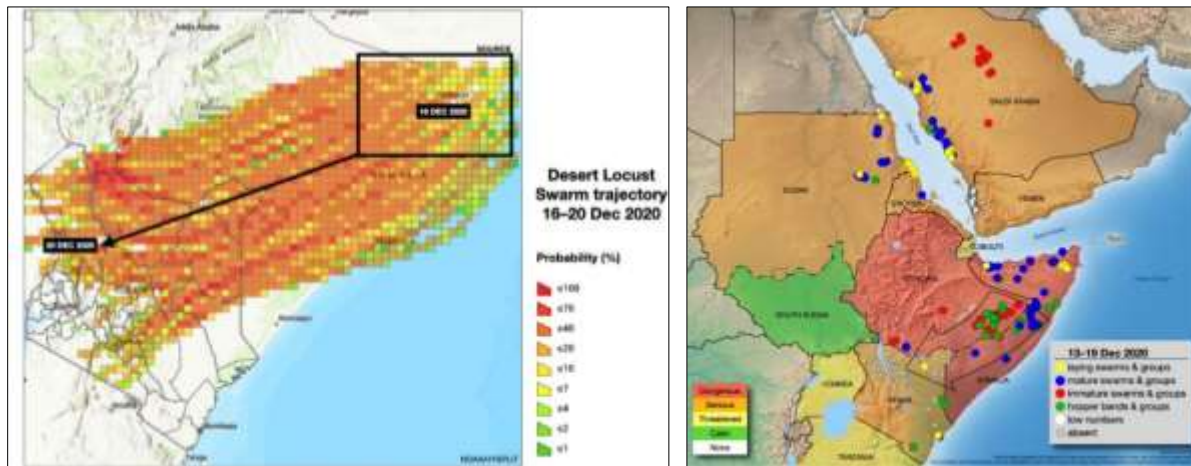




The FAO Commission  
for Controlling the Desert Locust  
in the Central Region

## Desert Locust situation update 19 December 2020

### New Swarms continue to form and threaten Kenya



*Desert Locust Situation update 19 Dec. 2020*

Immature swarms continue to form this past week within a large area of breeding in eastern **Ethiopia** and central **Somalia**. Although intensive ground and aerial control operations are in progress, a substantial number of hopper bands are present and fledging to form new immature swarms. These swarms are expected to move south at any time to southern **Somalia**, southern **Ethiopia**, and northern **Kenya**. On 17 December, a large immature swarm was seen over Kebri Dehar in the eastern part of the Somali region of **Ethiopia**.

Although immature swarms have yet to appear in **Kenya**, breeding is in progress on the coast and near the **Tanzania**, **Somalia**, and **Ethiopian** borders where egg-laying and hopper bands have been reported. While control operations are underway, surveys should be conducted between Mandera and Turkana.

Breeding is in progress in northern **Somalia** because of favourable conditions that developed from the heavy rains brought by cyclone Gati last month. Substantial hatching and band formation are expected on the northwest coast,

on the northern plateau, and in the northeast during the coming weeks. Ground and aerial control operations continue.

Breeding is also underway along both sides of the Red Sea, which is normal for this time of year. Swarms and adult groups are laying eggs on the coastal plains of **Eritrea**, **Sudan**, and **Saudi Arabia**. Immature adults were reported in the interior of **Saudi Arabia**. Control operations are in progress in the three countries. In **Yemen**, high numbers of solitarious adults are present on the central and northern coast of the Red Sea where surveys continue.

Intensive survey and control operations should be maintained in **Ethiopia** and **Somalia**, extreme vigilance and preparedness are required in **Kenya**, and close monitoring and control should continue along both sides of the Red Sea.