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*Strengthening Humanitarian Response*

## **DESERT LOCUST RESPONSE IN SOMALIA**

### **VOICE FROM THE FIELD**

**Global Meeting of Food Security Cluster Partners  
20 May 2020**

# BACKGROUND

East and HoA region faced worst desert locusts infestations

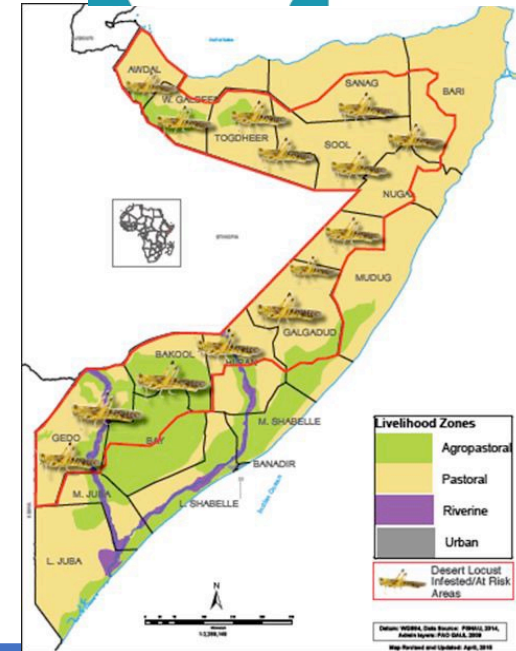
Swarms first invaded by end of June 2019 when spring-bred swarms arrived from Yemen in northeast Ethiopia and northern Somalia.

The Government of Somalia declared a national emergency on 2 Feb 20 due to upsurge.

New generation of locusts is threatening rural food security and livelihoods. Favorable GU rains have enabled, by ensuring the availability of suitable vegetation, development of a new wave of breeding and worsen the spread of desert locusts.

Rural populations will be most affected by the infestation. 21% of Somalia's population (pastoralist, agro-pastoralist and riverine and IDPs) 2 in 10 affected by DL

Northern Somalia and in south-central areas along the borders of Ethiopia and north eastern Kenya



Population group	Population	%
Pastoral	1,724,192	66%
Agro-pastoral	543,046	21%
Riverine	40,703	2%
IDPs (rural)	304,455	12%
	2,612,396	

# Support for desert locust information collection



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- Government surveillance system in place with DL units established in Somaliland, Puntland and Galmudug conduct periodic surveys with support of FAO
- The upsurge requires a ground information gathering that will inform various stakeholders on day-to-day level of infestation.
- A coordinated and harmonized DL ground information gathering involved *willing* stakeholders in hotspot area. The information will complement the government DL surveillance system.
- FSC supported the effort of enhancing monitoring of the locust given upsurge of the locust in various part of the country.
- Monitoring of the desert locust information help to understand the situation and its impacts. Help actors in responding appropriately and timely to the needs of affected population.
- The data collected using a simple form in the Open Data Kit (ODK). The information collected complement Government surveillance system in place

# challenges of data collection



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- data collection tool was rolled out when the first wave had subsided. Hence, in many locations, there were no citing of locust to report on
- Prominence of COVID 19 starting Feb
  - it took partners attention away from DL into a preparedness mode for adapting programming to COVID 19 environment
  - movement restrictions that followed impacted on data collection as long as it was based on physical visits.
- Technological glitches related to connectivity
- FSC will continue to follow up with partners who collect data at a local level as pertains desert locust.

# Addressing food security needs



## 1. Address acute food security needs of affected population

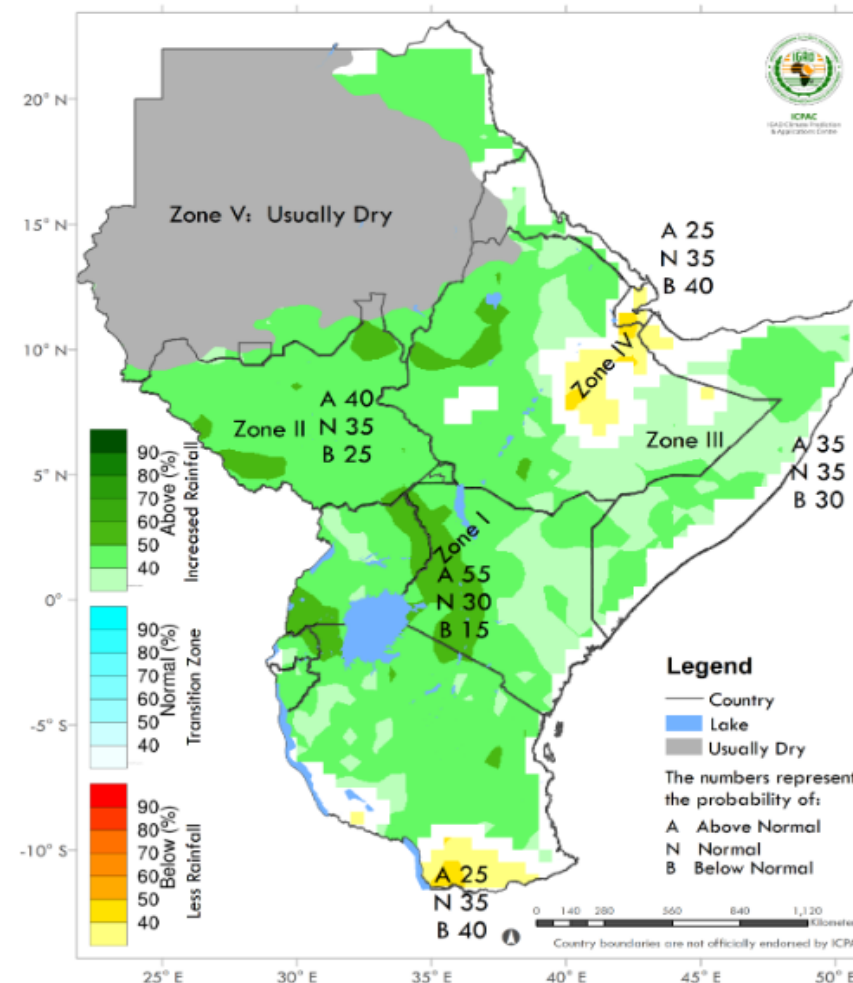
To sustain positive gains of the post dyer result and emerging need as result

- desert locust impact
- Flood

## 2. Livelihoods protection

Support DL and flood affected population to sustain their livelihoods (agricultural and livestock production).

GU season (main production season) and expected to be favorable despite the challenge of the DL. This priority was not well reflected in the 2020 HRP





### 3. Integration of emerging need into the HRP revision

- Upsurge of desert locust increased acute food insecure in Somalia . From 1.1 million by early 2020 to 3.5 million ( projection) triple shocks including desert locust
- This necessitated the inclusion and scale up of appropriate measures and response in to the HRP revision process to mitigate impact on rural food security and livelihoods.
- The response has two prong approaches
  - Desert locust surveillance and control measures primarily drive by federal /state MOAI and FAO
  - Livelihood support:
    - Support Riverine farmers, agro pastoralist and pastoralist that face significant livelihood damage and loss with appropriate agricultural and livestock input packages.
      - planting packages
      - Re-planting packages where invaded fields can be re-sown in time.
      - Provision of supplementary animal feed
  - Cash assistance to households severely affected by locusts to meet their food needs during the lean season, while their crops are growing

# DL community sensitization messaging



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- DL is one of the “triple risks” affecting the livelihoods and feared to intensify given the favorable climatic condition. It is important to increase the community outreach in DL messaging to complement the ongoing control effort of the ministry of Agriculture and FAO
- Community sensitization messaging (English and Somali) formulated to support the outreach activities shared to wider FSC partners and other cluster coordinators for wider dissemination in addition to COVID 19 risk communication messaging
- FSC has also advised the VCs in affected area community sensitization messaging on DL as well as the COVID 19 risk communication messaging to be the constant “agenda” of the regional coordination meeting .

## Engagement on DL impact assessment



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- FSNWG -seasonal impact assessment ( harmonized tools)
- FSNAU and partners post GU assessment impact-outcome indicators (July and August)



# QUESTIONS?



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