



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

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### *SITREP No. 10- 2025/2026*

## **DESERT LOCUST AND OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS' SITUATION REPORT FOR APRIL, 2026**

### ***Summary***

#### **Desert Locust**

In April 2026, the Desert Locust situation remained calm across all DLCO-EA Member Countries. Sudan conducted extensive surveys covering 33,520 hectares along the Red Sea coastal winter breeding areas and nearby subcoastal zones such as Wadi Oko, Diib, and the Tokar Delta, with no significant locust activity detected. In Eritrea, and Somalia, no formal surveys were carried out, but reports from scouts, district focal persons, and regional officers confirmed the absence of locusts across key coastal, subcoastal, and inland breeding areas. Similarly, Ethiopia reported no locust activity, as regional information officers and scouts observed no presence in the eastern spring breeding areas despite the lack of surveys.

#### **Quelea Bird**

In Tanzania Quelea control operations continued throughout April in the Central Zone, particularly in the Dodoma Region, where approximately 25 sites were treated, resulting in the control of about 69 million birds. spraying 2,425 liters of Bathion 60% on 1,300ha. Average %kill was estimated 86 %.

Other Member Countries were free of quelea bird infestation.

#### **African Armyworm**

In April, no report of African Armyworm was received from Member Countries.

## WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS HIGHLIGHTS

### 1. Djibouti

In Djibouti Seasonal rainfall in April was generally scarce across most inland areas. Vegetation conditions remained largely dry, particularly in the coastal plains and northern rangelands. These factors mean that the environment is currently not suitable for any immediate large-scale Desert Locust breeding. April is also characterized by high temperatures, with daily averages temperature rising from about 25°C in the morning to around 31°C by midday, indicating a notable increase in heat.

### 2. Eritrea

In April 2026, although light rainfall occurred in the highlands and western lowlands, no rainfall was recorded in the main breeding areas, where vegetation conditions and soil moisture remained dry.

### 3. Ethiopia

During April, the country experienced wet and relatively warm conditions, signaling the onset and spread of the short rainy season, including across desert locust spring breeding areas.

Moderate to heavy rainfall was recorded in locations such as Dire Dawa Administration, much of the Somali and Afar Regions, and southeastern Tigray. This led to a marked improvement in vegetation, with both annual and perennial plants turning green, alongside a significant increase in soil moisture.

### 4. Kenya

April 2026 was marked by heavy rainfall that recorded substantial increases in the highlands west of the Rift Valley and the Coast. Heavy rainfall was recorded in most parts of the country, with significant surge occurring in Late April in most parts of the country where flooding occurred due to high intensity with reports of fatalities and displacement of families especially in central highlands. The highest rainfall amount (281.0mm) was recorded at the coast. Western Kenya and the highland's west of the Rift Valley, the Lake

Victoria basin, the central and southern Rift Valley, the highlands east of Rift Valley, the southern lowlands and the central strip experienced consistent heavy rainfall in most parts during the month. The coastal regions and south east lowlands, experienced substantial increase in rainfall while Northern/North Eastern regions remained relatively warmer with isolated heavy rainfall in some counties in the region. High daytime temperatures were common in North-Eastern and coastal parts of the country, with some areas experiencing daily temperatures exceeding 30°C. Cool and low temperatures nights were recorded in the highlands.

### 5. Somalia

In April 2026 environmental conditions in the Desert Locust breeding areas of the northeast began to improve, with vegetation starting to green. In the northwest, conditions are more advanced, as indicated by greener vegetation and increased soil moisture following light to moderate rainfall in coastal and subcoastal areas. Overall, these rains have contributed to modest improvements in soil moisture and vegetation growth across the breeding.

### 6. South Sudan

In South Sudan, April marks the transition from the dry season to the rainy season. During the month, the weather becomes increasingly hot and humid as rainfall begins to rise across the country. Daytime temperatures generally range from about 32°C to 36°C, while nighttime temperatures stay warm, usually between 20°C and 24°C. Although the heat remains intense, the increasing cloud cover and occasional rain showers provide some relief compared to the peak dry season. Rainfall becomes more frequent in April, often occurring as short but heavy thunderstorms, especially toward the end of the month. Overall, April is characterized by hot conditions, rising humidity, and the gradual onset of the wet season, which begins to transform the landscape into a greener environment.

## 7. Sudan

No rainfall was reported in April 2026, Vegetation remained mostly dry across the surveyed areas along the Red Sea coast and in Wadi Diib, with only a few patches of green observed along the southern coast. Soil moisture levels were generally dry throughout the surveyed regions.

## 8. Tanzania

The average rainfall during April ("long rains" (Masika) season, Tanzania was generally high with some areas of the country receiving up to 360mm as recorded in some regions making it one of the wettest months in the long-time average records. According to the observed data, moderate to heavy rains of over 200mm associated with thunderstorms was observed in Western Regions of Tabora, Kigoma Rukwa and Katavi as well as South Western parts including Mbeya, Njombe, Iringa Regions.

Other areas saw moderate rainfall between 100-200 mm, sometimes reaching over 500mm in localized areas during this period particularly in Southern, Central, and Northwestern parts including Lake Victoria Basin. Heavy rains throughout April 2026 in Tanzania have caused significant disruption, and potential infrastructure damage and flash floods in some areas with Agricultural crops submerged, wiped, and cashew trees drying due to too much water in Southern Cashew production zone including Mtwara and Lindi Regions.

## 9. Uganda

The first rains of March-April-May (MAM) rains, continued especially in Central, western, and south western sectors of the Country as had been forecasted by The Uganda National Meteorological Authority in its MAM 2026 outlook in its March bulletin. The Country recorded near normal to above normal rainfall during the month of April 2026, but with some parts of Northern Uganda remaining dry. Vegetation was green across most parts of the Lake Victoria basin, South Western Uganda, parts of Eastern Uganda.

## 2.0 DESERT LOCUST (*Schistocerca gregaria*) SITUATION

### 2.1 Djibouti

During the month of April 2026, the locust situation in the Republic of Djibouti remained calm.

#### **Forecast**

*No Locust development will be expected in the forecast period.*

### 2.2 Eritrea

The Desert Locust situation remained **calm** during April. No desert locust surveys were conducted during the month, and no locusts were reported in Eritrea. According to scout reports, vegetation conditions remained dry; however, rainfall began in the western lowlands and highlands of the country.

#### **Forecast**

*During the forecast period, the desert locust population is expected to decline in the winter breeding areas due to increasingly unfavorable environmental conditions. Nevertheless, limited breeding is likely to occur in the summer breeding zones.*

*Regular surveys and close monitoring remain essential in both summer and winter breeding areas, particularly in the event of unusual rainfall.*

### 2.3 Ethiopia

Desert locust surveys were not undertaken in April by the Federal Desert Locust Officers. However, reports obtained from Regional Agricultural Offices, plant health clinics, and Desert Locust scouts confirmed absence of Desert locust development and activity during the month.

#### **Forecast**

*Locust situation is expected to remain calm throughout May 2026.*

## **2.4 Somalia**

The Desert Locust situation remained calm during April 2026. No surveys were carried out; however, reports from district DL focal persons, scouts, and regional extension officers confirmed that no locusts were observed in the coastal areas.

### **Forecast**

*As the coastal areas are becoming unfavorable for locust breeding, it is advised to conduct survey for assessing the development in the inland breeding areas in May 2026.*

## **2.5 Sudan**

The Desert Locust situation in Sudan remained calm throughout April 2026. Comprehensive survey operations were conducted over 33,520 hectares in the traditional winter breeding areas along the Red Sea coast, extending from the Egyptian border in the north to the Eritrean border in the south. Additional monitoring was carried out in sub-coastal areas west of the Red Sea Hills, including Wadi Oko, Wadi Diib, and the Tokar Delta. No significant Desert Locust activity was reported during the period.

### **Forecast**

*Ecological conditions remained generally unfavorable for Desert Locust breeding, except along the southern Red Sea coast. Consequently, no significant developments are expected during the forecast period.*

## **2.6 Kenya Uganda, South Sudan and Tanzania**

The above member countries were free of Desert Locust in April 2026.

### **Forecast**

*No locust development during the forecast period.*

## **3.0 DESERT LOCUST SITUATION IN THE CENTRAL AND OTHER REGIONS** *(FAO DL bulletin No. 571 6 May 2026* *([www.fao.org/ag/locusts](http://www.fao.org/ag/locusts))*

In April, a new generation of hopper groups and small bands appeared at many sites across Morocco, while breeding mature adult groups declined. Hopper groups were observed from Tan-Tan to areas north of Agadir and near Errachidia. In Western Sahara, mature adult groups decreased as they completed local breeding. A few breeding mature adult groups were observed in Algeria during the third dekad of the month. In the Canary Islands, only isolated adults were reported. No locusts were reported in the Central and Eastern Regions.

During the forecast period, hopper groups and bands are expected to continue developing in Morocco, with fledging likely during May and the potential formation of new immature adult groups. Some of these immature adults may migrate north-eastwards towards the Oriental region and western Algeria, where spring breeding could continue in June, while others may move southwards into Mauritania. Small-scale spring breeding may occur in central and eastern Algeria, southern Tunisia and western Libya. Surveys and control operations will need to continue at high intensity in affected areas.

In the Central and Eastern Regions, small-scale spring breeding may occur in interior areas of Egypt, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, and Yemen, as well as in southern Iran and southwestern Pakistan; however, no significant developments are expected.

## 4.0 OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS

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

#### 4.1.1 Ethiopia

No survey or control activities were carried out for *Quelea quelea* birds during the reporting period.

#### **Forecast**

*The bird infestation is expected during the forecasting period.*

#### 4.1.2 Tanzania

*Quelea* control operations continued during April in Central zone especially in Dodoma Region where around 25 sites have been sprayed, killing around 68.5 million birds spraying 2,425 lit of Bathion 60% on 1,300ha. Average percentage kill is estimated at 86%.

#### **Forecast**

*In May 2026, the bird population might increase in the Lake Victoria zone-specifically in Magu and Sengerema Districts of Mwanza Region, as well as Kishapu and Shinyanga Districts in Shinyanga Region. Therefore, it is recommended to do intensive survey.*

#### 4.1.3 Kenya

There were no reports of *Quelea* birds in the country during the reporting period.

#### **Forecast**

*There are no significant *Quelea* bird infestation expected in the coming month.*

#### 4.1.4 Djibouti, Eritrea, Somalia, Sudan South Sudan and Uganda

No *Quelea* bird infestations were reported during April 2026.

#### **Forecast**

*The situation remains calm in the coming month.*

#### WESTERN REGION: CAUTION

**SITUATION.** Adult groups continued breeding in southern Morocco during the first half of the month. Hopper groups and small bands increased in Morocco, particularly during the second half of the month, and were found from Tan-Tan to north of Agadir and near Errachidia. A few breeding mature adult groups were also observed in Algeria. In the Canary Islands (Spain), only isolated adults were reported. Algeria treated 16 ha and Morocco treated 39 009 ha.

**FORECAST.** Hopper groups and bands are expected to continue developing in Morocco, with new immature adult groups starting to appear and eventually migrating into Algeria or Mauritania in June. Small-scale spring breeding may occur in Tunisia and Libya. Survey and control operations should continue.

#### CENTRAL REGION: CALM

**SITUATION.** No locusts were observed in Egypt, Sudan, Saudi Arabia and Oman.

**FORECAST.** Small-scale spring breeding may occur in Egypt, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, and Yemen. No significant developments are expected.

#### EASTERN REGION: CALM

**SITUATION.** No locusts were detected in India.

**FORECAST.** Small-scale spring breeding may be ongoing in Iran and occur in southwestern Pakistan. No significant developments are expected.

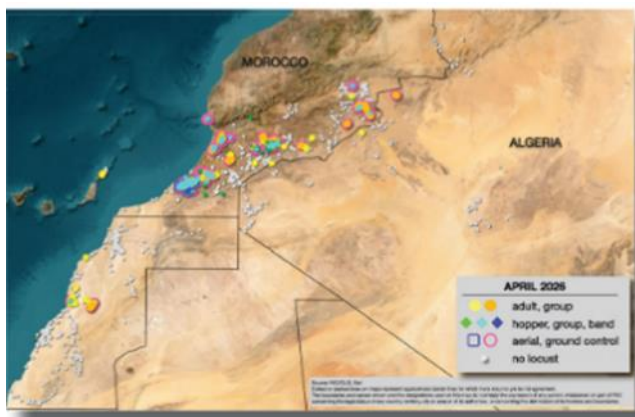


Fig-1 Desert Locust situation April 2026

## **4.2 Armyworms (*Spodoptera spp*)**

In April 2026, the African Armyworm situation remained **calm** in all Member Countries except unconfirmed report in southern Ethiopia (Borena).

### ***Forecast***

*During May, 2026 Armyworm are expected at the areas where early crops and pasturelands are green in North Eastern highlands and Lake Victoria zones. In Tanzania and Makueni and Taita Taveta counties in Kenya and South part of Ethiopia.*

*Close monitoring using pheromone traps is recommended.*

## **4.3 Fall Armyworm (FAW) (*Spodoptera frugiperda*)**

Member Countries reported the presence of Fall Armyworm in all irrigated maize and sorghum growing areas during April 2026. However, there are no detailed reports.

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

No reports received about Tsetse flies and the associated diseases during April 2026.

**CIFO**

**For the Director, DLCO-EA**

May 7, 2026

[www.dlco-ea.org](http://www.dlco-ea.org)