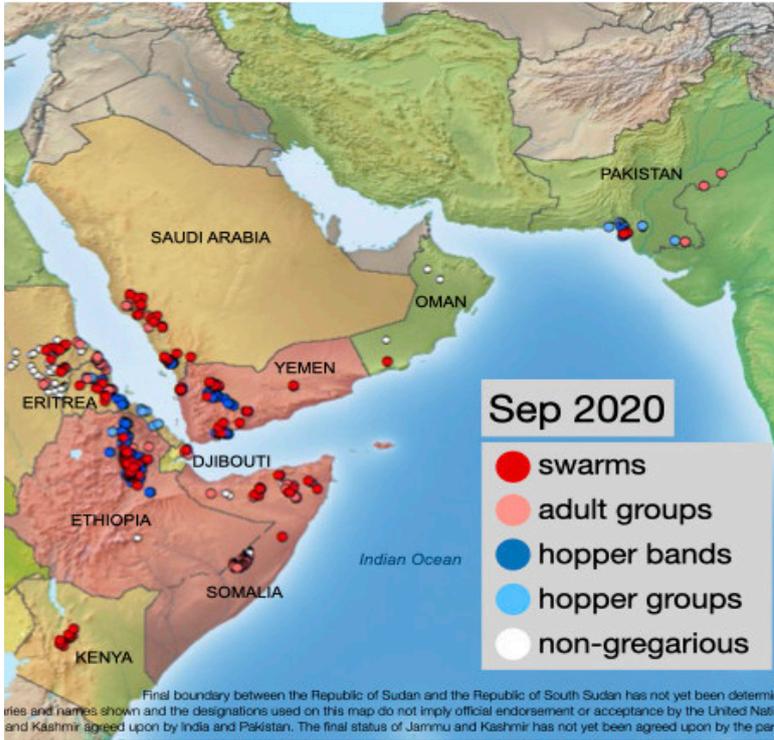




Desert Locust Emergency in Somalia

7 October 2020 | UPDATE 8

CURRENT SITUATION



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



Immature swarms continued to be present in parts of Somaliland and Puntland over the month of September. Mature swarms have been spotted in Puntland and egg laying has been reported in Erigavo. Large numbers of locusts in the Ethiopia highlands, and continued breeding in Yemen, are an additional threat.



Most of the reported swarms are in the plateau between Hargeisa and Gardo with some solitary adults reported in Galmudug. There have not been any reported locust sightings in the southern states.



Aerial and ground control operations, led by the federal and state Ministries of Agriculture with the support of FAO, targeting the immature swarms continue in Puntland and Somaliland.

Ongoing Control Operations

HECTARES CONTROLLED	BIO PESTICIDES	VEHICLES
<p>Area Treated 73 097 ha</p> <p></p>	<p>Procured Delivered 11 525 8 535</p> <p>IGR: 30 000 lts</p> <p></p>	<p>Procured Delivered 19 17</p>
VEHICLE MOUNTED	KNAPSACK SPRAYER	HOUSEHOLDS
<p>Procured Delivered 40 40</p>	<p>Procured Delivered 108 58</p>	<p>Planned Reached 72 750 36 183</p>

REGIONAL RESOURCES & COMMUNICATIONS TOOLS

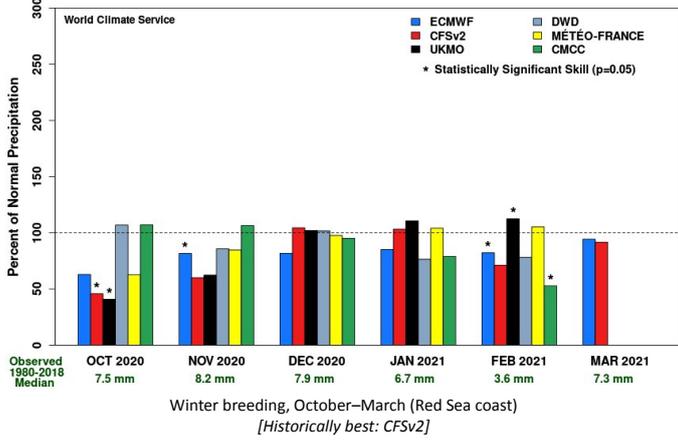
- [Video story: A day in the life of a helicopter pilot](#)
- [Greater Horn of Africa – Desert Locust Crisis Appeal \(January – December 2020\)](#)
- [FAO Somalia Twitter account](#)
- [FAO Locust Twitter account](#)
- [Video story: Aerial control operations funded by European Union Humanitarian Aid in Somaliland](#)
- [Making gains in fight against Desert Locust in East Africa](#)
- [UN activities in Somalia, June 2020](#)
- [Locust hub](#)



FORECAST

Precipitation Forecast Winter Breeding Region

Models Initialized September 2020



According to the World Climate Service, the long term forecast for Somalia predicts lower than normal rains for October and November 2020 but normal rainfall in the winter breeding areas is expected in December. A reasonable amount of rain fell on some of these breeding areas during the month of September enabling mature adults to breed a new generation. With the winds now beginning to change direction and blow to the south, immature swarms in Northern Somalia are likely to be blown to the southern states and combine with immature swarms migrating from Yemen and Ethiopia.

Impact on Food Security in Somalia

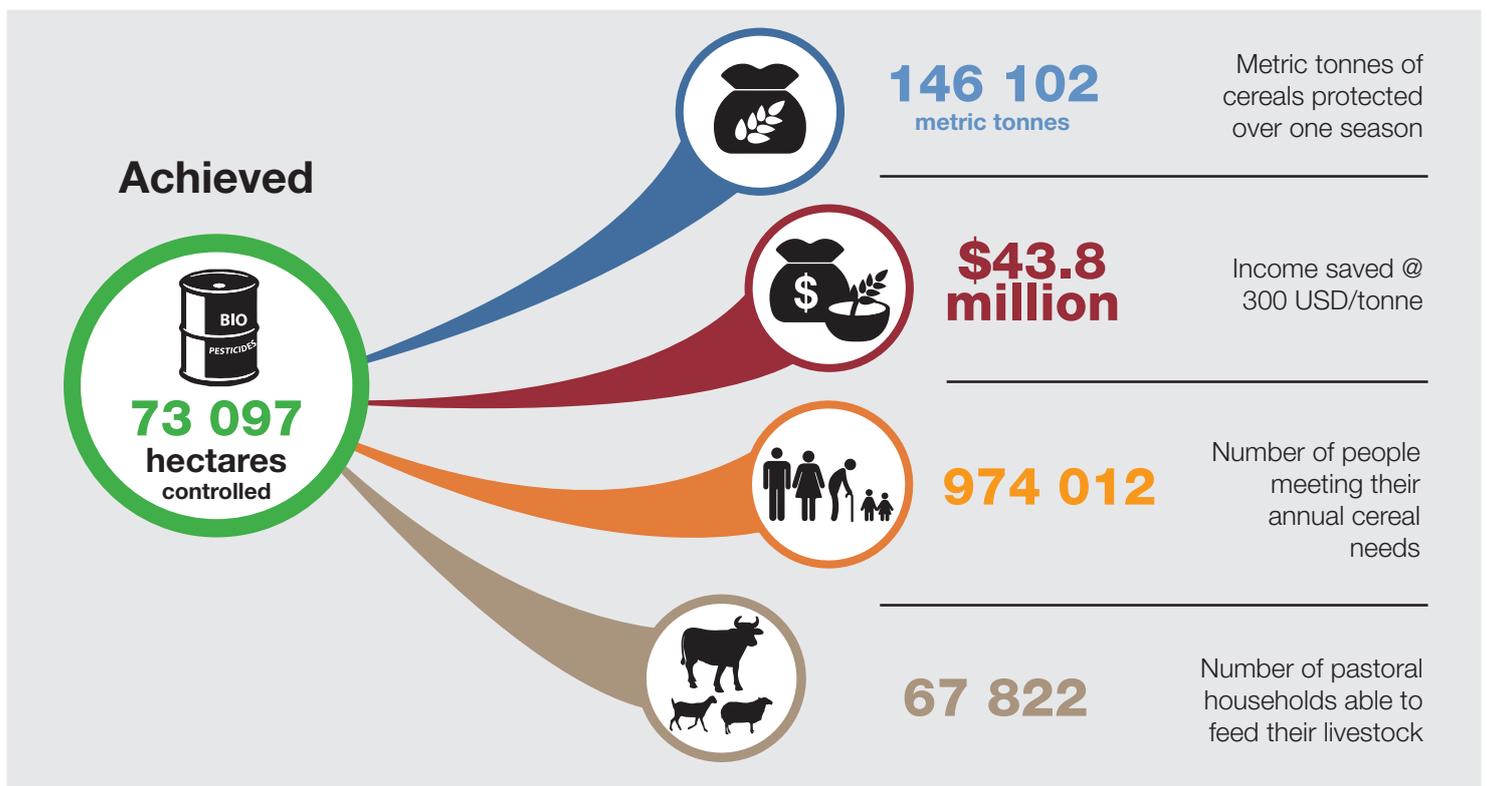
Desert Locust are transboundary, can spread over a large area in a short time and cause extensive loss to crops and pasture. Crops are susceptible throughout most of their growth stages (germination, vegetative, flowering, seed setting, seed filling and early maturity/milking phases). A Desert Locust invasion could be catastrophic at any one of these stages. Based on the 2020 post *Gu* (April-June) seasonal food security, livelihoods and nutrition assessment results, **Desert Locust have already caused significant crop loss in northern Somalia**. Despite some loss of pasture in northern and central regions, heavy rainfall in April through mid-May, and additional rainfall from July to September, has lessened the impact and replenished pasture across most regions. The 2020 *Gu* season crop production in southern Somalia has not been significantly

affected by Desert Locust. Notwithstanding ongoing control efforts, 2020 *Gu* assessment results indicate that the overall 2020 *Gu* crop harvest is 40-45 percent lower compared to the long-term average due to the combined impacts of severe flooding since April, the extended dry spell between mid-May and late June, and the Desert Locust damage. This decline in production and associated reduction in household income from agricultural labour have significantly compromised the food security of poor households in the affected areas.

The latest forecasts indicate that the 2020 October to December *Deyr* season rainfall will likely be below average across most parts of Somalia and lead to a decline in crop production and pasture availability. Desert Locust infestations are expected to worsen the impacts of a below average *Deyr* season rainfall on crops and pasture.

The risk of Desert Locust damage remains high during the *Deyr* season due to the presence and continued breeding of Desert Locust in northern and central Somalia and severe infestations in neighbouring Ethiopia and across the Gulf of Aden in Yemen, as well as expected changes in wind direction. Crop production and pasture loss, and related food security and nutritional impacts are likely to have a far greater impact on resource poor farmers and pastoralists in the affected areas.

Scaled up 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 the Somali populations are already facing multiple threats to food security: Desert Locust, the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 and a developing drought condition.



ONGOING EFFORTS

Control Operations



Photo Credit: Farmland Aviation Ltd

Thrush spray aircraft, Igal International Airport, Hargeisa (29 September 2020)

Control efforts, led jointly with the government of Somalia, continue in northern Somalia targeting immature swarms. The total area treated from the beginning of 2020 to the end of September was 73 097 ha of which 23 717 ha were treated by air. Unfortunately, the immature adult population persisted as expected and mature locusts only began to appear towards the end of September. Over the month of October, control operations led by the Ministries of Agriculture, will target all swarms. FAO will provide technical and operational support.

In preparation for the winter breeding season (October – March), FAO has procured two additional helicopters bringing

the total to four. The helicopter fleet is now supported by a single fixed wing aircraft. In case of any new breeding, 30 000 litres of Teflubenzuron 30ULV insect growth regulator have been prepositioned to ensure quick response.

The data collection capacity of the survey teams has increased with the delivery of 12 Garmin (InReach) devices for use with the eL3g tool. The EarthRanger data management platform fully supports real-time monitoring and reporting of survey and control operations. EarthRanger is a vital tool that will provide stakeholders with updated data and maps on a daily basis to guide the response to the Desert Locust crisis.

Livelihoods Support

24 300 households have been reached with *Gu/Karan* farming inputs in north-west, southern and central Somalia, and continued support such as irrigation hours for extended cropping in riverine areas. The anticipated production of maize and sorghum will be enough to feed more than 110 000 people for six months.

FAO is targeting 16 000 households in Deyr 2020 with integrated cash and livelihood assistance (Cash+). Beneficiaries have been registered in the seven districts – Belet Weyne, Baydhaba, Qansax Dheere, Xudur, Baardheere Waajid and Jalalaqsi – and farming input distribution is ongoing. Seventy-five percent of households, 11 888, have received inputs and beneficiaries in Waajid and Jalalaqsi have received the first month of cash payments. The remaining beneficiaries are undergoing verification and will receive the first cash payment over the second week of October 2020.

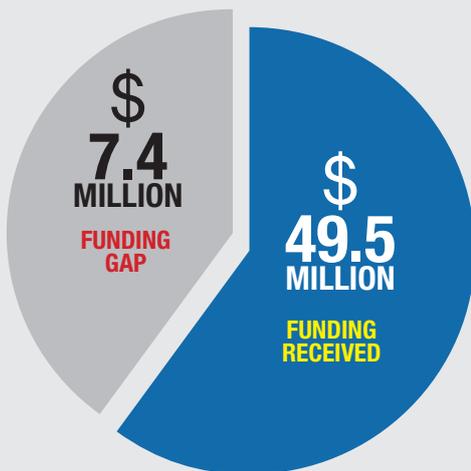
Furthermore, in September 2020, FAO launched radio programmes on good agricultural practices to complement extension services to prevent the spread of COVID-19. These programmes are being aired

on local radio stations.

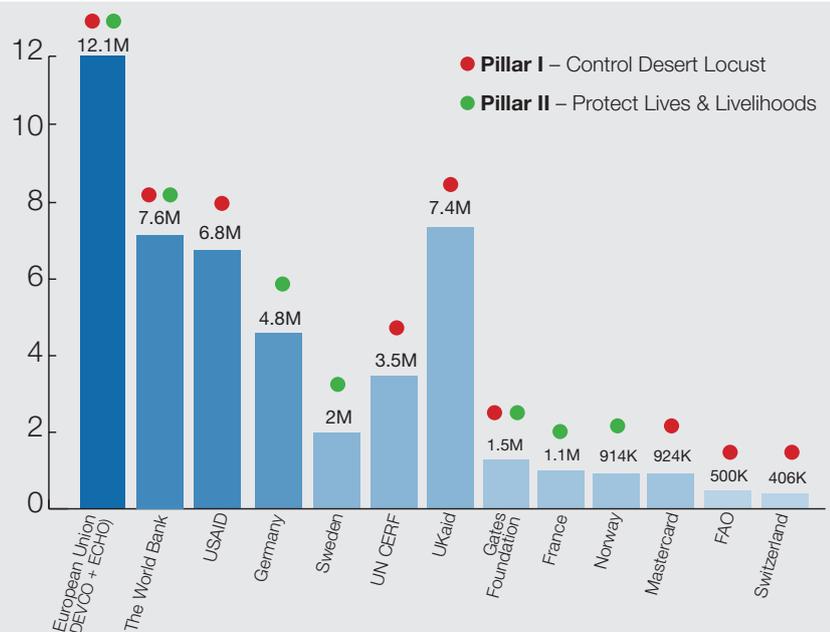
FAO will provide 30 000 pastoral and agro pastoral households in Northern and Central Somalia with 3 600 MT of rangeland cubes. Families will receive these inputs during the dry season to supplement scarce feed resources in the affected areas. Delivery in Somalia began in September 2020. An additional 2 450 households will be reached with a livestock livelihood package paired with unconditional cash. Delivery of these inputs will begin at the end of October 2020.

Under the current Desert Locust Joint Action Plan for Somalia, FAO urgently seeks to mobilize funds in the last quarter of 2020 to support additional pastoral households with Cash+ packages and to provide unconditional cash transfers to farmers in northwest Somalia who experienced severe *Gu/Karan* crop loss and will be unable to harvest again until mid-late 2021. The Government of Somalia will lead the support to farmers and (agro)pastoralists into 2021, details of which will be provided in an extended Joint Action Plan covering needs through June 2021.

FUNDING



TOTAL FUNDING REQUIRED: **\$56.9 MILLION**



Resource Partners



BILL & MELINDA GATES foundation

