



PEACE, PROSPERITY AND
REGIONAL INTEGRATION

***DESERT LOCUST PLAGUE AMID COVID-
19 PANDEMIC:
EFFECTS ON THE RESILIENCE AGENDA IN IGAD
REGION***

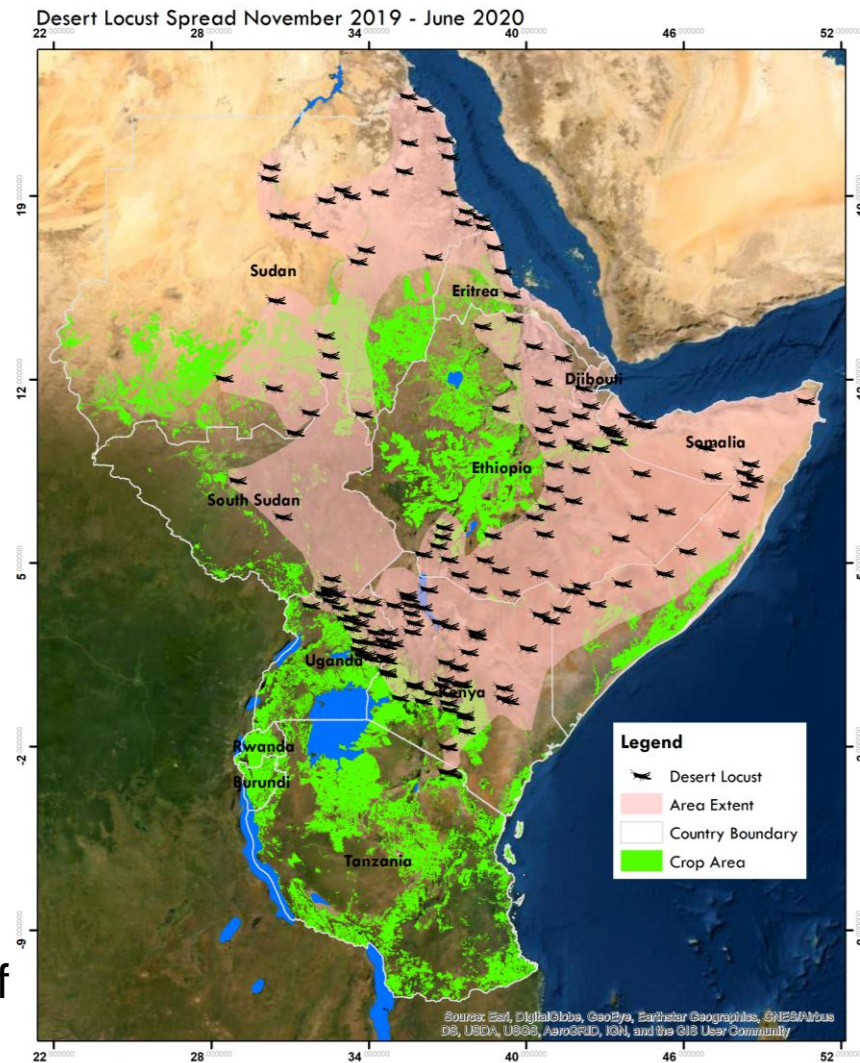
**IDDRSI PLATFORM STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING ONLINE
MEETING, 23 JULY 2020**



Summit of 2011, Nairobi
Historic turning point
on Resilience

BACKGROUND

- Locust swarms arrived in IGAD region in June/July 2019
- Spread to all IGAD countries by end of March 2020;
- Control operations were intensified in Feb and March, significantly reducing locust populations;
- Uncontrolled swarms continued to breed and spread due favourable climatic and ecological conditions;
- New generation of the locust remain in parts of the region despite intensified control;



Source: ICPAC



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REGIONAL DESERT LOCUST RESPONSE COORDINATION: ROLE IGAD

- IGAD was mandated to coordinate DL issues by **IGAD Heads of State and Governments** at their **34th Extra-Ordinary Summit on Feb 9, 2020 in Addis Ababa**
- **IGAD ES appointed a DL Task Force - comprising:** ICPAC, ICPALD, AED, CEWARN, IDDRSI, IGAD Special Envoy Offices;
- ICPAC intensified **DL Spread prediction** since Jan/Feb 2020;
- IGAD and FSNWG partners **intensified DL response advocacy** through all forms of media (local & international), raising awareness regionally and globally;
- **High level inter-regional technical meeting**, followed by a meeting of **IGAD Ministers of Agriculture** in April & May respectively; to share lessons on good practices, discuss challenges and propose a framework for joint complementarity in DL eradication;

Press Conference



Special Reports

Alerts

Press Release

Alert, Dec 2019

A severe desert locust outbreak threatens rural food security across the Horn of Africa

- A serious and widespread Desert Locust outbreak is destroying crops and pasture across eastern Ethiopia and neighbouring areas of Somalia, parts of Sudan and Eritrea, with a high risk of further spread in the absence of immediate and significant scale up in control activities. Mature desert locust swarms first crossed to eastern and north eastern regions of Ethiopia from Yemen and Somalis around July/August 2019 and have since invaded several pastoral and agro-pastoral areas in the Horn of Africa.
- A typical swarm can be comprised of up to 150 million locusts per km² and its daily consumption of crops can correspond to the annual consumption of 2,500 people. Affected areas can experience up to a 100% loss in crops and fodder. Given the severity of the outbreak and the limited capacities to control it, food security actors should begin preparing for the likelihood of increased food security-related needs in all the affected areas.
- In Somalia, the ongoing Desert Locust outbreak is the worst in over 25 years with over 70,000 hectares affected in Somaliland, Puntland and Galmudug (Mudug), according to FAO. Migrating swarms have recently been reported as far south as Beletwyne in Hirshabelle State. Meanwhile, in the Amhara and Tigray regions of Ethiopia, about 430 km² (43,000 hectares) have been affected in the past two months with the estimated loss of 1.3 metric tonnes of vegetation, inclusive of crops and pastures. Infestations have spread to pastoral Somali region of Ethiopia where hopper bands are present that will become new swarms in the coming weeks.



Food Security and Nutrition Working Group

Press Release

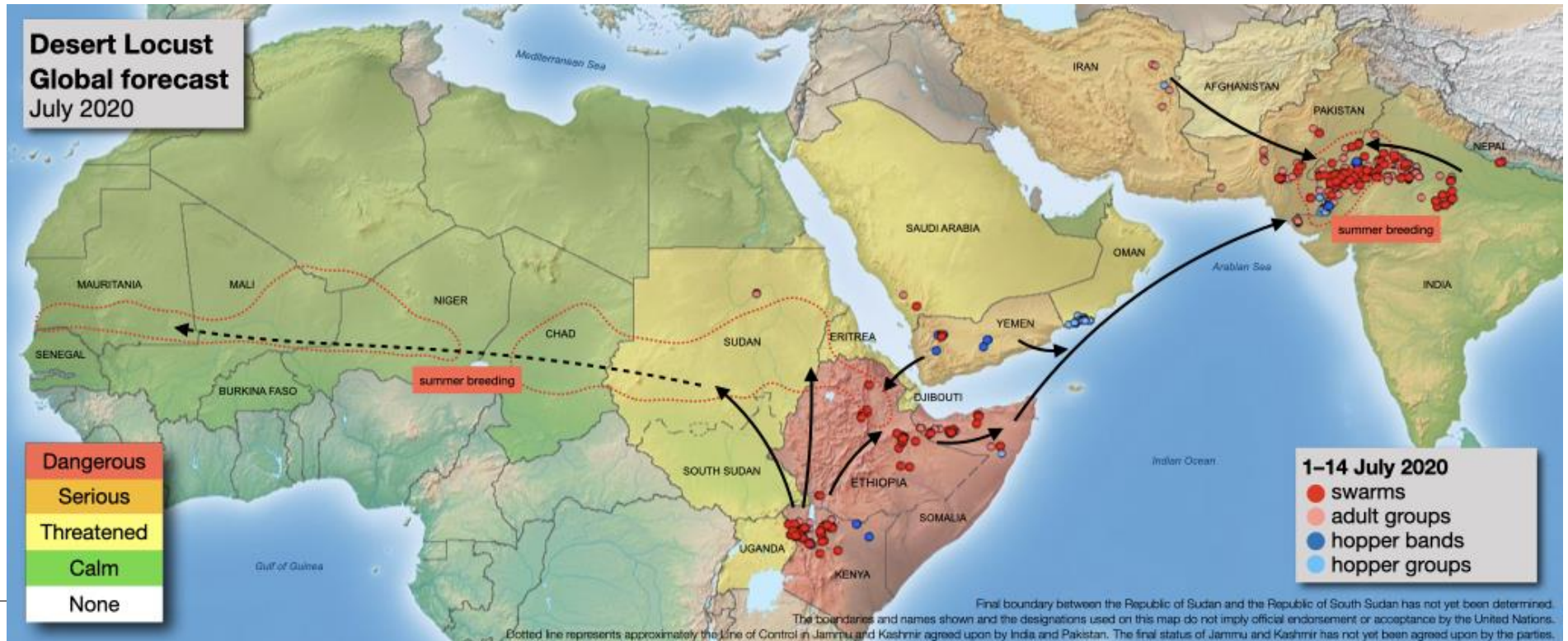
Immediate early action needed to prevent food crisis in the Greater Horn of Africa

High risk of worsening food insecurity in parts of Kenya, Ethiopia, Somalia and Uganda if forecasted rainfall deficits materialize

Nairobi, Kenya, April 3, 2019 - Around 10.7 million people are currently food insecure across Somalia, Kenya, Ethiopia and Karamoja region in Uganda.

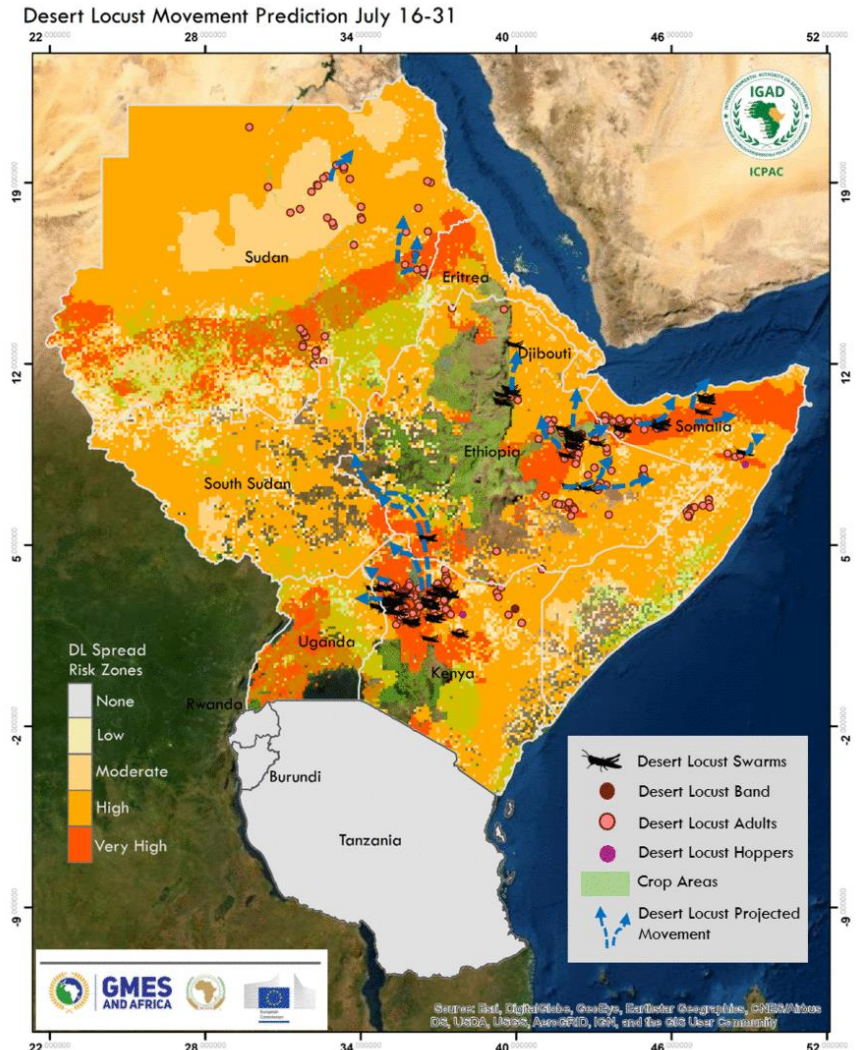
Global Overview

- Locust infestations declined in **Kenya** (northerly migration with some residuals)
- A few swarms cross into **Uganda** (a couple more may appear)
- Swarms persist in **Ethiopia** (more may be present than reported, breed)
- Swarms move eastwards across N **Somalia** (may migrate to Indo-Pakistan)
- More bands and swarms in **Yemen** (further breeding, Horn of Africa threat)



UNPRECEDENTED DL CRISIS

- Mostly the pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihood zones have been invaded;
- High invasion areas are in **Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia**
- In Sudan, summer breeding anticipated in July at onset of main cropping season;
- 2nd consecutive invasion is imminent from/through Yemen into IGAD via Djibouti in July 2020;
- Reinforcing the current invasion; endangering June-Sept and Sept- Dec seasonal crops and pastures and livelihoods of the affected populations;



DL IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

- Impacts are localised on **crops and pastures, trees and other vegetation**;
- DL Impact assessments have started, led by IGAD and FAO, with some delays due to C19;
- Govts and partners have kept DL response top priority, despite other emerging life threatening crises (such as COVID-19 and Flooding)



RECENT HOUSEHOLD SURVEY: KEY MESSAGES

- Amongst respondents currently with crops in their fields or owning livestock, roughly a **quarter experienced desert-locust related losses to either their crops or rangeland**
- For impacted households, desert locust losses were in many cases quite large. More specifically, **more than a quarter of impacted cropping respondents and nearly a half of impacted livestock-rearing respondents experienced high or very high losses** to their crops and rangeland, respectively.
- Despite generally favorable rainfall levels, multiple, compounding hazards led to **general pessimism amongst respondents in certain areas (amongst both DL affected and not affected) about harvest prospects and rangeland conditions**. Given already high levels of food insecurity, these challenges threaten to drive **further food security deteriorations**.

SUMMARY OF THE KEY HUMANITARIAN NEEDS IN THE IGAD REGION AS OF APRIL 2020

Pre-COVID-19 Situation



35 Million
Require urgent Livelihood support & resilience building (IPC Phase 2)



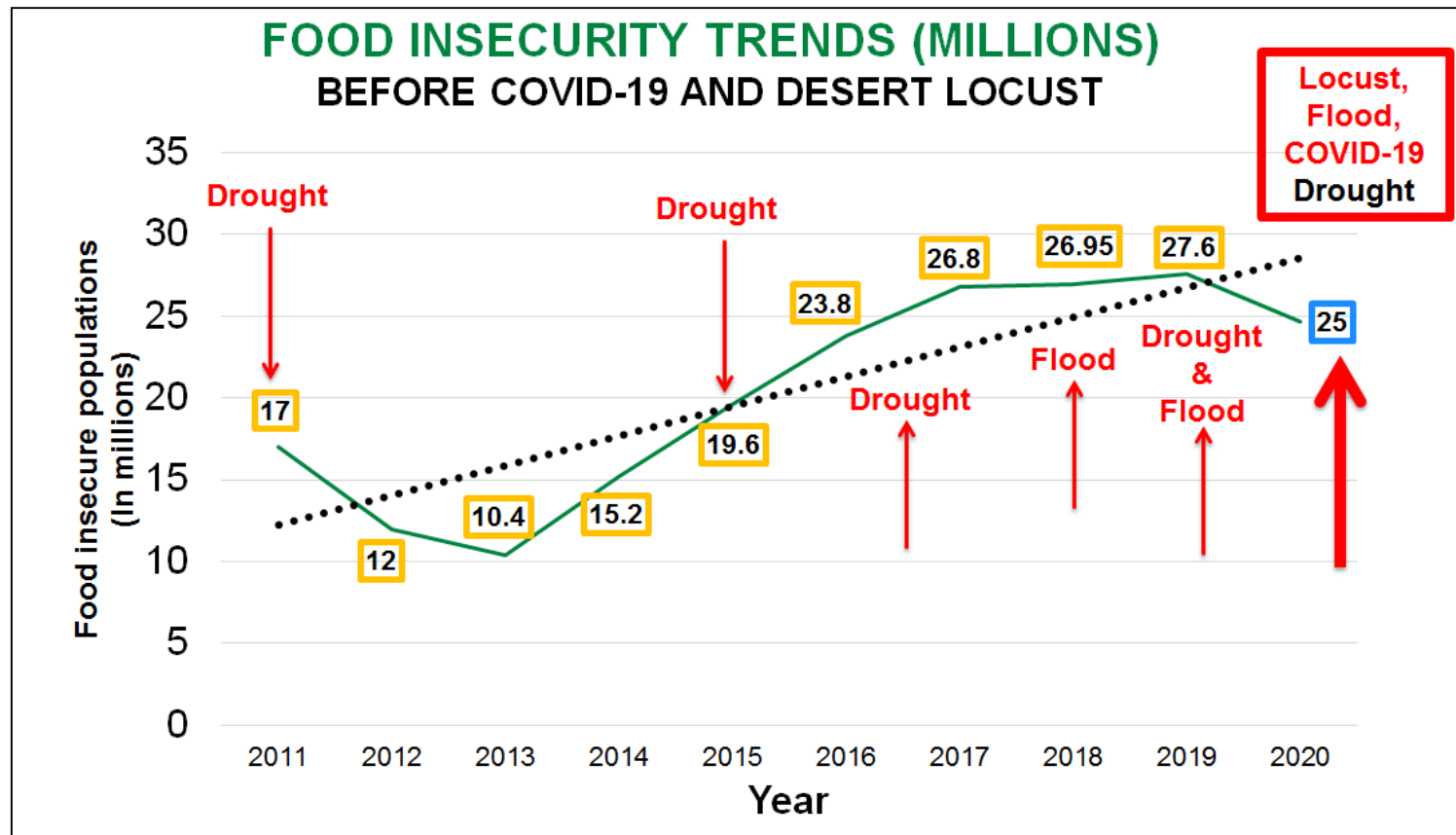
25 Million
Require urgent humanitarian assistance (IPC Phase 3 & above)



8 Million
Internally displaced persons



4 Million
Refugee asylum seekers



PROJECTED FOOD INSECURITY 2020

DUE TO COVID-19, DL, FLOODS AND PROTRACTED FOOD INSECURITY DRIVERS
(MILLIONS)

	DJI	ERI	ETH	KEN	SOM	SSD	SUD	UG	Total
Pre-COVID-19 Estimated FI People	0.2	0	8.5	1.3	1.3	6.5	5.8	1.4	25.0
Projected FI People due to COVID-19	0.2	0.5	8.54	3.24	2.52	1.05	3.17	2.17	21.39
Projected FI due to Desert Locust Impact	0.003	0.094	1.043	0.227	0.336	0.122	0.2	0.125	2.15
Projected FI due to Flood Impact	0.1	0.01	0.217	0.233	0.546	0.53	0.43	0.004	2.07
Projected Food Insecurity Across IGAD region 2020	0.5	0.6	18.3	5	4.7	8.2	9.6	3.7	50.6

FOOD SECURITY RESPONSE STRATEGY: KEY PRIORITY AREAS

1: Regional Emergency Response Interventions

- 1.1: Support Humanitarian Assistance and Livelihood Support for Vulnerable Population in Pastoral, Urban and Rural Areas
- 1.2: Improve and Sustain Nutrition Security among Vulnerable Groups during Food Crises
- 1.3: Promote and Facilitate Regional Trade and Access to Markets
- 1.4: Safeguard Pastoralists and Pastoral assets

2: Regional Coordination Initiatives

- 2.1: Enhance Regional Coordination and Advocacy

3: Regional Preparedness and Capacity Enhancement Interventions

- 3.1: Enhance Regional Capacity for Preparedness and Response to Food and Nutrition Crises
- 3.2: Operationalize the IGAD Disaster Response Fund
- 3.3: Establish a Regional Operation Center for Emergencies

CONCLUSION AND WAY FORWARD

- The IGAD region has been among the most vulnerable parts of the world due to
 - Frequent climatic shocks;
 - Economic shocks;
 - Conflict and insecurity.
- The current triple threat on top of the already existing multiple shocks is likely to undo recent resilience building gains;
- The unprecedented triple threat has over-stretched the efforts by Governments, Humanitarians and Development partners;
- Need for closer coordination between Response, Recovery, Resilience and Development initiatives to avert further deterioration of resilience in the region;
- Need for enhancing regional humanitarian-development-peace nexus agenda



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THANK YOU

