

# DESERT LOCUST CONTROL ORGANIZATION FOR EASTERN AFRICA

..... (DLCO-EA)  
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**SITREP No. 02/2016 - 2017**

## **DESERT LOCUST AND OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS SITUATION REPORT FOR**

**August, 2016**



### **1.0 WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS**

**In the Central Region**, the Inter-Tropical Zone (ITCZ) was located slightly south of its long-term mean position during the first two decades of August, and retreated some 150 km further south than normal during the third decade, reaching Khartoum and north of Hamrat Esh Sheikh in North Kordofan. Widespread, good rains fell throughout the month in all summer breeding areas from West Darfur to the Red Sea Hills, reaching almost as far as north as Dongola. Similar rains fell in the western lowlands of Eritrea. Consequently breeding conditions were favorable over a widespread area of Sudan and western Eritrea. In Yemen, moderate to heavy rains continued to fall at the beginning of August and again at mid-month, causing flooding in many areas. This should allow breeding conditions to remain favorable in most areas. Showers fell at times in northern Oman. In the Horn of Africa, good rains fell in the Afar Region, along the railway and in parts of the Somali region of eastern Ethiopia, extending to southern Djibouti and the escarpment and plateau areas in northwest Somalia near the Ethiopian border. As a result, conditions were favorable for breeding. (*FAO DL bulletin No. 455*)

#### **1.1 Djibouti**

No rainfall was reported and, ecological and weather conditions remained unfavorable for DL breeding.

#### **1.2 Eritrea**

The summer rains continued to fall in most parts of the country including in few places on the Red Sea coastal areas throughout August. Consequently, medium to heavy rains fell across the highlands, western lowlands and in the northern and southern Red Sea Zones. Some heavy infrastructure and crops damages were reported on the highlands, eastern and western lowlands due to hailstorms and heavy floods. In the eastern lowlands, the rainfall was extended up to the Dahlak Islands, which is unusual during the summer rain seasons.

Annual and perennial vegetations in vast areas on the highlands and western lowlands were green due to the continued rainfall during the last three months. It was also reported that these conditions have created favorable ecological conditions for Desert Locust breeding mainly in the western and in some locations on the Red Sea coast.

### 1.3 Ethiopia

Due to the main rain season, temperature decreased slightly and cloudy weather conditions prevailed in most parts of the country during the August.

Consequently, most parts of the country including the summer Desert Locust breeding areas in the Somali Region received low to high and low to moderate amount of rainfall respectively during August.

Generally, groups of annual and perennial vegetations were green including in the Desert Locust summer breeding areas in the east.

#### Rainfall during August, 2016 in mm

Date	DIRE DAWA (0936N/04150E)	Remark
2	4.0	
6	9.0	
7	4.5	
9	4.0	
10	Trace	
12	14.5	
14	1.0	
15	8.5	
18	2.5	
20	1.5	
21	1.5	
24	0.5	
25	2.0	
26	1.0	
27	1.5	
28	8.0	
30	Trace	
<b>Total</b>	<b>64.0</b>	

### 1.4 Kenya

Cool night and day weather conditions continued to occur during August in most parts of the Country. No rainfall was reported during the

month except for some drizzles occurred here and there mainly during the mornings.

Different species of annual plants continued to dry out while perennial vegetation remained green during the month.

### 1.5 Somalia

The weather condition in northwestern regions of the country has slightly improved compared to the previous month, particularly in large portions along the plateau and escarpment. Light to moderate rains occurred during the first and second decades of August. Good rains had also fallen along the Somali-Djibouti-Ethiopian borders mainly during the first decade but declined during the second.

However, the vegetation status in the northwestern regions including the plateau/escarpment and the potential breeding habitats on the coast remained dry except for some localized areas, which remained green.

#### Rainfall during August, 2016 in mm

Date	Boroma	Botor	Burao	Qulujid	Magalo-Cad	Gibley
01	-	-	-	2.0	-	2.0
03	-	-	47.0	14.5	2.0	2.0
04	23.0	-	-	1.5	-	-
05	-	47.0	-	-	-	5.5
06	3.0	-	-	13.5	25.0	11.0
07	-	-	-	23.0	-	-
11	22.0	-	-	-	-	-
13	-	-	-	16.5	-	-
14	-	-	-	-	4.0	-
15	4.0	-	-	5.5	28.0	2.0
17	-	-	-	-	-	3.0
18	-	7.0	-	-	-	3.0
20	-	24.0	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>52.0</b>	<b>78.0</b>	<b>47.0</b>	<b>76.5</b>	<b>59.0</b>	<b>28.5</b>

### 1.6 Sudan

Widespread and good rains fell throughout the month in all the summer breeding areas from West Darfur to the Red Sea Hills, reaching almost as far as north as Dongola, and in the eastern parts bordering Eritrea. Many locations in the eastern and central parts were flooded due to the heavy rains that fell on the highlands of Eritrea and Ethiopia.

Consequently, ecological conditions had improved and became favorable for locust breeding.

### 1.7 Tanzania

No rains reported during August, consequently annual vegetation including crops has started to dry out in most parts of the country.

### 1.8 Uganda

During August, a prolonged dry spell persisted in Karamoja, Teso, Lango, Acholi, Bukedi, west Nile, parts of Busonga and the cattle corridor. Whereas, some parts in the west, Central and Eastern continued to receive scattered showers and thunderstorms. Some districts such as Kamwengye and Mayuge recorded severe thunder and hailstorms, which caused damages to roads, buildings and crops.

The Vegetation conditions were mixtures of green and drying in many parts of the Country.

## 2.0 Desert Locust (*Schistocerca gregaria*)

### 2.1 Djibouti

During the last week of July and in early August, locust adults were reportedly seen moving in the south near Ali Sabeh (1109N/4242E) towards Ethiopia.

### 2.2 Eritrea

Very few isolated immature and mature solitarious adults were found respectively at Wedegesten (174265N/0385150E) around Qrora and at Shelshela (158993N/0391295E) around Shieb in the northern Red Sea coastal areas during a ground survey operation.

### 2.3 Ethiopia

During August, ground teams from the Plant Health Regulatory Directorate and the regional agriculture offices conducted Desert Locust survey operations on 1,098 ha mainly in the summer breeding areas in the eastern parts of the country.

On 10<sup>th</sup> of August, small size mature Desert Locust swarmlet with medium density and hatchings were found at Adele locality (1052N/4239E). On 25<sup>th</sup> of August, hatchings and low size 2<sup>nd</sup> instar hopper bands were found on 20 and 10 hectares respectively at Mead locality (1046N/4236E).

On 31<sup>st</sup> of August, low numbers of solitary adults (70-180/ha) and 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> instar hoppers were found in three Districts at locations 1250N/4017E, 1228N/4018E, 1232N/4021E and 1229N/4019E in the Afar region.

During the month, ground teams controlled 31 small size hopper bands on 208 ha using 106 liters of Malathion 96%ULV.

### 2.4 Somalia

During August, isolated immature and mature solitarious adults were seen at four places on the northwest coastal plains southwest of Lughaye (1041N/4356E). AT the end of the month, a second instar hopper band, a fifth instar band and isolated mature solitarious adults were present on the escarpment in the Jidhi (1037N/4304E) area near the Ethiopian border where there had been earlier unconfirmed sightings of mature swarmlets moving back and forth across the Ethiopian border. On the plateau to the east there was unconfirmed report of hopper bands at two places between Burao (0931N/4533E) and the Ethiopian border on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

### 2.5 Sudan

During the August, scattered mature solitarious adults were present near Kassala (1527N/3623E), in the Nile Valley between Ed Debba (1803N/3057E) and Dongola (1910N/3027E), and mixed with some immature adults in North Kordofan and White Nile States between Abu Iruq (1554N/3027E) and Ed Dueim (1400N/3220E).

## Desert Locust situation in other Regions and Forecast (Extracted from FAO DL Bulletin No. 455)

**Central Region:** The locust situation remained serious during August in Yemen where a second generation of breeding took place in the interior and on the southern coast, giving rise to hopper bands. At

least one first-generation swarm migrated to Pakistan while others smaller swarmlets moved to the Horn of Africa along the borders of Djibouti, Ethiopia and northern Somalia where they laid eggs that hatched, causing small hopper bands to form in eastern Ethiopia and northwest Somalia. Ethiopian teams treated 208 ha. More groups and small swarms are likely to form in Yemen that could move through the highlands and onto the Red Sea coast and into adjacent areas of Saudi Arabia while other swarms could move to the Horn of Africa. Elsewhere, scattered adults were present in the interior of Sudan and on the Red Sea coastal plains in Saudi Arabia where small-scale breeding will cause locust numbers to increase.

**Western Region:** Low numbers of solitarious adults were scattered throughout most of southern Mauritania and Chad. A similar situation may be present in northern Mali and Niger. Summer breeding will cause locust numbers to increase throughout the forecast period in all areas and could extend to southern Algeria.

**Eastern Region:** In late July, at least one mature swarm from Yemen arrived on the Uthal coast of Pakistan where local breeding was already in progress and laid eggs that hatched and hopper groups formed. Ground teams treated 410ha. A few gregarious adults reached the Indus Valley while scattered mature adults were present in Cholistan and, to a lesser extent, in adjacent areas of Rajasthan, India.

### **3.0 Forecast until mid-October, 2016**

#### **3.1 Djibouti**

There is a low to moderate risk that adult groups and perhaps a few small swarms could appear in coastal or interior areas.

#### **3.2 Eritrea**

Low numbers of adults are likely to be present and breeding on a small-scale in the western lowlands. There is a low risk that adult groups and perhaps a

small swarm could appear on the southern coastal plains from Yemen.

#### **3.3 Ethiopia**

Breeding will cause locust numbers to increase along the railway where small groups, bands and perhaps swarmlets could form. There is a low to moderate risk that adult groups and perhaps a small swarms could appear from Yemen.

#### **3.4 Somalia**

There is a low risk that adult groups and perhaps a small swarm could appear from Yemen.

#### **3.5 Sudan**

Locust numbers will increase slightly as a result of small-scale breeding that is almost certainly in progress in West and North Darfur, West and North Kordofan and White Nile States as well as near Kassala and near cropping areas in the Nile Valley. Once vegetation begins to dry out in summer breeding areas, locusts could concentrate between the Nile Valley and the Red Sea Hills towards the end of the forecast period.

#### **3.6 Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda**

The countries are expected to remain free of Desert Locust infestations.

### **4.0 OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS**

#### **4.1 Red-billed Quelea birds (*Quelea quelea* sp.)**

##### **4.1.1 Kenya**

##### **Late report:**

During July, 5.5 million birds in eight roosts were controlled by air in Kisumu County using Fenthion ULV.

#### 4.1.2 Tanzania

No Quelea infestation reported.

#### 4.1.3 Ethiopia

During end of July and beginning of August, aerial Quelea birds control operation continued in the Southern Nations and Nationalities Peoples Region (SNNPR). During the operation, 3.0 million birds covering 125 hectares were controlled using 200 liters of Avicide.

#### 4.1.4 Eritrea

Report not received.

#### 4.1.5 Sudan

Report not received.

#### 4.1.6 Uganda

Infestation not reported.

### 4.2 African Armyworm (*Spodoptera exempta*)

#### 4.2.1 Ethiopia

Ground control operation on second generation of Armyworms was conducted in 5 districts in the Amhara Administrative Region of the country. 2,882 hectares of infestations on Sorghum and Teff crops were sprayed using 2,919 liters of pesticides.

#### Forecast during September, 2016

It is unlikely that Armyworm infestation to continue in Ethiopia and Eritrea during the forecasting period and therefore, the Armyworm breeding season will come to end.

### 4.3 Tsetse fly (*Glossina spp.*)

#### 4.3.1 Uganda

There were more press reports of heavy infestations of Tsetse flies that might threaten the

beef industry in 32 districts and 10 million people across the Country. It was reported that 9.9 million heads of cattle, 8.6 million of goats and 2.4 million of sheep, are at threat of disease transmitted by the flies. (Source: Manager Kampala CRB)

#### CIFO

For Director,

05 September, 2016

For more information about the Organization,  
Please visit DLCO-EA's Website: [www.dlcoea.org.et](http://www.dlcoea.org.et)