



IN NUMBERS



Total area treated since June 2019 is about **12 566 km²**



FAO is leasing **4 spraying aircraft** (3 planes and 1 helicopter) and **2 surveillance helicopters**



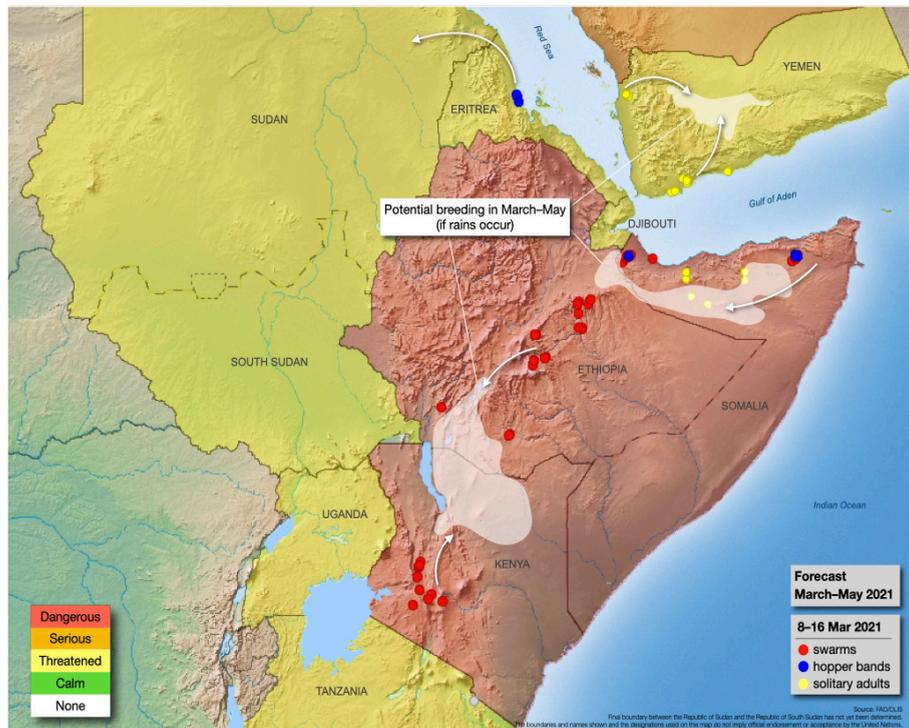
Over **140 000** households receiving livelihood assistance from FAO to improve food security.



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

KEY MESSAGES

- Swarms currently present in **Ethiopia** continue to decline due to ongoing control operations and no breeding.
- In the absence of rainfall, the swarms have remained immature (awaiting *Belg* rains to mature and breed).
- Showers may occur by the end of March 2021 in some areas. Breeding will start immediately thereafter.
- Nevertheless, the seasonal predictions continue to call for well-below normal rains this spring, which could severely limit the scale and extent of any upcoming breeding.
- Immature swarms persist in the Ahmar Mountains east of the Rift Valley in Oromia (Bale, Borema, Arsi) between Awasa and Harar, but appear to be declining in southern Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' Region (South Omo, Konso).



SURVEILLANCE AND CONTROL OPERATIONS

- A total of 11 aircraft are being used for spraying and surveillance:
 - FAO: 3 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 **12 566 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

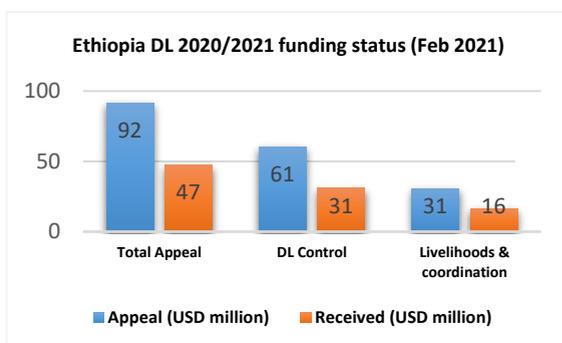
- Despite restrictions on the movement of personnel and equipment imposed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, FAO is continuing to work with the Government to control DL.
- The Organization is providing an assortment of spraying, protective and surveillance equipment, pesticides, as well as surveillance and control vehicles.
- FAO is implementing a livelihoods recovery program targeting over 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**).



A farmer in Somali region walks through her garden, damaged by desert locusts in December 2020.

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 30.9 million was for control operations and USD 16.4 million 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.



Operations made possible thanks to the following donors:

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.



CONTACT

FAO Representation in Ethiopia | Addis Ababa, Ethiopia | FAO-ET@fao.org

FAO Office of Emergencies and Resilience | Rome, Italy | OER-Director@fao.org