

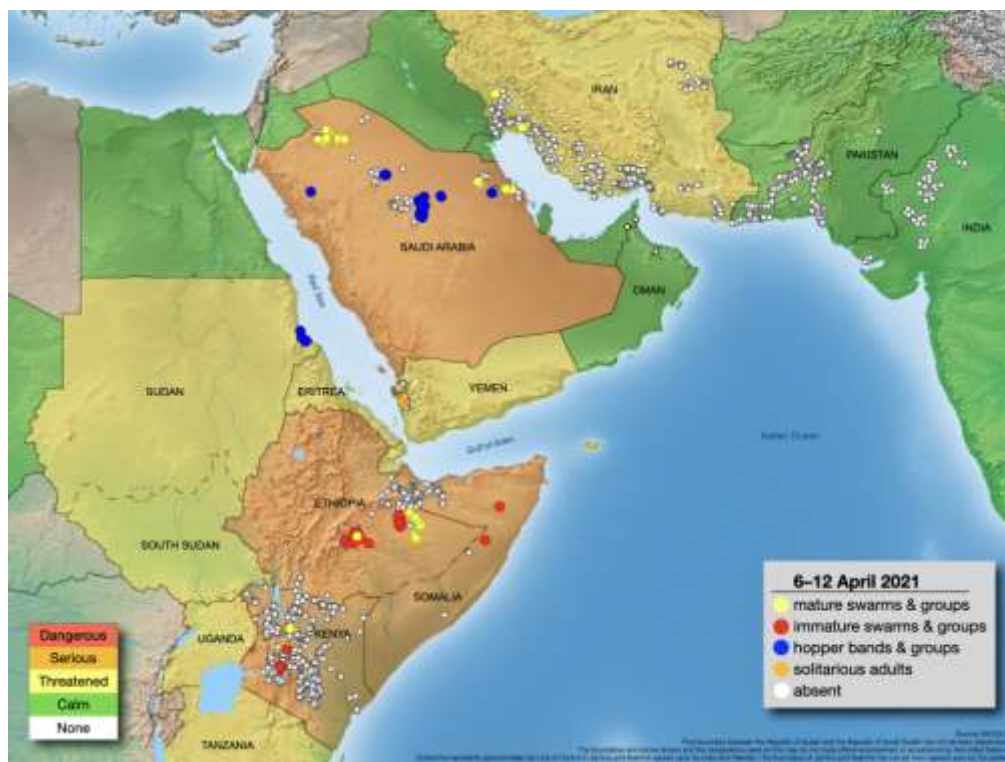


The FAO Commission
for Controlling the Desert Locust
in the Central Region

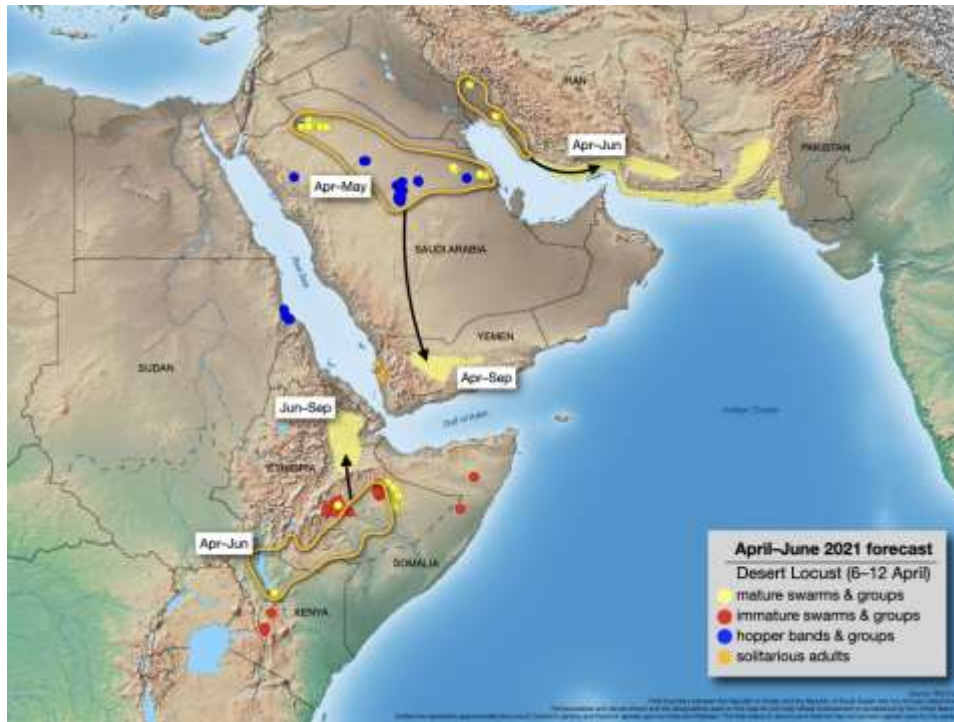
Desert Locust situation update 13 April 2021

Upsurge declining in Horn of Africa where rains start

Desert Locust swarms are continuing to decline in **Kenya**, **Ethiopia** and **Somalia** as a result of ongoing control operations. However, good rains have fallen this month in parts of northern **Kenya** and southern **Ethiopia** that should allow current swarms to mature and lay eggs. This is likely to give rise to hatching and the formation of hopper bands during May. Compared to one year ago, the scale and extent of the upcoming breeding will be significantly smaller, and the teams, aircraft and other control resources that are currently in place should be able to manage the anticipated breeding.



Desert Locust Situation update 13 April 2021



Desert Locust forecast April-June 2021

Even though the situation continues to improve, it is paramount that all countries sustain their current survey and control efforts in reducing existing swarms as well as detecting and controlling any breeding in the coming months. Intense vigilance must be maintained until the autumn.

Currently, the majority of the locust infestations in the region are present in **Ethiopia** where immature swarms persist to the east of the Rift Valley in the Bale Mountains and Harar Highlands. Both these areas have received rainfall that has runoff towards the eastern lowlands where breeding is expected to occur. In the past week, immature and mature swarms have recently appeared in some of these areas, primarily in the Somali region from south of Jijiga to Kebri Dehar. Although the situation remains calm further south, a few small swarms may be present in southern Oromia and SNNP.

In **Somalia**, a few immature swarms were treated in the northeast between Galkayo and Gardo while there have been no recent reports of swarms in the northwest. In **Kenya**, a few elusive small swarms persist in Samburu county where they are maturing.

The further decline of the current upsurge in the Horn of Africa depends on rainfall and control operations during this spring and summer. If only limited breeding occurs in northern **Kenya** and southern **Ethiopia** from now until June, followed by poor rains in northeast **Ethiopia** during the summer, and assuming that survey and

control operations can be maintained, then the situation is likely to return to normal by autumn.

Elsewhere, limited control operations continue against hopper bands on the Red Sea coast in **Sudan**. Control operations also continue against hopper groups and bands in the interior of **Saudi Arabia** where more hatching and band formation are expected within a widespread area. In **Iran**, control operations are underway against a few mature adult groups and swarms in the southwest where breeding is imminent.