Locust Update in Africa Region

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**General Situation and Forecast August-October 2021**

**CURRENT**
- Hopper bands (N+NE Ethiopia)
- Few residual swarms (Somalia)
- Bands+swarms (Yemen interior)
- Normal breeding (Sudan)

**LIMITATIONS**
- Insecurity (N+NE Ethiopia)
- Beekeepers (Yemen)
- Few surveys (Djirbouit)

**OCT**
- Swarms form (N+NE Ethiopia)
- Migrate to E Ethiopia, N Somalia, and Eritrea
- One generation of breeding
Horn of Africa: locust development in 2021
Control operations since January 20

Number of swarms and areas treated (weekly) in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia

- Number of Swarms treated
- Hectares treated
The upsurge was successfully controlled in Kenya, where no locusts have been reported after April.

The Desert Locust response in the GH of Africa & Yemen extended until the end of 2021

Around 2.2 million ha treated (since Jan20)
640,000 ha (2021)

Over USD 230 million mobilised (100%)
Outcome indicators (total)

- **4 403 144**: Crop loss averted since January 2020 (in MT)
- **871.8 million**: Milk production loss averted since January 2020 (in Litres)
- **2 201 572 Ha treated**: Food secure people as a result of averted losses
- **1.7 Billion**: Estimated commercial value of cereals/milk loss averted
II. Locust situation in Southern Africa

I. African Migratory Locust (AML) (Situation)

- AML outbreaks started in Botswana in March 2020 and continued across affected countries: Angola, Botswana, Namibia and Zambia up to the end of May 2021
- No reports of new outbreaks since the end of May 2021 except in Southern Angola on June 17 in the South of the country
- More than 8.8 million ha surveyed over five affected countries, and estimated infested area more than 1.7 million ha
- 365,929 ha area controlled
II. FAO Support (*collaboration and funding*)

- FAO & SADC collaboration to develop a **USD 21 million** Regional Locust Action Plan to curb the spread of locusts
- FAO raised **USD 4.7 million** to respond to the locust threat
- **3 projects** being **implemented** by SFS, FAO Offices, MoA, SADC, IRLCO-CSA.
- FAO, SADC and affected countries **bi-weekly/ad hoc meetings**
  (*coordination and information, knowledge and experiences sharing on the Locusts*)
- FAO technical support for establishment of **Locust response units** in affected countries (office equipment, vehicles)
III. FAO Support (logistics, operation and CD)

- Facilitation and supported of **ground operations** and contracts for **aerial survey and control operations** in the five affected countries.

- **Equipment and material** for ground and aerial survey and control (Biopesticides (590 Kg), ULV sprayers (162), PPEs (4,549 sets), chemical pesticides, digital tools to support the communication and reporting through elocust3m, etc)

- The roll out of **elocust3m** in affected countries as part of the setting up of a community anchored Locust early warning monitoring system- close to **300 trainers have been trained use of the app.**

- More than **1000 govt. staff and community agents trained** in Locust surveillance and control
IV. Brown Locust

- Reported outbreaks of Brown Locust in parts of Southern Namibia (Kharas region) and the Northern Cape of South Africa from February to April 2021
- Red Locust outbreaks were reported to occur concurrently with AML in some parts of Western Zambia and Northern Botswana.
V. Challenges/recommendations

• COVID 19 movement restrictions, heavy rains and localized flooding in the affected areas made surveillance and control difficult.

• Necessity for involvement of local communities in early warning system through roll-out of elocust3m and provision of adaptable local solutions (picture on the right).

• Limited availability of aerial surveillance and control services

• Lack of a specialized intergovernmental Locust control organization that covers all the affected countries: FAO is filling the void temporarily.

• Lack of coordination and cross border Locust control agreements or protocols between countries. FAO is collaborating with SADC to facilitate cross-border Locust control.
I. Situation update

An Emergency situation was declared in April 2021

- 8 regions are infested by LMC and under threat (Androy, Anosy, Atsimo Andrefana, Ihorombe, Matsiatra Ambony, and Menabe) with 21 districts.
- June-July 2021, locust populations were observed in the Tsivory region, in some inaccessible areas.
- 47,289 ha treated between January to June 2021
- LMC outbreak area covers 13 million hectares, of which about 50% is inaccessible by ground operations
II. FAO Response

- FAO and MoA prepared the action plan, foreseeing the need for USD **6.8 million**
- **4 components**: (1) strengthening the national capacities for the monitoring and analysis of the locust situation; (2) strengthening the national locust control capacities; (3) protecting human health and the environment; and (4) implementation, coordination and assessments of the Action Plan.
- The action plan foresees treatment of **400,000 ha**
- **65% of treatment will be performed with IGRs and Biopesticides**
- 2 helicopters, **550 flight hours** (survey: 150 h; control: 400 h)
- 2 aerial bases, 4 ground control teams, 10 scouts on motobike, 1 human health and environment monitoring team, 1 pesticide management team, 1 biopesticide team, 1 coordination team
III. Progress made

• FAO mobilized USD 392,000 for preparatory actions and to cover the most urgent needs
• A donation of 60,000 liters of conventional pesticide (Chlorpyrifos) from Morocco.
• FAO technical filed mission in August-Sept.
• A press conference organized by FAO was held in Antananarivo on 10 September 2021 to call for urgent action by the technical and financial partners to support the Action Plan.
• USD 7 million announced by the Government through a World Bank Project

What’s next?

• Extensive aerial survey planned for mid-September 2021 to provide inclusive overview of the locust situation and serve as a basis for planning activities at the beginning of the 2021/22 locust control campaign.
• Secure urgent funding in the coming weeks to start the campaign

→ ! the first generation must not be missed, otherwise the success of the campaign would be heavily compromised.
IV. DL capacity development in the western region

- CLCPRO and REOWA collaboration to address a possible locust invasion from the Horn of Africa (2 projects with more than USD 5 million)

- New AFD supported project (USD 3.5 million) “Consolidate the bases of the preventive control strategy and develop operational research on the Desert Locust in the Western region”

- **CLCPRO-CRC collaboration** to promote the preventive control strategy.
IV. DL capacity development in the western region

Equipment & material

- 17 vehicles 4x4
- 16 fixed wing drones
- PPE
- Training of 200 Capacities building
- 1,200 Kg of biopesticides
- Survey and control equipment
Collaboration with ECOWAS

Training Programme under the project TCP/SFW/3801: national trainings of the technical staff of the Ministries of Agriculture on Desert Locust survey/control in:

- Cameroon (July), 30 officers
- Gambia (August): 25 officers

New project supported by ECOWAS

- 12 months project (300 000 USD)
- Strengthening surveillance and control capacities of Desert Locust in Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger and Senegal
Meetings, workshops and trainings

- AFD Project launching workshop

- Regional **training on the use of drones** and official reception ceremony of FIRO equipment (*officers from the ten CLCPRO’s member countries, REWOA and CRC*)

- Training on the use of the **Google Earth Engine and Deep Learning**, (CLCPRO-Countries- AGRHYMET-SERVIR) : 10 information officers from the ten CLCPRO countries

- Meeting on **progress report of CLCPRO standard activities, 2021 work plane and the AFD project** (CLCPRO’s member countries, **NSPDM TL, AFD Project coordinator, CRC, CIRAD and AGRHYMET**
V. Innovation & Technology

- Beta version of the **Locust Pesticide Management System (LPMS)** was developed and is undergoing field testing.
- Beta version of the **eLocut3mPRO** app launched allows the **complete data** on ecology, locust, control and safety to be recorded and **with alert and messaging and tasking system** to allow national locust units to send instructions through the app to ground teams.
- Enhanced **integration** of **remote sensing imagery, weather forecast and models** in DL monitoring and Early warning Systems (DLIS).
VI. Green Technology

- More than 235,000 ha successfully treated with solely IGRs and biopesticides in Somalia
- 2 sites with desert locust pesticides spillage incidents in Ethiopia have been successfully treated and safeguarded.
VII. Capacity Building & Other Activities

- 11th meeting of the Locust Pesticide Referee Group (LPRG) reviewed new data and updated the report
- Establishment of locust control training centre in Sudan
- 3 Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) updated
- DL Guidelines are being updated
Thanks for attention