

**DESERT LOCUST CONTROL ORGANIZATION FOR EASTERN AFRICA  
(DLCO-EA)**



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**SITREP No. 03/2021 - 2022**

**DESERT LOCUST AND OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS SITUATION**  
**REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER, 2021**



**1.0 WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS HIGHLIGHTS**

***In the Central Region:*** In the Horn of Africa, light to moderate rains continued to fall in the central and southern areas of Afar region in northeast Ethiopia and adjacent areas in Djibouti during the first decade. Thereafter, rainfall declines in all areas. Good rains fell in the Harar Highlands of eastern Ethiopia while heavier rains fell in the northern highlands. Sporadic showers occurred during the second decade along parts of the plateau in northern Somalia. In Sudan, the Inter-Tropical-Convergence Zone (ITCZ) was more than 150 km further north during the first decade of September, hovering over Baiyuda Desert. Thereafter, it began its seasonal retreat southwards to Khartoum in the second decade. Consequently, light to moderate showers fell between Khartoum and Berber during the first decade with light rains at times in North Darfur, North Kordofan and in the east between the Nile Valley and the Red Sea Hills, extending to the western lowlands of Eritrea. Rainfall decline during the second decade in all areas and only light rains fell near Kassala and in western Eritrea. Nevertheless, vegetation remained green in most places except near Kassala where it was starting to dry out. In Yemen, very little rain fell in the interior, but vegetation remained green in southern parts near Ataq. In the winter breeding areas, light to moderate rains fell along the Red Sea coast of Yemen and, to a lesser extent, on the Gulf of Aden coast in the southwest during the first decade. Light rains continued during the second decade on the Red Sea coasts in Yemen and extended to the Jizan coast in Saudi Arabia. Dry conditions prevailed in northern Oman. Southern Yemen. (FAO DL bulletin No. 516).

**1.1 Djibouti**

Light to moderate rains fell mainly during the first half of September in most parts of the country that created suitable conditions for locust breeding.

**1.2 Eritrea**

Mainly during the first half of September, Moderate to heavy rains fell throughout the country. Annual vegetation including crops generally have started to dry out as the main rain season comes to an end in the high and western lowlands.

**1.3 Ethiopia**

During September, the main rain season started to decline however, most parts of the country have received light to moderate amount of rains. Both annual and perennial vegetation have remained green and soil moisture was wet in some of the Desert Locust breeding areas,

creating favorable ecological conditions for Desert Locust breeding.

## RAINFALL. Data (mm)

Date	Dire Dawa (0936N/4150E)	Remark
01/09	3.0	
03	3.0	
04	32.0	
05	2.5	
7	3.5	
08	35.0	
10	6.0	
15	>50.0	
22	2.0	
25	5.5	
30	12.0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>&gt;154.5</b>	

### 1.4 Kenya

During September, cloudy and cold weather conditions continued to prevail in most parts of the country with some light and intermittent rains that occurred in few places mainly, in the central and western parts. Annual and perennial vegetation continued to dry out in vast areas of the country.

### 1.5 Somalia

Light to moderate rains fell mainly during the first decade of September in the northwest and northern coastal areas of the country.

### 1.6 Sudan

During September, moderate to heavy rains fell at times in some of the summer breeding areas. However, vegetation continued to dry out in most parts of the summer breeding areas as the main rain season comes to an end, creating unfavourable conditions for Desert Locust breeding.

### 1.7 Tanzania

During September, light showers were reported in some parts in Lake Victoria Basin, northern coast and western zone. Other parts remained dry.

Vegetation generally was mix of dry and green, mainly in the highlands where rains fell.

### 1.8 Uganda

During September, most parts of the Central, Lake Victoria basin, North and Northeastern regions continued receiving moderate to heavy rains. Few places in Western and Southwestern parts of the country also started receiving some moderate to heavy showers.

Vegetation was green in north and northeastern, mostly green in the Lake Victoria basin and continued greening in most of the western and southwestern parts of the country.

## 2.0 DESERT LOCUST (*SCHISTOCERCA GREGARIA*) SITUATION DURING SEPTEMBER AND FORECAST UNTIL MID-DECEMBER, 2021

### 2.1 Djibouti

On 7 September, two fifth instar hopper bands were seen in the northern Dorra (1209N/4228E) in Tadjourah region. (FAO DL Bulletin No. 516).

#### Forecast:

*Small immature groups and swarms are expected to form in a few western and southern areas during October and move towards Somalia. A few small swarms from northeast Ethiopia may also transit through the country towards northwest Somalia.*

### 2.2 Eritrea

No locusts were seen during a ground survey mission in the western lowlands and the country remained free from any infestation.

#### Forecast:

*A low to moderate number of small immature swarms are likely to appear in the highlands from northern Ethiopia*

*and move to the Red Sea coast for eventual maturation and egg-laying.*

### **2.3 Ethiopia**

During September, hatching, hopper bands formation and maturation were taking place in Amhara and Afar Administrative regions. Movements of different sizes of swarms were also reported in Afar (1148N/4100E, 1136N/4001E), Somali Administrative region and Dire Dawa Administrative Council (1020N/4154E, 1017N/4157E). There was lack of full and confirmed information on the locust situation from the Afar and Amhara region due to insecure situations in the areas.

Aerial and ground control operations were conducted against mature and immature swarms, and hopper bands on 3,657 ha, of which 3,102 ha were by air and 285 by ground.

#### **Forecast:**

*An increasing number of immature swarms are expected to form in Afar, eastern Amhara and southeast Tigray regions from where they will migrate north to Eritrea and east to the eastern parts of the Somali Region and adjacent areas in northern*

*Somalia. Once rain falls in the Somali Region, the swarms will mature and lay eggs that will start to hatch towards the end of the forecast period.*

### **2.4 Somalia**

During September, a limited number of small spring-bred swarms persisted on the plateau where they remained immature. As the month progressed, they become more active with increased sightings in the northwest (Somaliland) between Boroma (0956N/4313E) and Hargeisa

(0931N/4402E) and in the northeast (Puntland) between Erigavo (1040N/4720E) and Iskushuban (1017N/5014E). Limited cross-border movements occurred west of Hargeisa. By

the end of the month, a few swarms were starting to mature in the northeast. Scattered maturing adults were seen on the northwest coast near Silil (1058N/4326E).

Control operations treated 9,972 ha of which 4,181 ha were by air. (FAO DL bulletin No. 516).

#### **Forecast:**

*Low numbers of small swarms will persist on the plateau in the northwest and northeast with some cross-border movements in the northwest. October rains should allow the swarms to mature and lay eggs on the plateau and perhaps on the northwest coast. This will cause hatching and band formation during November. Additional immature swarms are expected to arrive from Northeast Ethiopia and perhaps a few from southern Yemen.*

### **2.5 Sudan**

During September, 3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> instar medium densities of hopper groups and bands, fledglings and some gregarious immature groups were controlled in Algerian (1741N/3237E) and Alkiheilat (1841N/3303E) in Baiyuda Desert, and Abo Doom (1802N/3256E), River Nile State. Low density copulating adults were also seen in Aledaira (1220N/3435E) east of Atbara River.

In the Northern State, copulating and immature groups were seen in Alhazima2 (1729N/3138E) near Um Jawasser; where low-density breeding adults were seen in Wadi2 (1718N/3156E).

In North Kordofan State, low density 2<sup>nd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> instars solitarious hoppers and fledglings were seen in areas between Sodiri and Umm Saiyala during early September. In addition, scattered immature and mature solitarious adults were reported in several locations.

Low density mature/immature solitarious adults were also reported in Kassala, Khartoum and the Red Sea States.

Ground control teams treated 1,400 ha using 1,400 liters of insecticide during the month.

**Forecast:**

*A few more small groups of hoppers and adults are likely to form in Baiyuda Desert and perhaps in parts of North Kordofan as vegetation dries out. Locusts may appear between the Nile Valley and the Red Sea Hills as adults move from the summer breeding areas to the Red Sea coast for winter breeding. There is low risk that a few small immature swarms from northern Ethiopia may arrive along the southern coastal plains.*

**2.6 Kenya**

During September, no locusts were reported in the country.

**Forecast:**

*No significant developments are likely.*

**2.7 Uganda, South Sudan and Tanzania**

During September, no locusts were reported in the countries.

**Forecast:**

*No significant developments are likely in the countries.*

**3.0 DESERT LOCUST SITUATION IN THE CENTRAL AND OTHER REGIONS (EXTRACTED FROM FAO DL BULLETIN NO. 516)**

**Central Region:**

Control operations continued in northern Somalia (9,972 ha treated), and started in eastern Ethiopia (3,657 ha) against a few remaining small spring-bred immature swarms; hopper bands and a new immature swarms form in the Northeast (Afar) and north (Tigray, Amhara) of Ethiopia where survey and control were limited due to access and insecurity; hopper bands form in Djibouti. Hopper

bands and swarms form in Yemen interior (417 ha) where control limited. Y beekeepers. Small-scale breeding in Sudan (1,400 ha) with a few hopper and adult groups. Isolated adults in Egypt.

**Western Region:**

Scattered hoppers and adults from local breeding in Mali and Chad.

**Eastern Region:**

No locusts present.

**4.0 OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS**

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

**4.1.1 Kenya**

During September, incidences were not reported.

**4.1.2 Tanzania**

During September, large flocks of Quelea birds were reported feeding on Rice in Ruvu Rice irrigation scheme, coast region, Lower Moshi in Kilimajaro region and Mombo-Korogwe, Tanga region. Aerial control operations were under way.

**4.1.3 Ethiopia**

Incidences were not reported.

**4.1.4 Eritrea**

Monthly report not received.

**4.1.5 Sudan**

Monthly, report not received.

**4.1.6 Uganda**

It was reported that small numbers of Quelea birds have remained uncontrolled in SWT Rice farm in Bulambuli district where aerial control operations were conducted during August.

## 4.2 Armyworms (*Spodoptera spp*)

### 4.2.2 Uganda

#### African Armyworm

Incidences were not reported.

#### Fall Armyworm (FAW)

Incidences were not reported.

### 4.2.3 Eritrea

#### African Armyworm

Monthly report not received.

#### Fall Armyworm

Monthly report not received.

### 4.2.4 Ethiopia

#### African Armyworm

Incidences were not reported.

#### Fall Armyworm

During September, FAW infestations were reported in 5 zones, 18 districts and 356 villages in the Amhara, Oromia, SNNPR, Sidama, Benishangul and Gambella Administrative regions. The report indicated that 64,378 hectares of Maize were infested and cultural and chemical control operations treated 19,911 ha and 30,196 ha respectively. 19,589 litres of chemical was used during the operations.

### 4.2.5 Kenya

#### African Armyworm

Report not received.

#### Fall Armyworm

Report not received.

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

### 4.3.1 Uganda

Incidences were not reported.

#### For Director

**Mehari Tesfayohannes**

**CIFO, DLCO-EA**

27<sup>th</sup> October, 2021

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