



The FAO Commission  
for Controlling the Desert Locust  
in the Central Region

## Desert Locust Situation

### Desert Locust upsurge remains critical in East Africa, Yemen and Southwest Asia

Update 21 May 2020

The current situation remains extremely alarming in East Africa where **Kenya**, **Ethiopia** and **Somalia** continue to face an unprecedented threat to food security and livelihoods. New swarms from current breeding will form from mid-June onwards, coinciding with the start of the harvest. Thereafter, there is a risk that swarms will migrate to the summer breeding areas along both sides of the **Indo-Pakistan** border as well as to **Sudan** and perhaps **West Africa**.

#### EAST AFRICA

In **Kenya**, more hopper bands have been detected in the northwest where control operations are ongoing. Mature swarms are still present in some places and a few of these swarms moved into southeast **South Sudan** (Kopeata East district) on 14 May and northeast **Uganda** (Moroto district) on the 20th. In **South Sudan**, earlier breeding is in progress near Torit. In **Sudan**, mature gregarious adults reached the White Nile region on the border with **South Sudan** on the 15th. In **Ethiopia**, control operations continue against breeding in the south as well as hopper bands and several mature swarms further north in the Somali region near northwest **Somalia**. In **Somalia**, new hatching started in the past few days in central (Galmudug), northeast (Galkayo), and northwest (Somaliland) areas. In **Sudan**, rains are forecasted in the southern portion of the summer breeding areas (South Kordofan, White Nile) during the last week of May and again in the second and third weeks of June. If this occurs, then breeding conditions should be improving when swarms are likely to arrive from **Kenya** and **Ethiopia** after mid-June.

#### ARABIAN PENINSULA

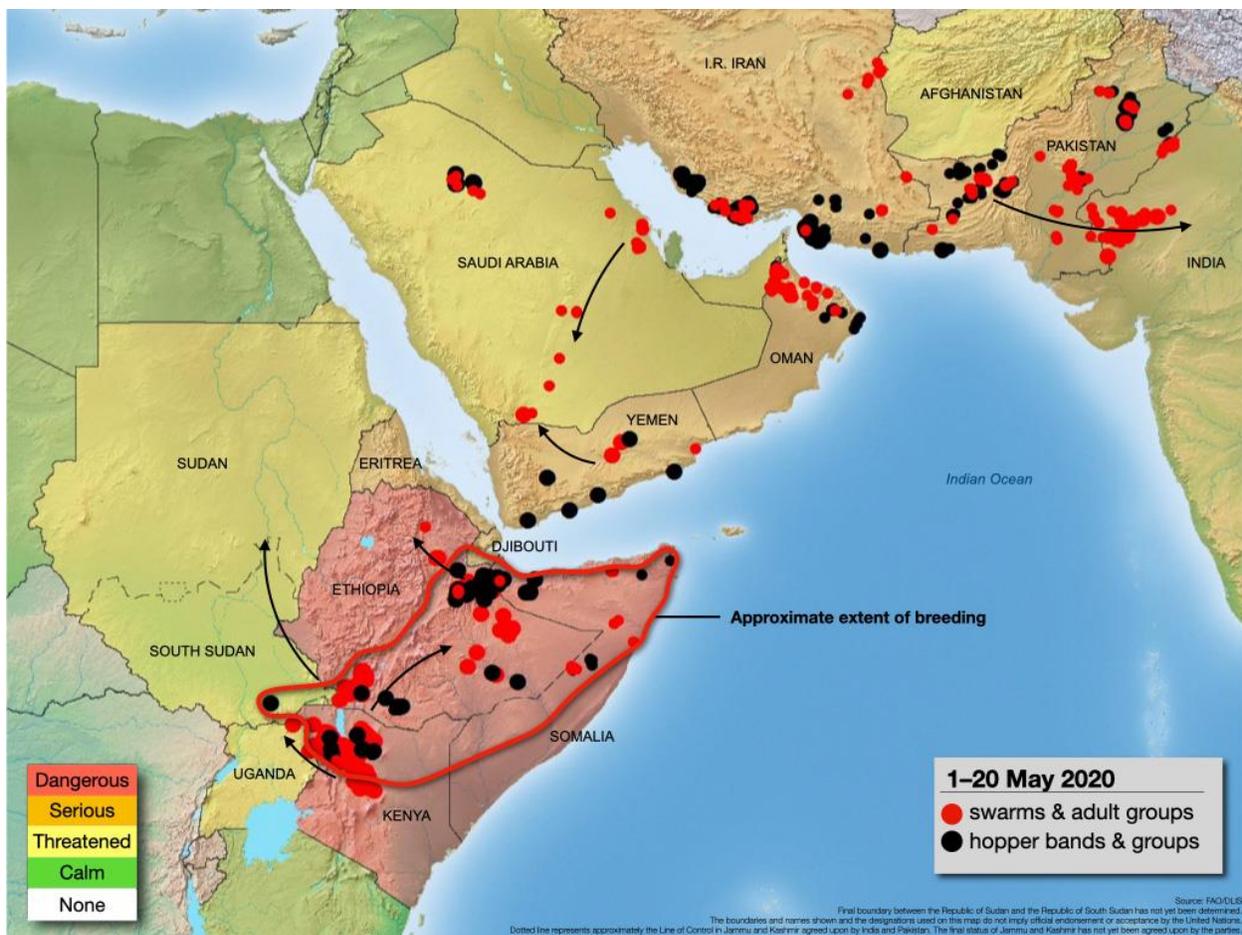
In **Yemen**, widespread breeding is underway in the interior and hopper bands are forming. Survey and control operations have yet to be undertaken. A substantial increase in locust populations is expected in June that could eventually threaten the Horn of Africa. In **Saudi Arabia**, control operations are in progress against immature adults groups that formed in the Nafud Desert in the north and mature adult groups in the south near **Yemen**. Similarly, control operations continue against immature adult groups in northern **Oman** near **UAE**.

## SOUTHWEST ASIA

Spring breeding continues in southern **Iran** and southwest **Pakistan** where control operations are in progress against hopper groups and bands as well as an increasing number of adult groups. As vegetation dries out, more groups and swarms will form and move from these areas to the summer breeding areas along both sides of the **Indo-Pakistan** border as several waves from now until at least early July. Good rains are predicted during the first half of June along the **Indo-Pakistan** border that would allow egg-laying to occur. This should reduce the further eastward movement of swarms that have already arrived in Rajasthan, **India**.

## WEST AFRICA

The situation is currently calm. There is a risk that a few swarms from spring breeding areas in Arabia and East Africa (**Kenya** and **Ethiopia**) could reach the eastern part of the Sahel in eastern **Chad** starting from early June if they migrate before the summer rains commence. While the current threat remains low, it can change significantly in the coming weeks based on rainfall, winds, and the locust situation in Arabia and East Africa. Therefore, investments in preparedness and anticipatory actions should be immediately and quickly scaled up to face this potential threat.



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