



**MULTI-AGENCY TEAM MEETING ON DESERT LOCUST
SITUATION AND CONTROL IN KENYA**

27TH JANUARY 2020 AT PANAFRIC HOTEL, NAIROBI



AGENDA

1. Opening remarks
2. Update on the locust invasion situation
3. Challenges in the ongoing control operation
4. Stakeholders support to the control effort
5. FAO support to the management of the desert locust threat in the country
6. Way forward
7. A.O.B

Agenda 1: Opening remarks

The meeting was called to order at 9.30am and started with a word of prayer conducted by one of the members.

Opening remarks were made by Director of Desert Locust Control Organization of Eastern Africa, (DLCO- EA) Dr Njoka and by Mr. Hamisi William of Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO). This meeting was officially opened by the Agriculture secretary, Dr. Okeyo.

To harness available expertise in the country, the ministry has formed a multi-institutional technical team that will strategize and guide the management of desert locust in the country. Members of the team are drawn from the following institutions;

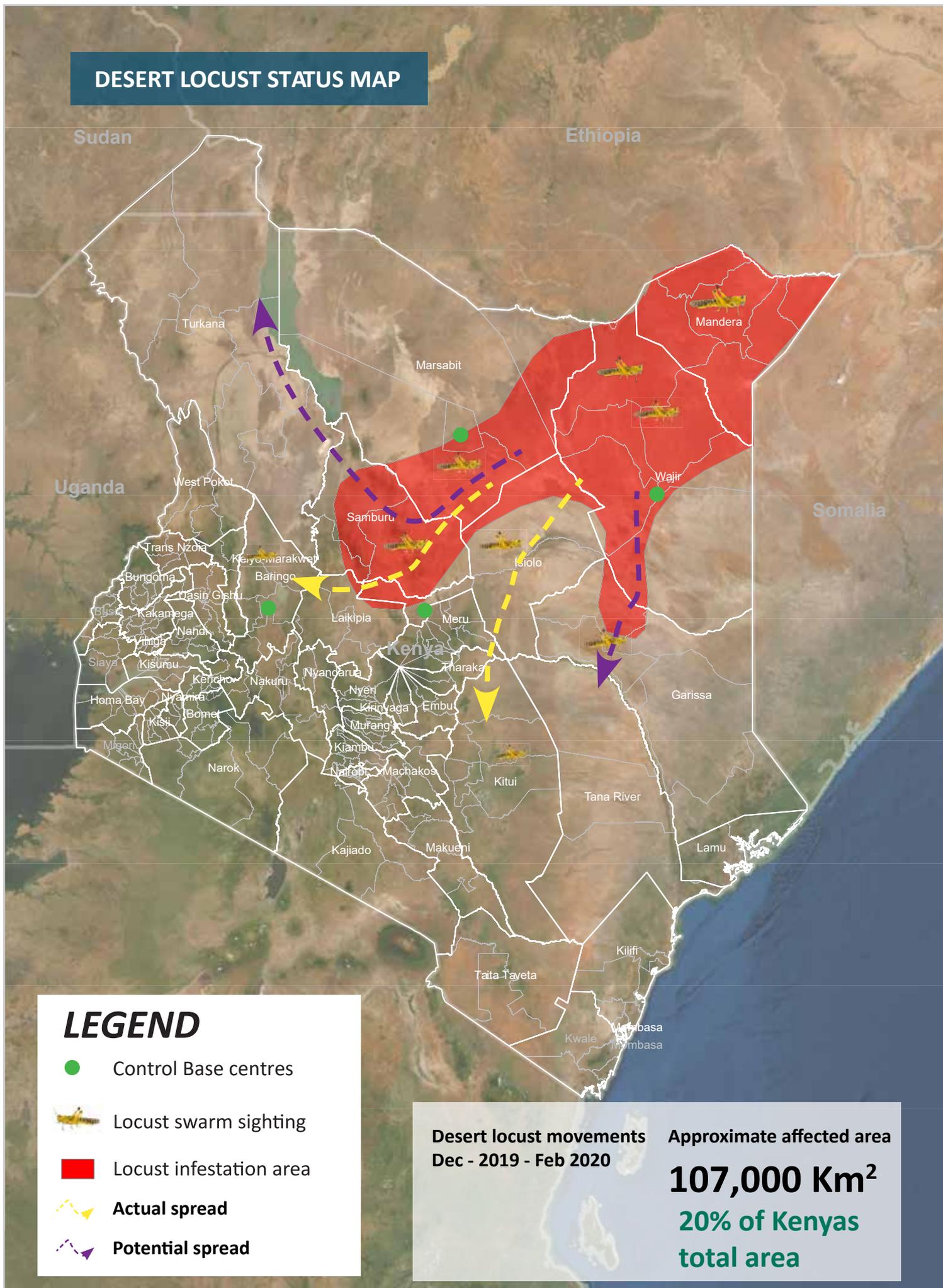
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, fisheries & Cooperative development
- Pest Control Product Board
- Center for Agriculture and Bioscience International (CABI)
- Kenya Metrological Department (KMD)
- Kenya Max
- Kenya Forest Services (KFS)
- Desert Locust Control Organization (DLCO)– Eastern Africa
- Twiga Chemicals Limited
- International Centre for Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE)
- University of Nairobi (UoN)
- Kenya Agriculture and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO)
- Council of Governors (CoG)
- Kenya Wildlife Services (KWS).
- Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Services (KEPHIS).
- Farm Land Aviation
- Orion East Africa Limited.
- Joint Agriculture Secretariat (JAS)

Agenda 2: Updates on the Desert locust control by the PPSD.

The locust swarms started crossing the border into Kenya from Ethiopia and Somalia on 28th December, 2019. The invasion has so far been confirmed in eleven counties: Mandera, Wajir, Marsabit, Garissa, Isiolo, Meru, Samburu, Baringo, Kitui, Embu and Laikipia. The latest is a swarm reported to have crossed from Mwingi (Kitui County) into the Kiambere area of Embu County, on Friday last week (24th January 2020). There is a red alert that Turkana county could likely be invaded followed by Tana River county.



DESERT LOCUST STATUS MAP



LEGEND

- Control Base centres
- Locust swarm sighting
- Locust infestation area
- Actual spread
- Potential spread

Desert locust movements
Dec - 2019 - Feb 2020

Approximate affected area
107,000 Km²
 20% of Kenya
 total area



Threat to food security and livelihoods

The pest invasion and potential to multiply and spread rapidly to other counties pose unprecedented threat to food security and livelihoods in the country. A medium swarm of 40 million locusts weighing about 80 tonnes can eat 80MT per day. Half a million locusts usually weigh about 1 tonne and thus consume about 1 tonne of food, enough to feed 2,500 people. Solitarious form is harmless to crops whereas gregarious phase causes destructive damage. The locusts feed on large quantities of any green material that include crops, pasture, fodder and browse. The occurrence of the pest in northern Kenya is particularly of great concern coming at a time when the agro-pastoral communities in the region are recovering from a prolonged drought. The ability of the pests to rapidly multiply and form dense swarms that move long distances feeding on large quantities of fresh materials along their path exacerbates the problem.

Government response to Contain the Pest

In response to the Desert Locust invasion, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperatives in collaboration with stakeholders and development partners, has initiated the following interventions to control the locust and stop spread to other areas.

a. Deployment of spray and surveillance aircrafts for control operation

The ministry has deployed five spray aircrafts and 4 surveillance aircrafts to various affected regions as follows:

Wajir, Mandera and Garissa Counties

- 2 spray aircrafts from Kenya Air Force and Desert Locust Control Organization for Eastern Africa (DLCO-EA) based in Wajir.
- 1 surveillance aircraft from International Red Locust Control organization for Central and Southern Africa (IRLCO-CSA).

Isiolo, Meru, Samburu and Laikipia and Marsabit Counties

- 1 Spray aircraft from Farmland Aviation based in Isiolo
- 1 Surveillance aircraft from KWS based in Isiolo

Baringo County

- 1 Spray aircraft from Farmland Aviation Ltd based in Nakuru.
- 1 Surveillance aircraft from KWS based in Karbanet

Kitui and Embu

- 1 spray aircraft from DLCO-EA based in Masinga
- 1 surveillance aircraft from KFS that was recalled to Nairobi should be deployed in the area.



b. Ground control operations

Three land rovers from the Kenya army are undertaking ground spaying in Isiolo and the neighboring counties using the vehicle mounted sprayers provided by the Plant Protection services Division.

c. Distribution of control pesticides

Malathion 90% ULV

- 8,000 litres distributed to Wajir, Marsabit, Kitui and Isiolo
- 2000 litres dispatched to Nakuru for control in Baringo

Sumithion 96% ULV (Fenitrothion 96% ULV)

- 4000 litres dispatched by road to Wajir for control in Mandera, Wajir and Garissa
- 3250 litres used for spraying swarms in Isiolo and Samburu Counties,
- 1250 litres transported by lorry to Marsabit County.

NB:

FAO has committed to supply 8,000 litres of chemical out of which 5,500 litres has already been supplied and a balance of 2500 litres will be delivered later.

Twiga Chemicals Ltd is expected to supply 7,200 litres imported from Sumitomo, Japan early this week.

Dimlin OF-6 (Diflubenzuron 60g/l)

970 litres distributed to Isiolo, Marsabit, Samburu and Wajir for ground control

Dursban 4 EC (Chlorpyrifos 480g/l)

2000 litres is in the Plant Protection store ready to be used for ground control. 2000 litres of Ripcord (Cypermethrin) has also been ordered for ground spraying.

d. Empowerment and capacity building to the counties

The government deployed a team of experts to the affected area to train and mobilize the county teams that will support the control efforts. A total of 145 officers from the seven affected counties (Mandera, Wajir, Isiolo, Marsabit, Samburu, Kitui and Meru) have been trained and deployed to do surveillance/monitoring of the pest and also support the control team.

This week two trainings will be carried out in Nakuru and Kitale during which an additional 88 officers will be trained:

- Nakuru- 27th and 28th January 2020 and
- Kitale - 30th and 31st January 2020

e. Locust Disaster Co-ordination Center

The ministry has established a locust disaster co-ordination center at Kilimo house on the 7th floor. The Centre is expected to provide day to day information on the measures the Government is undertaking to eradicate the desert locust. The officers to man the Centre have been drawn from the following Departments:



1. Plant Protection Service Division
2. Crop Resources, Agribusiness and Market Development (CRAMD)
3. Administration Department
4. Public Communication Department

f. Contribution by the Private sector

Aircraft hired by the private sector has controlled three swarms in Bassa, Kipsing, Naibungaga and Iantili in Isiolo and Laikipia counties

g. Contribution by Development Partners

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is committed to supporting the Government effort to contain the locusts' threat to food security and livelihoods in the country and has already committed a total of 8,000 litres of pesticides to the Ministry.

Agenda 3. Challenges

1. Unavailability of suitable control pesticides especially Fenitrothion 96% ULV for aerial control in the country coupled with the slow process of importation.
2. Expectation of immediate action of control pesticides on the pest leading to reluctant acceptance of slow acting molecules such as Malathion 90% in the field.
3. Logistical challenges in distribution of chemicals and aircraft fuel to the vast affected areas.
4. Small number of trained and experienced officers to support and guide the control operations.
5. High rate of spread of the pest to many counties
6. Bureaucracy in accessing the necessary materials and equipment, especially control chemicals
7. Inadequate funding for the increasing demand for control operations

Agenda 4. Required support to the control effort

To enhance effectiveness and efficiency of the control operations, the participants agreed on the following actions:

1. The participants noted the existing knowledge gap in identification and control of the desert locust and proposed a targeted training programme and subsequent training materials targeting various levels including the communities, extension agents and policy makers.
2. It was also emphasized on the need to enhance both aerial and ground surveillance especially for locating hopper bands for effective targeting by aerial and ground spray teams.
3. In the areas with high level of insecurity like Mandera and Garissa counties, it was recommended that the ground spray and surveillance operations be enhanced to complement the limited aerial activities.
4. The participants requested PCPB and KRA to fast track the clearing process of imported pesticides to address the current shortage in the country.
5. The participants also noted the need to consider both human and environmental protection from the negative effects of pesticides by promoting the use of biopesticides such as Pesthrin and nimbecidin which are available locally among others.
6. Establishment of 4 operation centers (bases) which were identified as follows Isiolo, Wajir, Marsabit and Kabarnet. Each of the four centers to be provided with the following:



2 spray aircrafts per centre with an extra aircraft in Wajir preferably from the Kenya Air Force to cover Mandera county totaling to **9 aircrafts**.



2 surveillance aircrafts for each centre (1 fixed wing and 1 helicopter) totaling to **8 aircrafts**.



At least **4 vehicles mounted with sprayers** for each of the 4 centers totaling to 16 vehicles.



100 GPS equipment for the 4 centers.



50 VHF Radios



1000 Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs).



4 Drum crushers for disposal of the empty pesticides containers.

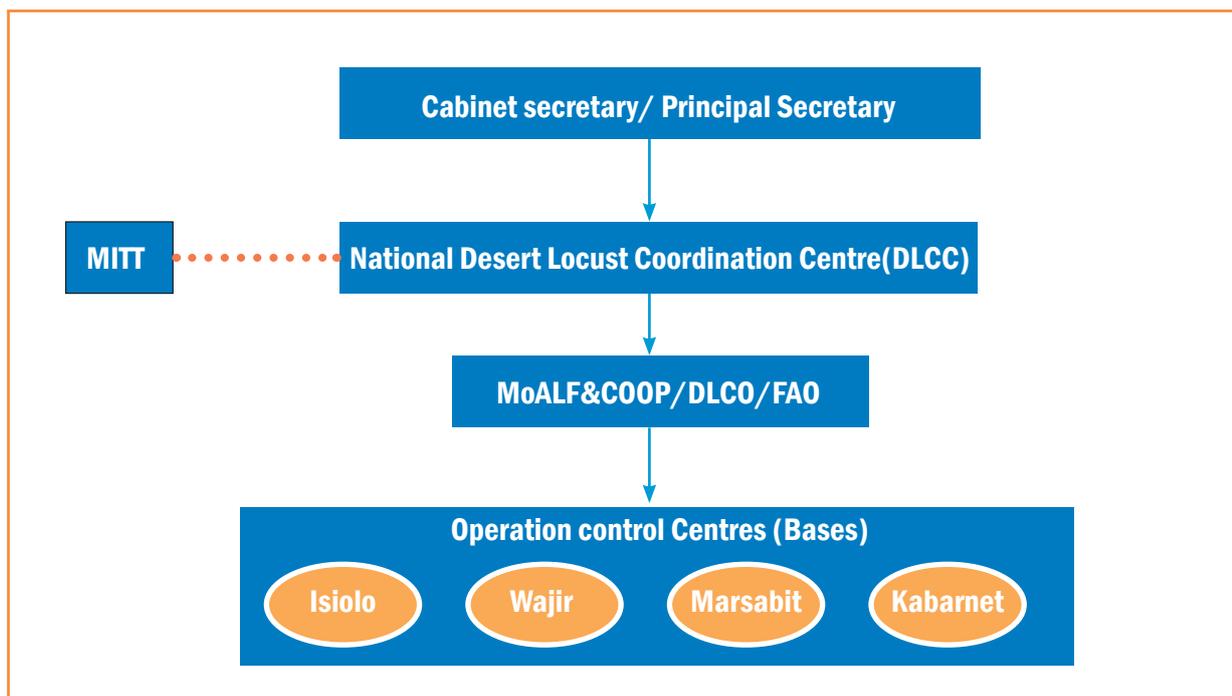
Blood testing kits for each of the 4 control centers.

Personnel for each of the 4 centers:

1. 1 Manager
2. 1 Store keeper
3. 2 Radio operators,
4. 2 security officers (Day/night),
5. Medical service personnel.

The participants recommended the expansion of the national desert locust coordination center to include additional members from DLCO, FAO, KMD and a communication expert to respond to media requests.

Information Flow





Agenda 5: Available resources

- 5 aircrafts for aerial spraying which include: 2 from the DLCO, 1 from Kenya Air Force and 2 hired from the private sector, Farmland Aviation.
- 5 aircrafts for aerial surveillance which include: 3 fixed wings from KWS, 1 fixed wing from KFS and 1 helicopter from the International red locust organization for Central and Southern Africa (IRLCO-CSA).
- 4 vehicle mounted sprayers.
- 18 motorized knapsack sprayers.
- 50 hand held ULV sprayers and
- 200 Personal protective equipment (PPEs)

Agenda 6: Action points / Way forward

1. Establishment of 4 desert locust operation centers (base) in Isiolo, Marsabit, Wajir and Kabarnet fully equipped and operational.
2. Hiring of the 4 additional spraying aircrafts to support the available 5 aircrafts.
3. Hiring of 3 additional helicopters for surveillance.
4. 12 Additional vehicle mounted sprayers to complement the existing 4 vehicles.
5. Additional 1000 PPEs procured.
6. 50 VHF Radios procured.
7. 100 GPS equipment procured.
8. 4 Drum crushers procured.
9. Pesticide suppliers to fast track importation of the registered products for the desert locust control in Kenya.
10. PCPB and KRA to fast track the clearance process of the importation of pesticides for the DL control.
11. Development of desert locust technical material and targeted training program for various levels including the communities, extension agents and policy makers.
12. FAO to avail additional Desert locust control experts to support the operations.
13. Financial resources are needed to support the operation with fuel and facilitation.
14. It was also proposed that a meeting be organized with the governors from the affected counties for strengthening the intergovernmental coordination of the DL control.
15. It was agreed that an impact assessment of the desert locust invasion on food and nutrition security be conducted to inform the livelihood protection and recovery programme.