



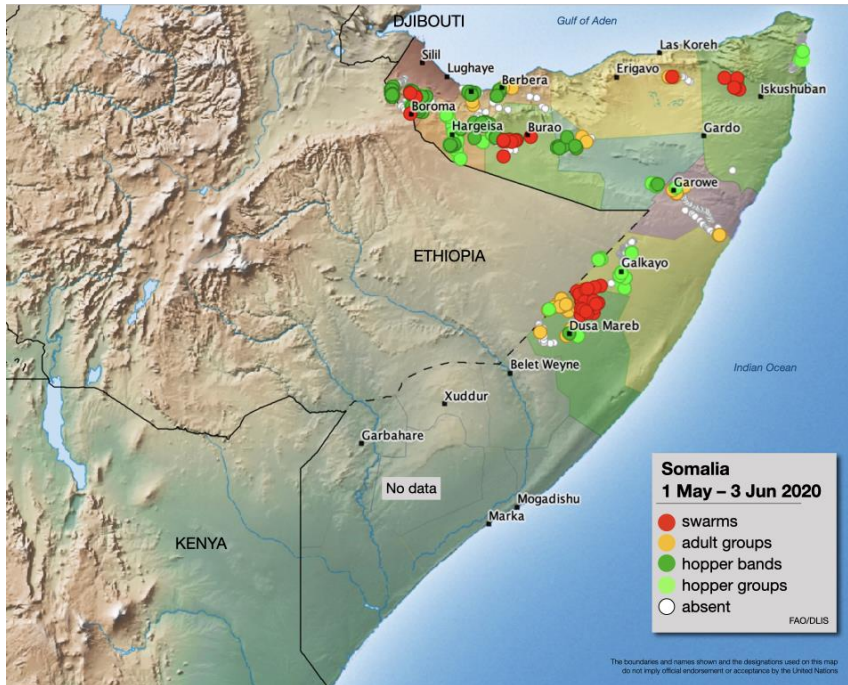
# Desert Locust Emergency in Somalia

UPDATE 5 | 9 June 2020



Helicopter control operations in Puntland, June 2020

## Current situation



The Desert Locust situation in Somalia continues to be categorized at the highest threat level, “Dangerous”. During May, adult groups and swarms were present and laying eggs on the northern plateau and central region. Reports from government surveys confirm the hatching of the fourth generation in Galmudug, Somaliland and Puntland. Ongoing control efforts are targeting older nymphs, adults and newly emerged hoppers, while further surveillance continues. FAO continues to monitor the newly forming generation and is carrying out control operations as they hatch. The impact of Desert Locust swarms on rural livelihoods is currently being assessed and results will be disseminated to partners to inform upcoming response planning.

## Forecast

Present ecological conditions are suitable for the development of a new generation of Desert Locust. According to the World Climate Service, the long term forecast for Somalia predicts good rains in June which will encourage the development and maturity of the newly emerged hoppers if not controlled. A similar situation is anticipated in the Somali region of Ethiopia. While FAO continues to monitor and respond to the Desert Locust situation globally, FAO Somalia is closely watching the situation in neighbouring Ethiopia and Kenya as it may impact Somalia directly.

## Regional resources & communications tools

Greater Horn of Africa – Desert Locust Crisis Appeal (January-December 2020)

<http://www.fao.org/emergencies/resources/documents/resources-detail/en/c/1276759/>

Desert locust upsurge: Progress report on the response in the Greater Horn of Africa and Yemen | January – April 2020

<http://www.fao.org/emergencies/resources/documents/resources-detail/en/c/1274464/>

Handover of vehicles to the Ministry of Agricultural Development, Somaliland

<https://twitter.com/FAOSomalia/status/1265259993563004929>

Locust hub

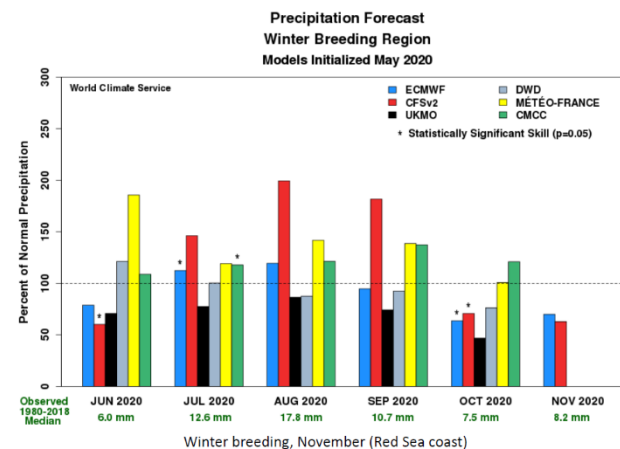
<https://locust-hub-hqfao.hub.arcgis.com/>

FAO Desert Locust Dashboard

<http://www.fao.org/locusts/response-overview-dashboard/en/>

FAO Desert Locust Crisis page

<http://www.fao.org/locusts>



## Impact on food security in Somalia

Current *Gu* (April-June) season crop production in agro pastoral and rainfed areas is under threat due to the ongoing breeding of Desert Locust in Galmudug, Somaliland and Puntland, and in neighbouring countries. Desert Locust are transboundary, can spread over a large area in a short time and cause extensive loss to crop, pasture and livelihood assets in rural areas. Very wet conditions during the ongoing *Gu* season and consequent rapid vegetation growth have created abundant feeding grounds for locusts and favourable conditions for further breeding. Crops are susceptible throughout most of its growth stages (germination, vegetative, flowering, seed setting, seed filling and early maturity/milking phases). The risk will further extend to farmers who will replant their fields following extensive riverine and flash floods in southern Somalia. Notwithstanding ongoing control efforts, preliminary estimates indicate the overall 2020 *Gu* season crop harvest could be 10 to 15 percent lower compared to the long-term average due to the impact of Desert Locust and this in turn will compromise the food security of poor households in the affected areas. Crop production loss and related food security impacts are likely to be exacerbated by extensive flooding between April and mid-May and dry spells experienced since.

Desert Locust surveillance, control operations and related capacity building must continue to protect livelihoods and food security. Severe locust damage, even at a localized scale, could reduce local availability of seed and grain, and increase the price of commodities such as fruit and vegetables. This would further impact the food security, dietary diversity and purchasing power of poor farmer households in the affected areas.

## Ongoing efforts

Since the start of control operations, 10 245 hectares have been treated using biopesticides in Somalia's key breeding areas by Government with the direct support of FAO. Ground spray operations have been fortified thanks to six newly acquired land cruisers and vehicle mounted sprayers recently delivered to the Desert Locust unit in Hargeisa, bringing the total to 40 fully operational vehicles across Somalia. Government will continue these operations and plans to spray 180 000 hectares across the country by the end of 2020. The ongoing control operations are targeting the older nymphs, adults and newly emerged hoppers. In Puntland, two helicopters commenced survey and control operations on 17 May in Sool and Nugaal and will move into Galkayo and Dhusamareb in mid-June 2020. In Dhusamareb, field surveys have identified a large number of hoppers and the Government is mobilizing ground teams to control the hopper bands that are forming. Surveying activities have been intensified to map the areas for immediate targeting by the aerial and ground operations.



*Desert Locust swarm, Somaliland (March 2020)*

In parallel, FAO is working with government to protect livelihoods. FAO will provide 30 000 pastoral and agro pastoral households in Northern and Central Somalia with 3 600 MT of rangeland cubes during the the dry season to supplement scarce feed resources in the affected areas. FAO continues to provide livelihood assistance for the ongoing *Gu* cropping season to 54 300 households in areas at risk of Desert Locust northern and southern Somalia. In some target locations in southern Somalia, severe floods in April-May further threatened farmers' production. Through SMS alerts, FAO advised farmers not to plant ahead of the floods to avoid the loss of planting materials. Input distribution is currently ongoing in the flood-affected areas, equipping farmers to plant with the flood recession waters, aided by the provision of irrigation services in riverine areas.

## Additional support required for Somalia

FAO and the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation joint Desert Locust Crisis – Somalia Action Plan requires USD 56.9 million and is 44 percent funded at USD 25 million. FAO urgently seeks to bridge the funding gap of USD 32 million to ensure continuity of Desert Locust control operations and livelihood activities in the second half of 2020.

Underfunded activities include continued control operations targeting Galmudug, Somalia and Puntland during the month of June. Upcoming livelihood interventions will deliver integrated cash and livelihood assistance packages to farmers, agro pastoralists and pastoralists in areas severely impacted by Desert Locust damage.