



Background

Desert Locust outbreaks occurred along the Red Sea shores in winter of 2018/2019. Swarms emigrated from these areas to Central and Eastern regions from January to March 2019. Two generations of spring breeding spread to the Horn of Africa and to the India-Pakistan border in June 2019. Two more generations occurred in the latter area as a result of the best monsoon rains in 25 years. (source: Locust Watch FAO) Desert locust outbreak critically affects agriculture-based livelihoods and food security. The current crisis (from December 2019) is affecting countries and communities with high percentage of population in Phase 3 and above of the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) and fragile economic stability.



COVID Impact on DL response

The COVID pandemic has a direct and indirect impact on the Desert Locust control and response; that may include delays on the arrival of pesticides, kits & equipment, sprayers and means of transports; there is also a concern on the raise of prices for transportation and other costs. Mitigation measures are being put in place. DL response in most countries is recognized as National priority and governments put their full staff and capacity on the ground.

EAST AFRICA REGION (FSNWG)

The Nairobi-based Greater Horn of Africa Food Security and Nutrition Working Group (FSNWG) is a coordination body in the Eastern and Central Africa Region which is playing a key role on information sharing and analysis relating to the locust outbreak, bringing together partners and technical experts. FSNWG is co-lead by FAO and IGAD.

The FSNWG is coordinating the below TWGs



Remote Sensing



Assessment methodology and tools



FS analysis and reporting