



IN NUMBERS



Total area treated since June 2019 is about **13 690 km²**



FAO is leasing **5** aircraft
- 3 spraying planes
- 2 helicopters for surveillance



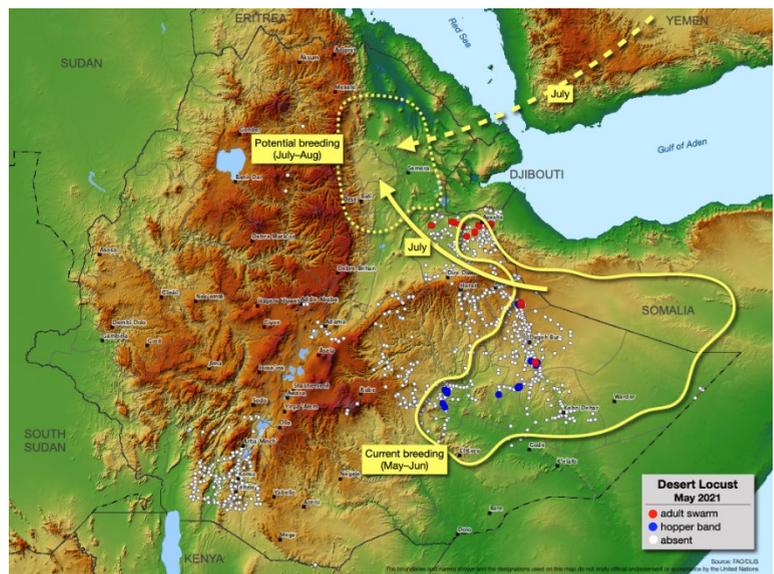
Over **140 000** households receiving livelihood assistance from FAO to improve food security and protect assets



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

KEY MESSAGES

- As anticipated, hatching has been detected in eastern **Ethiopia** where desert locust (DL) swarms have been laying eggs since late April
- The hatchlings are forming hopper bands that so far have been seen in a few places (see blue dots in the map). More hatching and band formation are expected throughout eastern **Ethiopia** during the remainder of this month
- It is highly likely that the map is not representative, as the area under observation is enormous, with good conditions for breeding. The whole plateau in Eastern Ethiopia up to Somalia, and the area between Dire Dawa and **Djibouti** are likely to have dense presence of hopper bands
- If hopper band infestations are not adequately detected and treated, new swarms could form from mid-June onwards and move west to the **Afar region** in northeast Ethiopia for summer breeding.
- The month of June will be devoted to intense ground surveillance and control operations. Given the vastity of the area, the distance between points and the difficult terrain, the task is extremely difficult
- As of end-May 2021, most hoppers are in the early stage (instar 1-2). Treatment is recommended from instar 3-onwards, to avoid cyclical treatment in the same areas
- Increased vigilance must be maintained, especially in **Ethiopia** and **Somalia** where a hopper band campaign should be mounted to reduce eventual swarm formation but only after hatching has completely finished, avoiding repeated treatments of the same area.



SURVEILLANCE AND CONTROL OPERATIONS

- FAO has deployed three spraying planes and two surveillance helicopters.
- To date, **Ethiopia** has conducted control operations covering 13 690 km², equivalent to **62 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 2 554 00 MT of cereal, with a market value of USD 766 million. This is equivalent to the annual cereal needs of 16.6 million people. Also, the livelihoods of over 1 150 000 households have been protected.

FAO'S ROLE

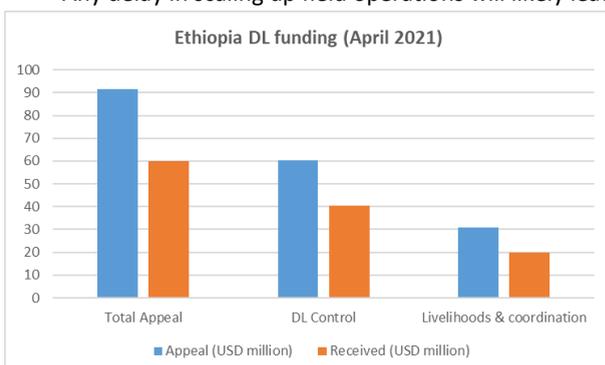
- FAO is providing an assortment of spraying, protective and surveillance equipment, pesticides, as well as surveillance and control vehicles.
- The Organization is implementing a livelihoods recovery program targeting over 140 000 farming and pastoralist households, who are being provided with agricultural 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, sufficient to feed a household (five people) for nine months. In addition, 70 percent of beneficiaries reported improved animal body condition and better milk yield.
- 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 app](#), eLocust3 tablets, and eLocust3g and eLocust3m. 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**).



Surveying of hatching eggs at Berdibo site Garbo district, Somali Region

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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