



# Desert Locust Update - South Sudan

24 March 2020

## Situation update

- On Saturday 21 March, Desert Locusts arrived in Juba town from Eastern Equatoria aided by westerly winds.
- The swarm hovered around areas of Bilinyang, Muguri, Gondokoro, Muniki, Gure, Gudele and Jopa. It later split into two swarmlets, one bigger than the other.
- The bigger swarmlet moved northwards via Bor towards the border between South Sudan and Ethiopia, while the smaller one moved westward and was sited in Mundri on Monday 23 March.
- The areas around Torit remain invaded by Desert Locusts; the invasion of Juba was unexpected based on prediction of Desert Locusts migration patterns.
- Field monitors confirmed that most Desert Locusts spotted in South Sudan are matured females.
- However, reports from Kenya and Uganda indicate that new generations have started emerging and may invade South Sudan.

## FAO in Response

- Following the invasion of Juba, the High-level Committee met to analyze the situation and agreed as follows:
  - Immediate expansion of monitoring mechanisms to other location (Juba, Terekeka, Upper Nile, Bor, Unity),
  - Aerial control operation to be triggered once swarms settle,
  - Continue to monitor behavior of swarms to identify areas where the swarms have laid eggs.
- The High-Level Desert Locust Committee is working on a short, medium and long-term plan to handle the outbreak
- FAO continues to fast-track supply of insecticide and equipment. On 20 March, FAO received 5000 Liters of pesticides (Chloropyrifo-240g/l) ULV, enough to spray over 167 000 hectares.
- Surveillance tools and equipment (tablets/phones) are being harmonized to build a sustainable early warning
- 50 mobile phones were deployed for surveillance and reporting
- Radio PSAs are playing in English and Arabic on Radio Miraya and Eye Radio. Both radio stations are based in Juba with repeaters across the country.
- FAO is working on agreements with other stations across the country to play PSAs in local languages.



5000 Liters of pesticides (Chloropyrifo-240g/l) ULV. FAO Warehouse, Juba

## ▶ Desert Locusts in Juba. Video I - II



🔊 **Podcast:** [FAO Representative Meshack Malo's interview with Radio Miraya](#)

## Funding appeal

- The South Sudan component of FAO locust rapid response and anticipatory action has remains **USD 10 million**.
- FAO received an additional USD 536 818 from France raising the funding status to over USD 6 million. Other donors include USAID, the European Union, Germany and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

**Desert Locust  
Toll-free Number: 515**