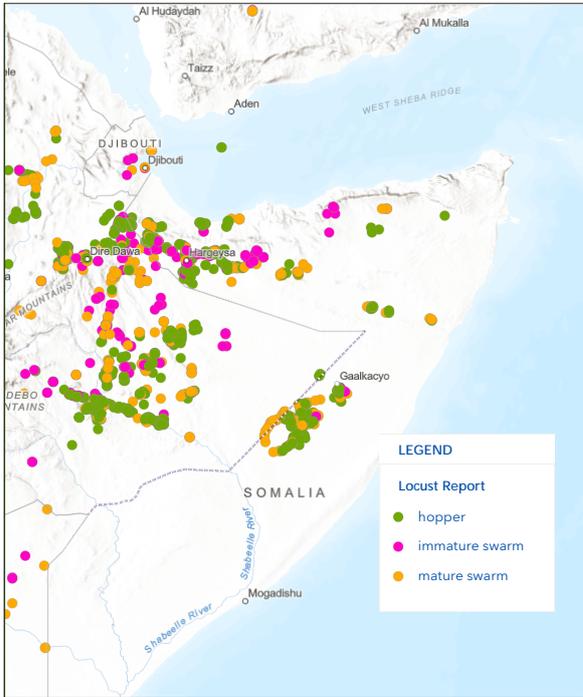




Desert Locust Emergency in Somalia

15 July 2020 | UPDATE 6

CURRENT SITUATION



	The Desert Locust situation in Somalia remains classified as Dangerous .
	During June, hopper bands continued to grow in size and adult swarms have begun to appear in greater numbers on the northern plateau and central region.
	Government surveys confirm the presence of late instar hopper bands, a large number of which are transitioning into young adults.
	Control operations targeting the late instar hopper bands continue in Puntland, Somaliland and Galmadug.
	Preliminary results from impact assessment indicate Desert Locust swarms driving food insecurity in affected areas.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Preliminary results from a cell phone based household survey have been released. FAO's implementing partner contacted 1 702 respondents in Desert Locust affected regions in June 2020. A third of

the respondents reported pasture or crop losses. Half of the impacted cropping households and three quarters of the livestock-rearing households experienced high or very high losses.

The respondents indicated that Desert

Locusts are driving food insecurity and malnutrition, displacements, social tension and emotional stress. Given the high levels of food insecurity in these areas, the Desert Locust related challenges threaten to make the situation deteriorate even further.

Ongoing Control Operations

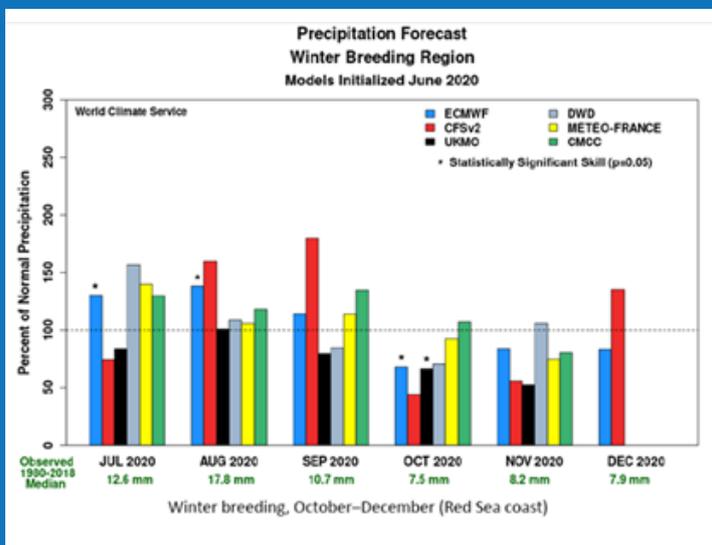
HECTARES CONTROLLED	BIO PESTICIDES	VEHICLES
<p>Area Treated</p> <p>34 225 ha</p> <p> Delay due to COVID19</p>	<p>Procured Delivered</p> <p>11 525 4 100</p> <p> Delay due to COVID19</p>	<p>Procured Delivered</p> <p>17 12</p>
VEHICLE MOUNTED	KNAPSACK SPRAYER	HOUSEHOLDS
<p>Procured Delivered</p> <p>40 34</p>	<p>Procured Delivered</p> <p>108 58</p>	<p>Planned Reached</p> <p>74 500 21 334</p>

REGIONAL RESOURCES & COMMUNICATIONS TOOLS

- [A day in the life of a helicopter pilot](#)
- [Greater Horn of Africa – Desert Locust Crisis Appeal \(January – December 2020\)](#)
- [Radio Ergo Community sensitization radio programmes in collaboration with FAO](#)
- [Desert locust upsurge: Progress report on the response in the Greater Horn of Africa and Yemen | January – April 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 from July to September which will encourage the development of a new generation. The adults that appeared in June will begin to reach maturity in July. Additional swarms from the south and from Yemen are likely to arrive in the north where they are expected to concentrate and move eastwards across the northern plateau. Mature swarms could lay in areas where conditions remain favourable, causing another generation of hatching and hopper bands.

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 and southern Somalia, and risk causing further damage in the second half of 2020 as breeding continues in Galmudug, Somaliland and Puntland as well as neighbouring countries. Late planted *Gu* crops in the south and *Gu/Karan* crops in the north are still standing and remain at risk.

Wet conditions during the *Gu* season and upcoming rains forecast from July

to September 2020 create favourable conditions for further breeding.

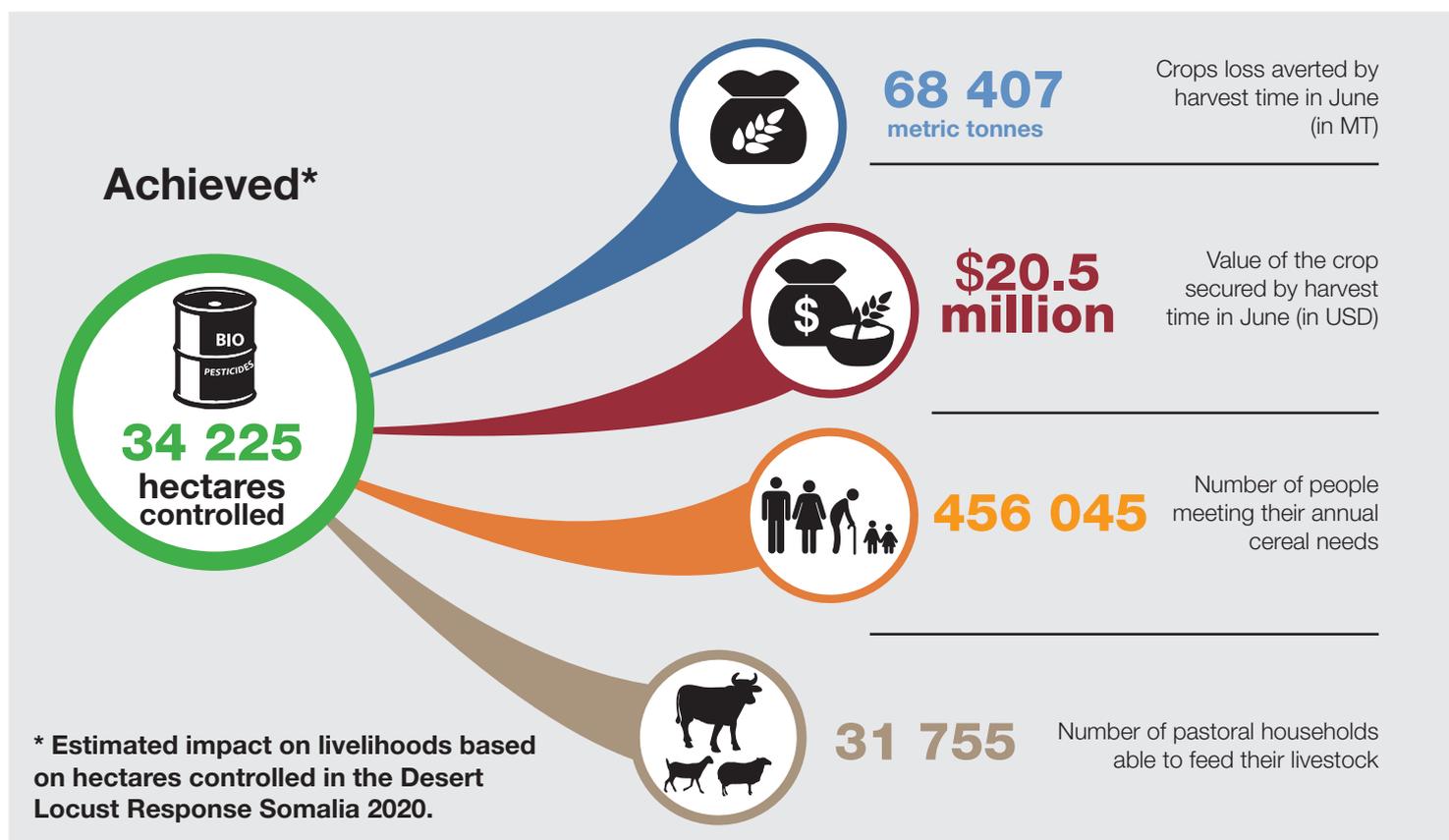
Crops are susceptible throughout most of their growth stages (germination, vegetative, flowering, seed setting, seed filling and early maturity/milking phases). A Desert Locust invasion could be catastrophic at any one of these stages.

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 and will 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 felt by many farmers across the country due to the rapid breeding and migration of Desert Locust from one field to another destroying the food crops and fodder.

The situation has been exacerbated by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic which has affected movement of goods and services leading to an increase in the price of commodities including cereals, pulses and vegetables.

Desert Locust surveillance, control operations and related capacity building must continue to protect livelihoods from these possible invasions as food security is already under threat and the situation is likely to deteriorate in the coming months.



ONGOING EFFORTS



Handover of six vehicles for control and surveillance to Abdirashed Ali Gale, State Minister of Environment, Agriculture and Climate Change, Puntland State, Somalia (Garowe, 5 July 2020).

Control Operations

Since the start of control operations in January 2020, 34 225 hectares have been treated using biopesticides in Somalia's key breeding areas by Government with the direct support of FAO. Helicopter operations have continued and 9 354 ha were sprayed by air over the course of June 2020. Upcoming priorities include hiring additional aircraft to scale up the survey and control operations targeting hoppers from the upcoming generation.

The Puntland Ministry of Environment Agriculture and Climate Change completed the first impact assessment exercise in June to confirm the efficacy of biopesticides and determine if the operations had impacted the communities living in Desert Locust prone areas.

Livelihood Support

FAO continues to work with the Somali government to protect livelihoods. FAO is assisting 24 277 households for the *Gu* and *Karan* cropping seasons in areas at risk of Desert Locust. The anticipated production of maize and sorghum will be enough to feed more than 110 000 people for six months.

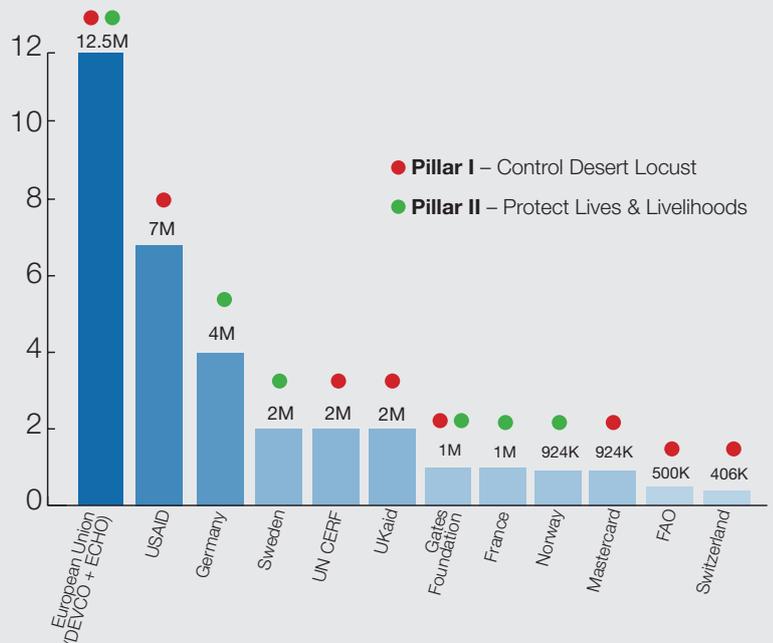
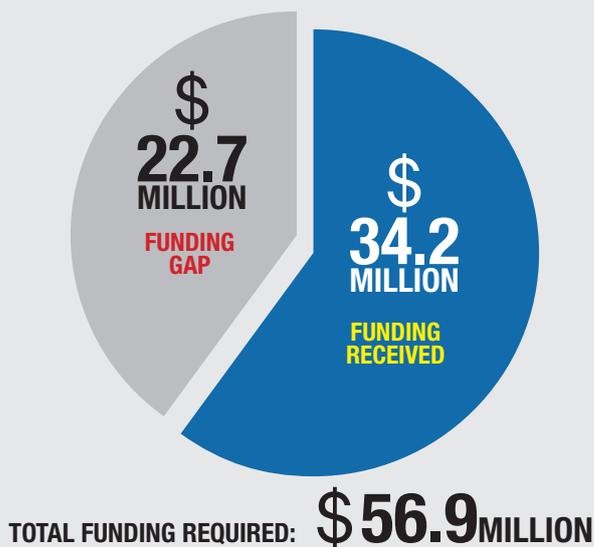
Households are also cultivating cowpea and vegetables which will improve and diversify diets with plant based protein, vitamins and minerals. Additionally, FAO will provide 30 000 pastoral and agro pastoral households in Northern and Central Somalia with 3 600 MT of rangeland cubes. Delivery is expected in August 2020 to reach families during the dry season to supplement scarce feed resources in the affected areas.

FAO urgently seeks to mobilize funding to support farmers, agro-pastoralists and pastoralists in the second half of the year with integrated cash and livelihood assistance.



Vehicles and vehicle-mounted sprayers for control and surveillance handed over to the Puntland Ministry of Environment, Agriculture and Climate Change (Garowe, 5 July 2020).

FUNDING



Resource Partners

