



## IN NUMBERS



Total area treated since June 2019 is about **2 405 km<sup>2</sup>**



Desert locusts have caused a cereal loss of over **356 000 MT**



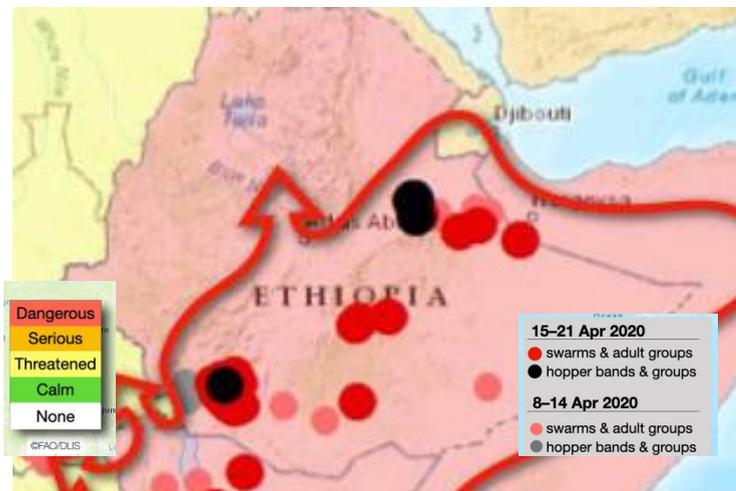
**62 000** households to receive livelihood and food security assistance from FAO



**USD 65.5 million** needed for control and response in Ethiopia (appeal being revised)

## KEY MESSAGES

- The current desert locust situation remains extremely alarming as more swarms form and mature in southern Ethiopia (Oromia and Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' Region (SNNPR)) and disperse northwards in to the Somali region.
- Mature and young swarms are crossing from Somalia to the Somali region and Dire Dawa city. Hoppers are hatching in Shinele and near Dire Dawa city. Control operations in these areas have been launched.
- The desert locust invasion represents an unprecedented threat to food security and livelihoods as it coincides with the February – May rains and planting season.
- Although ground and aerial control operations are in progress, rains will allow the new swarms to mostly stay in place, mature and lay eggs while a few swarms could move from **Kenya to Ethiopia, Uganda and South Sudan.**
- During May 2020, more eggs will hatch and form new swarms in late June and July 2020, which coincides with the start of the harvest *Belg*-grown crops and the *Meher* season.
- Starting mid-September 2020, the locusts that will hatch in the summer breeding areas and migrate south, towards the winter breeding areas in eastern Ethiopia and Somalia.
- A joint assessment on the [Impact of desert locust on food security and livelihoods in Ethiopia](#) carried out by the Government of Ethiopia, FAO, the Agriculture Taskforce, the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) Technical Working Group and the Food Security Cluster found that an estimated one million people in Ethiopia are in need of emergency food assistance due to the ongoing desert locust invasion. The locusts have damaged about 200 000 ha of cropland and caused a cereal loss of over 356 000 tonnes.
- According to the last IPC analysis, an estimated 8.5 million people were already in severe acute food insecurity in Ethiopia prior to the invasion, a figure that is expected to rise following the locust crisis and COVID-19, which is hampering deliveries and travel.
- There is an urgent need to scale up control operations and livelihood support for affected communities in Ethiopia (and the region as a whole) to prevent the situation from further deteriorating.



## CONTROL OPERATIONS

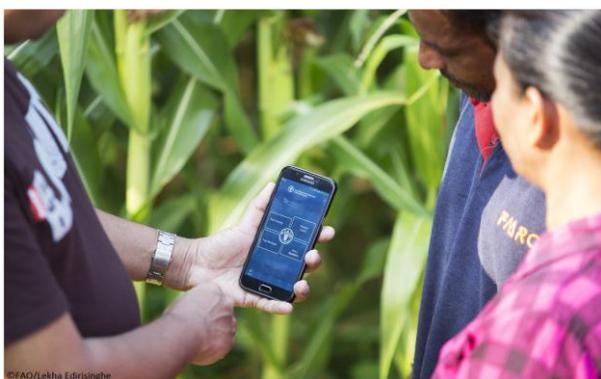
- Six aircraft are conducting aerial control operations. Two of them are rented by FAO and are operating from Arba Minch in SNNPR. The Desert Locust Organization for Eastern Africa (DLCOEA)'s aircraft is operating around Dire Dawa and government-leased aircraft are in Bale, Jigjiga and Dire Dawa.

- Ground control operations are ongoing in the southern Oromia, Somali and SNNPR regions and in Dire Dawa, using vehicle-mounted sprayers, motorized and manual knapsack sprayers and handheld ULV sprayers. The total area treated since June 2019 is about 2 405 km<sup>2</sup> and the total amount of pesticide applied to date is 210 400 litres.

## FAO'S ROLE

- Restrictions on the movement of personnel and equipment imposed by COVID-19 have created challenges. FAO is continuing to work with the Government to contain the DL outbreak. The Organization is providing an assortment of spraying, protective and surveillance equipment (see table) to scale up control operations
- FAO is implementing a livelihoods recovery programme targeting over 62 000 farming and pastoralist households, who will be provided with livestock feed, agricultural inputs and cash transfers, with the aim of limiting the risk of vulnerable communities resorting to negative coping strategies.
- The Organization has surged experts to Ethiopia and is supporting the training of scouts to conduct surveillance and ground control operations.

Items procured by FAO	Quantity
Vehicles and trucks	43
Motorbikes	110
Vehicle-mounted sprayers	46
Handheld and knapsack sprayers	4 515
Pesticide (litres)	330 000
PPE	4 000
Rental planes/helicopters (spraying & surveillance)	5
Pesticide pumps (various)	18
Emergency shower, eye-wash	28
Human health testing kits	3
GPS	250

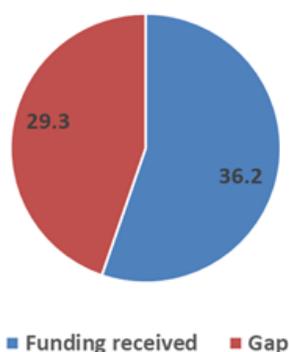


- FAO is closely monitoring the desert locust situation and providing forecasts, early warning, regular updates and alerts through its global [Desert Locust Information Service \(DLIS\)](#), based at FAO headquarters in Rome
- FAO is encouraging partners to use [eLocust3m](#), an electronic application (available on Google Play), to record and transmit data on locusts in real time to the national locust centre and ultimately to the DLIS.

## FUNDING

FAO revised its desert locust crisis appeal to USD 153 million for ten countries (**Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, the Sudan, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Yemen**). So far, FAO in Ethiopia has received USD 36.2 million, of which USD 22.6 million is for control operations and USD 13.6 million for safeguarding livelihoods. The timing of funding is critical for both pillars of the appeal (control and livelihoods). Any delay in scaling up field operations will likely lead to a further expansion of desert locust and a marked deterioration in food security.

Funding status for Ethiopia (\$ million)



Operations made possible thanks to the following donors



## PLANNED ACTIVITIES

- Curb the spread of desert locust:** assessments, early warning and forecasting, locust control operations (aerial and spraying), ground surveillance and impact assessments
- Safeguard and support early livelihoods recovery:** comprehensive livelihood recovery package and cash transfers and cash+, supplementary livestock feed and farming input packages
- Coordination:** deploy rapid surge support, coordinate cross-border response and improve national capacities.

## CONTACT

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<sup>1</sup> The amount (USD 65.5 million) is not reflected in the FAO Regional Appeal, currently being revised.