

Programme Evaluation Series

Real-time evaluation of FAO's response to the desert locust upsurge 2020–2021 Phase II

Annex 2. Survey analysis

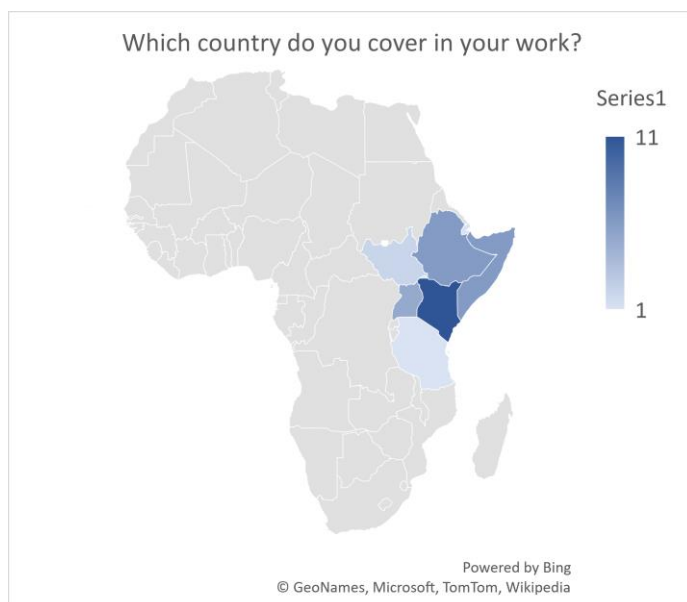
Introduction

1. As part of the 2nd phase of the real-time evaluation (RTE) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) response to the desert locust (DL) upsurge, an online survey was sent to non-governmental organizations (NGOs) part of the Regional Desert Locust Alliance (RDLA), a group of National and International NGOs operating in the Horn of Africa in the response to the desert locust upsurge.
2. The survey was sent to a total of 51 NGOs, out of which 21 have completed it. The survey was conducted in March 2021. This document presents an analysis of the main survey results.

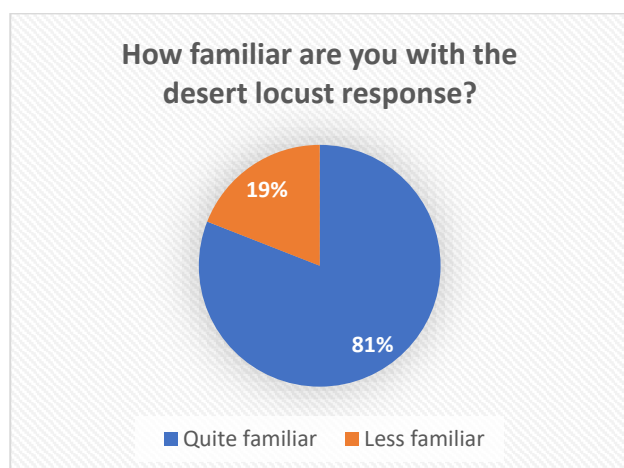
Respondents profile

Country

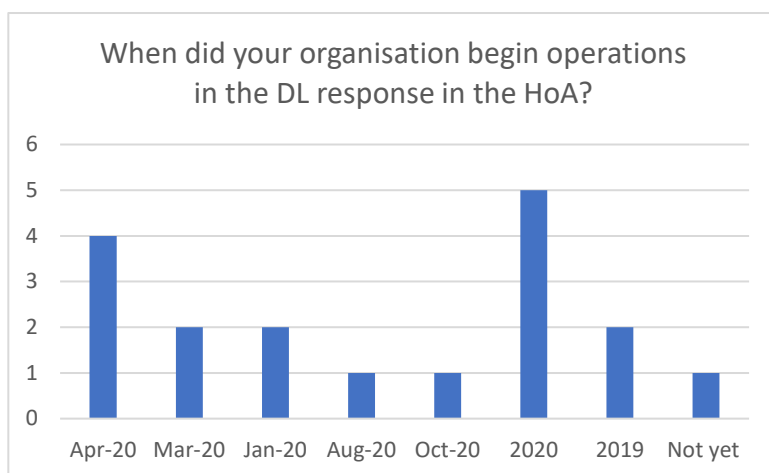
3. The majority of NGOs that responded, cover Kenya, followed by Ethiopia and Somalia, and to a lesser extent, South Sudan, United Republic of Tanzania and Djibouti.



Familiarity with the response and beginning of operations



Most NGOs reported to be quite familiar with the DL response, reporting an average score of 80 out of 100. 17 NGOs (81 percent) of respondents are quite familiar with the response (more than 70), and 4 (19 percent) reported to be less familiar (below 70).



Funding from FAO

- Four organisations out of 21 received funding from FAO, mainly working in Kenya and Somalia. Two of them received funding for DL surveillance and control operations, and two of them for food security (FS) and livelihoods activities.

Funding and timing

Rapidity of funds made available

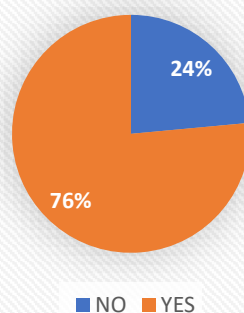
- According to respondents who received funds, they were not rapid and took between six and nine months to arrive.

Funding gaps

Mitigation measures to address funding gaps:

76 percent of respondents claimed to have experienced funding gaps, especially with regards to FS and livelihoods recovery activities. Some of the mitigation measures put in place to overcome the funding gaps included utilising funds from other ongoing projects, mobilising funds from other funding sources; and in some cases (two NGOs), excluding beneficiary groups/targeted areas from the support.

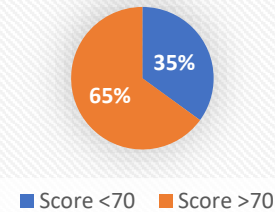
Were there any gaps in funding availability?



Timeliness of FAO's scale up appeal

On average, respondents reported that FAO's scale up response in January 2020 was quite timely (average score of 72 on a scale from 0 to 100). More specifically, 65 percent of respondents reported a score higher than 70, while 35 percent of respondents, a score lower than 70.

How timely was FAO's announcement of the scale-up response in January 2020?



Coordination

FAO's effectiveness in fostering coordination

6. Scores indicated that FAO's role in fostering coordination among key actors in the DL response is perceived as generally effective. Slightly higher effectiveness is reported with regional DL response organisations and donors, and slightly lower with NGOs and local government bodies.

Organisation	Weighted average (out of 4)
Regional DL response organisations	3,2
Donors & UN	3,2
National government bodies	3,1
Research and data analysis organisations	2,9
INGOs	2,7
LNGOs	2,7
Local government bodies	2,6

7. More specifically, it was indicated good coordination with ministries of agriculture; and less coordination with affected communities.
8. In terms of room for improvement, coordination around environmental impact, partnerships with the private sector, and engagement of NGOs were mentioned (respondents indicated an improvement on the latter, since the beginning of the response, thanks also to the creation of the RDLA).

Strengths of FAO's coordination

9. Among the strengths of FAO's coordination of activities in the HoA, effective information sharing with the creation of platforms and dedicated spaces for learning exchange, stand out (28 percent of respondents). 24 percent of respondents stated that the FAO's strengths in coordination mainly lay in its leadership role, acquired since the beginning of the response, especially from HQ and regional level, as well as in its agility in coordinating the response, and in the effective support provided to governments.

10. Furthermore, the provision of timely and quality data and information was also mentioned (20% of respondents), followed by effectiveness in resources mobilisation, access to highly experienced professionals, and effective partnerships with other actors (RDLA, governments and other agencies involved in the response).

Weaknesses of FAO's coordination

11. Among the weaknesses of FAO's coordinating role, delays at different levels throughout the response are mentioned, as well as the clarity and amount of information shared. Another weakness comes from the low levels of funding availability for partner organisations. Finally, to a minor extent, the lack of recommendations on sustainable mitigation options, the lack of technical support dedicated to implementing partners, and the low involvement of grassroots NGOs, are also mentioned as possible weaknesses in FAO's coordination.

How to improve FAO's coordination

12. According to the majority of respondents (44 percent), in order to improve its coordination role, FAO should ensure an inclusive coordination by engaging more local actors, such as implementing partners, since the planning phase of the response, as well as for future planning, and by setting up national and local coordination structures, possibly dedicated to resource mobilisation, capacity development and information sharing. To a lesser extent (13 percent of respondents), a clearer and more proactive role of FAO country office, may also improve coordination.

Advocacy

Effectiveness of FAO's advocacy

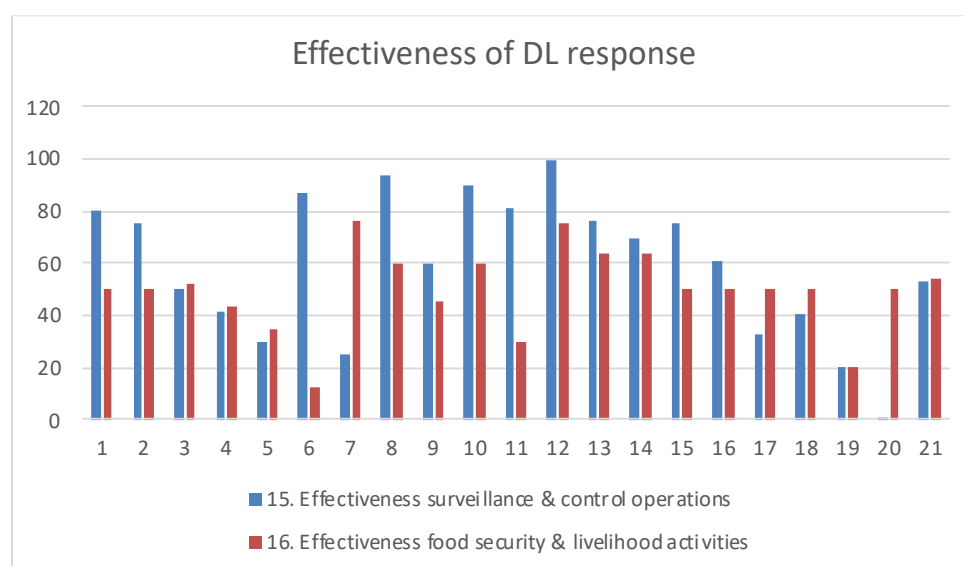
13. Scores indicate that FAO's advocacy with donors, national and local governments and regional DL organisations is perceived to be quite effective, with a slightly higher score with regards to donors (3,2 out of 4) and slightly lower with regards to regional and DL organisations (2,8 out of 4), as shown in the table below.

Organisation	Weighted average (out of 4)
Donors	3,2
Nat & local govts	3,1
Regional DL organisations	2,8

14. Overall, respondents scored the effectiveness of FAO's advocacy 3 out of 4, being slightly higher with regards to donor and slightly lower with regional organisations. Overall, the majority of respondents reported that FAO was effective in its advocacy, through regional platforms and sharing information with partners. One the respondents mentioned that FAO's coordination and advocacy has been one of the strongest ever witnessed in the region.

Effectiveness of response

15. On average, respondents reported that FAO was moderately effective with regards to DL surveillance and control operations, indicating an average score of 59 out of 100; more specifically, 48 percent of respondents scored it higher than 70, while 52 percent lower than 70. On the other hand, effectiveness of food security and livelihood protection and recovery activities was reported as slightly lower, with an average score of 49 out of 100; more specifically, 10 percent rated it higher than 70 and 90 percent lower than 70.



Enabling factors

16. Among the enabling factors helping make the response more effective, coordination stands out, enabled by regular meetings, good partnerships both with governments and local actors, and their involvement in the response. Another enabler factor is the provision of good quality and timely data, reported to be key especially in planning the response. With regards to this, partnerships with the private sector, through 51 Degrees, was also mentioned. Finally, additional enabling factors mentioned are the access to, and availability of funding and effectiveness in sharing of information.

Constraining factors

17. External factors, such as COVID-19, weather conditions and security issues, are reported as the most significant limiting factors to the effectiveness of the response; followed by the lack of adequate and coordinated information. To a lesser extent, lack of support and capacities, as well as delays in the livelihood activities, are also reported.

Coverage and appropriateness

Geographic areas not covered

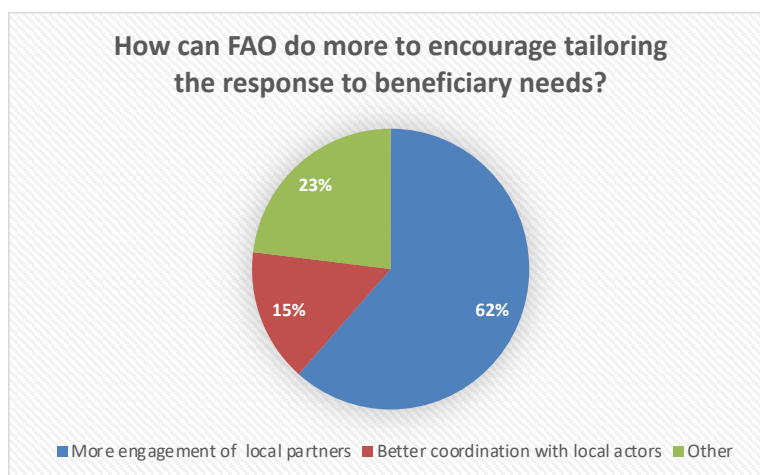
18. 52 percent of respondents reported that the DL response failed in sufficiently covering certain geographic areas or populations. Among these, the pastoral communities stand out, as well as geographic areas difficult to access due to conflicts (e.g. Tigray and Yemen).

Thematic areas not covered

19. 43 percent of respondents reported that there are sectors or thematic areas not sufficiently included in the response. Among these, the following are mentioned: involvement of local organizations in community surveillance, an assessment of the impact on livestock, environmental concerns with regards to using traditional pesticides, and lack of capacities, especially with regards to early warning and preparedness.

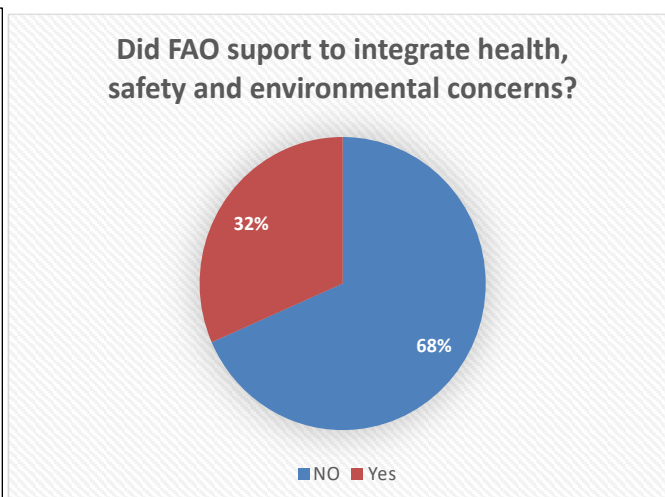
FAO's involvement in tailoring the response

20. According to 53 percent of respondents, FAO did not encourage nor hindered NGOs from tailoring operations around beneficiary needs.
21. According to more than 60 percent of respondents, in order to encourage tailoring the response around beneficiary needs, FAO should make more efforts in involving NGOs and local partners, given that they have a better knowledge of the local context and needs, by increasing their engagement throughout the response. Coordination with local authorities and governments is also mentioned as an area in which FAO can improve, together with the need of having had a more coordinate needs assessment. Finally, FAO should create more space for information and lessons sharing.



Health, safety and environmental concerns

Respondents indicate that FAO provided support in the integration of COVID-19 measures to ensure H&S of beneficiaries and professionals, as well as with the integration of human and animal health issues through the One Health approach. With regards to the integration of E&H in spraying campaigns, support is given through coordinating and delivering effective communication, including in multiple languages.



Gender integration

FAO's role in gender integration

22. Only 25 percent of respondents reported that FAO provided support in integrating gender in the food security and livelihoods component of the response. The FAO DL response strategy was mentioned as a guiding tool for this purpose, which explicitly includes guidance on how to integrate gender; furthermore, it is pointed out that FAO calls for the importance of mainstreaming gender in all activities and projects, hence in the DL response too.

Concerns about gender integration

23. The majority of respondents (81 percent) concerns about gender integration in the livelihood response. It is pointed out that FAO should take into account in designing the response that women and men are affected differently by the DL upsurge. And that FAO should continue encouraging partners to identify gaps and promote needs-based interventions.

Learning and innovation

Desert locust surveillance & control operations

24. 75 percent of respondents observed major innovations in the DL surveillance & control operations. The use of technology, such as the E-locust stands out (with nine respondents mentioning it), and the use of drones.

Food security & livelihoods activities

25. Less innovation was reported in the food security and livelihood component of the response, with almost the 80 percent of respondents stating that no innovation was observed. The use of the Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) and the use of e-vouchers and mobile transfer platforms to transfer cash and food packages were mentioned as examples of innovation.

FAO's role in sharing learning and promoting innovation

26. According to more than 50 percent of respondents (53 percent), FAO encouraged sharing learning and innovation, especially through national and regional platforms; the monthly meetings were mostly mentioned as a useful space to share information and learn from other countries' experiences.

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