



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

DESERT LOCUST UPDATE

DESERT LOCUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Danger Level = Serious (Central Region)

2 JULY 2021. SWARMS IN SOMALIA

OVERVIEW. After an initial short-lived decline, immature swarms are increasing in northwest Somalia where control operations and local movements are in progress. There has been a recent increase in swarm sightings in adjacent areas of Ethiopia and Djibouti. While some of this may be due to local breeding, it may also be the first signs of the expected migration towards northeast Ethiopia. On 30 June, an immature swarm was seen on the eastern escarpment near the Amhara/Afar border. There is a risk that a few swarms could continue through the northern highlands to Sudan. In Yemen, a few swarms from the north appeared recently in the northern highlands. While most of these swarms should move to the interior for summer breeding, a few could migrate to Afar.

WHY IT MATTERS. The effectiveness of current survey and control operations in northern Somalia and eastern Ethiopia determines the scale of swarm migration to northeast Ethiopia. Similarly, the scale of breeding this summer in the Afar region is influenced by the number of swarms arriving from the east and Yemen, and rainfall from July to September, which is predicted to be higher than normal this year.

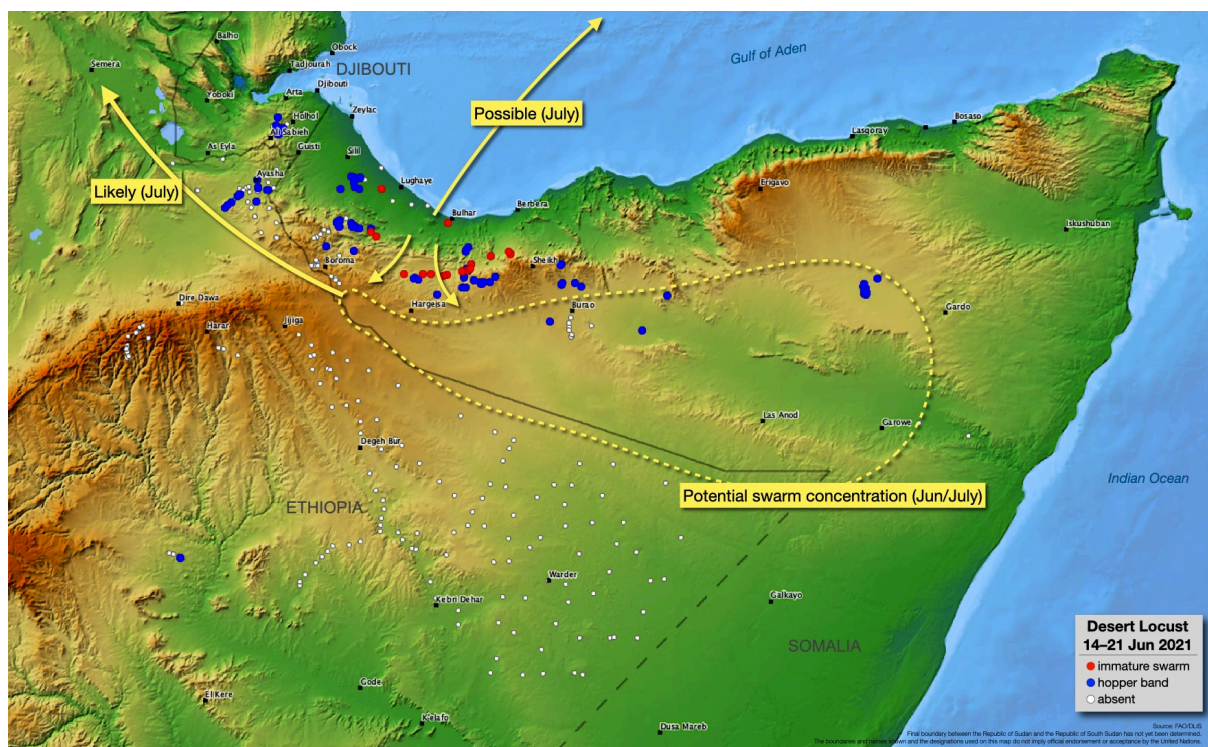
CONTEXT. Important infestations remain in the Horn of Africa while other regions are calm.

- **SOMALIA.** Aerial and ground operations reduced locust infestations on the coast, escarpment, and plateau in the northwest (Somaliland) where very few swarms have been seen in the past few days.
- **ETHIOPIA.** A few late instar hopper bands and several immature swarms are present in the railway area near Ayasha and the borders of Djibouti and Somalia.
- **DJIBOUTI.** Small late instar hopper bands and immature swarms are present in the south.
- **SAUDI ARABIA.** No locusts have been seen since 22 June.
- **YEMEN.** An immature swarm was seen in the highlands north of Sana'a on 30 June.
- **SUDAN.** Local breeding and scattered adults with a few small groups are present in the interior.
- **SW ASIA.** No locusts seen during recent surveys in Iran, Pakistan and India.

TAKEAWAY. Current field operations as well as extreme vigilance should be maintained in Ethiopia, northern Somalia, Djibouti and Yemen.

- **Central Region (SERIOUS)** – heightened alert and preparedness in Afar (Ethiopia)
- **Eastern Region (CALM)** – initiate summer surveys (Indo-Pakistan)
- **Western Region (CALM)** – initiate summer surveys (northern Sahel)

www.fao.org/ag/locusts



CURRENT SITUATION. Hopper bands are present in NW Somalia and adjacent areas of eastern Ethiopia and Djibouti. Several small immature swarms have started to form on the coast and escarpment in NW Somalia.