



# Locust watch

## Desert Locust

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### Desert Locust situation update 27 May 2020

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#### 2020 upsurge

#### Swarms move into northern India

In the past few days, there have been movements of adult groups and swarms in **India**, **Oman**, **UAE**, and **Uganda**.

#### SOUTH-WEST ASIA

Swarms are forming in the spring breeding areas and migrating east to the **Indo-Pakistan** border ahead of the monsoon rains.

- **India**. Spring-bred immature adult groups and swarms that arrived in Rajasthan from the west continued to move east in the eastern portion of the state and to the central states of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. As of 26 May, at least one swarm had reached to the northeast of Bhopal. Much of these movements were associated with strong westerly winds from Cyclone Amphan in the Bay of Bengal. Control operations are underway. Several successive waves of invasions can be expected until July in Rajasthan with eastward surges across northern **India** as far as Bihar and Orissa followed by westward movements and a return to Rajasthan on the changing winds associated with the monsoon. These movements will cease as swarms begin to breed and become less mobile. Swarms are less likely to reach south **India**, Nepal, and Bangladesh.
- **Pakistan**. Adults are forming groups and small swarms in spring breeding areas in the southwest (Baluchistan) and the Indus Valley (Punjab). These infestations will move to the summer breeding areas along the **Indo-Pakistan** from Cholistan to Tharparkar. Control operations are underway in all areas.
- **Iran**. Adults are forming groups and small swarms in spring breeding areas along the southern coast and parts of Sistan-Baluchistan as vegetation is drying out. These infestations will move east to the **Indo-Pakistan** summer breeding areas. Control operations are underway.

#### ARABIAN PENINSULA

Important breeding continues in **Yemen** in the absence of survey and control operations.

- **Yemen**. Breeding is continuing in areas of recent rains in the interior where hopper bands and mature swarms have formed.
- **Oman**. Several immature adult groups moved from the northern interior near the **UAE** border to the north coast where they are expected to move along the coast to Ras Al Hadd before crossing to southeast **Pakistan**. Other groups moved from the interior breeding areas to Dubai. Control operations are underway.
- **Saudi Arabia**. Control operations were carried out against immature adult groups in the northern interior near Hail and Gassim, and against mature adult groups further south near Wadi Dawasir and Najran.

#### EAST AFRICA

The current situation remains extremely alarming in East Africa where **Kenya**, **Ethiopia**, and **Somalia** continue to face an unprecedented threat to food security and livelihoods. New swarms from current breeding will form from mid-June onwards, coinciding with the start of the harvest. Thereafter, there is a risk that swarms will migrate to the summer breeding areas along both sides of the **Indo-Pakistan** border as well as to **Sudan** and perhaps **West Africa**.

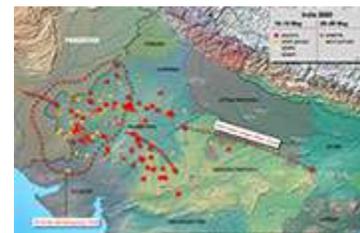
- **Kenya**. Ground and aerial control operations continue against hopper bands in the northwest (Turkana, Marsabit). A few late-maturing swarms were seen south of Lodwar and new infestations were found along the Tana River where hopper bands are present.
- **Ethiopia**. A few immature and mature swarms remain in the south. Breeding has increased in the Ogaden and hopper bands have present. Breeding continues near Dire Dawa where hopper bands persist, and adults have formed groups and swarms. Breeding also occurred in Afar and on the eastern edge of the highlands, causing hopper bands to form. Ground and aerial control operations continue.
- **Somalia**. Breeding is underway in central areas (Galkayo and Galmudug) where scattered adults and hopper groups are present. Breeding is also underway in the northwest where hopper bands and groups of immature and mature adults are present on the plateau (east of Buraao to the west of Boroma) and the coast near Bulhar. Hopper groups are also present in the northeast near Garowe. Control operations are underway.
- **Uganda**. On the 26 May, at least one swarm was seen in the northeast district of Kaabong that was probably moving towards **South Sudan**.
- **Sudan**. Scattered gregarious adults are present near the **South Sudan** border at a few places in Blue Nile, White Nile, and South Kordofan states. A few adults persist in the Nile Valley north of Kordofan.

#### WEST AFRICA

The situation is currently calm. There is no indication so far of spring-bred swarms forming or leaving Arabia. Swarms will not form in East Africa (**Kenya** and **Ethiopia**) until about mid-June. Thereafter, they will move north to **Sudan** and if they arrive before the summer rains, then they are likely to continue west to eastern **Chad** and beyond. While the current threat remains low, it can change significantly in the coming weeks based on rainfall, winds, and the locust situation in Arabia and East Africa. Therefore, investments in preparedness and anticipatory actions should be immediately and quickly scaled up to face this potential threat.

**Latest Desert Locust Bulletin (No. 499, April 2020)**

### situation THREAT



Situation (click to zoom)



Forecast (click to zoom)



#### Documents

Somalia (May 2020)

\* Arabic \* English \* Français

**Previous Desert Locust Bulletin (No. 498, March 2020)**

\* Arabic \* English \* Français

A service provided by the Locust and Other Migratory Pests Group to monitor the world-wide locust situation and keep affected countries and donors informed of expected developments.

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