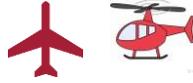




### IN NUMBERS



Total area treated since June 2019 is about **7 300 km<sup>2</sup>**



FAO is leasing **3 helicopters** and **4 planes** to boost surveillance and control



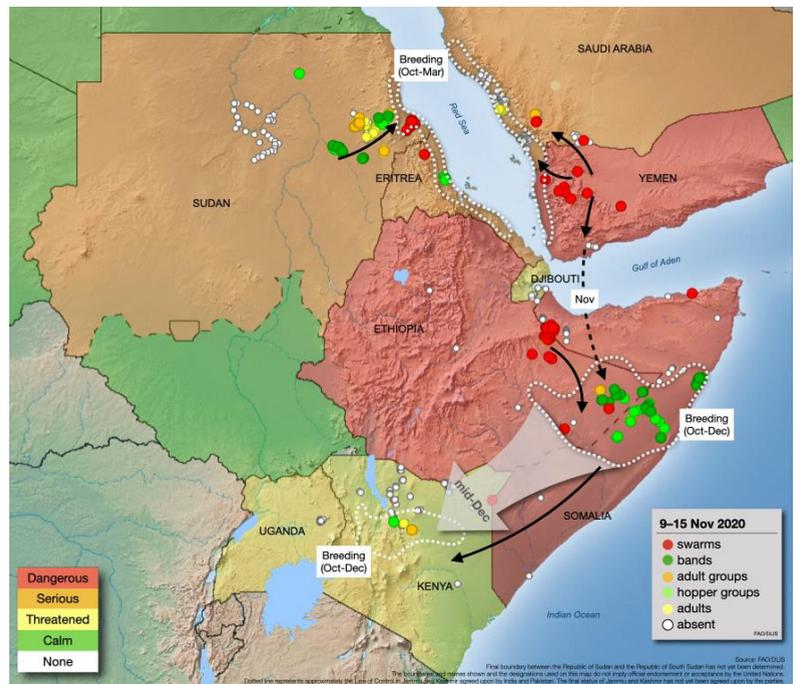
Over **70 000** households receiving livelihood assistance from FAO to improve food security



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

### KEY MESSAGES

- The desert locust (DL) breeding and invasion in **Ethiopia** is now centered in Somali region. Mature swarms continue to cross into the region, from **Somalia**.
- All planes and helicopters have been moved to the new epicenter of the operation (Jigjiga, Gode, Kebridehar).
- Hatching and band formation is projected to continue in November and beyond.
- According to the Desert Locust Information Service's forecast, a new generation of immature swarms will form in early December. If not controlled, DL will move south and threaten southeast **Ethiopia**, southern **Somalia**, and northeast **Kenya**.
- The environmental and health assessment of DL control operations continues in the Somali regions where control operations are underway. No particular incident related to the use of pesticides was observed on the health of operators and on the environment in general.
- Field trials of the biopesticide Novacrid have been successful. Results showed a 50 percent decrease in locust populations after eight days of treatment.



### SURVEILLANCE AND CONTROL OPERATIONS

- Three spraying planes, four spraying and three survey helicopters are currently deployed in the Somali region
- Currently 127 000 liters of pesticide are available with the Ministry of Agriculture.
- To date, Ethiopia has conducted control operations covering 7 300km<sup>2</sup>, equivalent to 58 percent of the total operations in East Africa and Yemen combined (nine countries)

## FAO'S ROLE

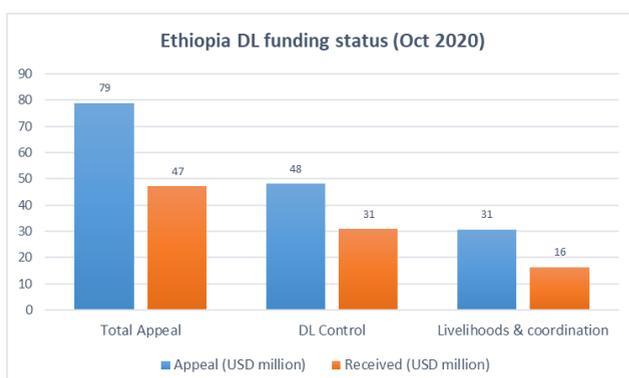
- Despite restrictions on the movement of personnel and equipment imposed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, FAO is continuing to work with the Government to control DL. Although the operations had significantly reduced the upsurge, Ethiopia is experiencing a new wave of DL due to favourable breeding conditions and cross-border movement.
- The Organization is providing an assortment of spraying, protective and surveillance equipment, pesticides, as well as surveillance and control vehicles.
- FAO is implementing a livelihoods recovery program targeting over 70 000 farming and pastoralist households, who are being provided with agricultural inputs (livestock feed or crop seeds) and cash transfers, with the aim of limiting the risk of vulnerable communities resorting to negative coping strategies. The distribution of crop seed is 98 percent done, benefiting over 32 000 households. Livestock feed distribution is 67 percent done, benefiting over 27 000 households. The implementation of cash transfers is 70 percent done, benefiting over 47 000 households.
- The Organization has surged experts to Ethiopia and is supporting the aerial survey and control operations.
- FAO through the [Desert Locust Information Service \(DLIS\)](#) based at its headquarters in Rome is playing a pivotal role in the DL monitoring, setting forecasts, providing early warning, and issuing a regular updates using the Desert Locust Bulletin.
- A major challenge has been the acquisition of timely and reliable data on DL presence and type. The security disturbances and the unavailability of communication continue to affect gathering and transmission of data in some areas.
- FAO is encouraging partners to record DL data in real time, using the [eLocust3m](#), a mobile phone application. Data is transmitted to the Plant Protection Directorate of the Ministry of Agriculture and ultimately to the DLIS. FAO is providing capacity building on how to use the application.



Ali Gudele, a farmer in Afar region lost six hectares of maize after the field was damaged by desert locusts

## 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 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 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 DL and a marked deterioration in food security. As forecast data projects an upsurge of DL, FAO is working on a revised update of its global Appeal (last Appeal was launched in May 2020). FAO Ethiopia has sufficient funds to cover running costs up to the end of 2020 (and early 2021).



## PLANNED ACTIVITIES

- **Curb the spread of DL:** surveillance, survey, forecasting and early warning; run aerial and ground control operations and make health and environment impact assessments and verify the efficacy of the bio-pesticide - Novacrid.
- **Safeguard and support early livelihoods recovery:** comprehensive livelihoods recovery package comprising cash transfers, supplementary livestock feed, crop seeds and farming inputs.
- **Coordination:** deploy rapid surge support; coordinate cross-border responses; and improve national capacities.

Operations made possible thanks to the following donors:



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