



Project Name	EFFECTIVE EMERGENCY LOCUST CONTROL IN LOCUST PRONE COUNTRIES IN THE HORN OF AFRICA
Ref	OSRO/SFE/601/USA LOA FAO/SFE -3602955
Duration	August, 2016– February, 2018
Project area	Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Sudan
Funded by	USAID/OFD through FAO-SFE

Project Brief

The Desert Locust infestation in the region is historically a threat to the food security of mainly the subsistence farmers. A project focusing on the “**Effective Emergency Desert Locust Control in Locust-prone Countries in the Horn of Africa**” was initiated in front line Countries of Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Sudan.

The project was an eighteen months program and was implemented by DLCO-EA from August, 2016 through February, 2018. The project was financed by the Office of US Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) of the United State Agency for International Development (USAID) through FOASFE

Project Objectives

- To strengthen national and regional capacity for better management of emergency locust control and preventive interventions in the sub-region.
- To increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises in African

Key Project Outputs

Early detection and outbreak prevention through community sensitization, ground and aerial survey, preparing Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) with Djibouti, Ethiopia and Somalia for cross border survey and control operations. Acquisition and distribution of survey equipment and Desert Locust field ground and aerial survey.

Capacity building of frontline states. Capacity of plant protection staff in Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia and Sudan, Sensitization of local communities, Acquisition of survey equipment, ICT equipment and vehicles was done. The project further enhanced the capacities of the Ministries of Agriculture of the four countries through the provision of training. The project contributed to building the capacity of the Desert Locust Control Organization for Eastern Africa (DLCO-EA), which in turn was able to support its member states to monitor and manage the threat posed by the desert locust in the Horn

of Africa. DLCO-EA Base stations were also capacitated through providing desktop computers, printers, vehicle etc.

Strengthen communication network and linkages. To ensure effective information sharing between DLCO-EA Member States, practitioners and other stakeholders, the project upgraded the DLCO-EA website to include new features in line with the Community of Practice.

Lessons learnt

I. Element of success

- a) Communities in the frontline countries became more knowledgeable about the desert locust's biology, the threat it can pose and the means of control. They are, therefore, in a more strong position to monitor and report the pest's situation in their localities. They also acquired basic knowledge and skills to control the pest in case of emergency locust outbreaks.
- b) Communication was strengthened between Ministries of Agriculture and community locust scouts, speeding up the reporting process.
- c) Cooperation was improved between countries on jointly monitoring and controlling the pest.
- d) Frontline communities developed a sense of ownership of regular monitoring and reporting activities.

II. Impediments/constraints

- a) High staff turnover within the Ministries of Agriculture of most project implementing countries resulted in lack of institutional memory related to most desert locust-related activities. This calls for regular training of existing manpower.
- b) There were challenges in transferring budgets from DLCO-EA (project implementing partner) from its headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia to Eritrea, an issue that should prove less problematic now that relations between the two countries have improved

Recommendations

For the sustainability of effective community-based desert locust control and prevention in the Horn of Africa, the following actions are required:

- a) Scaling up the good practices and lessons learned from the community-based desert locust control and prevention approach on a wider scale in all desert locust-prone countries of Eastern Africa;
- b) Further improving the communication network between frontline communities and national Ministry of Agriculture desert locust units, Regional and international institutions. New Technologies should be assessed for early detection of Desert Locust.

- c) Strengthening multilateral cooperation between Eastern African countries for faster exchanges of information on the desert locust.
- d) Promotion and testing of *Metarhizium* sp., a proven environmentally-friendly bio pesticide for managing the desert locust.
- e) Governments should continue to regularly build the capacities of national desert locust staff to better support the community and locust scouts.
- f) Governments should continue mainstreaming community-based desert locust monitoring and control strategies within their national regular crop protection activities.

Acknowledgement

1. USAID for funding this project through FAO (FAOSFE)
2. FAO for facilitation and coordination of the project
3. Ministry of Agriculture offices for Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia and Somalia for participating in the implementation of this Project.