



### IN NUMBERS



Total area treated since June 2019 is **4 197 km<sup>2</sup>**



FAO is leasing **2 helicopters** and **2 planes** to boost surveillance and control



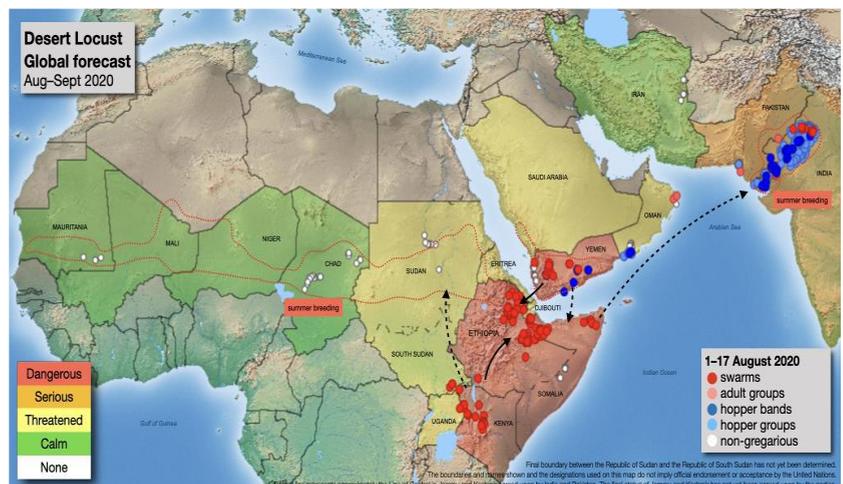
**70 000** households to receive livelihood assistance from FAO to improve food security



**USD 79 million** needed for control and livelihoods response in Ethiopia

### KEY MESSAGES

- Since the beginning of August, mature swarms crossed from Yemen, reaching Afar (Afambo, Elidare, Mile, Adar, Chifra and Awar). FAO has repositioned two planes in Afar to intensify control operations
- Active movement of immature DL swarms between Somalia and eastern Ethiopia
- Continuous ground and aerial survey carried out in Afar, SNNP, Somali, Amhara, Oromia and Tigray regions
- Active aerial control operation continues in Afar, eastern parts of Somali and Oromia
- The situation in SNNPR is calm. A DLIS alert is preparing for residual swarms from Kenya that may find their way northward
- The situation in Yemen remains suitable for desert locust swarming, which is a threat to northeast Ethiopia: the Ministry of Agriculture is on high-alert for the whole of July 2020 and beyond
- The conducive climatic conditions (above-average rainfall) and the massive presence of DL in Yemen lead to forecast an increase of DL presence from September 2020 onward



### CONTROL OPERATIONS

- Four aircraft are currently deployed for aerial control operations – two leased by FAO (Kombolcha and Samara), one by the Government (Jigjiga) and one by DLCO (Arbaminch). The other planes (Government and DLCO) are grounded.
- Two helicopters leased by FAO for surveillance: based in Jigjiga and Kombolcha
- Total area surveyed to date: 10 195 km<sup>2</sup>
- Total infested area to date: 4 416 km<sup>2</sup>
- Total area treated to date: 4 197 km<sup>2</sup>
- The country has sufficient stocks of pesticides up to October 2020. Funding is sufficient to cover the lease of all aircrafts until the end of 2020.
- Data gathering on desert locust presence remains a major challenge. The recent security disturbances and the unavailability of communication (phone, internet) are preventing the gathering and dissemination of data.

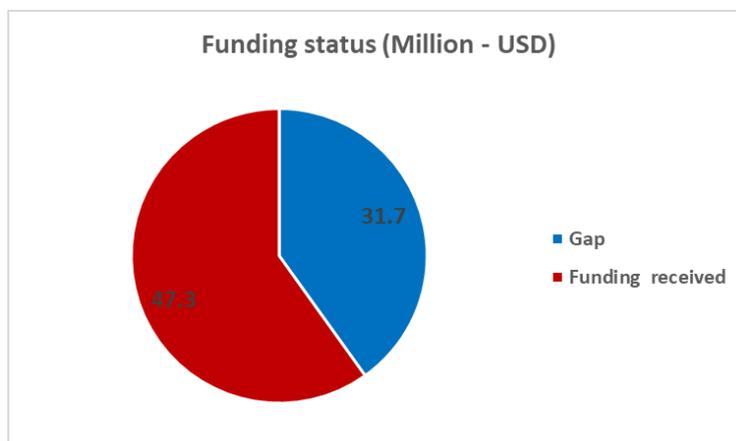
## FAO'S ROLE

- Despite restrictions on the movement of personnel and equipment imposed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, 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 and field vehicles to scale up control operations.
- FAO is implementing a livelihoods recovery program targeting over 70 000 farming and pastoralist households, whom will be provided with agricultural inputs (livestock feed or seeds) and cash transfers, with the aim of limiting the risk of vulnerable communities resorting to negative coping strategies. Seed distribution is almost completed in all areas. Livestock feed distribution is starting by mid-August. The distribution of cash transfers will start in late August.
- The Organization has surged experts to Ethiopia and is supporting the aerial survey and control operations as well as assessing the impact of sprayed pesticides on health and environment.
- FAO is closely monitoring the desert locust situation, 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 record and transmit data in real time to the plant protection directorate and ultimately to the DLIS. FAO is providing capacity building on how to use [eLocust3m](#), a mobile phone application.
- There are increased eLocust3m data entries that are providing vital information on the DL situation in the country. Over 100 NGO staff are now part of the programme.
- The major challenge is obtaining timely and reliable data on desert locust presence and type. The recent internet interruption may further difficulties in both gathering data and control operations..



## FUNDING

In May 2020, FAO revised the DL Crisis Appeal to USD 231.64 million for 10 countries (**Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, the Sudan, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Yemen**), of which USD 79 million is for Ethiopia. So far, FAO in Ethiopia has received USD 47.3 million, of which USD 30.9 million is for control operations and USD 16.4 million is for safeguarding livelihoods. The timing of funding is critical for both pillars of the appeal. Any delay in scaling up field operations will likely lead to a further expansion of the desert locust spread and a marked deterioration in food security.



## PLANNED ACTIVITIES

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

Operations made possible thanks to these donors



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