

# Desert Locust Management

AATF 21<sup>st</sup> Century Integrated Approach for Managing the Desert Locust  
webinar, March 15, 2021

Yeneneh T. Belayneh, PhD, Senior Technical Advisor,  
USAID/BHA/TPQ

# Desert Locust – Impact Elements

- Primary habitat – remote, arid/arid semi-arid, hard to reach areas
- Massive swarms at plague/upsurge-levels
  - E.g., Dozens of plagues and upsurges from 1926 to 2021
- Climate change-induced increased frequency, intensity, range expansion
- Continued threats to food security, livelihoods, natural resources
- Reduced resource-based conflicts, etc.,

## Limitations to prevention trigger campaign

- Vast and remote breeding and outbreak areas
- Weak and inconsistent surveillance and monitoring,
- Inadequate basic infrastructure, technical, and material resources
- Absence of systems for data collection and interpretation on key parameters
- Lack of adequate national strategy and contingency plan
- Lack of adequate information on DL location
- Absence of cross-border engagements
- Weak support for regional ETOP entities

## What are the priorities of development partners regarding management of Desert Locusts

- Promote greater understanding of long-term sustainable approach for ETOP management
- Help build national and regional capacity and systems to manage ETOPs
- Explore means and ways to leverage skills and knowledge of countries with the capacity to manage ETOPs
- Promote and encourage strategies for strong preventive intervention

## What are the priorities of development partners regarding management of Desert Locusts cont'd

- Build upon partners' assessments and findings and develop a 5-year action plan to implement recommendations
- Increase investment in the use of new technologies for remote sensing, data collection, and improve forecasting and response
- Support evaluation of efficacy and operational requirements of commonly used tools and materials and
- Assess benefits and costs of softer [biological] pesticides

## How can players enhance value for money when implementing the DL control strategies?

- Promote and support collaborations among key actors
- Encourage and strengthen south-south partnership and collaboration to share experiences, knowledge, skills and tools
- Encourage and support establishment of functional relationships with neighboring countries
- Engage private sector to develop tools and systems that can boost surveillance, monitoring and response
- Strengthen knowledge dissemination and outreach among communities
- Strengthen regional entities with mandate for emergency pest interventions
- Strengthen monitoring and evaluation system for improved ETOP management
- Promote and support robust R&D programs on DL and other key ETOPs

# What strategies should Governments employ to combat recurrence of pest invasions?

- Establish national strategy and contingency plan for ETOP management
- Establish an IPM-based strategy for preventive and response
- Explore and introduce science-based, [Africa]-friendly ETOP management tools
- Strengthen existing emergency pest monitoring and control unit through material, fiscal and human resources
- Establish and institutionalize a system to improve staff and community skills and knowledge through active training
- Strengthen the capacity to improve information collection, analysis, dissemination and management
- Increase collaboration with relevant stakeholders to adopt new technologies for improved data collection, through robust surveillance and monitoring
- Strengthen capacity of regional ETOP entities

## Synoptic cost of control

<b>Event year</b>	<b>Country/Region</b>	<b>Cost/\$M</b>	<b>Today's value/\$M*</b>
2019-21	Eastern Africa, Yemen	>216	>216
2003-05	West Africa, EA, ME	>570	>806
1992-93	WA, EA, Red Sea	>60	>110
1986-89	Multi-regional	>310	>700
<b>In just 10 years from 1986-2021 Total</b>		<b>&gt;1550/155/Y</b>	<b>&gt;1832/183.2/Y</b>

\*Additional national resources expended not included

- Control operations during upsurge/plague years require costly campaign
  - Involve large-scale pesticide applications
    - Overstocked pesticides cause management and opportunity costs
    - Obsolete stocks:
      - Human health and the environmental threats
      - Costly, complicated and tedious disposal processes
      - Exacerbate economic distress