



IN NUMBERS



Total area treated since June 2019 is about **13 331 km²**



FAO is leasing **5** aircraft
- 2 spraying planes
- 2 helicopters for surveillance
- 1 dual helicopter (sprayer & surveillance)



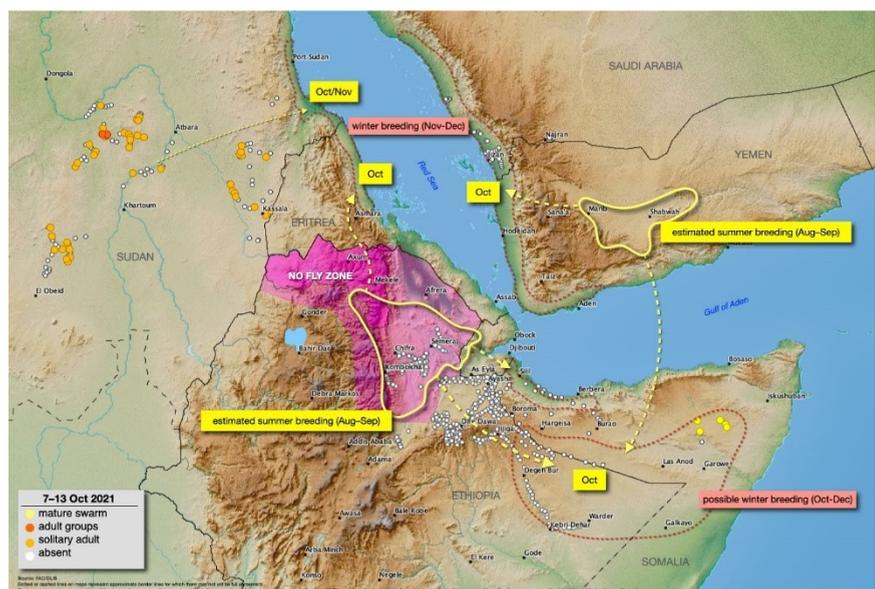
Over **140 000** households receiving livelihood assistance from FAO to improve food security and protect assets



USD 85.6 million received for control and livelihoods response in Ethiopia covering 81% of the needs.

KEY MESSAGES

- Following the improvement of the security situation in the Afar region, ground survey was carried out on 29.9 km² and desert locust (DL) presence on 24.5 km² ha was confirmed in four districts
- The intercepted DL populations have reached immature adult stage. In few places DL are still at 4th instar hoppers (3.25 km²) and were treated. Immature adults could not be controlled and are moving around in Afar and bordering areas of the Amhara region
- The scale of the breeding is not well known as most places cannot be accessed by ground teams and there is an imposed “No Fly Zone” for survey and control aircraft. It likely to extend to several Woredas of Afar, as well as adjacent areas of southeast Tigray and eastern Amhara regions
- Since the beginning of July 2021, extensive aerial survey has been carried out in Somali region, covering over 22 000 km². DL presence was confirmed only on 301.23 km²
- FAO is facilitating coordination of cross-border operations between Kenya, Somalia (Somaliland and Puntland) and Ethiopia. Swarms are ‘handed over’ at the border by the relevant operations teams, allowing for a more coordinated and timelier response
- More immature swarms will form during the coming weeks in the inaccessible breeding areas of Afar region (mainly). As vegetation dries out in these areas, swarms are expected to move northwards through the highlands of Tigray to Eritrea and through Djibouti and north Somalia to reach the Somali region in eastern Ethiopia
- While below-average rains are forecasted for October and November, precipitations should be sufficient to allow swarms to mature and lay eggs in Somali region, which will hatch and give rise to hopper bands until the end of the year
- In addition, any swarms that cannot be treated in the interior of Yemen are likely to move during October to the Red Sea coast of Yemen and perhaps across the Gulf of Aden to eastern Ethiopia
- Current field operations in eastern Ethiopia should be maintained while upscaling of surveys is needed in northern Ethiopia to locate developing immature swarms



SURVEILLANCE AND CONTROL OPERATIONS

- FAO has deployed two spraying planes, two surveillance helicopters and one ‘dual purpose’ helicopter. In addition, Government has deployed two dual-purpose aircraft (one helicopter, and one plane)
- To date, Ethiopia has conducted control operations covering 13 331 km², equivalent to 62 percent of the total area covered in the Greater Horn of Africa and Yemen combined (ten countries combined).

FAO'S ROLE

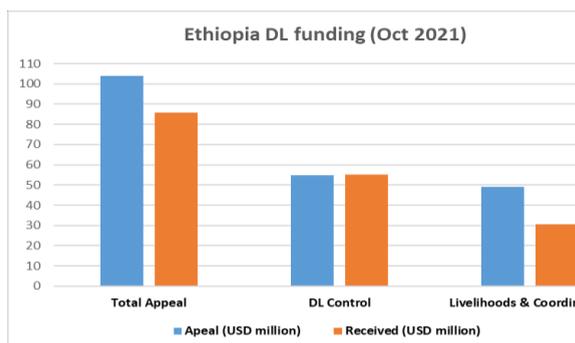
- FAO is providing an assortment of spraying, protective and surveillance equipment, pesticides, as well as surveillance and control vehicles and motorbikes. The Organization has surged experts to Ethiopia to support the operators.
- FAO is implementing a livelihoods recovery program targeting over 140 000 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.
- Impact assessment results indicate that despite several shocks (drought, COVID-19, 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 yields.
- 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.
- 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 (MoA) and ultimately to the DLIS. FAO is providing capacity building on how to use the application.
- To enhance coordination of the DL operations, FAO, in partnership with the MoA are operating a 24 hour fully staffed DL Operations center in Addis Ababa. The center is supported by the latest technological software and bespoke reporting platforms to improve the collection, storage, analysis and dissemination of field data, which is required for command and control, decision-making, planning, forecasting and strategic planning.



Newly formed immature swarm (Chifra district, Afar, NE Ethiopia)

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 approx USD 60 million, of which USD 40 million for control operations and USD 20 million for safeguarding livelihoods. Due to the prevailing favourable breeding conditions and the remaining presence of DL 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 appealed for USD 38.8 million for five countries (**Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, and Yemen**), of which USD 12.5 million was for desert locust control operations in Ethiopia (excluding the amount requested through the HRP for livelihoods). Given the compounding nature of COVID emergency in the locations suffering from DL, FAO Ethiopia secured a 13 million through the HRP for livelihoods assistance, out of the 20 million requested. To date, DL control has been sufficiently and timely funded; sustaining operational capacities, while FAO continues to monitor the situation during this DL recession period. Funding received for the livelihoods interventions through the HRPs is supporting the interventions while FAO looks to partners for cover the gap.



PLANNED ACTIVITIES

- Curb the spread of DL: surveillance, survey, forecasting and early warning; run aerial and ground control operations –in Afar and Somali regions.
- 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



CONTACT

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

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