further breeding.

Crops are susceptible throughout most of their growth stages (germination, vegetative, flowering, seed setting, seed filling and early maturity/milking phases). A Desert Locust invasion could be catastrophic at any one of these stages. Notwithstanding ongoing control efforts, preliminary estimates indicate the overall *Gu* 2020 season crop harvest could be 10 to 15 percent lower compared to the long-term average due to the impact of Desert Locust (production decline is estimated at 20-30 percent below the long-term average when considering the likely combined impacts

of Desert Locust, flooding and extended dry spell since mid-May 2020). This level of production decline is expected to compromise the food security of poor households in the affected areas. Crop production loss and related food security and nutritional impacts are likely to be worse among resource-poor farmers and pastoralists in the affected areas.

Ongoing Desert Locust surveillance and control operations and related capacity building are preventing further crop and pasture losses and must continue to protect livelihoods from Desert Locust as food security is already under threat due to multiple threats that vulnerable Somali populations are facing: Desert Locust, continued flooding and the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19.

Achieved



107 472
metric tonnes

Crops loss averted by harvest time in June (in MT)



\$32.2
million

Income saved @ 300 USD/tonne



716 481

Number of people meeting their annual cereal needs



49 890

Number of pastoral households able to feed their livestock

ONGOING EFFORTS

Control Operations

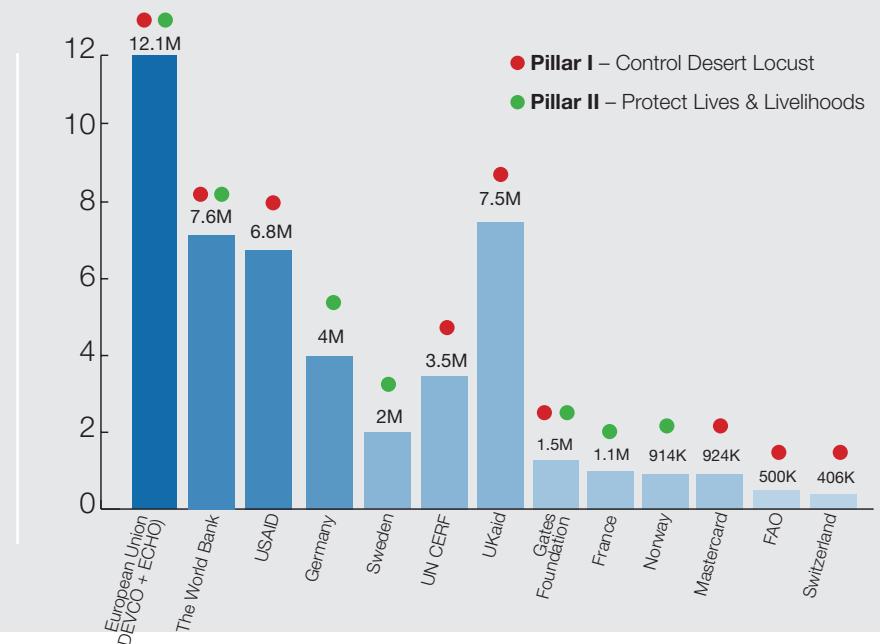
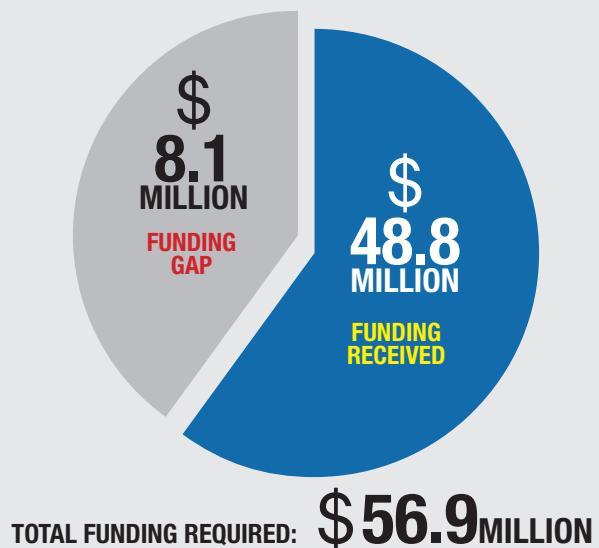
Control efforts continue in northern Somalia targeting immature swarms. The total area treated from the beginning of 2020 to mid August was 53 770 ha of which 22 190 ha were treated by air. The focus for control will gradually shift because of summer breeding that is expected to occur if suitable ecological conditions persist over the next two months. Survey and control operations using helicopters, fixed wing aircraft and 4WD vehicles will continue during the summer.

The new eLocust3 will become operational shortly, allowing field teams to report in real time. Adequate stocks of biopesticides as well as insect growth regulators have been procured to ensure quick response to any detected build up in Desert Locust numbers as a result of new breeding. Aerial capacity will increase with an additional fixed wing spray aircraft to complement the two helicopters in operation.



FAO staff distribute seeds to the people of Jabaaqe village in Somaliland
(3 August 2020)

FUNDING



Resource Partners



Food and Agriculture
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United Nations

