



# ETHIOPIA

DESERT LOCUST SITREP – 16 AUGUST 2023



**62 000 ha**  
area covered by survey



**12 653 ha**  
reported DL  
movement

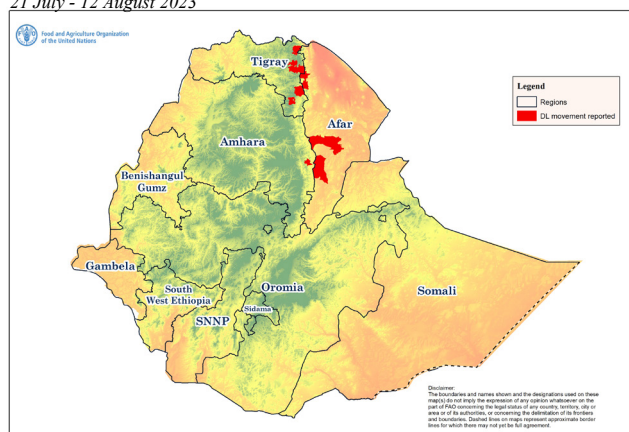


**Resources**  
required for logistical  
operations

## Current Situation

To date, Desert Locusts (DL) have been intercepted in about 12 653 ha of the 62 000 ha surveyed area in Afar, Amhara and Tigray. Currently, survey and control operations are ongoing but are being hampered by limited resources to meet the costs of logistical operations i.e. vehicles, subsistence and communication allowances for survey and control teams. In addition, the moving swarms are often settling in areas where apiculture is widely practiced. Therefore, communities are not willing to apply chemicals for fear of destroying their main source of livelihoods. To date, physical control has been undertaken on only 470 ha in Tigray. There is a need to scale up survey and control operations in order to avoid a potential outbreak.

*Movement of DL immature swarms in Northeastern Ethiopia, 21 July - 12 August 2023*



## Actions Undertaken

The Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), together with Afar, Amhara and Tigray Bureaus of Agriculture have deployed teams of experts to survey and confirm the presence of solitary and gregarizing adults and moving immature swarms. The teams are still undertaking surveys. Based on the information shared by the MoA, as of July, 2023:

- **In Afar** - DL movement was reported in Chiffra, Abaala, Mile, Telalak woredas;
- **In Amhara** - DL movement was reported first in Argoba, the swarm later moved to Dali Fagi and Dawe in Afar. There was no DL presence in

Warebabo, Kalu, Argoba, and Minjar shankora; and

- **In Tigray** - the survey team reported DL presence in Wajirat, Endamahoni, Tsira-Wenberta, Subahasase (Wolwallo), and Kilde Awlalo. One immature swarm was identified Tsira Wambarta woreda. The swarm covered about 1 253 ha.

FAO, through the Desert Locust Information System (DLIS) in Rome, is closely monitoring the situation in order to provide regular monthly updates to all prone countries on current situation and future forecasts.

## Planned Activities

- Enhancing the coordination between MoA, DLCOEA, IGAD, FAO (HQ and SFE FAOET)
- Putting in place proper Information Management System to share reliable information, which originates only from the MoA
- Increasing and enhancing survey and control (deploying additional survey and control teams)
- Deploying the DLCOEA aircraft to undertake aerial control and make ready, the MoA owned aircrafts for deployment
- Distributing additional insecticides to Afar, Amhara and Tigray
- Ensuring that the DL technical coordination team meets regularly and provide advice to the MoA

## Possible Scenarios

If coordinated surveys and control are not carried out, the moving swarms composed of immature adults will mature and possibly lay eggs that will result in populations, which may reach outbreak proportion. Such population will move to invasion areas to feed and mature and subsequently migrate to winter breeding sites in south eastern Ethiopia. Thus may result in bringing similar cycle of

invasion experienced in 2019-2022. This will have negative consequences on agricultural production and productivity, hence household food and livestock feed security affected.

**Note:** The Chief Executive Office of the Plant Protection in the MoA provided the data and information used to prepare this release on August 12, 2023.