

## Eastern Africa Locusts Upsurge (Multi Country: Ethiopia; Kenya; Somalia; South Sudan; Uganda) Africa Region | Emergency Appeal

Appeal No: n° MDR60005	Operations Update n° 2 Date of issue: 29 April 2021	Timeframe covered by this update: 10 December 2020 to 31 March 2021
	Operation start date: 17 April 2020	Operation timeframe: 14 months to 30 June 2021 (2-month extension)
Glide No: IN-2019-000149-ETH	IFRC Funding requirements: 1,8million Swiss francs	DREF amount initially allocated: CHF 350,000

**Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners currently actively involved in the operation:** British Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross, Netherlands Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross, German Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, ICRC

**Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation:** UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the Desert Locust Control Organisation of East Africa, Inter Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), Government Ministries of Agriculture in Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Somalia and South Sudan.

### A. THE DISASTER AND THE RED CROSS RED CRESCENT RESPONSE TO DATE

- April 2020 locust invasion in East Africa has been described as the worst in 25 years for Ethiopia and Somalia, and the worst in 70 years for Kenya
- 17 April 2020 – Emergency Appeal launched for 1.8m
- 17 April 2020 – DREF loan granted for CHF 350,000
- 10 Dec 2020 – extension requested for 2 months



*Uganda Red Cross volunteers training and working with farmers to combat the impact of locusts.*

## Summary of major revisions made to the emergency plan of action:

Five National Societies – Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, and Uganda – were allocated start-up funds to enable initial activities including assessments, training and engagement in locust surveillance, and reporting. However, major delays were experienced in the start-up of activities, thus reducing the time to complete within the planned timeframe. Some planned activities, such as the provision of crop seed, could be undertaken in 2020 and were delayed until the next rains in early 2021. In addition, while the locusts situation has improved, there still remains a local need to combat locusts during this season.

This Operations Update allows the five National Societies to make the following changes to the operation:

- **Extend the operation timeframe to 30 June 2021** to allow for completion of activities including modifications to cater for the emerging food insecurity crisis.
- Completion of the livelihoods support needed due to locusts and the compounding and emerging issue of food insecurity expected due to rainfall deficit leading to low production in the January to February harvest.
- Completion of livelihoods protection activities for the most affected people, especially in areas affected by multiple threats of locusts, floods, COVID-19, and food insecurity.

## Situation overview

Eastern Africa experienced a locust invasion starting from November 2019 when the dangerous migratory pests crossed into the region in large numbers. What started as an outbreak eventually covered larger geographical areas developing into an upsurge and causing serious concerns on the food security and livelihoods situation of the region. The ongoing locust invasion in East Africa has been described as the worst in 25 years for Ethiopia and Somalia, and the worst in 70 years for Kenya. The desert locusts move in large numbers and can multiply in numbers by a factor of 20 every three months. This is a major cause for concern as they can destroy large areas of vegetation and crops, thus threatening food security and livelihoods of affected populations and the consequences might be massive. Experts have predicted increased cross border movements of the locusts in Kenya, Ethiopia, and Somalia, potentially aggravating an already precarious food security situation.

During 2020 the swarms continued to invade and spread, matured and laid eggs in Ethiopia and Kenya. Hatching occurred in north east Somalia. In February 2020 swarms continued in Kenya and reached Uganda, South Sudan and the way to Tanzania. Widespread hatching and bands in Kenya. Due to widespread hatching a new generation of swarms formed in Ethiopia and Kenya in March 2020. In April more swarm matured and laid eggs in Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and Yemen. In May yet another generation hatched and band formation in Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and Yemen. In June a second-generation swarm form in north west Kenya and swarm formed in Ethiopia, Somalia and Yemen. In July more swarms form in north west Kenya, Ethiopia, Somalia and Yemen. In August the swarms mature in north east Ethiopia, while immature swarms persisted in north west Kenya and north Somalia. In September widespread hatching and band formation could be seen in north east Ethiopia and Yemen, while immature swarms persisted in north Somalia and north Kenya. During the end of the year the swarms continue the widespread breeding in Ethiopia, Somalia and Kenya.

Since beginning of 2021 desert locust swarms are continuing to decline in Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia as a result of ongoing control operations. However, due to good rains in parts of north Kenya and southern Ethiopia which could allow current swarms to mature and lay eggs. This is likely to give rise to hatching and the formation of hopper bands during May.

According to the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) 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. FAO have already adjusted their response plans to June 2021 to reflect the ongoing and projected locust impacts on food security and livelihoods. The Regional Desert Locust Alliance, which is tasked with monitoring the collective responses to the locust crisis, has also adjusted its timeframe to the end of June 2021.

Currently there is still immature swarms in Ethiopia and a few elusive small swarms that persist in Kenya. The continuation of the decline of the current upsurge depends on rainfall and control operations during the spring and the summer. If the only limited breeding occurs in Kenya and Ethiopia until June, then the situation is likely to return to normal by Autumn.

## Summary of Red Cross Red Crescent response to date

### Overview of Host National Society

To date, the RCRC responses are summarized below.

#### **Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERCS)**

Ethiopia Red Cross Society is a key national humanitarian actor and as auxiliary to the government, ERCS is a primary national partner to respond to disasters across the country and facilitates disaster preparedness activities through its regional branches and zonal branches spread across the country. Under this Appeal, ERCS was allocated start-up funding to enable activities such as assessments, capacity development training, surveillance and mapping and CEA. The Appeal also allocated funds to support cash feasibility and market assessments and cash transfer for basic multipurpose needs support for the most vulnerable and desert locust affected households.

ERCS will focus its activities in Taltele and Wachile districts in Borena Zone, Oromia Region, which are amongst the most affected by the locust invasion. The target districts fall under Borena Branch office which has a good network of volunteers to support the operation. Alongside the assessments, ERCS will provide emergency livelihood support to selected most affected households in line with the 'assess and assist' approach. Criteria for selecting the households for initial early livelihood support will include women headed households with people with disabilities and elderly headed households. This support as an early action covering a small number of vulnerable households. The assessment confirms that food household food security is a challenge further aggravated by the focused La Nina weather. ERCS will accomplish support by multipurpose cash for initial 1800 household case load to meet basic needs in this updated strategy.

#### **Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS)**

KRCS through its vast local presence in all the 47 Counties, its logistical and human resources capacity (volunteers and staff) have supported and continue to provide services for the preparedness and response plan of desert locust invasion, as well as support the recovery plans of the selected Counties in Kenya. KRCS will complement already ongoing operations in specific counties on desert locusts activities such as assessments carried out, KRCS will be responsible for the technical and administrative execution of field activities. KRCS is currently working with the FAO in the assessment of desert locusts impacts in 16 Counties that will inform the efficacy of current desert locusts control efforts, the impact on livelihoods, documentation and recommendation for livelihood recovery interventions.

#### **Somali Red Crescent Society (SRCS)**

SRCS signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Environment (MOE) during the inception meeting with the government. Volunteers drawn from the community were trained by technical experts from the MOE and tasked with keeping communities informed of operational activities and progress. The trained volunteers continue providing a platform for community feedback.

SRCS continues to respond to the desert locusts upsurge in Puntland region (Garowe and Galkayo Districts) and Somaliland. New Districts got affected early this year 2021. These include Bosaso in Puntland and others in Somaliland. According to the latest FAO forecast, the threat will persist throughout 2021.

#### **South Sudan Red Cross Society (SSRCS)**

The locust invasion in Magwi County has devastated food crops in villages of Obo and Pajok, threatening the food security and livelihoods of the affected communities. Most of the households lost part of their crops, especially cassava, maize, sorghum, and sesame. SSRCS has been involved in creating awareness on locusts, including supporting community mobilization and risk reduction planning. As over 12,000 people have been affected, SSRCS has identified the need to provide support in risk reduction, emergency food assistance, seeds, tools, and agricultural training. Initial efforts have been on community engagement in surveillance and reporting on locusts. Follow-up support will be on food assistance, provision of seeds and tools, and agricultural training for increased food production and productivity.

#### **Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS)**

URCS has been active in locust coordination and preparedness activities through participation in coordination mechanisms at national and district levels. Implementation of this operation started much later in September when the upsurge of the desert locust invasion in Uganda had reduced. Despite this, activities have been implemented which helped to build community capacity and local preparedness for potential new desert locust invasions.

### Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

Since the escalation of the locust upsurge in the subregion, IFRC has been at the forefront of planning, preparedness and response actions, in collaboration with Red Cross and Red Crescent (RCRC) partners and

other agencies such as UN FAO, UN OCHA, and the Regional Desert Locust Alliance. IFRC held consultations with ICRC and partner National Societies in the five countries to identify areas of support to the National Societies, strengthen coordination, and experience sharing. The ICRC developed key messages on locusts for the National Societies.

### **Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERCS)**

The IFRC, ICRC and eight partner NSs have ongoing programs in the country and play key roles in emergency response. The partners hold regular coordination meetings with participation of ERCS program staff. Ongoing operations include COVID-19 with livelihoods support through cash transfers, and the Floods Response in Amhara. ERCS has a national preparedness and response plan to which all partners align their efforts, and the locust operation will be integrated into this plan.

The IFRC provides support to ERCS through an Operations Manager based in Addis Ababa and its Eastern Africa Country Cluster Support Team (EA CCST) and the Regional Office for Africa which are both based in Nairobi, Kenya. ICRC, IFRC and partner National Societies have weekly coordination meetings to discuss ongoing operations and ensure continued coordination on planning and implementation of activities to ensure no overlapping and duplication of interventions in overlapping geographical areas. There are eight partner NSs' presents in Ethiopia- Austrian Red Cross, Qatar Red Crescent, Danish Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross, Netherlands Red Cross and Swiss Red Cross, German Red cross and the Italian Red Cross. The ICRC is also present in-country. SMCC cooperation agreement is underway to be finalized and operationalized in Ethiopia. However, none of the movement partners is directly supporting the national society in desert locust interventions.

### **Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS)**

KRCS has several partners supporting a range of interventions in emergency preparedness, response, health, water and sanitation, psychosocial support, and community resilience building programmes. The present partners are British RC, Danish RC, Finnish RC, Norwegian RC, and Italian RC, the Netherlands RC supports Kenya on the Early Warning, Early Action, through the 'Innovative Approaches for Response Preparedness (IARP) programme that includes forecast-based funding opportunities that this Appeal will link into. The British RC supports disaster risk management capacity strengthening at county level, while the Danish RC supports on urban resilience initiatives, and the Finnish RC has been supporting on raising resource for desert locust response.

The IFRC provides support to KRCS through a DM Delegate based in Nairobi, which is part of the Eastern Africa Country Cluster Support Team (EA CCST) and the Regional Office for Africa which are both based in Nairobi, Kenya. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has a regional delegation also hosted in Nairobi, which serves as a hub for operations in eastern and central African countries.

### **Somali Red Crescent Society (SRCS)**

Somalia: SRCS has a few in-country partners (IFRC, ICRC, and German RC) with other partners supporting from other locations, mainly Nairobi. The German RC is supporting the resilience building project and has been instrumental in the locust preparedness and response activities. The IFRC supports coordination of movement partners in-country led by SRCS, and in Nairobi, SRCS, ICRC and IFRC are closely collaborating on operational support, capacity strengthening, and the ongoing COVID-19 response.

### **South Sudan Red Cross Society (SSRCS)**

The IFRC, ICRC and several partners are based in Juba, offering ongoing support to SRCS. The ICRC leads on food security responses, while the IFRC and PNSs support various operations, including COVID-19 and ongoing longer-term projects. The IFRC leads on coordination of Movement partners' work and reinforces its capacity with technical assistance from the Nairobi office.

The Movement engagement to date reflects the commitment to the Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation (SMCC) process in South Sudan. In line with the Red Cross Red Crescent's different components' mandates, and existing Movement coordination mechanisms and agreements, Movement partners will support the implementation of this SSRC-led operation both technically and financially. The IFRC, ICRC and partner National Societies (PNSs) i.e. (Turkish RC, Danish RC, Canadian RC, Netherlands RC, Swedish RC, Swiss RC, German RC, Norwegian RC and Finnish RC). Going forward, the IFRC and PNSs will continue to provide support in the assessment through deployment of in-country human resources and, if needed, surge capacity. All IFRC staff members are under ICRC's security umbrella and security management processes are in place under this set-up.

During the implementation phase, IFRC will provide operational support and ensure a strong element of National Society Development and Branch Development. The PNSs will contribute with technical expertise in Disaster Management coordination together with the IFRC and in the interventions listed below. The IFRC will also play a key role in coordinating the support from the different Movement components and ensuring effective communication

internally within the Movement in South Sudan. All other support needed for the SSRC's operation will be given through the IFRC.

### **Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS)**

The IFRC has a presence in-country and supports coordination of the Movement partners, in addition to leading on emergency operations (ECHO DRR, COVID-19, and Floods Response). The IFRC provides support to URCS through an Operations Manager and a Finance delegate based in Kampala and its Eastern Africa Country Cluster Support Team (EA CCST) and the Regional Office for Africa which are both based in Nairobi, Kenya.

ICRC, IFRC and partner National Societies coordinate to discuss ongoing operations and ensure continued coordination on planning and implementation of activities. There are four partner NSs' present in Uganda including German Red Cross, Austrian Red Cross, Belgium Red Cross and Netherland RC cross. The ICRC is also present in-country. SMCC cooperation agreement is underway to be finalized and operationalized in Ethiopia. However, none of the movement partners is directly supporting the national society in desert locust interventions. The German RC is supporting community resilience and refugee programs in northern Uganda, and the Netherlands RC supporting Early Warning, Early Action capacity strengthening through the IARP program.

### **Overview of non-RCRC actors in country**

In all the five countries, the main actors are the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Disaster Management, the UN FAO, and the UN OCHA. FAO is the main partner to governments on surveillance, detection, and spraying activities. UN OCHA co-leads with the government on coordination at country and regional levels. The Regional Desert Locust Alliance, made up of international organisations, has been tasked with compiling consolidated reports on the response activities and gives updates at the regional coordination meetings. A few NGOs have embarked on response activities, especially on livelihoods protection, but this has largely been insignificant, especially as efforts were put towards COVID-19 responses.

## **B. THE OPERATIONAL STRATEGY**

### **Needs assessment and targeting**

The needs of the affected countries have remained high, especially as the locust invasion has reoccurred several times coupled with frequent cross border movements, but also because there are vast breeding areas where control activities are not possible due to security concerns, such as Yemen and parts of Somalia.

The COVID-19 induced restrictions on movements, ban on community gatherings, and general redirection of funding to the COVID-19 response, has meant little attention has been given to the locust situation, including limited or no assessments of impacts. For example, Uganda and South Sudan have not undertaken any government-led impact assessments, and this leads to underestimates of real needs. URCS is collecting information in the three target districts, but the understanding of impacts in other areas remains very low.

The multiple threats of COVID-19, floods, locusts, and conflict have affected several countries leading to redirection of resources, thus deprioritizing locust response activities.

The latest FAO update indicates continued and new infestations through December, meaning the locusts impacts will continue to evolve through much of the first half of 2021. FAO has already adjusted its response plans, including locust control activities until June 2021, in anticipation of the continued and evolving precarious situation.

#### **Targeting**

The target for the response remains unchanged, that is, 14,000 households and 70,000 people in the five affected countries: Kenya: 15,000; Uganda: 15,000; Ethiopia: 15,000; Somalia: 15,000; South Sudan 10,000.

#### **Operation Risk Assessment**

The locust invasion has been ongoing for several months and the level of impact varies from country to country. In some countries, the need to quickly move from assessments to scale-up of emergency operations is a reality, and this need is not matched with IFRC and partner capacity for resource mobilization. Restrictions on movement and holding of meetings has affected access to information that would otherwise have come through in the planned community meetings.

Additionally, there are challenges with resource mobilization as several donors are prioritizing allocations to the COVID-19 pandemic. IFRC is considering supporting National Societies to integrate components of the response into future COVID-19 and other funding opportunities, leveraging on the auxiliary functions and roles of the National Societies.

Operational capacities of National Societies have also been overstretched by multiple emergency responses, especially the huge response demand by the COVID-19 pandemic activities, which have occupied all National Societies' branches simultaneously unlike any other responses. The level of pressure, however, varies with each National Society based on the strength of their capacities and systems.

### **Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERCS)**

#### **Needs analysis**

The locust invasion in Ethiopia is worst in 25 years, according to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Around 8.5 million people in Ethiopia are already in severe acute food insecurity and in need of humanitarian assistance (IPC, 2019). Of these, over 6 million live in areas currently experiencing a desert locust upsurge. (FAO, April 2020). A single square-kilometer swarm can eat as much food in a day as 35,000 people.

Ethiopia is one of the countries most affected by the locust upsurge with the pest spread over seven regions (Oromia, SNNP, Somali, Afar, Dire Dawa, Amhara and Tigray). A Joint assessment led by FAO was undertaken in March in 29 out of the 153 Districts that were affected by the locusts as of February 2020. The assessment report indicates large crop losses especially in Oromia and Somali regions, in addition to widespread destruction of vegetation and pastures. The assessment estimated one million people will face severe food insecurity as a direct result of the locust infestation. The latest update by FAO in March 2021 further informed that in Ethiopia, immature swarms remain in the south (South Omo, Konso), east of the Rift Valley in the Bale Mountains, Arsi and Borena zones, and to the northeast in the Harar Highlands (East Harerghe) where swarms were seen arriving from adjacent areas of northwest Somalia. Experts predict that this swarms will fast mature on the inset of rains duly expected.

ERCS initial discussions with the Ministry of Agriculture at the start of the operation revealed the priority for Government was to support in the control of the locusts through surveillance and reporting on movements, capacity strengthening of zonal staff and community structures in early warning and preparedness, and assessments to inform response planning especially with the expectation the locusts are likely to continue spreading and damaging crop and vegetation for long. An additional government priority was to support with Personal Protection Equipment (PPEs) for staff involved in control activities and FAO was already providing this support to the government authorities.

Moreover, complimentary support was required to support basic needs and livelihood capacity of affected communities while scaling up awareness, surveillance and mapping efforts by communities to strengthen the control interventions. ERCS as a community-based organization is best suited in this complimentary role which it was engaged from the start of the desert locust intervention operation.

#### **Operation Risk Assessment,**

The current operation is exposed to several risks highlighted below, for which NS and CCST have discussed mitigation measures to ensure targeted communities receive the needed support.

- **COVID-19 Pandemic:** This operation, the needs assessment and its operational strategy considers the risks related to the current COVID-19 pandemic and is aligned with the IFRC global Emergency Appeal that supports National Societies to deliver assistance and support to communities affected or at risk of being affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The operation activities will also follow the Ethiopian MoH and World Health Organization regulations on hygiene and social distancing especially during distribution of HHIs.
- The major risk of the operation is civil unrest and spontaneous security issues sometimes involving unknown armed groups (UAG) and any complex effect of the ongoing conflict in Tigray region. ERCS will work with ICRC and local administration to ensure safe access is provided and will leverage on its community engagement and acceptance principles within the community as a grass root membership-based organization.
- According to UNOCHA, the region is one of the worst-affected by desert locust infestation and la Nina depressed rains predicted. The locusts have damaged crops, pastures and rangelands exacerbating already vulnerable food security situation. The predicted La Nina conditions will also further aggravate the food security. ERCS has focused based emergency action plan and it will roll out contingency interventions to reduce the effects of drought. The society will have the opportunity of focused based financing from IFRC, DREF resource.
- ERCS has a strong Branch office in Borena to support this operation and has existing projects ongoing which will provide opportunities for synergies. The target districts are in a conflict prone area and this poses a risk to the operation. ERCS has long working experience in the area and will draw on it to mitigate risks to activity implementation. ERCS has secured clearance to conduct community level activities

despite COVID – 19 restrictions on movement and gatherings. This will enable the NS society to reach the most affected populations.

### **Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS)**

#### **Needs analysis**

2020 worst desert locust invasion in last 70 years. As of April 25th, 2020, at least 19 counties in Kenya had reported locust swarms. The impact on crops and rangelands are relatively high to date, locusts pose a significant threat to ongoing cropping seasons after the October-November-December 2020 and during the March-April-May 2021. The threat is specifically great for 16 counties including (Mandera, Wajir, Turkana, Garissa, Marsabit, Isiolo, Lamu, Meru, Samburu, Laikipia, Kirinyaga, Tana River, Embu, Kitui, Baringo and Machakos) counties where Locust swarms have already invaded. FAO Locust Watch (April 2020 update) reports that over 175,000 acres of farmland have been affected by the locusts in Kenya.

The most current report (April 2021 FAO Locust Watch) showed that the upsurge is showing signs of significant decline as the population of the desert locust swarms continue to decrease in Kenya due to ongoing operations and poor rainfall and with many effects to be felt in part of Central and hugely in Northern Kenya counties.

It is thus expected that the food security situation will deteriorate significantly affecting households in areas invaded by swarms which cause damages. In particular, the greatest food security impacts will be experienced by cropping households that are already classified in Crisis (IPC Phase 3 – FEWSNET March – May 2021). As swarms ravage the Northlands and the failure of MAM 2021 by mid-year, there will be double impacts as mitigation challenges persist leading to below-average crop and livestock production from the long rains season, major pasture and browse losses in grazing areas of ASAL counties, below-average food stocks, pasture and browse conditions, low milk production and consumption, reduction of livestock prices, reduced incomes and finally a possible change in IPC phase classification to worse-off phase.

A comparison from the February NDMA sentinel site data 2021 in Northern Kenya shows that Livestock body conditions are declining but were 'good' to 'fair' in Garissa and Isiolo 'fair' to 'poor' across other counties, and 'poor' in Marsabit and Turkana. Goat prices in February were average to 23 percent above average across most monitored markets supported by limited market supply. However, in Turkana, goat prices were 20 percent below average due to poor body conditions. The declining livestock body conditions and increased migration limit household food and income, driving Stressed (IPC Phase 2) and Crisis (IPC Phase 3) area-level outcomes.

Land preparation is underway for the 2021 March to May long rains season in the marginal agricultural areas. Wet planting is yet to start following the delayed onset of rainfall. Household food stocks from the recent below-average short rains harvests continue to support household food access while reducing market reliance to typical levels. However, household income from crop sales and agricultural waged labor opportunities remains below average, constraining access to non-food items and sustaining Stressed (IPC Phase 2) outcomes.

This impact to the counties is expected to be both accelerated by the current floods with mudslides, outbreak of livestock diseases, desert locust infestation and now the COVID-19 Pandemic situation. Following a steep rise in confirmed COVID-19 cases and daily test positivity rates of up to 22 percent, COVID-19 control measures were extended for an additional 60 days on March 12.

In the face of such pressing issues with the key drivers being Desert Locust, Floods, Food Insecurity and Covid-19 Pandemic these affect the resilience of the most vulnerable individuals in the communities including people living with disabilities (PWD), women, children and youths and the general elderly. Often such individuals face stigma and discrimination, and risk gender-based violence because they are less able to protect themselves from harm while they are more dependent on others for survival. There's need to enhance participation and inclusion of such individuals, deliberate efforts to address all barriers to their active participation and structured registrations and assessment of such beneficiaries in project activities.

#### **Operational Risk Assessment**

- **COVID-19 Pandemic:** The program will be guided by a risks and mitigation plan to ensure timely identification of risks and their management. KRCS staff and Volunteers will use personal protective equipment and ensure hygiene is observed to prevent the spread of COVID-19 Virus during the implementation.
- The support from authorities and government agencies is key for the success of this Action. The management of these relations is done by KRCS making use of its legal mandate and representation in the different levels of governance. Possible difficulties in the relation between the project and the beneficiaries are solved through using community engagement and accountability. All efforts are done to adapt activities to the availability of the beneficiaries.

### **Somali Red Crescent Society (SRCS)**

#### **Needs analysis**

Desert locusts upsurge coordination and response mechanisms led by Government and supported by FAO were established. Desert locusts upsurge remains a moving target in Somalia due to their high mobility. Control measures have had mixed results: Insecurity and safety have rendered some areas inaccessible (for control measures) especially South-Central. Breeding in these areas remains a threat not only in Somalia, but in the region. According to FAO projections, desert locusts upsurge risk will persist throughout 2021. Enhanced surveillance is critical during the current onset of favourable environmental conditions.

#### **Operational Risk Assessment**

- **COVID-19 Pandemic:** The program will be guided by a risks and mitigation plan to ensure timely identification of risks and their management. SSRCS staff and Volunteers will use personal protective equipment and ensure hygiene is observed to prevent the spread of COVID-19 Virus during the implementation.
- Security remains the biggest issue hampering locust curb and control efforts, as well as constraining the ability to conduct detailed assessments to inform response options. This has resulted in gaps in response planning which this operations aims to fill. The COVID related restrictions on movement and gatherings is a risk to successful implementation of the planned activities.

### **South Sudan Red Cross Society (SSRCS)**

#### **Needs analysis**

The locust invasion in Magwi County has devastated food crops in villages of Obo and Pajok, threatening the food security and livelihoods of the affected communities. Most of the households lost part of their crops, especially cassava, maize, sorghum, and sesame. SSRCS has been involved in creating awareness on locusts, including supporting community mobilization and risk reduction planning. SSRCS has identified the need to provide support in risk reduction, emergency food assistance, seeds, tools, and agricultural training. Initial efforts have been on community engagement in surveillance and reporting on locusts. Follow-up support will be on food assistance, provision of seeds and tools, and agricultural training for increased food production and productivity.

#### **Operational Risk Assessment**

- **COVID-19 Pandemic:** The program will be guided by a risks and mitigation plan to ensure timely identification of risks and their management. SSRCS staff and Volunteers will use personal protective equipment and ensure hygiene is observed to prevent the spread of COVID-19 Virus during the implementation.
- Access to parts of Southern Sudan is highly restricted due to the ongoing conflicts. The National Society, in collaboration with Movement partners have developed a comprehensive risk management plan with strict management of movement in those areas. This will enable SSRCS implement the activities in this operation, alongside other ongoing activities such as for COVID – response.

### **Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS)**

#### **Needs Analysis**

Despite the absence of desert locust, February-September 2021 IPC Acute Food Insecurity (IPC AFI) classification for Karamoja region indicates that many parts of the sub-region; including Amudat district which was previously affected by desert locust invasion, are in phase three (3) of Crisis level with a likelihood of moving towards phase four (4) Emergency or even phase five (5) of Catastrophe/Famine. Given the below-average unimodal harvest in 2020, some poor households have already depleted their food stocks and are primarily purchasing their food. (<https://fews.net/east-africa/uganda/key-message-update/january-2021>). According to IPC reports, the prices of staple food and other essential commodities continue to increase which will likely lead to starvation and malnutrition to children. Basing on the decline in food stocks and the terms of trade, an increasing number of households are expected to experience food consumption gaps as the March to August lean season progresses.

#### **Operation Risk Assessment**

- **COVID-19 Pandemic:** Additionally, there are challenges with resource mobilization as several donors are prioritizing allocations to the COVID-19 pandemic. IFRC is considering supporting National Societies to integrate components of the response into future COVID-19 and other funding opportunities, leveraging on the auxiliary functions and roles of the National Societies. Operational capacities of National Societies have also been overstretched by multiple emergency responses, especially the huge response demand by the COVID-19 pandemic activities, which have occupied all National Societies' branches simultaneously unlike any other responses. The level of pressure, however, varies with each National Society based on the strength of their capacities and systems.

- The locust invasion has been ongoing for several months and the level of impact varies from country to country. In some countries, the need to quickly move from assessments to scale-up of emergency operations is a reality, and this need is not matched with IFRC and partner capacity for resource mobilization.
- Restrictions on movement and holding of meetings has affected access to information that would otherwise have come through in the planned community meetings.

## DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN

Refer to the EPoA.

### Overall Operational Objective

The overall operational objective of this Emergency Appeal is to support five National Societies in Eastern and Horn of Africa to prepare for and respond to the emerging food insecurity situation due to the locust upsurge. The operation will focus on community mobilization and awareness raising, implementation of early actions, and assessments to inform the design and scale-up of response interventions.

### Proposed Strategy

The IFRC Regional Office will work closely with the Eastern Africa Cluster Office and the Country Offices for Somalia and South Sudan in coordinating this operation. The lessons learned from the respective country Emergency Appeals in the past will be used to improve on effectiveness of interventions. Coordination mechanisms involving Movement partners supporting emergency and recovery interventions will be established and/or strengthened. The operation will align to the broader COVID-19 response planning and, where appropriate, leverage on the COVID-19 human and financial resources to scale-up activities in this operation. IFRC will continue to offer and mobilize robust technical support, including through partnerships with key UN agencies such as FAO, on training, surveillance and reporting of locust movements, control activities, and impacts. IFRC will also ensure that adequate remote support is provided in CEA, planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER), communications, finance, and operations management. PNSs in respective countries are encouraged to provide support to the NSs to actively engage in national/subnational locust preparedness and response initiatives.

The planned activities remain as stated in the approved EPoA, and fundraising efforts will continue and align with other funding opportunities such as COVID-19, La Niña, population movement, and floods operations.

## STRATEGIC AREAS OF FOCUS

### Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERCS)

 <p><b>Livelihoods and basic needs</b>  <b>People reached: 2,856</b>            Male:1,314            Female:1542</p>		
<b>Outcome 1</b> Communities, especially in disaster and crisis affected areas, restore, and strengthen their livelihoods		
<b>Indicators:</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Actual</b>
# of people reached through livelihood support activities.	9,000	2,856
<b>Output 1.1:</b> Basic needs assistance for livelihoods security including food is provided to the most affected communities		
<b>Indicators:</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Actual</b>
# of assessment completed on desert locust impacts.	1	1
# of market assessment reports	2	1
<b>Output 1.2:</b> Household livelihoods security is enhanced through food production, increased productivity, and post-harvest management (agriculture-based livelihoods)		
<b>Indicators:</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Actual</b>
# of households supported with livelihood interventions	1,700	476
# of PDM activities conducted	1	0

**ERCS has accomplished the following activities:**

**Community awareness raising and participatory planning sessions on locusts:** ERCS implemented its community awareness raising and mobilization activities through volunteers and community-based disaster risk reduction (CBDRR) teams in the two districts. The teams were trained on risk assessment and monitoring of locust movements to inform planning for timely control activities. These activities are undertaken in conjunction with zonal locust Task Force and Ministry of Agriculture officers involved in monitoring, reporting and control of locusts. The operation will contribute through the volunteers who are in the community and getting first-hand information on locust movements. Awareness activities, including information on risks posed by pesticides used to spray locusts, will be disseminated through a combination of methods, including posters, messaging through small groups of farmers and through local radio announcements.

**Assessment of locust impacts on livelihoods:** ERCS carried out assessments in the two districts to determine impacts on livelihoods for the most affected areas. The assessments will be carried out in collaboration with Zonal locust Task Force and the relevant Government officials. The operation will employ a combination of approaches in conducting the assessments, including focus group discussions, key informants, and use of telephones where movement and gatherings are restricted due to COVID situation. VCA and locust effect assessment was carried out in Teltele and Dirre Werodas of Borana zone in Oromia Region. This assessment was carried out in the broader perspective of hazard ranking in the area, vulnerability profiling as well as capacities. It also took focused approach in assessing the effect of locust on the current vulnerabilities. The effect on livelihood and production capacities were very apparent hence affecting household food security and nutrition.

**Cash feasibility and market assessment** was carried out as well as targeting or disbursement of multipurpose cash to support the food insecurity basic needs of 476 households which received ET birr 4000 per households and increased awareness and surveillance and mapping activities by communities and branch volunteers. Grass root coordination with the government and other actors was also strengthened. ERCS planned to reach 1800HH with this intervention and any additional resource allocation will scale up this intervention.

**ERCS plan for scale up/ongoing activities:**

**Livelihood support.** Scale up to reach more households with multipurpose basic needs and livelihood cash transfer. In earlier assessment ERCS targeted to reach 1,800 households with livelihood interventions and so far, only 476HH received assistance.

**Scale up desert locust awareness, surveillance, mapping and reporting:** ERCS will coordinate with government and other actors including FAO in the grass root through its community engagement and volunteers to provide awareness, surveillance, map and report swamps and any new surge of the desert locust in the area. This activity links up with other ongoing control actions by other actors including chemical control through areal control through spraying.

**Disaster Risk Reduction****People reached:25,000**

Male:13,500

Female:11,500

**Outcome 1:** Communities in high-risk areas are prepared for and able to respond to disaster

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people reached through DRR interventions	15,000	25,000

**Output 1.1:** Communities take active steps to strengthen their preparedness for timely and effective response to disasters.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of staff and volunteers trained on CBDRR, CEA and data collection and reporting	60	48
# mapping exercise completed	2	3
# of surveillance reports completed	2	13
# of people reached through awareness raising (radio, posters etc.)	15,000	25,000

# of staff and volunteers trained in CEA	24	24
<p>ERCS Branch staff in most affected areas conducted assessments to identify immediate support needs. ERCS got additional information from FAO – led assessments to inform prioritization of geographical areas of focus, and types of actions to support. Under this Appeal, ERCS was allocated start-up funding to enable activities such as assessments, capacity development training, surveillance and mapping and CEA. The Appeal also allocated funds to support cash feasibility and market assessments and cash transfer for basic multipurpose needs support for the most vulnerable and desert locust affected households.</p> <p>Key deliverables achieved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Desert locust and other potential hazards risk assessment Oromia Region, Borana zone Teltele and Dirre woredas (Districts)</li> <li>Staff, volunteers and key government officers were trained on desert locust DCBRR, locust control, data collection and reporting as integrated training: ERCS DRR experts from HQ and ministry of agriculture experts from the headquarters conducted the training. Completed desert locust control and prevention training for 48 participants selected from 10 districts of Borena zone namely: Teltele, Wachile, Yabelo, Dhas, Miyo, Dirre, Guchi, Arero, Moyale, and Dillo. The training was carried out in 2 sessions and attended by ERCS Borena Zone staff and line ministries composed Weroda agriculture and natural resource development, crop production and desert locust scouts.</li> <li>Trained a total of 24 resource persons on community engagement and accountability (CEA). The training participants were volunteers and staff from District Agriculture and Natural Resource Development Offices, Crop Protection, Development Agents, and Community Desert Locust Scouts. The ERCS CEA coordinator from the headquarters supported by the DRR coordinator designed and content and delivered. The ERCS has trained 24 staff and volunteers engaged in the operation on community engagement and accountability approaches. The trained staff are supporting dissemination of awareness messages in the communities, as well as facilitate community led action planning on mitigation measures, including activation of traditional locust control actions. Complain feedback mechanism was also put in place to ensure that community concerns are addressed adequately.</li> <li>Mapping exercise: Three pilot Werodas carried out Mapping exercise and the informed the relevant authorities for the control of the swamps</li> <li>Public awareness: use of Radios or posters was not possible due funding constraints and use of address and public gathering and concentration points like markets was used. This outreach covered 25000 people at least</li> </ul> <p>Challenge:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The area is very insecure with presence OLF and other unknown armed groups that render it unsafe and restricts movement especially for IFRC field teams</li> </ul>		

### Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS)

 <p><b>Livelihoods and basic needs</b>  <b>People reached: 8,500 people 1,700 HH</b>  Male:  Female:</p>		
<b>Outcome 1:</b> Livelihoods and basic needs Outcome 1: Communities, especially in disaster and crisis affected areas, restore and strengthen their livelihoods		
<b>Indicators:</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Actual</b>
# of people reached through livelihood support activities. Target: 8,500 people (1700 households)	8,500 ppl (1700 hhs)	To be confirmed
<b>Output 1.1:</b> Household livelihoods security is enhanced through food production, increased productivity, and post-harvest management (agriculture-based livelihoods)		
<b>Indicators:</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Actual</b>
Assessment of desert locust impact completed	2	2
Market assessment completed	2	2
# of people reached with cash and agricultural inputs	1,700	To be confirmed

After action review report	2	0
<b>Output 1.2:</b> Households are provided with multi-purpose grants to address their basic needs, including food.		
<b>Indicators:</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Actual</b>
# of farmers supported through livelihood interventions.	1,700	To be confirmed
# of post distribution monitoring activities conducted	1	1
# of cases studies/ human stories produced	2	2
<b>Progress towards outcomes</b>		
<p>KRCS through its vast local presence in all the 47 Counties, its logistical and human resources capacity (volunteers and staff) has supported and continue to provide services for the preparedness and response plan of desert locust invasion, as well as support the recovery plans of the selected Counties in Kenya.</p> <p>KRCS will continue to complement already ongoing operations in specific counties on desert locusts activities such as assessments carried out, KRCS will be responsible for the technical and administrative execution of field activities. KRCS is currently working with the Food and Agriculture Organization in the assessment of desert locusts impacts in 16 Counties that will inform the efficacy of current desert locusts control efforts, the impact on livelihoods, documentation and recommendation for livelihood recovery interventions.</p> <p>The objective of the KRCS response is to increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises posed by desert locusts. Appeal actions continue to be carried out in Turkana and Marsabit Counties, so far, the following has been achieved.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conducted 2 project inception meetings both in Turkana and Marsabit County Steering Groups.</li> <li>• Conducted 3 training sessions for RCATs and CBDRR (70 pax) on locust messaging dissemination in Turkana (1 session, 35 pax) and (2 sessions, 35 pax) Marsabit County.</li> <li>• Conducted 2 assessment of impacts of Locust in Turkana Central, East and South. The same was conducted for Marsabit County in Laisamis and North Horr sub counties. The appeal has been able to complete 2 assessments for Turkana and Marsabit counties, this being joint activities carried out by partners and the GoK. Though, not directly providing cash interventions and agricultural support to farmers, it has conducted joint monitoring of these interventions by FAO, NDMA, CARITAS and other partners in the counties. This has been concluded with key mapping of stakeholders and their roles, community engagements through interviews on desert locusts operations by partners.</li> <li>• Documentation of the impacts of Desert Locusts (Human Stories) in the 2 Counties. Support Assessment on impact of desert locust</li> <li>• Sensitization of field volunteers on CEA, raising awareness and community communication of the desert locust impacts and preparedness/response plan. Reception of feedback from FGD's and interactions with communities.</li> <li>• Identification and targeting specific households for community sensitizations.</li> </ul>		

	<b>Disaster Risk Reduction</b>	
	<b>People reached:</b> to be confirmed Male: Female:	
<b>Outcome 1:</b> Communities in high-risk areas are prepared for and able to respond to disaster		
<b>Indicators:</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Actual</b>
# of people reached through DRR interventions	15,000 ppl	To be confirmed
<b>Output 1.1:</b> Communities take active steps to strengthen their preparedness for timely and effective response to disasters.		
<b>Indicators:</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Actual</b>
# of staff and volunteers trained on CBDRR, CEA and data collection and reporting	50	80
# of FGDs to create awareness on desert locusts conducted.	15	15

# of participatory planning processes undertaken by the operation	5	5												
<b>Progress towards outcomes</b>														
<p>As of the concluded Short Rains Assessment 2021, Turkana and Marsabit counties are part of some of the counties in Kenya which are going through an onset of drought and the situation is expected to be much worse with the expected depressed MAM 2021 rains. Swarms have already invaded majority of the areas in the counties affecting the resilience of the most vulnerable individuals including women, children and the elderly.</p> <p>Key deliverables achieved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conducted 2 project inception meetings both in Turkana and Marsabit County Steering Groups.</li> <li>• Conducted 3 training sessions for RCATs and CBDRR (70 pax) on locust messaging dissemination in Turkana (1 session, 35 pax) and (2 sessions, 35 pax) Marsabit County.</li> <li>• Conducted 2 assessment of impacts of Locust in Turkana Central, East and South. The same was conducted for Marsabit County in Laisamis and North Horr sub counties.</li> <li>• Documentation of the impacts of desert locusts (Human Stories) in the 2 Counties.</li> <li>• Training of desert locusts Community scouts on desert locusts messaging</li> <li>• Radio messaging and interactions on desert locusts.</li> <li>• The appeal supported CEA especially through the engagements of communities where dissemination of literacy materials, conducting FGDs with targeted groups for community sensitization was conducted. Community feedback mechanisms was conducted to share experiences and recommendations on the ongoing project implementation. Documentation of human stories and articles on the impact of desert locusts was also conducted.</li> </ul> <p><b>Preparedness at community level - Conducted Training for RCATs and CBDRR on locust message dissemination:</b> KRCS engaged both Turkana and Marsabit Counties including FAO-KE, NDMA and the county government departmental line ministries i.e., MOALF to conduct preparedness plans in anticipation of the imminent invasion where it is expected to be much worse in March- April 2021. KRCS Turkana and Marsabit Counties branches hence facilitated training for 70 RCATs in Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction (CBDRR) on locust message dissemination. The training was designed to be participatory to build-upon the knowledge and experiences of participants. The training focused on interactive group learning (learning by doing &amp; learning from each other) and aimed both at knowledge and skill up development through peer learning, lectures, discussions and group work with more practical sessions being important components of the training.</p> <p>KRCS also facilitated awareness creation on utilization of the early warning system as a surveillance mechanism and enhancing preparedness towards second wave of the desert locust invasion in Turkana and Marsabit through the CMDRR process as a means of engaging the community and promoting accountability.</p> <p>The Main objectives of the trainings and sensitizations were: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To capacity Build CBDRR and Red Cross Action Teams on desert locust Preparedness-early warning system(surveillance), Response and Recovery operations.</li> <li>• Sensitize the CBDRR on Community Engagement, Accountability and Community Feedback mechanisms during desert locusts response operations.</li> <li>• Train CBDRR and KRCS RCATs on desert locust Survey, Mapping and Reporting using standard data collection tools.</li> <li>• To sensitize the Red Cross Action teams on Development of CAP through PDRA process.</li> </ul> <p>KRCS worked with preparedness at community level through Radio awareness messaging. desert locust Invasion Dissemination Key Messages were developed in partnership with the County Disaster Risk Reduction Partners for Marsabit and Turkana counties.</p> <p>KRCS will conduct assessments on desert locust invasion impact on livelihood in Turkana and Marsabit county. The sites have been identified where the following most affected sites will be assessed</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Sub County</th> <th>Ward</th> <th>Villages</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Turkana Central</td> <td>Kerio Delta</td> <td>Lorengelup, Loreamatet, Nadoto, Kerio</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Turkana South</td> <td>Kalapata</td> <td>Kalapata, Kaisomalet, Chokchok</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Turkana East</td> <td>Lokori/Kochodin</td> <td>Lokwamosing, Lopii, Lochakula</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Similarly, the same activity is planned for Marsabit County. Community, engagement and accountability trainings have been conducted for RCATs and partners in both counties.</p>			Sub County	Ward	Villages	Turkana Central	Kerio Delta	Lorengelup, Loreamatet, Nadoto, Kerio	Turkana South	Kalapata	Kalapata, Kaisomalet, Chokchok	Turkana East	Lokori/Kochodin	Lokwamosing, Lopii, Lochakula
Sub County	Ward	Villages												
Turkana Central	Kerio Delta	Lorengelup, Loreamatet, Nadoto, Kerio												
Turkana South	Kalapata	Kalapata, Kaisomalet, Chokchok												
Turkana East	Lokori/Kochodin	Lokwamosing, Lopii, Lochakula												

**Somali Red Crescent Society (SRCS)**

 <b>Livelihoods and basic needs</b> <b>People reached:</b> to be confirmed Male: Female:		
<b>Outcome 1</b> Communities, especially in disaster and crisis affected areas, restore, and strengthen their livelihoods		
<b>Output 1.1:</b> Basic needs assistance for livelihoods security including food is provided to the most affected communities.		
<b>Indicators:</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Actual</b>
# of households reached through cash transfers 11,500 ppl (1,700hhs)	11,500 ppl	To be confirmed
<b>Output 1.2:</b> Household livelihoods security is enhanced through food production, increased productivity, and post-harvest management (agriculture-based livelihoods)		
<b>Indicators:</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Actual</b>
# households supported to increase/improve household food production	300	To be confirmed
# of Post Distribution activities conducted	1	To be confirmed
<b>Progress towards outcomes</b>		
<p>SRCS continues to respond to the desert locusts upsurge in Puntland region (Garowe and Galkayo Districts) and Somaliland. New Districts got affected early this year 2021. These include Bosaso in Puntland and others in Somaliland. According to the latest FAO forecast, the threat will persist throughout 2021.</p> <p>To date, SRCS has undertaken the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A joint MOE / SRCS rapid assessment team was established, drawn from the trained SRCS volunteers, who participated in the assessment. The assessment findings have been validated through a workshop and a Plan of Action (PoA) has been developed. SRCS continues to participate in established desert locust coordination mechanisms led by the government, with support from FAO, and regularly receives surveillance updates.</li> <li>Community mobilisation and awareness raising sessions were conducted in the 10 target districts.</li> <li>Total 70 SRCS volunteers and 30 farmers trained. All trained farmers supplied with farm inputs for early recovery, CEA rolled out, community desert locusts surveillance, monitoring and reporting system established.</li> <li>Appeal Implementation March/April <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5 regions (3 new in Somaliland and same 2 in Puntland) being covered.</li> <li>Somaliland: 24 SRCS volunteers and 60 farmers to be trained on desert locusts surveillance, reporting, control measures and their public/environmental health implications. Each farmer to be given farm inputs for their nutrition-sensitive food security / livelihoods early recovery.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		

 <b>Disaster Risk Reduction</b> <b>People reached:</b> 10 districts # of ppl to be confirmed Male: Female:		
<b>Outcome 1:</b> Communities in high-risk areas are prepared for and able to respond to disaster		
<b>Indicators:</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Actual</b>
# of communities reached: 10 districts (2,500hhs).	10 districts 15,000 ppl	10 districts
<b>Output 1.1:</b> Communities take active steps to strengthen their preparedness for timely and effective response to disasters.		
<b>Indicators:</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Actual</b>
# of peoples reached through awareness raising	15,000 ppl	To be confirmed

# of community feedback mechanisms established	10	10 districts – to be confirmed
# of community feedback comments collected		To be confirmed
<b>Progress towards outcomes</b>		
<p>To date, SRCS has undertaken the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Puntland held an inception meeting with the MOE responsible for the control of desert locust infestation. A work plan was jointly developed, and responsibilities agreed. The MOE took responsibility for technical lead while SRCS availed staff and volunteers for surveillance, reporting, and community mobilisation.</li> <li>• Training of volunteers on community mobilisation, locust monitoring, and reporting was conducted, facilitated by the MOE.</li> <li>• A joint MOE / SRCS rapid assessment team was established, drawn from the trained SRCS volunteers, who participated in the assessment. The assessment findings have been validated through a workshop and a Plan of Action (PoA) has been developed. SRCS continues to participate in established desert locust coordination mechanisms led by the government, with support from FAO, and regularly receives surveillance updates.</li> <li>• Community mobilisation and awareness raising sessions were conducted in the 10 target districts.</li> <li>• SRCS has participated in coordination meetings of the Desert Locust Task Force at national and district levels.</li> <li>• 4 regions (2 Somaliland and 2 Puntland) covered. MoUs signed with relevant government ministries/agencies responsible for desert locusts control and joint plans of action agreed.</li> <li>• Total 70 SRCS volunteers and 30 farmers trained. All trained farmers supplied with farm inputs for early recovery, CEA rolled out, community desert locusts surveillance, monitoring and reporting system established.</li> <li>• Appeal Implementation March/April <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 5 regions (3 new in Somaliland and same 2 in Puntland) being covered.</li> <li>- Establish a community-led desert locust upsurge surveillance system using the newly trained volunteers / farmers and link them to that established earlier.</li> <li>- Puntland (Garowe and Galkayo): To be determined - SRCS / Environment ministry review ongoing.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		

### **South Sudan Red Cross Society (SSRCS)**

	<b>Livelihoods and basic needs</b>	
	<b>People reached:</b> Male: Female:	
<b>Outcome 1</b> Communities, especially in disaster and crisis affected areas, restore, and strengthen their livelihoods		
<b>Indicators:</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Actual</b>
# of households reached through livelihood support activities.	1,200 HH / 6,000 ppl	To be confirmed
<b>Output 1.1:</b> Basic needs assistance for livelihoods security including food is provided to the most affected communities		
<b>Indicators:</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Actual</b>
# of people reached through food assistance (cash transfers)	6,000	To be confirmed
# of PDM carried out	2	To be confirmed
<b>Output 1.2:</b> Household livelihoods security is enhanced through food production, increased productivity, and post-harvest management (agriculture-based livelihoods)		
<b>Indicators:</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Actual</b>
# of households reached with Agricultural input support	600	To be confirmed

# of people trained in climate – smart agricultural practices	600	To be confirmed
<b>Progress towards outcomes</b>		
<p>The locust invasion in Magwi County has devastated food crops in villages of Obo and Pajok, threatening the food security and livelihoods of the affected communities. Most of the households lost part of their crops, especially cassava, maize, sorghum, and sesame. SSRC has been involved in creating awareness on locusts, including supporting community mobilization and risk reduction planning. As over 12,000 people have been affected, SSRC has identified the need to provide support in risk reduction, emergency food assistance, seeds, tools, and agricultural training. Initial efforts have been on community engagement in surveillance and reporting on locusts. Follow-up support will be on food assistance, provision of seeds and tools, and agricultural training for increased food production and productivity.</p>		

 <b>Disaster Risk Reduction</b> <b>People reached:</b> Male: Female:		
<b>Outcome 1:</b> Communities in high-risk areas are prepared for and able to respond to disaster		
<b>Indicators:</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Actual</b>
# of people reached through awareness raising (radio, community meetings)	10,000 ppl	To be confirmed
<b>Output 1.1:</b> Communities take active steps to strengthen their preparedness for timely and effective response to disasters.		
<b>Indicators:</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Actual</b>
# of peoples reached through awareness raising	10,000 ppl	To be confirmed
# of community feedback mechanisms established	2	To be confirmed
# of community feedback comments collected		To be confirmed
<b>Progress towards outcomes</b>		
<p>To date, the following activities have been implemented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assessed locust impacts in the target areas in collaboration with stakeholders such as the Ministry of Agriculture and FAO.</li> <li>Trained staff and volunteers from the branches and the disaster management team in Juba on locust surveillance and reporting, as well as on promotion of community risk reduction plans.</li> <li>Additionally, the SSRC will be coordinating efforts with the Ministry of Agriculture.</li> <li>Conducting community awareness and mobilisation (to be completed by the end of December).</li> <li>SSRC Torit branch is responding to the locust infestation in Obbo and Pajok in Magwi County.</li> <li>The SSRC is participating in local cluster coordination, where the impact of the locusts is assessed. In-country actors are encouraged to support the response.</li> <li>The SSRC is planning to respond by providing unrestricted cash to the most vulnerable households based on criteria to be developed jointly with community leaders. Households will also be sensitized on the impact of the locust and receive information with identifying alternative sources of livelihood activities that can withstand similar infestations. The SSRC will collaborate with the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries in the development of messages and conducting awareness sessions. These activities are planned to take place in April/May 2021.</li> </ul>		

### Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS)

 <b>Livelihoods and basic needs</b> <b>People reached:</b> 10,500 pps (2,100 households) – by others Male: 5,250 Female: 5,250		
<b>Outcome 1</b> Communities, especially in disaster and crisis affected areas, restore, and strengthen their livelihoods		

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of households reached through livelihood support activities.	10,500 ppl (2,100 hhs)	By others
<b>Output 1.1:</b> Basic needs assistance for livelihoods security including food is provided to the most affected communities		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of assessment completed on desert locust impacts.	3	1
# of Market assessment conducted.	3	By others
<b>Output 1.2:</b> Household livelihoods security is enhanced through food production, increased productivity, and post-harvest management (agriculture-based livelihoods)		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of households reached with crop and pasture seed	10,500 ppl	By others
# of post distribution assessments conducted	1	By others
<b>Progress towards outcomes</b>		
<p>These targets were not met as the activities were undertaken by FAO and UNHCR and therefore were not necessary.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No assessment was conducted because FAO already conducted Livelihoods Impacts Assessment in 23 districts of Uganda, including Amudat, Katakwi and Kumi where URCS has been implementing community-based interventions. URCS had therefore planned to support the dissemination of this assessment findings in the target districts during the second phase of the Appeal so that the recommendations are utilized by respective District leaderships and partners to inform future control measures and evidence-based livelihoods supports that partner could implement. However, the information gaps on the assessment findings are largely from the 3 districts of Amudat, Kumi and Katakwi.</li> <li>No market assessment was conducted as this information is already available with World Food Program that is implementing cash-based food distribution in Karamoja sub-region.</li> <li>No crop and pasture seeds were procured/distributed to households as earlier planned because the 2nd phase of the project interventions were not subsequently funded, and thus post-distribution assessment could not be conducted as well.</li> </ul>		

	<p><b>Disaster Risk Reduction</b>  <b>People reached: 2,573</b>  Male:1,392  Female:1,182</p>	
<b>Outcome 1:</b> Communities in high-risk areas are prepared for and able to respond to disaster		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people reached through DRR interventions	15,000 ppl	2,573
<b>Output 1.1:</b> Communities take active steps to strengthen their preparedness for timely and effective response to disasters.		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of staff and volunteers trained on CBDRR, CEA and data collection and reporting	60	136 (61 + 75)
# of surveillance reports submitted.	300	300
# of people reached through awareness raising (radio, posters etc.)	876	876
# of staff and volunteers trained in CEA	36	360
<b>Progress towards outcomes</b>		
<p>URCS has been active in locust coordination and preparedness activities through participation in coordination mechanisms at national and district levels. Implementation of this operation started much later in September when the upsurge of the desert locust invasion in Uganda had reduced. Despite this, the following interventions were implemented which helped to build community capacity and local preparedness for potential new desert locust invasions:</p>		

- Trained 61 staff, volunteers (CBDRR and Red Cross Action Teams RCAT) and agriculture extension workers in Amudat, Katakwi and Kumi districts on data collection and management skills in line with the FAO e-Locust Surveillance Systems.
- Trained 64 staff and community-based volunteers (CBDRR volunteers) on regular surveillance and reporting on locusts in the three target districts. Reactivate, reorient/ train 75 CBDRR and VHTs in development and implementation of community action plans
- Distribution of IEC and RC visibility materials (Posters and T shirts)
- Training of 36 staff and volunteers in CEA and integrating CEA in program activities
- Conducted house-to-house public awareness and risk communication activities: Community awareness on the pesticide effects and local protection measures, community actions, advisories through posters, radio talks shows and radio messaging: During the reporting period, a total of 876 new people were reached with desert locusts awareness and safety information in six sub-counties of the three implementation districts of Kumi, Amudat and Katakwi. This brings cumulative number of people reached since the start of the operation to 2,573 (1,391 males and 1,182 females)
- Trained staff and volunteers in CEA skills, which were integrated during the general training in Desert Locust Information and Surveillance Skills.
- Participated in regional online monthly operation update meetings with stakeholders at national level, while Branch Managers continued to attend District Disaster Management Committee (DDMC) meetings held at respective local government levels.
- Facilitate the development of DDMCs Desert Locusts plan of action for 3 districts - Katakwi, Kumi, Amudat: Three District Contingency Plans (DCPs) that were previously started on are yet to be officially approved by the respective District Councils and the Office of the Prime Minister. The operation team has been making follow ups with the OPM and respective District Production Officers for this process to be finalised and respective districts utilise the tool for further planning.

The District Production Officers reported that the locust platform and general information about desert locust has been updated which required refresher training of community-based volunteers, but since

During the reporting period, a total of 876 persons (449 males and 427 females) were reached with desert locust awareness information in six sub-counties in the 3 target districts of Kumi, Katakwi and Amudat.

Through community engagement sessions conducted by the trained volunteers in Kumi, Katakwi and Amudat districts, no notable human health concerns were reported as the results of the chemical spray interventions undertaken, although community members reported about death of some animals and birds that are suspected to have occurred as the results of eating the sprayed crops. This feedback indicates that the work of volunteers helped to sensitize at-risk community members not to consume dead insects, as well as taking all measures possible to wash all vegetables and fresh foods well before consumption.

In addition, the 45 volunteers previously trained and enrolled into the locust surveillance platform so far submitted 300 alerts that were fortunately all screened and ruled out by the district agricultural extension workers. These actions increased community vigilance towards desert locust invasion in the target districts.

The major challenge experienced during this period is that three major activities were never accomplished due to time limitation of the Appeal. These are:

- Conduct awareness raising through FGD and Farmer association/groups.
- Conduct awareness raising through FGD and Farmer association/groups
- Carry out market assessment to determine feasibility of cash-based interventions.
- Support farmers/agro pastoralists with livelihoods interventions as identified during the assessment
- Conduct Lessons learnt workshop in supported districts.

Partly, this was due to inadequate funds to implement the remaining activities and livelihood support interventions identified as major community needs since URCS' cash request for second tranche of funds was not honoured. In addition, no official response was given to the letter of extension of the project implementation that was submitted in January 2021 as well as lack of revision of the project Agreement prevented finance team from approving transactions as this posed risk of implementation against project agreement.

## ENABLING ACTIONS

### Strengthening National Societies

<b>S1.1: National Society capacity building and organizational development objectives are facilitated to ensure that National Societies have the necessary legal, ethical and financial foundations, systems and structures, competencies and capacities to plan and perform</b>		
<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Actual</b>
% of staff acknowledging improvements in its management system	75%	To be confirmed
<b>Output: NS has effective and motivated volunteers who are protected</b>		
<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Actual</b>
% of volunteers who are adequately trained and insured	100%	100%
<b>Progress towards Outcome</b>		
National Society volunteers in this operation are the front-line of this operation, and attention is given to ensure the technical relevance of their work with methodologies adapted to the context and volunteers' skills. Duty of care is a particular important component, taking in consideration the additional risks by the COVID-19 pandemic.		
Volunteers are trained and sensitized on rules of social distancing, hygiene promotion and use of protective equipment while performing the activities. This knowledge will also be shared with communities where these volunteers are engaged. Furthermore, proper insurance will be provided to assure that volunteers can access appropriate health care if required.		

<b>Strengthening Coordination and Accountability</b>		
<b>Outcome 1: Effective and coordinated international disaster response is ensured</b>		
<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Actual</b>
Number of NSs supporting the Operation	5	5
<b>Output 1.2: NS compliance with Principles and Rules for Humanitarian Assistance is improved</b>		
<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Actual</b>
Number of NSs with trained CEA focal points	5	To be confirmed
% of branches with feedback mechanisms	100%	To be confirmed
<b>Progress towards Outcome</b>		
The target for the response remains unchanged, that is, in the five affected countries and corresponding National Societies operational: Ethiopia; Kenya; Somalia; South Sudan; Uganda.		
The community engagement approach will be applied in aspects of IFRC support to the target National Societies, in the provision of continuous messaging on community level locust management (ground surveillance and reporting) through HH visits, community meetings, engagement of local leaders, FGDs, radio shows, etc. Advisories on aerial and ground spraying, collection and response to community feedback, suggestions, concerns and complaints, as well as roll out of branch level CEA trainings for the volunteer teams, will also be undertaken to strengthen ongoing National Society preparedness activities.		
Additionally, IFRC actively participate in the regional CEA taskforce on the locust upsurge, led by UNOCHA and FAO. Community feedback from the target National Societies, on information gaps and evolving needs, will be articulated on this platform to shape/reshape community level locust management approaches and well as underline messaging. Translation of key messages will also be undertaken through the collective support on this coordination platform.		
CEA has been incorporated into the assessments of the anticipated livelihood support interventions, development and dissemination of the selection criteria, community selection, satisfaction surveys, as well as continuous collection and response to community feedback and complaints. Support will be provided to National Societies to undertake community learning sessions to identify the lessons learnt and best practices that will be adopted into current and future DRR programming/projects.		

<b>Output 2.1: In the context of large-scale emergencies the IFRC, ICRC and NS enhance their operational reach and effectiveness through new means of coordination</b>		
<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Actual</b>
% of RC/RC actors reporting increased Movement coordination	100%	To be confirmed
% of security assessments carried out and updated	100%	To be confirmed
% security Plans updated in all operational areas	100%	To be confirmed
<b>Progress towards Outcome</b>		
<p>The IFRC Regional and Cluster PMER (Planning Monitoring Evaluation and Reporting) units ensure compliance with expected deliverables and reporting requirements. The PMER units provide support to guide the field on monitoring systems and activities and supporting community satisfaction surveys to inform future monitoring and changes to the operational plan.</p> <p>The IFRC PMER Units work with National Society PMER teams to facilitate internal reviews and lessons' learnt session and the final operational evaluation as required, to capture the performance, including the successes and challenges of the operation to inform future operational strategies. The PMER teams will contribute to maintaining of key project data by supporting data collection, analysis, storage, and dissemination in collaboration with the disaster management and operations teams.</p> <p>The IFRC Regional PMER Unit will support PMER teams in the countries to create/strengthen data management systems to support data collection, analysis and reporting of project indicators. This will include introduction and strengthening of capacity in use of Kobo tools, in line with key IFRC Africa milestones for 2020.</p> <p>To reduce the risk of RCRC personnel falling victim to crime, violence or road hazards active risk mitigation measures must be adopted. This includes situation monitoring and implementation of minimum-security standards. All RCRC personnel actively involved in the operations must have completed the respective IFRC security e-learning courses (i.e., Stay Safe Personal Security, Security Management, or Volunteer Security). A security analyst officer based in the regional office will provide support and guidance on the security analysis of the country of operation to avoid/manage security risk.</p>		

## Influencing others as strategic partners

### **Outcome 1: The IFRC secretariat, together with National Societies uses their unique position to influence decisions at local, national and international levels that affect the most vulnerable**

<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Actual</b>
# of advocacy and lobbying initiatives carried out	5	To be confirmed <sup>1</sup>

### **Output 1.1: IFRC and NS are visible, trusted, and effective advocates on humanitarian issues**

<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Actual</b>
# of external communications activities undertaken	5	To be confirmed
# of social media platforms active	5	To be confirmed
<b>Progress towards Outcome</b>		

The Emergency Appeal will contribute to fostering partnerships with key lead organisations, national authorities and main stakeholders in the preparedness and response planning, as well as at design and implementation of community level actions. Through the respective National Societies and with the support of the Federation coordination mechanisms will link with the national and sub-regional strategies to influence humanitarian ways of work, as well as articulate the voices of the targeted communities.

<sup>1</sup> Figures will be available during submission of the Final Report

## ERCS

- ERCS coordinate with government and other actors including FAO in the grass root through its community engagement and volunteers to provide awareness, surveillance, map and report swamps and any new surge of the desert locust in the area. The teams were trained on risk assessment and monitoring of locust movements to inform planning for timely control activities. These activities are undertaken in conjunction with zonal locust Task Force and Ministry of Agriculture officers involved in monitoring, reporting and control of locusts
- Trained resource persons on community engagement and accountability (CEA). The training participants were volunteers and staff from District Agriculture and Natural Resource Development Offices, Crop Protection, Development Agents, and Community Desert Locust Scouts.
- The assessments carried out in collaboration with Zonal locust Task Force and the relevant Government officials.

## KRCS

- KRCS engaged both Turkana and Marsabit Counties including FAO-KE, NDMA and the county government departmental line ministries i.e., MOALF to conduct preparedness plans in anticipation of the imminent invasion where it is expected to be much worse in March- April 2021.
- KRCS is currently working with the Food and Agriculture Organization in the assessment of desert locusts impacts in 16 Counties that will inform the efficacy of current desert locusts control efforts, the impact on livelihoods, documentation and recommendation for livelihood recovery interventions
- The appeal has been able to complete 2 assessments for Turkana and Marsabit counties, this being joint activities carried out by partners and the GoK (Government of Kenya). Though, not directly providing cash interventions and agricultural support to farmers, it has conducted joint monitoring of these interventions by FAO, NDMA, CARITAS and other partners in the counties. This has been concluded with key mapping of stakeholders and their roles, community engagements through interviews on desert locusts operations by partners.

## SSRC

- The SSRC is coordinating efforts with the Ministry of Agriculture.
- Assessed locust impacts in the target areas in collaboration with stakeholders such as the Ministry of Agriculture and FAO.

## SRC

- Puntland held an inception meeting with the MOE responsible for the control of desert locust infestation. A work plan was jointly developed, and responsibilities agreed. The MOE took responsibility for technical lead while SRCS availed staff and volunteers for surveillance, reporting, and community mobilisation.
- Training of volunteers on community mobilisation, locust monitoring, and reporting was conducted, facilitated by the MOE.
- A joint MOE / SRCS rapid assessment team was established, drawn from the trained SRCS volunteers, who participated in the assessment. The assessment findings have been validated through a workshop and a Plan of Action (PoA) has been developed. SRCS continues to participate in established desert locust coordination mechanisms led by the government, with support from FAO, and regularly receives surveillance updates.
- Community mobilisation and awareness raising sessions were conducted in the 10 target districts.
- SRCS has participated in coordination meetings of the Desert Locust Task Force at national and district levels.
- MoUs signed with relevant government ministries/agencies responsible for desert locusts control and joint plans of action agreed - 4 Regions (2 Somaliland and 2 Puntland) covered.

The IFRC Regional Communications team will produce content to support the objectives of this Emergency Appeal. It will focus on gathering content on the emergency preparedness, early actions and response activities undertaken by the IFRC and in-country partners to mitigate the impacts of locust upsurge on food security and livelihoods. The content gathering work will include audio-visuals materials, interviews, and written content to be disseminated through media as well as IFRC and broader social media channels.

### Outcome 2: The programmatic reach of National Societies and the IFRC is expanded

#### Output: Strengthen planning, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting

Indicators	Target	Actual
# of evaluation/assessments and research conducted	5	5
% of reports submitted on time	100%	To be confirmed
<b>Progress towards Outcome</b>		

The five National societies have coordinated on assessments with corresponding Government units and FAO were appropriate.

Planning for evaluations is underway.

This is the second OU (Operations Update) issued to as a nonstandard to report on the extension of the Appeal. The next report will be the final report issued three months after the end date of the operation 30 September 2021.

## C. Financial Report

The Appeal was launched with a funding request of 1,8million Swiss francs. Income to the Appeal is 594,105 Swiss francs including a DREF loan of 350,000 Swiss francs equating to a coverage of 33%.

## Contact information

**For further information, specifically related to this operation please contact:**

### In the National Society

#### Ethiopian Red Cross Society:

- Ethiopia: Mr. Getachew Ta'a, Secretary General of Ethiopia Red Cross Society, [ercs.sg@redcrosseth.org](mailto:ercs.sg@redcrosseth.org)

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- Dr Asha Mohammed, Secretary General; email: [mohammed.asha@redcross.or.ke](mailto:mohammed.asha@redcross.or.ke); phone: +254 701812658

#### Somali Red Crescent Society:

- Mr. Yusuf Hassan Mohamed, President; email [benebene1@hotmail.com](mailto:benebene1@hotmail.com)

#### South Sudan Red Cross:

- John Lobor, Secretary General; phone: +211 912 666 836; email: [john.lobor@southsudanredcross.org](mailto:john.lobor@southsudanredcross.org)

#### Uganda Red Cross Society:

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### In the IFRC

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### For IFRC Resource Mobilization and Pledges support:

- **IFRC Regional Office for Africa** Louise Daintrey-Hall, Head of Partnerships and Resource Development Regional Office for Africa, Email: [louise.daintrey@ifrc.org](mailto:louise.daintrey@ifrc.org) phone: +254 110 843978

### For In-Kind donations and Mobilization table support:

- **Logistics Coordinator** Rishi Ramrakha, Head of Africa Regional Logistics Unit, email: [rishi.ramrakha@ifrc.org](mailto:rishi.ramrakha@ifrc.org); phone: +254 733 888 022

### For Performance and Accountability support (planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting enquiries)

- **IFRC Regional Office for Africa** Philip Kahuho, PMER Manager, [Philip.kahuho@ifrc.org](mailto:Philip.kahuho@ifrc.org), Phone: +254 732 203081

## Reference documents



Click here for:

- [Previous Appeals and updates](#)

## How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the **Code of Conduct** for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and the **Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response (Sphere)** in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.