



ADDENDUM TO

THE FOOD AND NUTRITION CRISIS IN THE SAHEL:

Urgent action to support the resilience of
vulnerable populations

Desert Locust threat in the Sahel – 2012

June 2012

Desert Locust threat in the Sahel – 2012

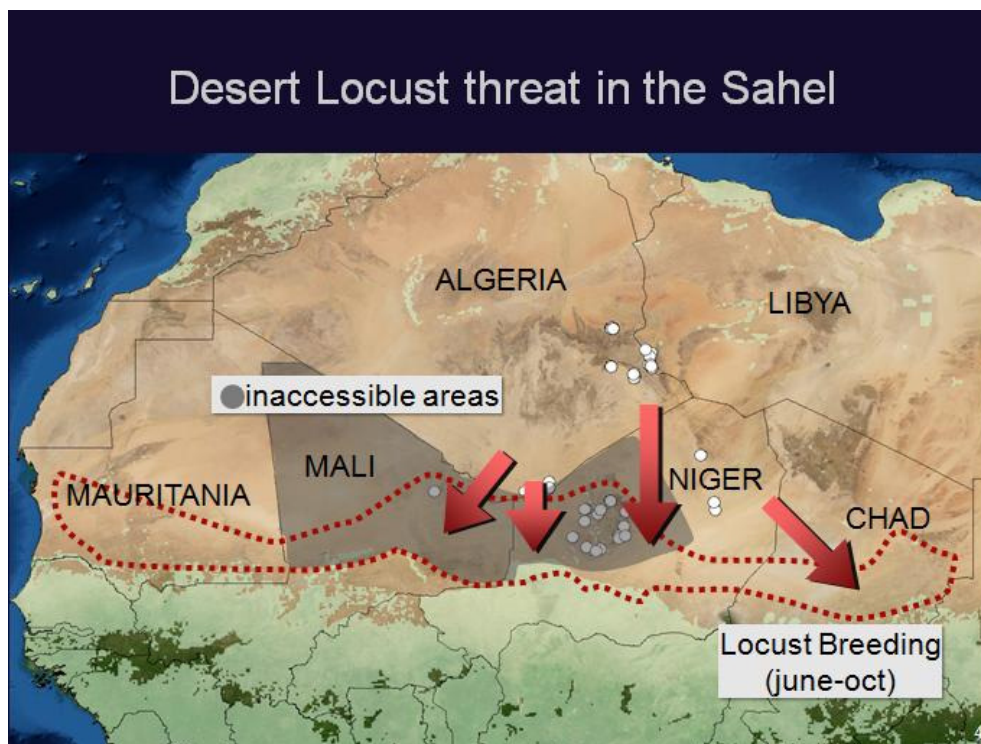
Summary

Following unusual rains in late 2011 and early 2012, Desert Locust infestations were first reported in southwest Libya and in southeast Algeria in January 2012. Despite insecurity along both sides of the border, more than 60 000 hectares have been treated by national teams, thanks to the support provided to Libya by FAO and the FAO Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Western Region (CLCPRO). As ecological conditions dried out, locusts migrated south in the areas of recent rainfall in Niger and Mali from late May onwards.

The arrival of the locusts coincides with planting and emergence of this year's summer rain fed crops in agricultural zones in Niger, Mali and Chad. Therefore, there is an immediate and severe threat to crops in these countries. Depending on weather conditions (primarily rains) access to locust infested areas, this threat could continue this summer as two successive generations of breeding occur, causing locusts to increase up to 250 fold. Unless controlled, large numbers of swarms could form at the end of the summer and invade Libya, Algeria, Mauritania and perhaps Morocco.

Immediate availability of funds is essential to carry out proper survey and control operations in Niger and Mali (and to a lesser extent in Chad) against incoming swarms and the forthcoming generation during July and August. Preparedness against a second potentially larger generation of breeding in September and October is also crucial.

These actions are required to protect crops, contribute to food and nutrition security and reduce the scale of swarm formation and migration to adjacent countries. FAO will continue monitoring the progression of the Desert Locust in the Sahel.



Actions to be taken NOW

In **Niger**, the National Locust Centre is currently mobilizing survey and control teams. Support is required urgently to enhance the capacity of survey and control teams to intervene on a large scale, if needed, and for the required duration.

Due to high level of insecurity in most parts of **Mali**, interventions will be limited in scale. Nevertheless, support is required to increase the national capacity of the National Desert Locust Center for early warning as well as surveillance and control operations in accessible areas.

To a lesser extent, operations have also to be launched in **Chad**.

Mauritania as well as **Algeria**, **Libya** and **Morocco** have been requested to activate their National Contingency Plans, in preparation of a potential invasion.

The scale of control operations beyond the summer will depend on rainfall, locust developments and control operations during the next two months.

Immediate Funding Requirements

Immediate funding requirements for supporting Sahelian countries to address the current Desert Locust threat are estimated at **USD 10 million**.

Funds are mainly required to allow national locust control units to operate and to ensure proper coordination by FAO and its Regional Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Western Region (CLCPRO).

Budget line	Amount required in USD
Technical assistance (national and international locust experts, campaign coordinators, etc.)	500 000
Surveillance and control operating expenses (including provision of fuel, renting of vehicles, security equipment, etc.)	8 000 000
Contracts (airlifting for triangulation of pesticides)	1 300 000
Expendable equipment (such as spraying equipment and spare parts)	200 000
Total estimated costs	10 000 000*

*Agency support costs are included in the total budget