



# DESERT LOCUST UPDATE

FAO Emergency Centre for Locust Operations



(22 Feb 2005)



## General Situation as of 22 February 2005

The Desert Locust situation continues to improve in Northwest Africa where control operations are in progress against immature swarms in Algeria and, to a much lesser extent, in Morocco. A swarm invasion of Northwest Africa is not expected this spring because breeding failed to occur in northern Mauritania during the winter. Limited control operations are in progress against immature swarms in Guinea and southern Senegal. Small-scale breeding is underway in northeast Sudan near the Egyptian border and control operations are treating small but numerous early instar hopper bands.

Locust infestations continue to decline in Morocco and Algeria because of control operations. Small immature swarms persist in the Atlas Mountains in the northeastern Morocco near Oujda and Bouarfa, and south of the Atlas Mountains in the northern Sahara of Algeria between El Bayadh and El Oued. The unusually cold weather in both countries has delayed locust maturation. Aerial and ground control operations treated 265,700 ha in Algeria and 5,200 ha in Morocco during the first two decades of February.

No locusts were reported in Mauritania except for a few scattered immature adults in the southeast near the Malian border. Breeding conditions are generally unfavourable except for a few localized areas in the north and centre where light rains have fallen. Aerial

control operations were carried out against a few small immature swarms in southwest Senegal along the border with Guinea Bissau. Some swarms crossed the border into northern Guinea Bissau during the first decade of February. Control operations are in progress against several immature swarms in northern and central Guinea where some crop damage was reported. A few swarms reached the coast near Conakry by the second week of February. No locusts were reported in Mali, Niger, Chad or Gambia.

In the winter breeding areas along the Red Sea, hatching continues in Wadi Diib in northeast Sudan just south of the Egyptian border. By 20 February, nearly 300 small first to third instar hopper bands were reported at six places and control operations had treated 630 ha. Hoppers are also present on the other side of the border in southeast Egypt.

The most up-to-date information on the situation and photos are available on the Internet ([www.fao.org/news/global/locusts/locuhome.htm](http://www.fao.org/news/global/locusts/locuhome.htm)) as well as maps of the latest infestations (193.43.36.11/mapper).

The FAO Desert Bulletin is issued monthly, supplemented by Updates during periods of increased Desert Locust activity, and is distributed by fax, e-mail, FAO pouch and airmail by the Locusts and Other Migratory Pests Group, AGP Division, FAO, 00100 Rome, Italy. It is also available on the Internet.

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