

**Emergency Transboundary
Outbreak Pest (ETOP) situation
update for June, 2008 with a
forecast till August**

Summary:

Desert Locust: The desert locust situation remained relatively calm in June in most of the outbreak areas. Only low numbers of solitary adults were seen in the **central Sahara in Algeria** controlled on some 50 ha. Escapee adults will likely start moving to the northern Sahel in the coming weeks. Isolated adults were seen in **Niger** on the southern **Tamesna plains** and in the **Tenere Desert**, suggesting that scattered locusts may be present throughout the area. Despite improving ecological conditions locusts were not detected during surveys carried out on more than 12,040 ha in **southern, southwestern, and northern Ethiopia**. Significant developments are not expected in the coming weeks in Ethiopia, but it is still unclear whether breeding will be progressing in the **Ogaden region** where **surveys could not be carried out** due to the ongoing security situation. If ecological conditions continue improving, breeding could take place and swarms will develop in this region. No locusts were detected in **Sudan** or **Eritrea** during this month. Small-scale local breeding occurred in June near **Lake Nasser** in **southern Egypt** and scattered adults are likely to persist in the coming weeks. Scattered adults were also detected in the **interior of Yemen**.

Active survey and monitoring are recommended given the onset of the summer rains tailgating the northern migration of the inter-tropical front (FAO/DLIS, AELGA, DLCO-EA, national PPDs/DPVs).

Other ETOPs: Moroccan and Italian locusts in Central Asia:

Infestations of **Moroccan** locust that were reported earlier in the southern region of **Tajikistan**, adjacent to northern **Afghanistan**, where spray operations treated more than 67,000 ha had diminished, but **Italian** locusts were seen in the northern part of the country in the past weeks and will likely continue appearing over the coming months.

Earlier, FAO provided an assistance package worth more than \$410,160 through the UN CERF and a technical assistance for two weeks to respond to the Moroccan locust invasions.

No new information was received on the locusts that were reported earlier in **North West Afghanistan** (Balkh, Jawzjan, Sar-e Pul, Samangan and Faryab) where plant protection officers carried out control operations.

Severe locust outbreaks can significantly affect grazing land and undermine livestock production as the scarcity of grazing land has already taken a toll on Kuchis who, according to USAID field staff, resorted to requesting for graze permits from **Turkmenistan**.

Rodents: No new information was received on the rodent situation in the Chittagong region in southeast of Bangladesh where OFDA deployed a rodent expert in April for an assessment mission.

Red Locust: The international Red Locust Control Organization for Central and Southern Africa (IRLCO-CSA) reported the presence of swarms and concentrations of Red Locust in Dimba Plains in **Mozambique**, Lake Chilwa Plains in **Malawi** and in Iku-Katavi, Rukwa Plains and Malagarasi Basin in **Tanzania**. More than 50 dense swarms were reported controlled on some 10,000 ha in **Mozambique**. Isolated to scattered populations were detected in Buzi-Gorongosa Plains, Mozambique and Dambo and Lake Chiuta Plains, Malawi. **There is a strong chance that if left untreated, swarms could escape and invade neighboring countries, including Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Swaziland, and even Southern Africa (IRLCO-CSA).**

Armyworm outbreaks continued appearing in **Ethiopia** where more than **802,000** ha of crop and pasture were reported infested and **150,247** ha of cropland were sprayed (DLCO-EA, PPD/Addis).

Quelea bird colonies and roosts were controlled in Shinyanga and Morogoro Regions of **Tanzania** and Nyanza and Rift Valley Provinces of **Kenya** where DLCO-EA aircraft were deployed

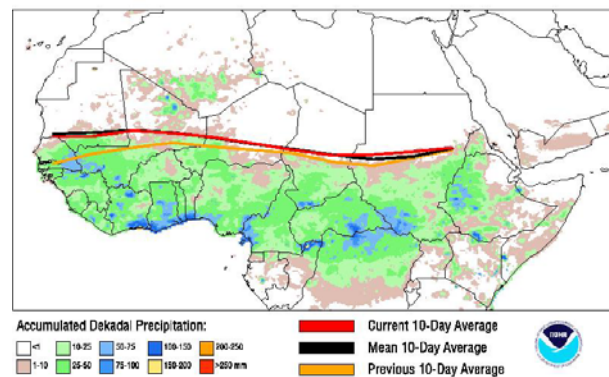
(DLCO-EA, IRLOC-CSA). End **summary.**

This and archived Sitreps can be accessed and downloaded on our website:

http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance/locust/

Climatological factors:

Current vs Mean Position of the Africa ITF
As analyzed by the NOAA Climate Prediction Center
June 2008 Dekad 3



During the third dekad of June from 21-30, 2008, the African portion of the Intertropical Front (ITF = ITCZ) was located at around 15.8 degrees N latitude, which is also the average (see Figure above). During this dekad, the ITF surged northward bring rainfall north to the area where the ITF is normally situated this time of year. The ITF had moved north since the last dekad especially in the west and the east. Currently it is 16.7 degrees N in the west and 14.7 degrees N in the east (Mod from NOAA, June 2008). Overall, June was wetter than May and as a result, ecological conditions continued improving in some of the DL breeding areas.

ETOP Situation and Activities:**Western Region**

Low numbers of solitary adults were present in the **central Sahara in Algeria** and will likely start moving into the northern Sahel in the coming weeks. Isolated adults were seen in Niger on the southern **Tamesna plains** and in the **Tenere Desert** suggesting that scattered locusts may be present in the surrounding areas.

Central Region

Surveys were carried out on more than 12,040 ha in **Amhara, Oromia and southern states** (southwest of Dire Dawa - 0935N/4150E between Kebri Dehar - 0644N/4416E, and Kelafo - 0537N/4408E) **in Ethiopia** in June, but no locusts were detected despite the presence of favorable ecological conditions in most of these areas where summer rains have begun falling. No locusts were reported in western lowlands in **Eritrea** where surveys were carried out in 20-23 June. Scattered low density solitary mature adults were seen in the Nile Valley between Atbara (1742N/3400E) and Abu Hamed (1932N/3320E) in **Sudan** in mid-June. A localized breeding occurred in June near **Lake Nasser in southern Egypt** where scattered adults are likely to persist in the coming weeks. Scattered adults were also detected in the **interior of Yemen** and a DL swarm was reported flying over **Hargeisa** on July 1st, supposedly coming from the **Harar Highlands in Ethiopia, but no information was available to corroborate at the time this update**

was compiled (DLCO-EA, FAO-DLIS, PPD/Addis, PPD/Asmara, PPD/Khartoum).

Forecast

Low numbers of adults could appear in the northern part of western lowlands, **in Eritrea** and breed in the coming months. Scattered adults may be present on the plateau between Boroma and Hargeisa **in Somalia** where small scale breeding could occur in areas of recent rainfall. There is a low to moderate risk that a few small swarms could appear from **eastern Ethiopia** early in the forecast period. Small-scale breeding is likely to persist in crops in the Nile Valley and scattered adults are likely to appear in Darfur, Kordofan, White Nile and Kassala States **in Sudan**. Locusts will likely be seen in **Saudi Arabia** and **Yemen** and number could increase during the forecast period in areas that receive rainfall (PPD/Khartoum, FAO-DLIS, PPD/Addis, DLCO-EA). Active survey and monitoring are essential to abate unexpected surprises.

Eastern Region

Ground control operations were undertaken in early June on some 310 ha against a few groups of hoppers that remained in **southeast Iran**, and small residual population were present in **Baluchistan in western Pakistan**. Early breeding occurred in Pakistan adjacent to the summer breeding areas along the Indo-Pakistan border where low numbers of hoppers and scattered adults were seen (FAO/DLIS, CLAA/Mauritania, DDLC/Libya, INPV/Algeria).

Central Asia

Infestations of **Moroccan locust** that were reported in southern **Tajikistan**, adjacent to northern **Afghanistan** where more than 67,000 ha were sprayed earlier by GoT had ended and **Italian locusts** have taken over and begun appearing in the northern part of the country. FAO provided a package worth over \$410,160 through the UN CERF to assist **Tajikistan** control Moroccan locust infestations.

Note: Large locust outbreaks can significantly affect grazing land and undermine livestock production which, according to information from USAID field staff, is already taking a toll from lack of grazing land and Kuchi representatives have requested Turkmenistan to allow them to graze their herds there. **End note.**

The Timors and South Pacific

No information was received on locusts from the **Timors** at the time this update was compiled, but it is likely that hoppers and bands of **Migratory locust** are present and pose threats to pasture, maize and/or rice crops in valleys and other areas. Cross-border infestations often impact both countries. Last year this time, control operations missed a chance to abate the development of the locust in **WT** and the locusts severely impacted rice, maize and pasture in both countries. It is important that such incidences are avoided to the extent possible. Locust operations are expected to increase in 2008 in **Australia** as most outbreak

areas had received unusually good rains after a prolonged drought.

Red Locust:

The international Red Locust Control Organization for Central and Southern Africa (IRLCO-CSA) reported the presence of swarms and concentrations of Red Locust (*Nomadacris septemfasciata* Serville) in Dimba Plains in Mozambique, Lake Chilwa Plains in Malawi and in Iku-Katavi, Rukwa Plains and Malagarasi Basin in Tanzania. More than 50 dense swarms (>30 locusts/m²) were reported controlled on some 10,000 ha using 5,500 l of Fenitrothion 96% in Dimba plains in Caia district in Sofala Province of Mozambique. Isolated to scattered populations were detected in Buzi-Gorongosa Plains in Mozambique and in the Mpatsanjoka Dambo and Lake Chiuta Plains in Malawi.

Swarms over 4 km long and 1 km wide were detected in the Dimba Plains, in **Mozambique**; some escaped and caused **damage to sorghum and maize in Ntopa, Chatala, Nsona, Nhacueaha, villages some 20 to 45 km from Dimba Plains. According to IRLCO, if control is not undertaken on time, there is a high risk of swarms escaping and invading Mozambique, Malawi, Tanzania, Zambia, etc. The Center is appealing for assistance to control swarms before they cause further damage to crops and pasture in Tanzania and possibly cross over to Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, and Zambia.**

Forecast: The vegetation burning that has begun and will continue in the coming months will likely concentrate locust populations in unburned patches of vegetation. Some of the swarms could migrate to other locations where grass burning will not take place. IRLCO-CSA in collaboration with the Ministries of Agriculture in the affected countries is planning on carrying out control operations in the outbreak areas. IRLCO has sent out requests for assistance to Development partners, including the UN Food and Agriculture Organization.

African migratory locust

No new information was received in June on the African migratory locust (*Locusta migratoria migratorioides*) and an AML invasion in northern Ethiopia turned out to be a false alarm.

Tree locusts

No information was received on tree locusts (*Anacridium spp.*) at the time this report was compiled.

Armyworm:

Widespread infestations of African armyworm (*Spodoptera exempta*) and control operation continued in the **southern, eastern, central and northern parts of Ethiopia** in June where **440,055 ha** of crop and **362,032 ha** of pasture were reported infested and **150,247 ha** of cropland were sprayed by ground means. Armyworm infestations were not reported in **Kenya** or **Tanzania** in June

and further infestations are not expected.

Forecast

Armyworm infestations will likely continue in **northern Ethiopia** in the coming several weeks and there is a high risk of outbreaks occurring in parts of **Eritrean**. Pheromone traps are highly recommended in potential breeding areas to detect moth appearance and contain outbreaks early on (DLCO-EA, AELGA, PPD/Kenya, PPD/Addis).

Quelea birds

Outbreaks of Quelled birds (*Quelea quelea* L) were reported in June in Nyanza and the Rift Valley Regions **Kenya**. Aerial operations continued in Morogoro and Shinyanga regions of **Tanzania**, where DLCO-EA aircraft treated Quelea colonies on 235 ha in collaboration with Tanzania Plant Health Services. The birds were threatening rice, millet, finger millet and bulrush.

Forecast: Quelea birds will likely continue posing a problem to small grain cereal growers in the Rift Valley and Nyanza Provinces of **Kenya**, Morogoro and Shinyanga regions of **Tanzania** and in some provinces in **Zimbabwe** where winter wheat is grown in the coming months (DLCO-EA, IRLCO-CSA).

Rodents

No new information was received on rodent situation **in Bangladesh** or elsewhere in the region at the time this report was compiled and no significant activities are expected.

Recommendations on ETOPs:

Front-line countries must remain vigilant and exercise prevention and mitigation to minimize unexpected risks from ETOPs. Those in invasion areas should stay alert and implement preventive intervention strategies. Countries in the outbreak zones should collect information on ETOP regularly and share it with all stakeholders as often as possible.

AELGA (Assistance for Emergency Locust and Grasshopper Abatement) will continue monitoring the situation and issue updates and advise.

Pesticide Stocks

Pesticide inventories did not change much as most of the outbreak countries remained calm and only Ethiopia carried out massive control operations against armyworm invasions in June where **more than 800,000 ha** were infested and some **150,245 ha** were sprayed.

Country	Quantities in l/kg
Eritrea	44,800
Ethiopia	29,000
Mali	222,524
Mauritania	545,186
Morocco	3,998,365
Niger	184,084
Senegal	532,960
Sudan	735,676
Algeria, Libya, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Yemen	Data not available at the time this report was compiled

Note: Many countries continue benefiting from obsolete pesticide management activities co-sponsored through USAID/OFDA Cooperative Agreement with the UN FAO.
End note.

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or visit our website at:

http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance/locust/