

DESERT LOCUST OUTBREAK NEEDS ASSESSMENT

MARCH 2020

SOMALIA



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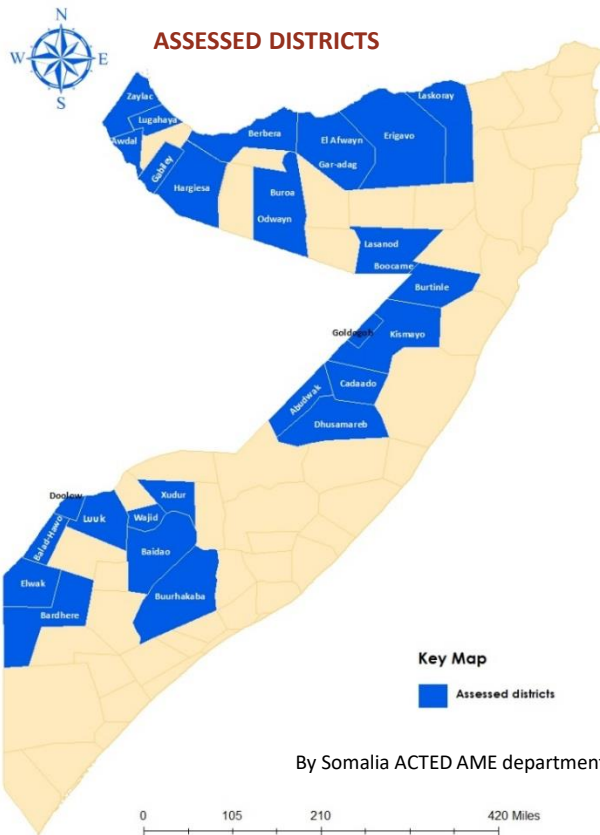
ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVES

This assessment was led to gain a better insight to the desert locust (DL) outbreak, and DL's impact on Somali pastoralists' and farmers' livelihoods. It specifically aimed to:

- 1) get further clarity on the locust infestation situation and status in Somalia
- 2) better understand the desert locust infestation's impact on the livelihoods on DL affected population in Somalia
- 3) document ongoing locust control and prevention measures
- 4) gather further evidence to inform the humanitarian community on the type assistance needed to control and prevent locust outbreak and preserve livelihoods.

METHODOLOGY

Between 1 – 8 March 2020, partner organizations conducted two key informant interviews (KIIs) per district, totaling 58 KIIs in 27 districts. Key informants (KIs) were selected among local authorities working at the District Commissioner's Office or representatives from relevant ministries. Some KIs were selected from NGOs with livelihood (agriculture and livestock) programming, heads of agricultural cooperatives and committees, veterinaries and traditional local leaders. The KII questionnaire was prepared and revised by ACTED Appraisal, Monitoring and Evaluation (AME) unit in accordance with feedback received from the partner organizations. The questionnaire was collected on ODK. Data analysis and reporting was done by ACTED AME unit with inputs from the partners.



DESERT LOCUST OUTBREAK IN SOMALIA

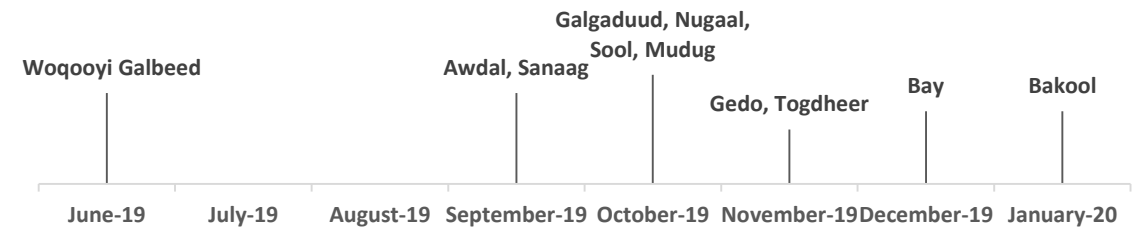


According to latest FAO updates, the desert locust situation is extremely alarming in the Horn of Africa, specifically Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia, where **widespread breeding** is in progress and new swarms are starting to form, representing an unprecedented **threat to food security and livelihoods** at the **beginning of the upcoming cropping season**.

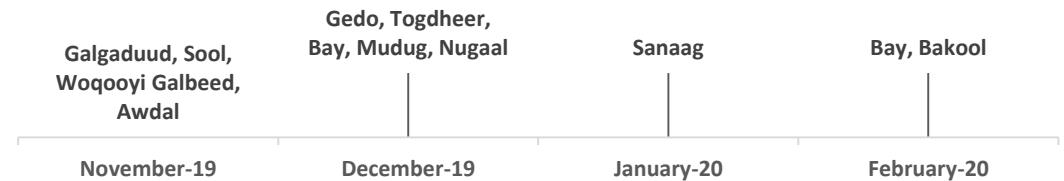


Photo 1: Onsite locust assessment in Sanaag region

Desert Locust Outbreak Timeline: First Wave



Desert Locust Outbreak Timeline: Second Wave



The KIIs from Woqooyi Galbeed region in the Northwest of Somalia were the ones mentioning the earliest locust outbreak in their district, **mid 2019 (June-July)**. By September 2019, the first wave of locust moved into neighboring regions in the East. In October-November 2019, it started heading towards South reaching Togdheer, Sool, Nugaal, Mudug and Galgaduud regions. By December 2019-January 2020, it reached central regions of Somalia, along the border with Kenya. Similarly, the second wave of locusts again started at the Northern regions of Somalia around November-December 2019 and reached central regions by January-February 2020.

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As shown in the below table, 11 districts confirmed that they still have locust swarms, 14 districts have hoppers, and in 24 districts locusts have laid eggs which will hatch in a short time period (10-65 days).

Region	District	Locust Swarms	Hoppers	Eggs	Migration
Awdal	Borama	Yes	Yes	No	No
	Lughaya	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Zeila	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Bakool	Hudur	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
	Wajid	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Bay	Baidoa	No	No	No	No
	Buurhakaba	No	No	Yes	No
Galgaduud	Abudwak	No	No	Yes	No
	Adaado	No	No	Yes	No
	Dhusamareb	No	No	Yes	No
Gedo	Bardera	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Beledhawo	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
	Dollow	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
	Elwak	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Luuq	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Mudug	Galdogob	No	No	No	No
	Galkacayo	No	No	Yes	No
Nugaal	Burtinle	No	No	No	No
Sanaag	El-Afweyn	No	No	No	No
	Erigavo	No	Yes	Yes	No
	Garadag	No	No	Yes	No
	Laskoray	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Sool	Boocame	Yes	No	Yes	No
	Lasanod	No	No	Yes	Yes
Togdheer	Burao	No	Yes	Yes	No
Woqooyi Galbeed	Berbera	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Gabiley	No	No	No	No
	Hargeisa	No	No	Yes	No

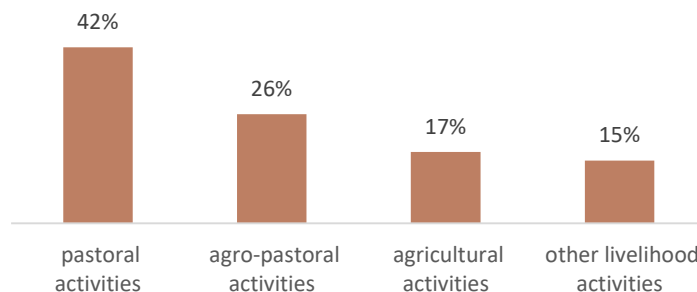
Table 1: Desert locust situation per district



IMPACT ON LIVELIHOODS

According to computed KII figures, **85% OF THE TOTAL POPULATION OF THE ASSESSED DISTRICTS** are occupied with **AGRICULTURAL AND/OR PASTORAL ACTIVITIES**. Pastoralists and agro-pastoralists (68%) who depend on grazing land to feed their livestock form the majority. These figures are in line with livelihood groups estimates done by other agencies for Somalia.

Graph 1: Livelihood Groups



KIs estimate that **55% OF FARMING LAND** and **50% OF GRAZING LAND HAVE BEEN AFFECTED** by the locust outbreak.

According to them, 89% of farmers and 88% pastoralists in their districts have been affected.



AGRICULTURE

Traditionally, the months of September-October are planting, November-December are pre-harvesting and January is harvesting time for the Deyr season. Regarding the Gu season, planting starts in April, May-July are growing and August is harvesting stage.

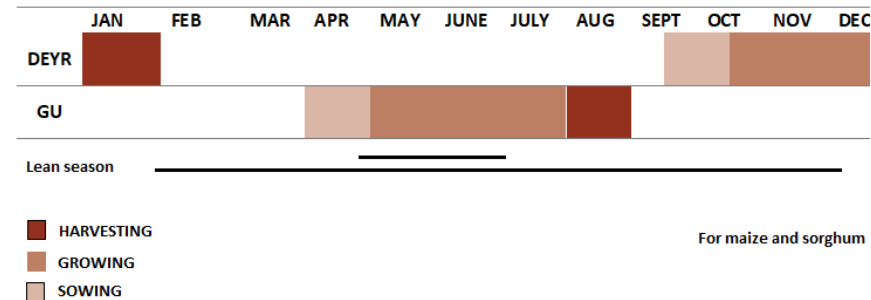


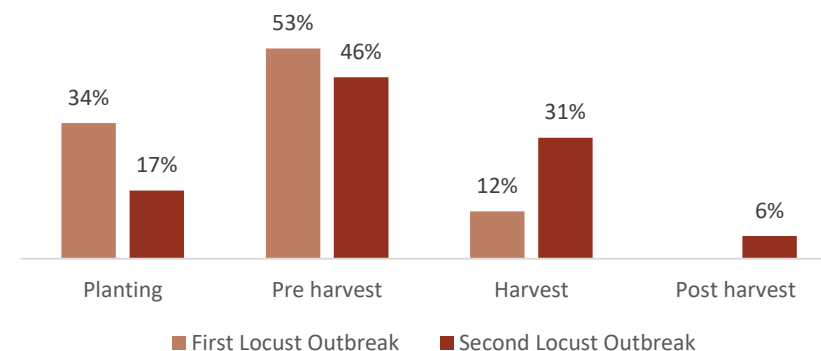
Table 2: Crop calendar in Somalia for staple crops, source: FAO

The crops in **NORTHERN REGIONS** were affected at the **GROWING AND HARVESTING STAGES**, since locusts infested northern regions of Awdal, Woqooyigalbeed, Togdheer, Sanaag and Sool between June and September.

In **CENTRAL PARTS** (Nugaal, Mudug, Galgaduud, Bakool, Bay and Gedo), crops were impacted at **PLANTING AND PRE-HARVESTING STAGES**.

As of the **SECOND LOCUST WAVE**, crops were at **HARVESTING OR POST HARVESTING STAGE** (37% of KIs). 46% KIs said the crops were at pre-harvesting stage. Some farmers had to harvest earlier than usual to preserve their crops from the infestation.

Graph 2: Crop Condition During Locust Outbreaks



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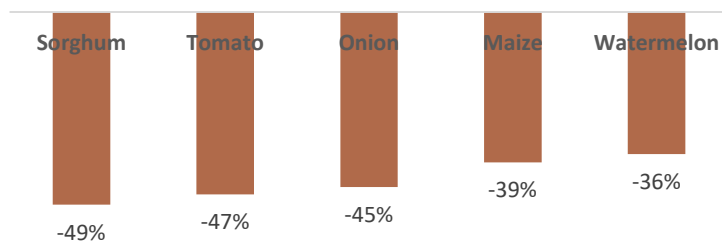
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Forecasts suggest that the **IMPACT** of locust on agriculture and food security will be **GREATER ON 2020 POST GU SEASON HARVEST**, because the already laid eggs will start hatching starting from April (sowing season).

KIs from 21 districts stated that the crop yield was lower compared to the anticipated levels of yield after a good level of rainfall in 2019 Deyr season. The reason was mainly the desert locust infestation (Boroma, Lughaya, Zeila, Hudur, Wajid, Abudwak, Adaado, Dhusamareb, Bardera, Belethawo, Dollow, Elwak, Galkacyo, Burtinle, El-Afweyn, Erigavo, Garadag, Laskoray, Lasando, Berbera, Hargeisa).

According to average of the figures shared in KIs, **SOME CROPS YIELD ALMOST 50% LESS THAN WHAT WAS PROJECTED.**

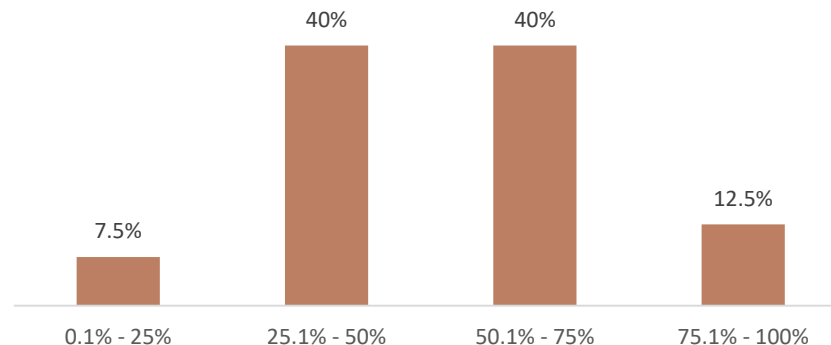
Graph 3: Average difference between expected and actual crop yield per product



LIVESTOCK

RANGELAND FORAGE LOSS was reported in 18 districts, 15 of which attributed to the locust infestation (Abudwak, Adaado, Belethawo, Berbera, Odweyne, Boocame, Burtinle, Dhusamareb, Elwak, Erigavo, Galkacayo, Hudur, Lasanod, Laskory and Wajid). 52.5% reported more than 50% rangeland forage loss.

Graph 4: % of rangeland forage loss according to % KIs



While livestock loss was not reported by the majority (except for Adaado), **DISEASE OUTBREAK AMONG LIVESTOCK** was reported in Abudwak, Adaado, Dhusamareb, Bardera, Berbera, Boocame, Lasanod. The mentioned livestock diseases are: udder swelling, thrombosis, fever, lung diseases and inflammatory bowel. **REDUCED LEVEL OF PASTURE** is considered as one of the contributing factor to **DETERIORATING LIVESTOCK BODY CONDITION AND HEALTH.**

In 18 districts, both KIs confirmed **PASTORALISTS MOVING TOWARDS NEIGHBORING DISTRICTS** in search for forage to feed their livestock, causing **UNUSUAL MOVEMENT** among pastoralists in Abudwak, Adaado, Baidoa, Bardera, Belethawo, Berbera, Borama, Burao, Buurhakaba, Dhusamareb, Dollow, Galkacayo, Hudur, Lasanod, Laskoray, Lughaya, Wajid and Zeila. Pastoralists moving into neighboring areas **MIGHT CAUSE COMMUNITY TENSIONS** among the displaced and the local communities, as well as between pastoralists and farmers.

DESERT LOCUST RESPONSE

According to KIs, **ALMOST NONE OF THE DISTRICTS HAVE CHEMICAL TOOLS TO PREVENT AND CONTROL LOCUST.** Tools are neither available nor affordable in those areas. There are **NO TRAINED STAFF OR COMMUNITY MEMBERS** to use locust control and prevention equipment.

In most cases it was the Ministry of Agriculture sending limited amounts of ground spraying chemicals (Berbera, Boocame, El-Afweyn, Garowe).

In a few districts, local authorities mobilized communities to tackle locusts (Abudwak) and some community members were trained on using locust control ground tools (Hudur). KIs also stated that they have not received any UN agency support, except for one KI from Borama who said FAO conducted a needs assessment in their district.

Lastly, only KIs from Adaado and Dhusamareb mentioned that NGOs have been responding to the locust outbreak's impact on the community, through cash transfers to affected HHs. According to majority of the KIs, **NEITHER FARMERS NOR PASTORALISTS RECEIVED ANY OTHER LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT TO COMPENSATE THE DAMAGE CAUSED BY THE LOCUST OUTBREAK.**



Photo 2: Local community digging ditches as a locust control measure.
Source: FAO

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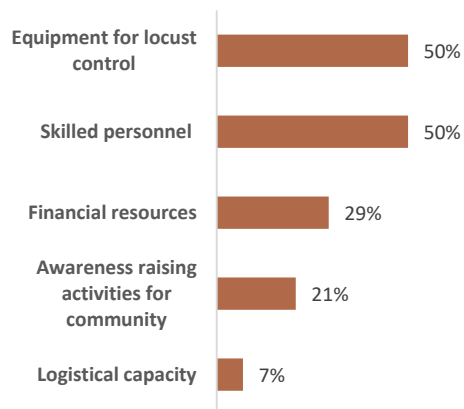


NEEDS

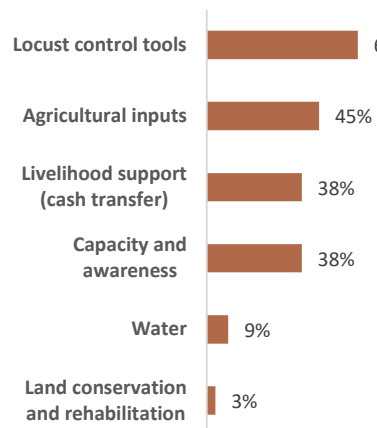
Lack of **LOCUST CONTROL EQUIPMENT** (including chemicals and spraying items) and **TRAINED PERSONNEL** to use those items are the **MAIN GAPS** of the **LOCAL AUTHORITIES**.

Some other mentioned gaps were lack of financial resources to procure locust control equipment and to support affected persons, lack of logistical capacity (mainly transportation), lack of community engagement for mobilization of the community and lack of coordination at the district level by local authorities.

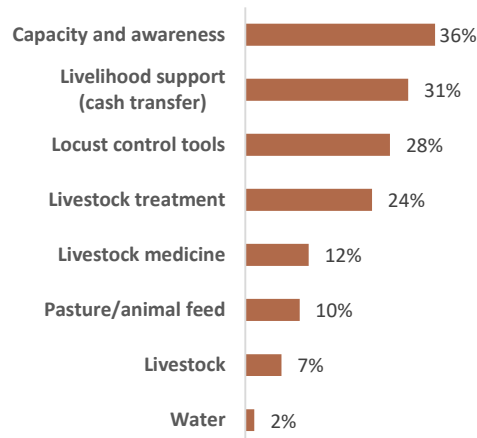
Graph 5: Needs of Authorities



Graph 6: Needs of Farmers



Graph 7: Needs of Pastoralists



FARMERS' PRIORITY NEED is **LOCUST CONTROL EQUIPMENT** including the chemicals, pesticides and spraying items. Additionally, they are in need of **AGRICULTURAL INPUT, LAND REHABILITATION AND LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT** as they did not reach to expected profits. Lastly, their **TECHNICAL CAPACITY AND AWARENESS** on how to prevent and control locust are limited.

Similarly, KIs mentioned lack of **AWARENESS AND CAPACITY** to be the main gap among the **PASTORALISTS** to tackle the locust. They are also in need of livelihood support, locust control equipment and livestock preservation measures such as **LIVESTOCK TREATMENT TRAININGS, LIVESTOCK TREATMENTS, LIVESTOCK MEDICINE AND SUPPLEMENTARY LIVESTOCK FEED**.

RECOMMENDATIONS

DESERT LOCUST CONTROL AND PREVENTION



Provision of chemicals, sprayers and protection clothes for the DL control and other pests



Technical capacity building training for local authorities on DL control and prevention; and practical training on how to use DL control materials



Awareness creation on DL for communities



Improve coordination and information sharing on DL movement, early warning and control efforts

FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS



Market-based food security activities including cash transfers



Livestock preservation activities such as provision of livestock medicine and training on livestock treatment



Provision of livestock supply feed



Distribution of agricultural inputs