



IN NUMBERS



Total area treated since June 2019 is about **12 622 km²**



FAO is leasing **5** spraying aircraft (**4 planes and 1 helicopter**) and **2** surveillance helicopters



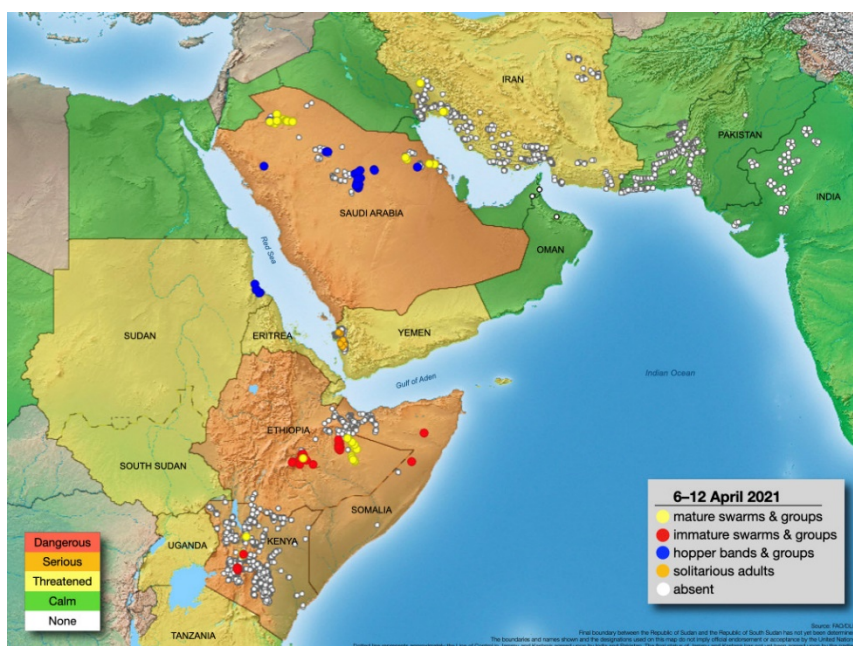
Over **140 000** households receiving livelihood assistance from FAO to improve food security.



USD 91.5 million needed for control and livelihoods response in Ethiopia.

KEY MESSAGES

- The current upsurge showed signs of significant decline during March as desert locust (dl) swarms continued to decrease in **Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia** due to ongoing control operations and poor rainfall.
- However, good rains have fallen this month in parts of northern **Kenya** and southern **Ethiopia** that should allow current swarms to mature and lay eggs. This is likely to give rise to hatching and the formation of hopper bands during May.
- Compared to one year ago, the scale and extent of the upcoming breeding will be significantly smaller, and the teams, aircraft and other control resources that are currently in place should be able to manage the anticipated breeding.
- Currently, the majority of the locust infestations in the Horn of Africa are present in **Ethiopia** where immature swarms persist to the east of the Rift Valley in the Bale Mountains and Harar Highlands. Both these areas have received rainfall that has runoff towards the eastern lowlands where breeding is expected to occur. Immature and mature swarms have recently appeared in some of these areas, primarily in the Somali region from south of Jijiga to Kebri Dehar. Although the situation remains calm further south, a few small swarms may be present in southern Oromia and Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' Region (SNNP).
- Even though the situation continues to improve, it is paramount to sustain the current survey and control efforts in reducing existing swarms as well as detecting and controlling any breeding in the coming months. Intense vigilance must be maintained until the autumn.



SURVEILLANCE AND CONTROL OPERATIONS

- A total of 11 aircraft are being used for spraying and surveillance:
 - FAO: 4 spraying planes, 1 spraying helicopter and 2 surveillance helicopters
 - Government of Ethiopia: 1 spraying planes, 2 spraying helicopter and 2 surveillance helicopters
- To date, **Ethiopia** has conducted control operations covering 12 622 km², equivalent to **63 percent of the total area covered** in the Greater Horn of Africa and **Yemen** combined (**ten countries combined**).
- FAO estimates that control operations in **Ethiopia** alone have prevented the loss of 2 513 290 MT of cereal, with a market value of USD 754 million. This is equivalent to the annual cereal needs of 16.3 million people. Also, the livelihoods of over 1 130 981 households have been protected.

FAO'S ROLE

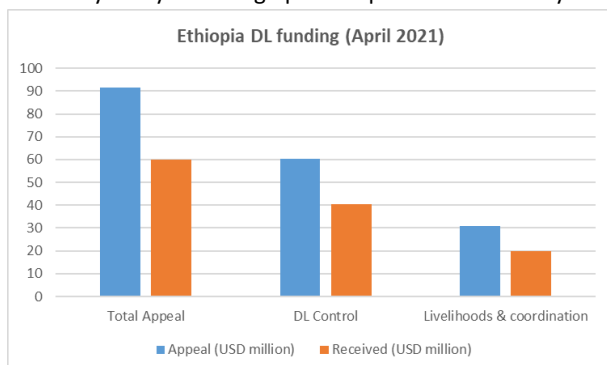
- FAO is providing an assortment of spraying, protective and surveillance equipment, pesticides, as well as surveillance and control vehicles.
- The Organization is implementing a livelihoods recovery program targeting over 140 000 farming and pastoralist households, who are being provided with agricultural inputs (livestock feed or crop seeds) and cash transfers, with the aim of limiting the risk of vulnerable communities resorting to negative coping strategies. Over 294 500 households are benefiting from animal health services.
- Monitoring results indicate that despite several shocks (drought, floods and DL infestation), beneficiary households harvested 0.7 MT of grains and legumes enough to feed a household of five for nine months. In addition, 70 percent of beneficiaries reported improved animal body condition and better milk yields compared to 60 percent of non-beneficiaries.
- FAO has surged experts to Ethiopia and is supporting the aerial survey and control operations.
- Through the [Desert Locust Information Service](#) based at its headquarters in Rome, FAO 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.
- FAO is working in collaboration with GIZ and the regional Agriculture and Natural Resource Bureaus to implement a media campaign. The objective of the campaign is to raise awareness about the control operations and encourage communities to report sightings of locusts through a toll-free numbers (**7222 for Somali and 7333 for SNNPR**).



DL control crew conducting aerial surveillance

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, Tanzania and Yemen**), of which 79 million was for Ethiopia. FAO in Ethiopia received USD 47.3 million, of which USD 40 304 756 was for control operations and 20 073 888 for safeguarding livelihoods. Due to the prevailing favourable breeding conditions and the remaining presence of desert locust in Eastern Africa and Yemen, FAO extended the appeal until June 2021 (six months) focusing on countries currently infested or under imminent threat, and for activities that will not be included in the Humanitarian Response Plans (HRPs). In the revised appeal (January – June 2021), FAO is appealing for USD 38.8 million for five countries (**Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, and Yemen**), of which USD 12.5 million is for desert locust control operations in Ethiopia (excluding the amount requested through the HRP for livelihoods). The timing of funding is critical in order to sustain operational capacities, while funding of the FAO livelihoods and food security interventions through the HRPs will also be essential. Any delay in scaling up field operations will likely lead to a further expansion of DL and a marked deterioration in food security.



PLANNED ACTIVITIES

- Curb the spread of DL: surveillance, survey, forecasting and early warning; run aerial and ground control operations and conduct 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, animal health services, improved 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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