



IN NUMBERS



Total area treated since June 2019 is about **5 900 km²**



By mid-November FAO is planning to increase the spraying capacity to **10 aircrafts** (planes and choppers)



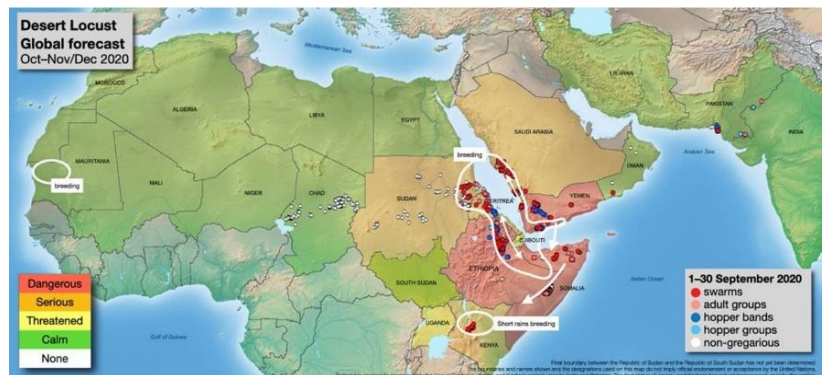
Over **70 000** households receiving assistance from FAO to protect livelihood and improve food security



USD 79 million needed for control and livelihoods response in Ethiopia

KEY MESSAGES

- Even though ground and aerial control operations continue against desert locust (DL) hopper bands in Afar, the situation has deteriorated. Most hoppers fledged and invaded eastern Amhara, South-Eastern Tigray, and eastern Oromia regions where they are causing extensive crop damage
- The situation remains better than a year ago. The whole region is better equipped (expertise, stocks of pesticides, assets, control capacity, coordination)
- There are ongoing cross-border movements of immature swarms between North-Western **Somalia** and Eastern **Ethiopia**. DL have reached the scarpments of Eastern Harerghe, a highly productive crop area (mostly sorghum), causing extensive damage, and threatening to move further East
- The uncontrolled hopper bands in **Yemen**, resulting into swarms, are a looming threat to Eastern Ethiopia
- The **upscale in spraying capacity** (see below) is be a major boost to the ongoing control operations
- Additional DL swarms from **Ethiopia** could migrate to **Eriterea** in the coming weeks
- Because of the shifting wind direction, which favours southward movement of swarms, the uncontrolled/escapée swarms from Afar region and **Yemen** will move South, and may contribute to the repeat of the 2019 invasion of the Somali region - which subsequently will produce desert locust swarms that may reach **Kenya** and **Uganda**
- It is important to note that the DL upsurge is occurring in areas that are already showing high level of food insecurity (IPC 3 and above in many *Woredas*), according to the latest [Integrated Food Security Phase Classification \(IPC\) report](#)
- A series of open field verification trials on *Novacrid*, (a biological insecticide) are being conducted in Afar



SURVEILLANCE AND CONTROL OPERATIONS

- Ground and aerial survey is ongoing in Afar, Dire Dawa, eastern Amhara, Somali, Oromia and Tigray regions
- Aerial control operations are ongoing in Afar, eastern Amhara, Oromia, Somali and Tigray regions
- On 2nd and 8th October two government-rented planes crashed (both pilots survived). On 5th October one FAO-leased plane experienced engine failure, grounding the aircraft for several days. In 6 days, the country has 'lost' three planes!
- An emergency plan is in motion to increase the country's 'spraying capacity': new helicopters and planes have already arrived, and by mid-November FAO expects to have 10 spraying aircrafts fully operational
- Two helicopters leased by FAO for surveillance are currently based in Jigjiga (Somali region) and Samara (Afar region).
- Total area treated to date: 5 900 km² (equivalent to approx. 60% of the total control operations in East Africa and Yemen)

FAO'S ROLE

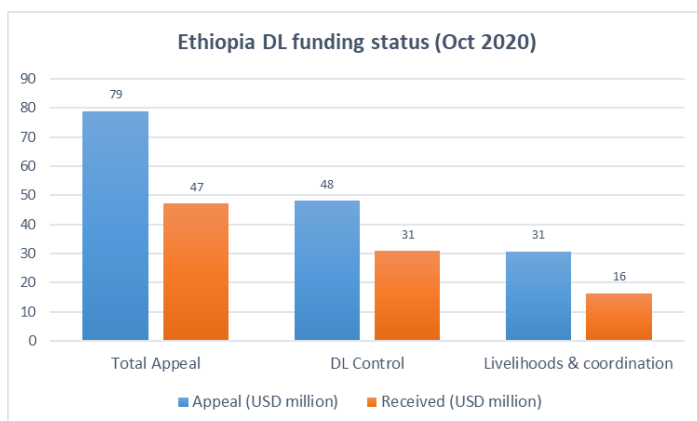
- Despite restrictions on the movement of personnel and equipment imposed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, FAO is continuing to work with the Government to control DL. The operations have significantly reduced the upsurge.
- The Organization is providing an assortment of spraying, protective and surveillance 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 almost completed (95%) and livestock feed distribution is ongoing. The implementation of cash transfers is starting this month.
- 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 recent security disturbances and the unavailability of communication have affected the gathering and transmission of data.
- 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.



H.E Oumer Hussein, Ethiopia's Minister of Agriculture, H.E Mandefro Nigussie State Minister of Agriculture and Ms. Fatouma Seid, the FAO Representative in Ethiopia during the field mission in Afar in September 2020 to assess the desert locust operations.

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 health and environment impact assessments.
- **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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