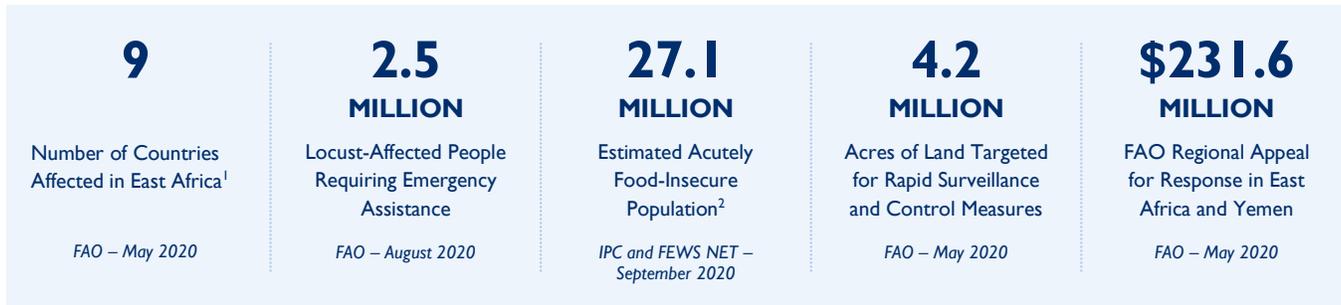


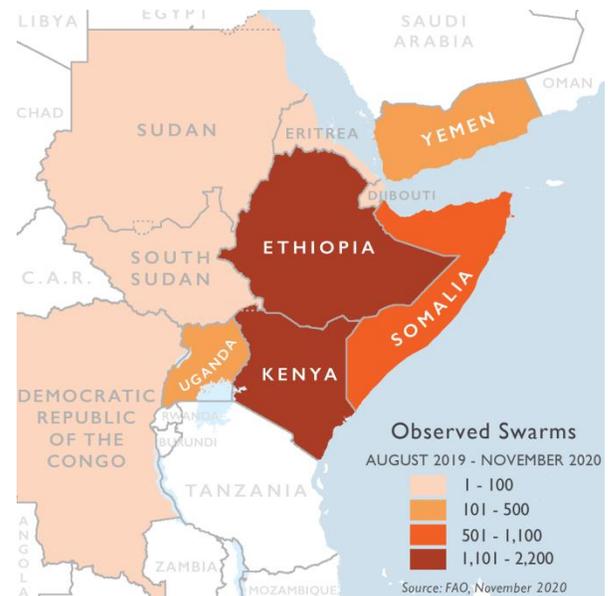
East Africa – Desert Locust Crisis

November 30, 2020

SITUATION AT A GLANCE



- Swarms that form in eastern Ethiopia and central Somalia will begin migrating toward Kenya in early December.
- Heavy rains brought by Tropical Cyclone Gati could extend desert locust breeding into northern Somalia.
- USAID/BHA recently supported the deployment of two spraying aircraft to eastern Ethiopia.
- Control operations have prevented 2.6 million MT of crop loss at harvest time since January, safeguarding the food security of 17.1 million people and protecting grazing areas for the livestock of 1.2 million households.



TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

For the East Africa Desert Locust Crisis Response in FYs 2020–2021

USAID/BHA³ \$25,250,961

USAID/Uganda \$379,862

For complete funding breakdown with partners, see detailed chart on page ⁵

Total \$25,630,823

¹ Figure includes East African countries included in the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)'s regional response plan and addendum as of late May: Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Uganda, and Tanzania.

² Figure reflects combined estimates of populations in Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda currently experiencing Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) 3—Crisis—or higher levels of acute food insecurity. The IPC is a multi-partner initiative that developed a standardized scale to classify the severity and magnitude of food insecurity. The IPC scale, which is comparable across countries and time, ranges from Minimal—IPC 1—to Famine—IPC 5—for acute food insecurity. IPC data are not currently available for Djibouti or Eritrea.

³ USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) funding includes non-food humanitarian assistance from the former Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Regional Epicenter of Upsurge Shifts to Eastern Ethiopia, Central Somalia

Widespread desert locust breeding is ongoing in eastern Ethiopia, central Somalia, and possibly southern Somalia, with numerous new swarms projected to begin forming in early December, according to FAO. Once formed, new swarms are expected to migrate south into southern Ethiopia and southern Somalia, possibly reaching northern Kenya by mid-December.

During October and November, locust populations in northern Ethiopia's Afar, Amhara, and Tigray regions declined significantly due to intensive control operations and onward migrations into Eritrea, eastern Ethiopia, and parts of southern Ethiopia. FAO now reports extensive breeding, hatching, and hopper band formations in eastern Ethiopia's Somali Region—including in the Ogaden Desert—and across the Ethiopia–Somalia border in Somalia's Galgadud, Hiraaan, and Mudug regions. Response actors are scaling up control operations to contain infestations before hoppers begin fledging and forming swarms; however, FAO warns that the potential scale of southward migrations could be substantial.

In response, FAO has relocated several air and ground assets from northern Ethiopia to Somali's Gode town, near where locusts have begun hatching. Additionally, the UN agency has delivered 30 and 20 Global Positioning System (GPS) tablets to surveillance teams in Ethiopia and Somalia, respectively, and plans to provide refresher trainings to field monitors in both countries on the use of eLocust3M—a mobile application that collects and transmits data on locust locations and stages in real-time via satellite from the field to national locust center—in the coming weeks. FAO also continues to increase aerial response capacity in Ethiopia, notably procuring a long-range plane to survey the country's borders with Kenya and Somalia in mid-November.

Rains Brought by Tropical Cyclone Gati Could Possibly Extend Breeding Into Northern Somalia

Heavy rainfall associated with Tropical Cyclone Gati, which made landfall over northern Somalia on November 22, has produced ideal wet conditions for desert locust breeding across the plateau between the semi-autonomous regions of Somaliland and Puntland, FAO reports; however, the storm has not significantly impacted more central parts of Somalia, where most swarms are currently located. Although the strong winds brought by the storm will likely have pushed swarms southward, away from areas directly affected by the storm, the rains may enable any immature swarms still present near northwestern Somalia and in adjacent areas of Ethiopia to rapidly mature and lay eggs. While breeding could subsequently extend into northern parts of Somalia and Ethiopia's Somali Region, FAO does not expect Tropical Cyclone Gati to have changed overall locust breeding and development patterns significantly.

Swarms From Southern Somalia Invade Kenya, Nearly Reaching Tanzania

In mid-November, northerly winds carried several small, mature desert locust swarms from southern Somalia into northeastern and eastern Kenya, with swarms observed in the country's Garissa, Isiolo, Kitui, Mandera, Tana River, and Wajir counties, according to FAO. A few swarms travelled further south in the following days, reaching as far as Taita Taveta County—located near the Kenya–Tanzania border.

Prevailing winds have since shifted, reducing the risk to Tanzania, FAO reports. However, despite previous forecasts of below-average rainfall, Kenya has experienced heavy rains in recent weeks,

creating suitable breeding conditions in many of the same areas where swarms bred and multiplied in late 2019. Hatching and hopper band formations are ongoing in northwestern Kenya's Samburu County, while several mature swarms were observed near the Kenya–Somalia border in Mandera and Wajir, potentially laying eggs. Further breeding is also possible among the swarms that arrived from Somalia in recent weeks, particularly in sandy areas of northeastern Kenya, where recent rains have created favorable breeding conditions.

FAO is working with the Government of Kenya (GoK) to contain new infestations and prepare for the potential arrival of additional swarms from Ethiopia and Somalia in December. To facilitate the timely detection and control of arriving swarms, the UN agency recently redeployed a helicopter and air tractor to support heightened surveillance and control operations in Kenya. The GoK has also dispatched National Youth Service teams to survey at-risk and locust-affected areas, and equipped field monitors with eLocust3 tools to facilitate real-time data reporting.

USAID/BHA Augments Aerial Control Efforts in Eastern Ethiopia

With more than \$1.5 million in FY 2021 funding, USAID/BHA is supporting the deployment of two spraying aircraft to eastern Ethiopia, including one helicopter and one long-range fixed-wing plane. The assets will enable response personnel to bolster aerial control capacity in areas where intensified breeding is ongoing, with the aim of limiting onward migrations once new desert locust swarms begin forming. The plane, which began operating on November 27, is currently stationed in Somali's Jijiga town. USAID/BHA plans to determine the base of operation for the helicopter—which arrives in Ethiopia in early December—following an analysis of priority needs, in consultation with FAO and the Government of Ethiopia.

Breeding in Red Sea Coastal Areas to Continue Through March

FAO continues to monitor increased desert locust activity in Red Sea coastal areas of Eritrea, Sudan, Yemen, and Saudi Arabia, where breeding is projected to continue through March, according to the UN agency. Red Sea coastal areas—which are typically a winter breeding area for the desert locust—have already experienced one generation of early breeding due to recent heavy rains. Yemen in particular remains a reservoir for desert locust breeding; swarms that formed in the interior of the country are migrating north along the Red Sea coast, where ecological conditions are conducive for further breeding. However, conditions in southern coastal areas are dry and unsuitable for desert locusts, suggesting that additional invasions into Ethiopia and Somalia from Yemen are currently unlikely. Control operations continue against locust populations in Eritrea, Sudan and Saudi Arabia, while response teams are locating and treating immature swarms along the Red Sea coast in Yemen, where access permits.

Control Operations Prevent 2.6 Million MT of Crop Loss at Harvest Time

Control teams treated more than 3.2 million acres in East Africa and Yemen between January and late November, preventing nearly 2.6 million metric tons (MT) of crop loss at harvest time—valued at approximately \$765 million, FAO reports. The interventions have safeguarded the food security of approximately 17.1 million people and protected grazing areas for the livestock of approximately 1.2 million pastoral households.

In response to new breeding, response personnel accelerated control efforts in Ethiopia, Eritrea, and Sudan during October and November, treating more acres of infested land in the three countries than in previous months. FAO expects response teams in Ethiopia to maintain intensified control efforts as the scale-up of control operations in the country progresses in the coming weeks.

KEY FIGURES



5

Countries receiving USAID support for desert locust control



7

Aircraft contracted with USAID/BHA support in three locust-affected countries



23

Vehicles deployed with USAID/BHA support in four locust-affected countries



2.7 Million

Acres of land treated in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia since January

U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

SURVEILLANCE AND PEST CONTROL

USAID/BHA funding provides critical equipment—including aircraft and vehicles for surveillance and control—for response teams in locust-affected countries. In areas where launching aerial control operations remains challenging due to ongoing insecurity, USAID/BHA is supporting qualified locust control teams to conduct ground interventions using backpack and vehicle-mounted sprayers. USAID/BHA has also supported one plane and six helicopter deployments to reinforce surveillance and control capacity in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia. The plane enables control agents in Ethiopia to cover long distances and spray large expanses of land in a single flight. Meanwhile, the helicopters allow response teams to verify surveillance data and determine adequacy of control in hard-to-reach areas, including areas with rough, uneven terrain—where planes are typically unable to land—and areas that are difficult to reach by ground transportation or on foot.

RESPONSE CAPACITY-BUILDING AND EARLY WARNING

To strengthen local capacity to manage infestations, USAID/BHA is supporting training on locust monitoring, detection, and control, as well as the safe handling and use of pesticides, for government officials, locust scouts, and other response personnel. USAID/BHA is also supporting the provision of equipment, including GPS, radios, and eLocust3 tablets—which collect and transmit field data in real-time to government officials and FAO staff—to enable response personnel to forecast locust movements and impacts, and to provide early warnings to at-risk communities.

The U.S. Government (USG) continues to support FAO and other stakeholders to improve locust monitoring and forecasting systems, enabling teams to strengthen preparedness and launch more timely and effective responses. USAID's Bureau for Resilience and Food Security—through SERVIR, a joint partnership with the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)—is bolstering FAO's global locust monitoring system, enabling the UN agency to identify targeted treatment areas by strengthening forecasting of breeding locations and swarm movements. In addition, the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Air Resources Laboratory has developed a locust forecasting web application at the request of FAO; the application generates a graphic simulation of future swarm movements, based on weather and wind forecasts, which FAO uses to provide regular situation updates to the public.

FOOD SECURITY

In response to extant humanitarian needs, USAID/BHA implementing partners continue to provide emergency food and nutrition assistance to vulnerable populations in East Africa, including in many locust-affected areas of the region. USAID/BHA partners also continue to monitor potential additional needs resulting from the impact of desert locust infestations.

CONTEXT IN BRIEF

- The desert locust is one of the most destructive migratory pests in the world, rapidly consuming most vegetation in its path, including crops and pastureland critical to maintaining the food security and livelihoods of populations in East Africa. Locust swarms are highly mobile and carried on the wind; swarms can travel up to 100 miles per day, and even a relatively small, 0.4 square mile-sized swarm can consume an amount of food sufficient for approximately 35,000 people in one day.
- Desert locust swarms first crossed the Gulf of Aden and the Red Sea from Yemen and entered Ethiopia and Somalia in June 2019. While desert locust infestations occur seasonally in parts of East Africa, above-average rainfall in the region from September to December 2019, as well as additional rains brought by Tropical Cyclone Pawan to eastern Somalia in early December, extended wet conditions conducive for breeding and generated abundant vegetation for the locusts to consume. Several successive generations of the pest formed multiple hopper bands and swarms of adult locusts, enabling several outbreaks to grow and develop into a regional upsurge, the second of three FAO levels classifying the scale of locust infestations, in late 2019.
- On November 18, 2019, U.S. Ambassador Michael A. Raynor declared a disaster due to the impact of desert locust infestations in Ethiopia. On February 19, 2020, U.S. Chargé d’Affaires Brian Neubert declared a disaster for desert locust-affected areas of Somalia, and on February 25, U.S. Ambassador Kyle McCarter issued a disaster declaration in Kenya due to the impacts of the pest across the country. U.S. Chargé d’Affaires Brian Shukan also declared a disaster due to the projected impact of uncontrolled infestations across Sudan on April 13. Given the continued proliferation of swarms throughout the country, Ambassador Raynor renewed the disaster declaration for Ethiopia on October 16, 2020.

USAID HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE EAST AFRICA DESERT LOCUST RESPONSE IN FY 2020¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/BHA²			
ETHIOPIA			
FAO	Agriculture and Food Security	Countrywide	\$10,778,689
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR THE ETHIOPIA RESPONSE			\$10,778,689
KENYA			
FAO	Agriculture and Food Security	Countrywide	\$4,000,000
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR THE KENYA RESPONSE			\$4,000,000
SOMALIA			
Implementing Partner	Agriculture and Food Security	Countrywide	\$7,092,866
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR THE SOMALIA RESPONSE			\$7,092,866
SUDAN			
FAO	Agriculture and Food Security	Countrywide	\$998,674
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR THE SUDAN RESPONSE			\$998,674
REGIONAL			

FAO	Agriculture and Food Security	Countrywide	\$481,500
	Program Support	Regional	\$345,232
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR THE REGIONAL RESPONSE			\$826,732
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING			\$23,696,961
USAID/UGANDA			
UGANDA			
University of Greenwich – Natural Resources Institute	Agriculture and Food Security	Countrywide	\$134,862
FAO	Agriculture and Food Security	Acholi, Karamoja, Lango, and Teso regions	\$245,000
TOTAL USAID/UGANDA FUNDING FOR THE UGANDA RESPONSE			\$379,862
TOTAL USAID/UGANDA FUNDING			\$379,862
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE EAST AFRICA DESERT LOCUST RESPONSE IN FY 2020			\$24,076,823

USAID HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE EAST AFRICA DESERT LOCUST RESPONSE IN FY 2021¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/BHA			
ETHIOPIA			
Priority Worldwide Services	Transportation - Disaster Site	Countrywide	\$1,517,000
	Program Support	Countrywide	\$37,000
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR THE ETHIOPIA RESPONSE			\$1,554,000
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR THE EAST AFRICA DESERT LOCUST RESPONSE IN FY 2021			\$1,554,000
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR THE EAST AFRICA DESERT LOCUST RESPONSE			\$25,250,961
TOTAL USAID/UGANDA FUNDING FOR THE EAST AFRICA DESERT LOCUST RESPONSE			\$379,862
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE EAST AFRICA DESERT LOCUST RESPONSE IN FYs 2020–2021			\$25,630,823

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of November 30, 2020.

² Includes non-food humanitarian assistance from the former Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance.

PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for disaster responses around the world can be found at [interaction.org](https://www.interaction.org).
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, and warehouse space); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietarily, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
 - USAID Center for International Disaster Information: [cidi.org](https://www.cidi.org)

- Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at reliefweb.int.

USAID/BHA bulletins appear on the USAID website at [usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work](https://www.usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work)