Desert Locust Update

Humanitarian Coordination Forum

Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs Disaster Management
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Desert Locust Evolution

• Started in the Winter of 2018 from Middle East after the Red Sea Cyclone
  • The swarm hits Asia in 2019 and moved to neighboring countries of Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan, Somalia and Eritrea, Uganda, Tanzania and South Sudan (17 Feb, 2020)

• Thus far damaged about 237 000 ha of land in the Greater Horn of Africa
On 17 February, a mature swarm entered Magwi county of Central Equatoria from northern Uganda and is currently moving towards Torit west.
Some Observations from the field
Threats and Risks

- At high population locust swarms can travel between 5 – 150 km or more on a day depending on the weather condition.

- There is high risk of reaching to extreme southeast of South Sudan in **Kapoeta East and Ilemi Triangle (Kokuro - Lokomarinyang - Kibish villages)** during the coming week.

- There can be a least 40 – 80 Million locust in each km squares of swarm.

- Half Million locusts can eat about one ton of Food enough to feed 2500 people.

- **1 km² swarm** eats the same food as 35,000 people in one day.

- The eggs which are laid in Kenya and Uganda will start hatching at end week of February 2020. If this hoppers are not properly controlled, there is a high risk of locust swarm invasion in South Sudan in April, 2020.
FAO’s Actions/ Recommendations

- **Awareness creation**
  - Minister of Agriculture and FS and the Cabinet and donors are informed
  - Community awareness – radio messages to be circulated during this week in the high risk areas
  - Develop brochure and leaflets with best available control options
  - In collaboration with MoAFS, sensitize regulatory authorities in bringing control tools

- **Monitoring and reporting:**
  - Establish Desert Locust survey and control team
  - Introduction reporting format
  - Regular monitoring and early warning
  - Maintain regular contacts with local and national field officers.
  - Produce and circulate monthly desert locust bulletin
  - Carry out ground survey and control operation
- **Capacity Building**

  • About 15 experts (forecasters) from MoAFS trained (ToT)

  • Trained forecasters to provide training in Upper Nile and Eastern Equatoria – likely areas to be affected first

  • Ensure lessons learnt from neighboring countries – institutional response

  • Development and dissemination of desert locust management guidelines and options (short, medium and long term)

  • Training of plant protection officers and community youth in (Magwi and Torit and Kapoeta) from 24 – 29 February 2020

  • Advice and train MoAFS When, Where to do Survey
**FAO’s Actions/ Recommendations (cont’d)**

- **Coordination**
  - The Government formed a high level committee in which FAO is a member
  - FAO to involve the FSL cluster at Juba and State level – with clear role of partners to report the incident (pest popn, weather, crop/pasture status, etc.)
  - Form coordination, EW and impact assessment team
  - Liaise on regular basis with other countries, FAO HQ, DLCO –EA and other relevant organization on locust Situation

- **Resource Mobilization**
  - FAO HQ (FAO/DLIS) committed resource
  - DLCO, based in Ethiopia, committed to provide support
  - FAO SS will tap on some of the available emergency resources (TCP)
  - Contingency proposal and implementation plan prepared
  - Monitor the contingency planning and implementation
The control against hoppers will be carried by ground

- Dispatch Available:
  - 1000 knapsack hand Sprayers and 500 LT of Malathion and 57% EC to Magwi and Torit
  - Kapoeta East to be ready with the assumption that the swarm which cross to South Sudan are mature and have laid eggs, is easy to control when they are at the hoppers stage
On going/ Immediate actions required

- Procurement of motorized and ULV Sprayers
- Procurement of insecticides (malathion 95% ULV)
- Procurement of ULV sprayers
- Procurement of at least 2 Mounted Toyota Land Cruisers for ground spraying
Thank You