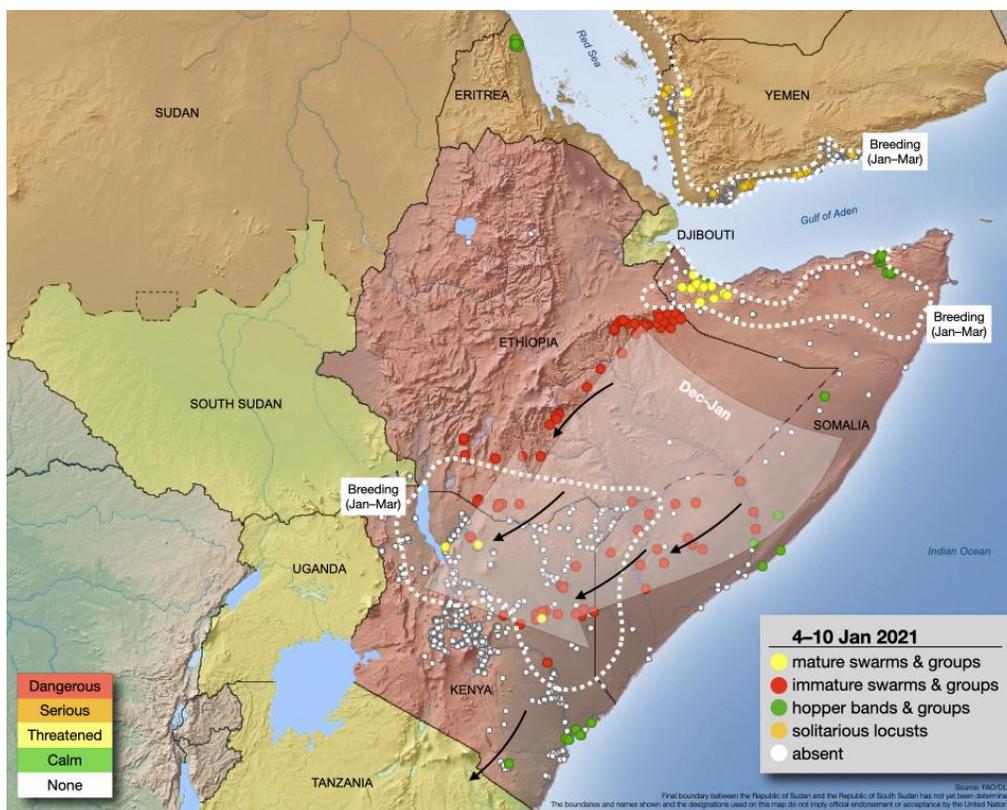




The FAO Commission
for Controlling the Desert Locust
in the Central Region

Desert Locust situation update 11 January 2021

Swarms continue to invade Kenya



Desert Locust Situation update 11 Jan.2021

In the Horn of Africa, immature swarms continue to migrate southwards from breeding areas in eastern **Ethiopia** and central **Somalia** to southern **Ethiopia** and northern **Kenya**. There were reports that a few immature swarms reached Mwanga district in northeast **Tanzania** on 8 January 2021.

In **Ethiopia**, immature swarms are concentrating along the eastern side of the Harar Highlands in Oromia region as they move to southern areas of the country, including southern parts of the Rift Valley in SNNP region. There are also cross-border movements near Jigjiga and northwest **Somalia** and along the southern border with **Kenya**.

In **Kenya**, immature swarms continue to arrive and spread throughout the north. So far, swarms are present in four counties (Wajir, Garissa, Marsabit and, most recently, Isiolo). Breeding continues, and hopper bands are present in the southeast near Taita Taveta and along the coast.

In **Somalia**, mature swarms are present in the northwest and breeding is in progress on the coast where hopper bands have formed. Breeding also continues in the northeast where numerous hopper bands are concentrated between Iskushuban and Bosaso. Breeding may also be underway in other areas on the northern plateau that received heavy rains from cyclone Gati. Immature swarms continue to move southwards in central and southern regions towards **Kenya**.

Control operations continue in all affected countries.

As conditions are dry in some areas where the swarms are arriving, they are expected to disperse throughout southern **Ethiopia** and northern **Kenya**. There is a moderate risk that a few swarms could reach central **Kenya** and perhaps the southwest as well as northeast **Tanzania**, eastern **Uganda**, and southeast **South Sudan** during January. Once swarms arrive in favourable areas, they will mature and lay eggs that will hatch and cause hopper bands to form during February and March.

Elsewhere, breeding is underway along both sides of the Red Sea coast. Hopper groups and bands are present along both sides of the **Sudan/Eritrea** border. Scattered solitarious adults prevail along the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden coastal plains in **Yemen**, and one mature swarm appeared in the northern highlands from the coast.

All countries should maintain maximum efforts in conducting the necessary survey and control operations to reduce migration and breeding.