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***SITREP No. 08/2019- 2020***

**DESERT LOCUST AND OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS SITUATION REPORT FOR  
FEBRUARY, 2020**

**1.0 WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS HIGHLIGHTS**



***In the Central Region:*** *Very little rain fell except in southwest Ethiopia for a few days in early and late February. Very little rain fell in the winter breeding areas along both sides of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden. Consequently, vegetation began to dry out at the end of the month in the winter breeding areas except on the southern coast of Sudan, the northern and southern coast of Eritrea, the Tihama of Yemen, and the northwest coast of Somalia. In the spring breeding areas of the Arabian Peninsula, vegetation was green in the interior of Saudi Arabia between Wadi Dawasir and Riyadh, in parts of the interior of Yemen, and the interior and coastal areas of northern Oman. In the Horn of Africa, breeding conditions remained favourable in southern Ethiopia and the Rift Valley, in northern and Central Kenya, and in parts of Somalia. (FAO DL bulletin No. 497)*

**1.1 Djibouti**

During February, insignificant rains fell at times as weather conditions remained colder across the country. Vegetation was green in most areas due to the previous months rainfalls. Temperature oscillated between 25<sup>o</sup> C at night and 31<sup>o</sup> C during day time.

**2. Eritrea**

During February, scattered light rains fell at times on the Red Sea coastal plains until mid of the month. Consequently, vegetation continued to remain green until late February. Soil also remained wet mainly in the central Red Sea coastal plains, while it was dry towards the northern coast. Overall, the coastal areas remained partially favourable for locust breeding during the month.

**3. Ethiopia**

During February, dry and sunny weather conditions prevailed in all parts of the country. However, light to moderate rains fell in some parts of southeastern, western, DireDawa (4.5mm) and Ayisha (9.6mm) during the beginning of the second and end of the third dekads of the month.

Perennial vegetation remained green and annual vegetation were greening and soil was wet in areas where rains fell. Consequently, ecological conditions have improved and were generally favourable for locust breeding during the month.

**1.4 Kenya**

During February, except for light rains which fell in very limited locations, most days of the month remained sunny and hot. However, vegetation status remained green in most parts of the country.

**1.5 Somalia**

During February, light rains fell at times in the northwestern parts of the Country. Vegetation was green in areas where rains fell creating, favourable ecological conditions for locust breeding.

## 1.6 Sudan

Light rains fell during the first dekad of February in the southern Red Sea coastal plains. Consequently, ecological conditions remained favourable for Desert Locust breeding mainly in Tokar Delta and the southern coast where vegetation continued to remain green and soil wet. However, the vegetation in the northern coastal and sub-coastal plains, started to dry out.

## 1.7 Tanzania

During February, moderate to heavy amount of rains fell in the entire country (100 - 250mm). It was also reported that due to flooding, crops were swept away, some infrastructure were destroyed and deaths of people and animals were occurred mainly in the eastern, central and southern parts of the country.

Vegetation including crops remained green in most parts of the country.

## 1.8 Uganda

During February, most parts of the country continued to receive moderate to heavy showers. Central and western parts of the country continued recording more off-seasonal rains since January. Northern, eastern and northwestern recorded some dry conditions with intermittent moderate to heavy rainfalls.

The vegetation remained very green in most parts of the Country.

## 2.0 Desert Locust (*Schistocerca gregaria*) situation and forecast until mid-April, 2020

### 2.1 Djibouti

No locusts were reported during February.

**Forecast:** *There is a low risk that a few groups and swarms may appear in the south and east from adjacent areas of eastern Ethiopia and northwest Somalia.*

### 2.2 Eritrea

During February, survey and ground control operations continued by PPD staff of the MoA in the northern Red Sea coastal areas. Ground control teams treated all stages of gregarious hopper groups, fledglings stretching from Wekiro (1548N/3918E) to Qarura (1720N/3836E) and breeding swarms in Demas (1531N/3915E). Second generation 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> scattered solitary hoppers and isolated immature adults were also controlled around Embere, Mahimet (1723N/3841E) and Qarura. Ground teams treated 12,153 ha during the month.

**Forecast:** *A limited third generation of breeding could occur in areas that remain favourable on the central Red Sea coast; otherwise, a northwards movement along the coast can be expected as conditions dry out. There remains a risk that a few swarms could appear from Ethiopia and Yemen at times.*

### 2.3 Ethiopia

During February, serious Desert Locust outbreaks and infestations continued mainly in the southwestern and eastern parts in Oromiya (Borena zone) and in the Southern Nations and Nationalities Peoples Administrative Region (Konso and South Omo Zones). Immature and mature swarms were reported and hatching started from 20<sup>th</sup> February in very vast area, which was estimated 24k-m<sup>2</sup> in both regions.

Medium to large size immature and mature swarms entered to Borena and Oromiya Administrative regions from Kenya. Some swarms have also moved further north, reaching the central parts of the country.

Though there were no any quantitative damages reported on field crops however, the swarms and hoppers were feeding on tree leaves and grazing lands.

Aerial control operations against immature and mature swarms were conducted on 41,050 ha of infestations using a DLCO-EA and other 3 hired aircraft while ground teams, sprayed 2,244 ha of hopper infestations during February.

**Forecast:** *widespread hatching and band formation are likely to occur in Oromiya and SNNP regions, where a new generation of swarms could start to form in April. Undetected breeding may be in progress in other areas of the east and south. This will be supplemented by cross-border move-*

*ments of immature swarms along the Somali and Kenya borders. Southerly winds could carry swarms further north into central and northern areas of the country.*

## **2.4 Somalia**

During February, immature swarms formed in the northeast near Garowe (0824N/4829E) at the beginning of the month. In central areas, scattered hoppers, adults and immature adult groups were present between Galkayo (0646N/4727E) and Beletweyne (0444N/4512E). In the northwest, breeding occurred on the Northwest coast between Lughaye (1041N/4356E) and Bulhar (1023N/4425E), on the plateau near Burao (0931N/4533E), and hopper bands formed near Berbera (1028N/4502E) and on the escarpment north of Burao where immature and mature adult groups were also present as well as some mature groups that were laying. At least 1,000 ha were treated by ground teams. (FAO bulletin No. 497)

**Forecast:** *An increasing number of immature swarms are likely to form in parts of the country, some of which could move further southwards while others are likely to remain in areas that remain favourable and mature. Another generation of breeding is expected to occur on the Northwest plateau, giving rise to further hopper bands.*

## **2.5 Sudan**

During February, survey operations conducted by PPD staff mainly in the winter breeding locations along the Red Sea coastal plains between the borders of southern Egypt and northern Eritrea. During the survey, maturing swarms were seen and controlled in the southern coast at Khogli (1746N/3823E), Obalay (1755N/3820E), Balatat (1757N/3820E) and Shabri (1745N/3820E), and hopper bands at Mogal (1749N/3820E), Balatat (1757N/3820E), Gadef (1749N/3822E) and Aiterba (1753N/3819E). Immature swarms were also treated in Marob, Hibkwan (2132N/3635E) and Wadi Wasi (2143N/3651E) in the northern coastal plains. Low density mature adults were reported in Tokar Delta (1827N/3741E) while in the Northern State, low densities of immature and mature adults found in several locations at Houmia, Awlad Iderees, Zadna and Alhasha. In the River Nile State, only one infestation was seen in irrigated scheme at Abu Hammed (1831N/3227E). During the month, 5050

ha of infestations were sprayed using 2525 litres of insecticides.

**Forecast:** *A few adult groups and perhaps small swarms will form on the southern coast, which are likely to move to the Nile Valley as vegetation dries out where breeding will occur with possible hatching and band formation starting from late March onwards.*

## **2.6 Kenya,**

During the beginning of February, most of the immature swarms which entered the country during January reached maturity and started laying eggs mainly in central and northern counties of the country. Some of the mature adults also split-up into several swarm-lets and were reported in almost 21 counties of the country. While egg-laying continued, it was reported that from 2<sup>nd</sup> February onward, hatching started and medium to large sizes of hopper bands covering wider areas were reported in Samburu, Isiolo, Marsabit, Wajir and Garissa Counties. By the end of the month, some hoppers also reached 4<sup>th</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> stages and some were fledging in the above indicated counties. It is estimated that more than 15,000 ha of infestations were treated both by ground and air.

**Forecast:** *Hopper bands will continue to form during March and April, giving rise to an increasing number of first-generation swarms that will mature and could be ready for a second generation of breeding from April onwards. Most of the breeding will remain concentrated in northern counties of Turkana, Marsabit, Samburu, Isiolo, Wajir and Mandera.*

## **2.7 South Sudan, Uganda and Tanzania**

During February, mature adults continued to migrate to northeastern, northern, central and western parts of Uganda, to northern Tanzania and to the southern and southeastern parts of South Sudan.

**Uganda:** Mature swarms entered into the country via Amudati District (0157N/3456E) on 9th February. Since then, more mature small size swarms have continued to enter via Moroto (0231N/3439E)

and Kabongo (0334N/3404E), Soroti (0143N/3336E), Bukwa (0117N/3444E) Lokung ((0335N/3242E) and Apoka (0344E/3344N) districts during the rest days of the month. As locusts were mature, no significant damages were reported. In addition, as the spread was so fast, about 20 districts have reported the presence of the swarms by the end of February. Ground and aerial control operations were mobilised and some ground control operations were initiated mainly on already matured swarms.

**Forecast:** *Successful egg-laying may have occurred in a few places of the northeast, which would give rise to hopper bands during the forecast period. From mid-March onwards, a few new-generation immature swarms could arrive from western Kenya in the northeast and continue northwards.*

**South Sudan:** On 17th February, a mature swarm coming from northeast Uganda arrived in Magwi county of southwest East Equatoria where it invaded several villages between the Uganda border and Magwi (0408N/3218E). Remnant of this swarm was seen several days later. On 23rd, a mature swarm crossed the border from Uganda to Loboni (0347N/3245E) where it dispersed and was reported during the following days.

**Forecast:** *from mid-March onwards, a few new-generation immature swarms could arrive from western Kenya in East Equatoria and continue towards the north and northwest.*

**Tanzania:** On 9th February, a group of mature gregarious adults were seen in the north bordering Kenya and soon dispersed towards Arusha (0322S/3642E) and Moshi (0321S/3720E) and no copulation or egg-laying reported.

**Forecast:** *the risk of any additional swarms arriving in the north is very low due to prevailing southerly winds.*

## **7. Desert Locust situation in the central and other regions** (Extracted from FAO DL Bulletin No. 497)

**Central Region:** Control operations conducted in Saudi Arabia (22,645 ha), Eritrea (12,153 ha), Su-

dan (5,505 ha), Oman (2,100 ha), Yemen (1,475 ha) and Egypt (154 ha). Immature swarms invaded Iraq (69 Ha), Kuwait, Bahrain (3 Ha), Qatar and UAE (45 Ha). Control operations against mature swarms, hopper bands and new-generation immature swarms in Kenya (15,000+h ha) Ethiopia (41050 ha) and Somalia (1,053 ha).

**Western Region:** Scattered locusts reported in Morocco, Algeria and Libya.

**Eastern Region:** Swarms arrived in southwest Iran (2,617 ha treated) and laid eggs. Breeding started in Baluchistan and Punjab, Pakistan (8,299 ha treated). Control continued against residual groups and swarms in India (11,420 ha).

## **4.0 OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS**

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

#### **4.1.1 Kenya**

Incidences not reported.

#### **4.1.2 Tanzania**

Large flocks of birds were reported in Chato, Shinyanga and Bahi districts.

#### **1.3 Ethiopia**

Incidences not reported.

#### **4.1.4 Eritrea**

Monthly report not received.

#### **4.1.5 Sudan**

Monthly, report not received.

#### **4.1.6 Uganda**

Incidences not reported.

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

#### **4.2.1 Tanzania**

##### **African Armyworm**

Incidences not reported.

## **Fall Armyworm (FAW)**

Infestations were reported in all Maize growing areas where Maize crops reached vegetative stages.

### **4.2.2 Uganda**

#### **African Armyworm**

Incidences not reported.

#### **Fall Armyworm (FAW)**

Incidences not reported.

### **4.2.3 Eritrea**

#### **African Armyworm**

Monthly report not received.

#### **Fall Armyworm**

Monthly report not received and the situation is unknown.

### **4.2.4 Ethiopia**

#### **African Armyworm**

Incidences not reported.

#### **Fall Armyworm**

Incidences not reported.

### **4.2.5 Kenya**

#### **African Armyworm**

Report not received.

#### **Fall Armyworm**

Report not received.

### **Forecast until end of March, 2020**

#### **African Armyworm:**

It is less likely that infestation to appear in the region. However, with the onset of the short rains, there is probability that few infestations to appear in Tanzania.

## **Fall Armyworm**

Fall Armyworms are likely to continue appearing widely during March in all previously affected member countries and continue feeding on irrigated and newly planted Maize and Sorghum crops. Consequently, member countries are highly advised to continue monitoring of moth movements for early detections and control of the worms.

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

### **4.3.1 Uganda**

#### **4.3.1.1 Tsetse flies:**

Incidences not reported.

**CIFO**

**For Director,**

06 March, 2020

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