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## Final Report Eastern Africa Locusts Upsurge

Multi Country: Ethiopia; Kenya; Somalia; South Sudan; Uganda.



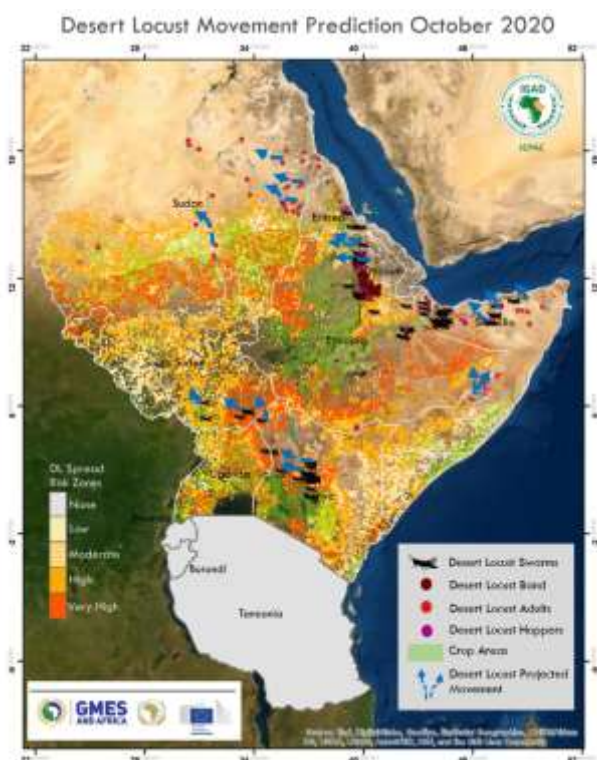
<b>Emergency Appeal</b>	<b>Operation n° MDR60005</b>
<b>Date of Issue: 15 February 2022</b>	<b>Glide number:</b>
<b>Operation start date: 17 April 2020</b>	<b>Operation end date: 30 June 2021</b>
<b>Host National Societies: Ethiopia; Kenya; Somalia; South Sudan; Uganda.</b>	<b>Operation budget: CHF 594,105</b>
<b>Number of people affected: 70,000</b>	<b>Number of people assisted: 526,865</b> <i>NB: In Uganda, the use of radio spots and radio talk shows was preferred and reached a wider population of 463,100.</i>
<b>Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation:</b> British Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross, Netherlands Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross, German Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, ICRC	
<b>Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation:</b> UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Desert Locust Control Organization of East Africa, Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), Government Ministries of Agriculture in Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Somalia and South Sudan	

### A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

#### Description of the disaster

Eastern Africa experienced a locust invasion starting 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 for the food security and livelihoods situation of the region. The 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. 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. A single square-kilometre swarm can eat as much food in a day as 35,000 people. Experts have predicted increased cross border movements of the locusts between Kenya, Ethiopia, and Somalia, potentially aggravating an already precarious food security situation.

During 2020 the swarms continued to invade and spread, mature and lay eggs in Ethiopia and Kenya. Hatching occurred in northeast Somalia. In February 2020 swarms continued in Kenya and reached Uganda, South Sudan and the way to Tanzania, with widespread hatching and bands in Kenya. Due to widespread hatching and bands in Kenya, Ethiopia and Kenya in March 2020. In April more swarms 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 second-generation swarms formed in northwest Kenya and swarms formed in Ethiopia, Somalia and Yemen. In July more swarms formed in northwest Kenya, Ethiopia, Somalia and Yemen. In August the swarms matured in northeast Ethiopia, while immature swarms persisted in northwest Kenya and northern Somalia. In September widespread hatching and



band, formation was seen in northeast Ethiopia and Yemen, while immature swarms persisted in north Somalia and northern Kenya. During the end of the year, the swarms continued widespread breeding in Ethiopia, Somalia and Kenya.

Since the beginning of 2021 desert locust swarms has continuously declined in Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia as a result of ongoing control operations. However, if outcomes for upcoming rainy seasons (October-November-December) are good, this may create breeding grounds for current immature swarms. Furthermore, insecurity in Ethiopia and bordering countries may affect the degree of control measures, which could allow for further breeding of swarms in the coming months.

## **Summary of response**

### **Ethiopian Red Cross Society**

Ethiopia Red Cross Society (ERCS) 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, mapping, and CEA. The Appeal also allocated funds to support cash feasibility, market assessments, and cash transfers for basic multipurpose needs support for the most vulnerable and desert locust affected households.

ERCS focused its activities in Taltele and Wachile districts in Borena Zone, Oromia Region, which were amongst the most affected by the locust invasion. The target districts fall under the Borena Branch office which has a good network of volunteers to support the operation. Alongside the assessments, ERCS provided emergency livelihood support to selected most affected households in line with the 'assess and assist' approach. The criteria for selecting the households for initial early livelihood support included women-headed households, households headed by people living with disabilities, and elderly headed households. This supported early action to cover a small number of vulnerable households.

### **Kenya Red Cross Society**

Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS) has a vast local presence through 47 County branches. KRCS has supported and continue to provide services for preparedness and response to the locust invasion, through logistical and human resources (volunteers and staff), as well as supporting the recovery plans of the selected Counties, Marsabit and Turkana. KRCS complemented already ongoing operations in specific counties on desert locusts activities such as assessments carried out. KRCS was responsible for the technical and administrative execution of field activities. KRCS also worked with FAO in the assessment of desert locusts impacts in 16 Counties, which informed on the efficacy of desert locusts control efforts, the impact on livelihoods, documentation, and recommendation for livelihood recovery interventions.

### **Somali Red Crescent Society**

Somali Red Crescent Society (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 provided a platform for community feedback.

SRCS initially responded to the desert locusts' upsurge in the Puntland region (Garowe and Galkayo Districts) and Somaliland. New Districts got affected in early 2021, including Bosaso in Puntland and others in Somaliland. According to the latest FAO forecast, the threat will persist in Somalia throughout 2021.

### **South Sudan Red Cross Society**

South Sudan Red Cross Society (SSRCS) was involved in creating awareness on locusts, including supporting community mobilization and risk reduction planning. 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. As over 12,000 people were affected, SSRCS identified the need to provide support in risk reduction, emergency food assistance, seeds, tools, and agricultural training. Initial efforts were on community engagement in surveillance and reporting on locusts. Follow-up support was on food assistance, provision of seeds and tools, and agricultural training for increased food production and productivity.



*Somalia - farmer's training in Awdal region*

### **Uganda Red Cross Society**

Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS) was 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 were implemented to help 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 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 the 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 is 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. Netherlands RC supports the Early Warning, Early Action, through the 'Innovative Approaches for Response Preparedness (IARP) programme 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 directly supported ERCS in the 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 linked into. The British RC supports disaster risk management capacity strengthening at the county level, while the Danish RC supports urban resilience initiatives, and the Finnis RC has been supporting raising resources for desert locust response.

The IFRC provides support to KRCS through a DM Delegate based in Nairobi, which is part of the EA CCST and the Regional Office for Africa which is both based in Nairobi, Kenya. The 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)**

The SRCS is supported by seven partner National Societies: British, Canadian, Finnish, German, Icelandic, Norwegian, Qatar, and Swedish. German, Canadian and Norwegian is present in the country based in Somaliland while Qatar Red is based in South Central.

IFRC has a health delegate based in Hargeisa – Somaliland, and support two positions including an NSD officer in Somaliland and Operation Manager in Puntland, with the overall operation and management support from the Nairobi Cluster delegation. The ICRC is present in South Central Zone, Hargeisa in Somaliland and Garoowe in Puntland focussing primarily on economic security, health, water and habitat programmes.

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

The IFRC, ICRC and several partners are based in Juba, offering ongoing support to SSRCS. 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. Throughout the intervention, the IFRC provided operational support, ensured NSD and branch development, and played a key role in coordinating support from Movement Partners within South Sudan.

Partner National Societies in South Sudan are Turkish, Danish, Canadian, Netherlands, Swedish, Swiss, German RC, Norwegian and Finnish. Movement partners supported the implementation of this SSRCS-led operation both technically and financially.

### **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 is 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: German, Austrian, Belgium and Netherlands. The German is supporting community resilience and refugee programs in northern Uganda, and the Netherlands supporting Early Warning, Early Action, through the 'Innovative Approaches for Response Preparedness (IARP) programme. 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 directly supported the national society in desert locust interventions.

### **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 organizations was tasked with compiling consolidated reports on the response activities and giving updates at the regional coordination meetings. A few NGOs embarked on response activities, especially on livelihoods protection, but this was largely insignificant, especially as efforts were directed towards COVID-19 responses.

### **Needs analysis and scenario planning**

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

The COVID-19 induced restrictions on movements, ban on community gatherings, and general redirection of funding to the COVID-19 response, meant little attention was 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. The multiple threats of COVID-19, floods, locusts, and conflict-affected several countries leading to the redirection of resources, thus deprioritizing locust response activities.



*Distribution of seeds and agro tools to farmers trained in baki awdal region*

### **Targeting**

The target for the response was: 14,000 households and 70,000 people in the five affected countries. However, due to lack of funding most targets were not achieved in many countries - details are shown in section C.

### **Operation Risk Assessment**

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

Additionally, there were challenges with resource mobilization as several donors prioritized allocations to the COVID-19 pandemic. In response to this, the IFRC supported National Societies to integrate components of the response into COVID-19 and other funding opportunities, leveraging on the auxiliary functions and roles of the National Societies.

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

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

### **Needs analysis**

Around 8.5 million people in Ethiopia were already in severe acute food insecurity and need humanitarian assistance before the locust invasion (IPC, 2019). Of these, over 6 million lived in areas that experienced a desert locust upsurge (FAO, April 2020). According to FAO, the locust invasion in Ethiopia was the worst in 25 years and it was estimated at the time of launching this appeal to have damaged 200,000 hectares (490,000 acres) of land from January 2021, threatening food supplies.

Ethiopia was 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 2020 in 29 out of the 153 Districts that were affected by the locusts as of February 2020. The assessment report indicated large crop losses especially in Oromia and Somali regions, in addition to widespread destruction of vegetation and pastures. The assessment estimated one million people would face severe food insecurity as a direct result of the locust infestation.

Data on locust locations obtained from FAO Locust Hub, Greater Horn of Africa Climate Outlook Forum (GHACOF 56) Seasonal Predictions for the October November and December season showed a very high risk of significant impact to both crops and rangelands due to the high rainfall received in the Northern parts of the region, which enabled the swarms to migrate. Most agro-pastoral areas in reproductive stages of crop development had crops destroyed which affected crop yield and pasture availability.

ERCS discussions with the Ministry of Agriculture revealed the priority for the Government was to support 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 were likely to continue spreading and damaging crop and vegetation for most of the year. An additional government priority was to support Personal Protection Equipment (PPEs) for staff involved in control activities and FAO was already providing this support to the government authorities.

**CEA needs:** ERCS interventions focused on needs of community awareness raising, locust Swarms mapping exercises and link with control agents.

**Capacity development needs:** Training volunteers and government extension officers on localized risk reduction measures as appropriate in different communities at their levels.

**Food security needs:** The locusts damaged crops, pastures and rangelands exacerbating the already vulnerable food security situation. ERCS focused on the social-economic impacts of the disaster including food insecurity and as caution planned to support vulnerable most affected households with multipurpose cash assistance

### **Operation Risk Assessment,**

The operation was exposed to several risks for which NS and CCST discussed mitigation measures to ensure targeted communities receive the needed support:

- **COVID-19 Pandemic:** This operation, the needs assessment and its operational strategy considered the risks related to the current COVID-19 pandemic and was 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 followed the Ethiopian MoH and World Health Organization regulations on hygiene and social distancing especially during the distribution of HHIs.
- The major risk of the operation was civil unrest and spontaneous security issues sometimes involving unknown armed groups (UAG) and any complex effect of the ongoing conflict in the Tigray region. ERCS worked with ICRC and local administration to ensure safe access was provided and leveraged 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 predicted La Nina conditions would further aggravate the food security. ERCS focused on emergency action planning and rolled out contingency interventions to reduce the effects of drought. The society had the opportunity of focus based financing from IFRC's DREF resource.
- The target districts were in a conflict-prone area, and this posed a risk to the operation. ERCS has a strong Branch office in Borena to support the operation and had existing projects ongoing which provided opportunities for synergies. ERCS has long working experience in the area drew on this experience to mitigate risks to activity implementation. ERCS secured clearance to conduct community-level activities despite COVID – 19 restrictions on movement and gatherings, enabling the NS to reach the most affected populations.

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

### **Needs analysis**

Kenya is experiencing one of the worst desert locust infestations in the last 70 years resulting in localized damage of crops, pasture and browse. The Government of Kenya on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of April 2021 announced that 1.4 million Kenyans were at risk of hunger, starvation and potentially face acute food insecurity in (IPC Phase 3) with close to 1 million projected

to be in worse conditions thus requiring immediate humanitarian assistance. The desert locust situation remained to be alarming with more swarms maturing in Northern and Central Kenya through the multiplication of swarms which led to a decline in food production after the long rains which was then exacerbated significantly due to the poor October-November-December (OND) 2020 and March-April-May (MAM) 2021 rain seasons. Food security and livelihoods deteriorated with the two coinciding planting seasons of 2020 and the effects of remnant earlier swarms that affected the MAM 2021 planting season.

The current situation is that the Swarms remain immature, waiting for the rains that are required for egg-laying and maturation, at least with the poor rains and the desert locust control operations (aerial and ground spraying) initiated early in the year has significantly reduced migration and the immediate effects of the locusts. The below-normal rainfalls of MAM 2021 have also limited the breeding to parts of Northern Kenya in particular counties of Isiolo, Marsabit, Samburu, Turkana to Southern Ethiopia. The threat, though not thoroughly eliminated, has been brought down by these factors.

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. FAO Locust Watch (April 2020 update) reported that over 175,000 acres of farmland in Kenya had been affected by the locusts at the time. FAOs April 2021 Locust Watch report showed that the upsurge showed signs of significant decline, as the population of the desert locust swarms continued to decrease in Kenya due to ongoing control operations and poor rainfall.

#### **Operational Risk Assessment**

- **COVID-19 Pandemic:** The program was guided by a risks and mitigation plan to ensure timely identification of risks and their management. KRCS staff and Volunteers used personal protective equipment and ensured that hygiene was observed to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 Virus during the implementation.
- The support from authorities and government agencies was key for the success of this action. KRCS managed these relations by making use of its legal mandate and representation in the different levels of governance. Potential difficulties in the relation between the project and the beneficiaries were solved through using community engagement and accountability.

#### **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.

#### **Operational Risk Assessment**

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

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

##### **Needs analysis**

The locust invasion in Magwi County 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 was involved in creating awareness on locusts, including supporting community mobilization and risk reduction planning. SSRCS identified the need to provide support in risk reduction, emergency food assistance, seeds, tools, and agricultural training. Initial efforts were on community engagement in surveillance and reporting on locusts, followed by food assistance, provision of seeds and tools, and agricultural training for increased food production and productivity.

#### **Operational Risk Assessment**

- **COVID-19 Pandemic:** The COVID related restrictions on movement and gatherings is a risk to the successful implementation of the planned activities. The program was guided by a risks and mitigation plan to ensure timely identification of risks and their management. SRCS staff and Volunteers used personal protective equipment and ensured observation of hygiene to prevent the spread of the 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 developed a comprehensive risk management plan with strict management of movement in those areas. This enabled SSRCS to implement the activities in this operation, alongside other ongoing activities such as COVID-19 response.

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

#### **Needs Analysis**

Despite the absence of a new Desert Locust invasion in the country, the February-September 2021 IPC Acute Food Insecurity (IPC AFI) classification for the Karamoja region indicates that many parts of the sub-region (including the Amudat district that was previously affected by Desert Locust invasion) are in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis level) with a likelihood of moving towards Phase 4 (Emergency) or even Phase 5 (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. According to IPC reports, the prices of staple food and other essential commodities continue to increase which will likely lead to starvation and malnutrition in children.

In addition, the following additional needs arose during the operation that disrupted the original planning:

- Increasing incidences of community transmission of COVID-19 increased the risk of possible infection among the volunteers reaching out to the households.
- Concurrent effects from other disasters; heavy rainfall which caused flooding in the Katakwi district, as well as violence experienced during political activities, placed the community in triple jeopardy, as the households were already tormented by consequences of the desert locust and COVID-19. This is weakened the coping capacities and resilience of households especially about food security and livelihoods

#### **Operation Risk Assessment**

- The wind influenced the direction of the locusts, affecting the geographical coverage as the locust invaded and evaded new districts or locations at different times. URCS established structure in districts and a network of volunteers who were informed to provide timely information to the established surveillance team and other agencies that informed the next course of action. The establishment of a community feedback mechanism in the targeted district also provided timely informed decisions and actions. The URCS' collaborative work with relevant government agencies and other partners to map out the most affected communities through established community surveillance teams helped to avert this risk.
- The increasing rains caused floods, destroying infrastructure and making accessibility difficult for the CBDDR, VHTs and Volunteers in the targeted geographical areas, especially in Kumi and Katakwi districts.
- Additionally, there were challenges with resource mobilization as several donors were prioritizing allocations to the COVID19 pandemic. The operational capacity of the URCS was overstretched by multiple emergency responses, especially the huge response demand by the COVID-19 pandemic activities, coupled with the occurrence of floods in the Teso sub-region that affected operations in the Kumi and Katakwi districts where the Desert Locust activities were being implemented. To solve the extra community needs arising from multiple crisis events that affected the same communities that were still grappling with the challenges of Desert Locust invasion, the URCS supported 300 households affected by floods in Katakwi and Kapelebyong districts in the Teso sub-region through the distribution of 300 non-food household items kits. These items were delivered from the stock of relief items previously pre-positioned through funding from the Ministry of Health (MoH) and the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM).

## **B. OPERATIONAL STRATEGY**

### **Overall Operational Objective**


The overall operational objective of this Emergency Appeal was to support five National Societies in Eastern and Horn of Africa in preparing for and responding to the emerging food insecurity situation due to the locust upsurge. The operation focused 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 worked 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 was used to improve the effectiveness of interventions. Coordination mechanisms involving Movement partners supporting emergency and recovery interventions were established and/or strengthened. The operation aligned to the broader COVID-19 response planning and, where appropriate, leveraged the COVID-19 human and financial resources to scale-up activities in this operation. IFRC offered and mobilized 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 also ensured that adequate remote support was provided in CEA, planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER), communications, finance, and operations management. PNSs in respective countries were encouraged to provide support to the NSs to actively engage in national/subnational locust preparedness and response initiatives.

## C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN

### Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERCS)

	<p><b>Livelihoods and basic needs</b>  <b>People reached: 4,585</b>  Male:2,109  Female:2,476</p>	
<p><b>Outcome 1</b> Communities, especially in disaster and crisis-affected areas, restore, and strengthen their livelihoods</p>		
<b>Indicators:</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Actual</b>
# of people reached through livelihood support activities.	9,000 persons 1,800 HH	4,585 917 HH
<p><b>Output 1.1:</b> Basic needs assistance for livelihoods security including food is provided to the most affected communities</p>		
<b>Indicators:</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Actual</b>
# of assessment completed on desert locust impacts.	1	1
# of market assessment reports	2	1
<p><b>Output 1.2:</b> Household livelihoods security is enhanced through food production, increased productivity, and postharvest management (agriculture-based livelihoods)</p>		
<b>Indicators:</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Actual</b>
# of households supported with livelihood interventions	1,800	917
# of PDM activities conducted	1	1
<p><b>Narrative description of achievements</b></p>		
<p><b>ERCS accomplished the following activities:</b>  ERCS Branch staff in the most affected areas conducted assessments to identify immediate support needs. ERCS was the link to other responding institutions and coordination structures including FAO, Ministry of agriculture and Emergency operation centre, to collate information to inform prioritization of geographical areas of focus, and types of early actions to support. Under this multi-country Appeal, ERCS was allocated funds to enable activities such as assessments, technical relevant training, conduct mapping and awareness and basic needs multipurpose cash assistance to vulnerable households, especially for food assistance. The following activities were carried out:</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>• Desert locust control and prevention training for 48 participants participated in two round sessions and 11 districts of Borena zone were covered namely: Teltele, Wachile, Yabelo woreda, Yabelo town, Dhas, Miyo, Dirre, Guchi, Arero, Moyale, Dillo woredas and from ERCS Borena zonal branch staffs.</li> <li>• A total of 24 resource persons were trained in Community engagement and accountability (CEA). Participants were volunteers and staff from Woreda Agriculture and Natural Resource Development Offices Crop protection and development agents, Development Agents and DL Scouts.</li> <li>• Mapping and awareness sessions were held and 45,000 people were reached</li> <li>• Multipurpose cash assistance was provided to 917HH or 4585 persons</li> <li>• Branch capacity support through staffing and office equipment like computers and printers</li> </ul> <p><b>Community awareness-raising and participatory planning sessions on locusts:</b> 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 were undertaken in conjunction with zonal locust Task Force and Ministry of Agriculture officers involved in monitoring, reporting and control of locusts. The operation utilised volunteers who are in the community and got first-hand information on locust movements. Awareness activities, including information on risks posed by pesticides used to spray locusts, was disseminated through a combination of methods, including posters, messaging through small groups of farmers and local radio announcements.</p> <p><b>Strengthening the capacity of staff and volunteers in community engagement and accountability approaches:</b> ERCS has trained 24 staff and volunteers engaged in the operation on community engagement and accountability approaches. The trained staff supported the dissemination of awareness messages in the</p>		

communities, as well as facilitated community-led action planning on mitigation measures, including activation of traditional locust control actions. A complaint feedback mechanism was also put in place to ensure that community concerns were addressed adequately.

**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 were carried out in collaboration with the Zonal locust Task Force and the relevant Government officials. The operation employed a combination of approaches in conducting the assessments, including focus group discussions, key informants, and the use of telephones where movement and gatherings are restricted due to the 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 assessed the effects of locusts on the current vulnerabilities, where effects on livelihood and production capacities were very apparent in affecting household food security and nutrition.

**Cash feasibility and market assessment** were carried out as well as targeting or disbursement of multipurpose cash to support the food insecurity basic needs. Multipurpose cash assistance was provided to 1800HH who are affected by locust cushion food security and other basic needs vulnerabilities. However, due to the limitation of funding ERCS reached 917 households ERCS conducted market assessments in the two districts to determine the feasibility of delivering the livelihoods assistance through cash which was identified as the most viable delivery mechanism.

#### Challenges

- The limited funding to cover the basic needs support.

#### Lessons Learned

- Lack of funding contributed to underachievement. Future projects should plan for mitigation measures when faced with limited funding.



#### Disaster Risk Reduction

**People reached: 45,000**

Male:24,300

Female:20,700

**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	45,000

**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	24	48
# of desert Locust VCA done	1	1
# mapping exercise completed	2	3
# of surveillance reports completed	2	13
# of people reached through awareness-raising (radio, posters etc.)	15,000	45,000
# of staff and volunteers trained in CEA	24	24


#### Narrative description of achievements

ERCS Branch staff in the 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.

#### Key deliverables achieved:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>VCA and locust effect assessments</b> were carried out in Teltele and Dirre Werodas of Borana zone in the 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 assessed the effect of locusts on the current vulnerabilities.</li> <li>• <b>Capacity training on relevant skills and knowledge:</b> 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. This training was planned for 24 persons and 2 Werodas but after assessment and discussions with local administration, we trained 48 persons in two sessions from 13 Werodas of the target zone, to cover the needs for training.</li> <li>• <b>Awareness and Mapping exercise:</b> Werodas carried out three pilot mapping exercises and informed the relevant authorities for the control of the swamps</li> <li>• <b>Public awareness:</b> Use of radios or posters was not possible due to funding constraints. Use of address and public gathering and concentration points like markets was used instead. This campaign reached 45,000 people at least.</li> <li>• <b>Staff and volunteers-built capacity on CEA and the complaint mechanism were put in place.</b> The ERCS CEA coordinator from the headquarters supported by the DRR coordinator designed and content and delivered. 24 participants were trained.</li> </ul>
<b>Challenges</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The area is very insecure with the presence of OLF and other unknown armed groups that render it unsafe and restricts movement especially for IFRC field teams</li> <li>• The area is unsecure with the presence of OLF.</li> </ul>
<b>Lessons Learned</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All targets were achieved or surpassed due to efficient project support and collaboration with other partners.</li> </ul>

#### Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS)

	<b>Livelihoods and basic needs</b> <b>People reached: 1,500 people, 300 HH</b> Male:600 Female:900	
<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)	1,500 ppl (300 hhs)
<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	1,500
<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	1,500
# of post-distribution monitoring activities conducted	1	1
# of cases studies/ human stories produced	2	2
<b>Narrative description of achievements</b>		
Assessments were conducted of desert locust impact on the most vulnerable communities/groups to identify support needs. The assessment was conducted in Turkana on Week 2 January 2021 in partnership with all the County desert locusts' partners, including Turkana County Government Ministry of Agriculture and Pastoral Economy, National Government Emergency Locust Response Program (ELRP) and NDMA.		

The following selected sites which were severely invaded by the 2020 desert locust invasion were assessed:

Sub County	Ward	Villages
Turkana Central	Kerio Delta	Loirengelup, Loreamatet, Nadoto, Kerio, Kangirisae
Turkana South	Kalapata	Kalapata, Kaisomalet, Chokchok, Nakalei, Kakalel, Kaisomalet, Katilu
Turkana East	Lokoro/Kochodin	Lokwamosing, Lopii, Lochakula, Katilia, Lokori

#### Impact assessment findings

The impact assessments showed that a total sum of 9,449 Ha of both rainfed and irrigated food crops was destroyed by the desert locusts across the county during the invasion period. The most affected farms in the county included, Elelea and Moruleem irrigation scheme in Turkana East, Katilu irrigation scheme in Turkana South, Turkwel and Kerio Delta (Nadoto) Rainfed farms in Turkana Central, Lobokat Nakwamoru and Kangelita Farms rainfed farms in Turkana South. Most affected farmers have no produce from the last planting seasons due to the invasion as well as no seeds for the current planting season thus leaving them food insecure.

A total sum of 452,500 Ha of pasture and browse were destroyed by the desert locusts across the county causing pasture scarcity and threatening livestock production in the desert locusts invaded areas. The most severe affected pastoral areas during the invasion period in the county included: -Turkana Central (Kerio and Kangirisae), South (Kalapata), East (Katilia) and Loima SCs (Kangelita, Turkwel and Lorgum) were the desert locusts invaded and destroyed pasture and browse lands for 3 consecutive months since first reports in February 2020.

Several reports on livestock diarrheal upon consuming pasture with desert locust droppings were reported in all the desert locusts invaded areas by the Communities during the impacts assessments. Over 50,000 shoats across the county were affected by the diarrhoea. This attributes to the low production of milk and wasted body conditions of the livestock seen across the desert locust invaded sites in the county affecting Livestock production and income generation for the pastoralists in the county.

The following are the desert locusts invasion impacts on HH Livelihoods, Crop Lands and Grazing lands ranked per sub-county as realized from the assessment reports. With additional findings being realized from the appeal, KRCS conducted a beneficiary targeting in Turkana County and supported 300HH with unconditional Cash transfer of Kshs 5,000 for 2 months.

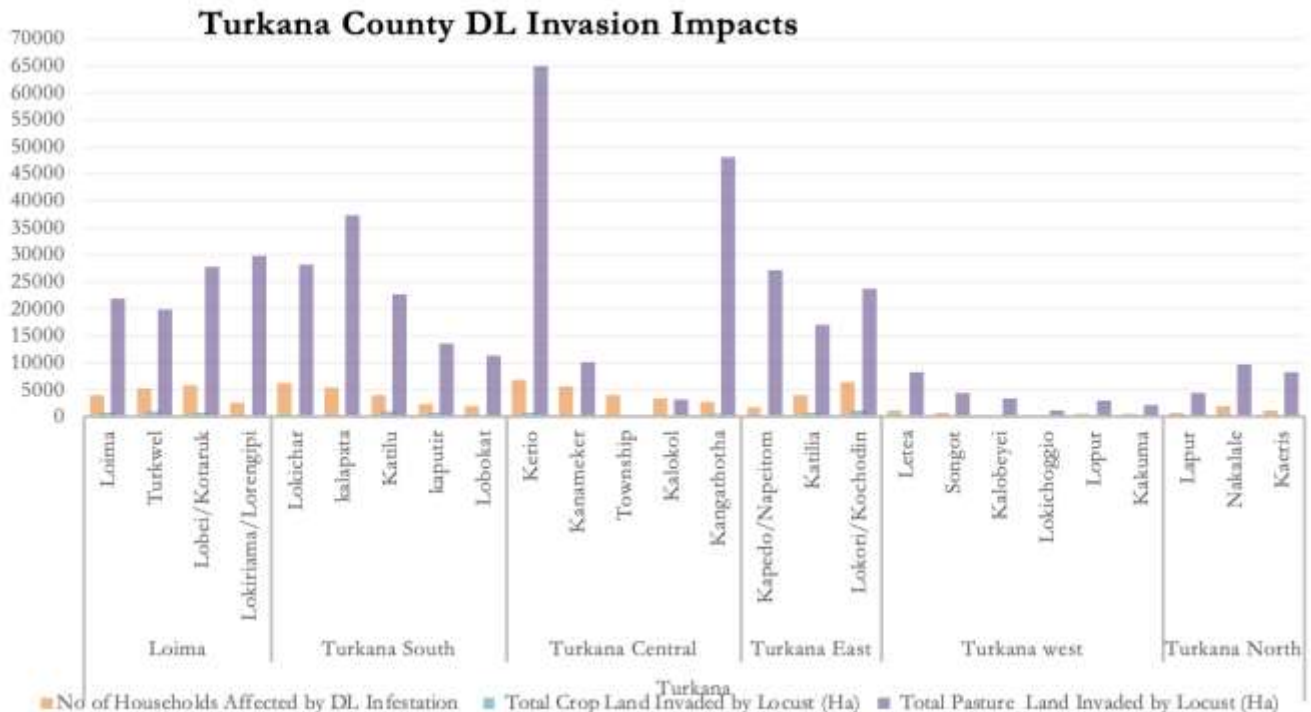



Figure 1 Sample data from Turkana showing impacts of desert locusts

Assessment on Community Readiness to handle the New Desert Locust invasion and the number of trained CBDRRs/CCUs as DL scouts across the county. A total of 10 FGDs, 15 Key informant interviews were also conducted to determine the level of community readiness to handle DL in case of the new swarm invasion. FGDs and KII data were collected using the designated guides by the KRCS M&E officers, County Agricultural M&E officers and KRCS RCATs as Moderators and note-takers.

**Readiness assessment findings:**

Very Prepared  Least Ready	Sub County	Number of Trained DL Scouts (CBDRRs, CCUs, RCATs) by KRCS, FAO and PWJ	Number of Communities Sensitized on DL controls, Biology and reporting Systems (By DL Partners Across the county including KRCS)
	Turkana East	90	4,234
	Turkana South	36	3,953
	Turkana Central	51	3,504
	Loima SC	81	2,763
	Turkana West	36	1,051
	Turkana North	26	957
	Kibish SC	29	483

Communities residing in Turkana East were found to be more prepared compared to the other sub-counties. This was attributed to a large number of trained Scouts as well as sufficient community sensitizations and dissemination sessions done by various partners in the county including KRCS. Turkana East farmers in Elelea, Lotubae, Lokorkor, Moruleem and Katilia had information on how to control desert locusts using both the indigenous and Standard methods, the farmers had also knowledge on desert locusts Control measures safety precautions. Turkana South, Central and Loima SCs had also a good number of both farmers and Pastoralists with information on desert locusts control.

From the assessment findings, Turkana, North, West and Kibish SCs had the poorest preparedness levels since they had few sensitized community members. This was attributed to the Sub Counties vastness and high tension and insecurity cases in Kibish and Turkana North Sub County. KRCS however managed to facilitate CBDRRs training as desert locusts Scouts in the areas as the only partners with safe access in the most insecure regions in the county. One ward in Turkana East (Caped /Napiform) was however not accessed and also no training to the CBDRRs and Communities took place due to Insecurity cases.


On the county preparedness level, the county had a little number of desert locusts control chemicals that remained during the previous control operations. The county however has an established desert locusts control base coordinating all the desert locust preparedness and control operations with enough well-trained manpower. The County, during the previous desert locusts invasion, faced a major problem in the collection of GPS Coordinates needed by the control base to activate aeroplanes spraying the exact desert locusts locations depending on the desert locusts instar. This has been fully addressed since the county now has fully trained CBDRRs and CCUs as desert locusts Scouts spread across the county and can provide real-time data on the DL GPS location as well as the desert locusts instar/stage using the e-locust 3m Mobile App.

**Challenges**

- The assessments being conducted during the COVID-19 restrictions limited the physical movements of persons in some areas, KRCS also supported in ensuring during these activities that the necessary protocols are observed, therefore sanitizing and protective materials (gloves and masks) were provided for.

**Lessons Learned**

- Partnerships and synergies were observed and working beyond NDMA and FAO to local partners were observed. This was relevant with Marsabit County whereby most recovery activities were conducted with the local partners.

	<b>Disaster Risk Reduction</b> <b>People reached:</b> 1,000 people, 200 HH Male:400 Female: 600	
	<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	1,000 ppl (200 hhs)
<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	70	210
# of mapping of stakeholders and existing resources for desert locust completed Target-Mapping Report	1	1
# of FGDs to create awareness on desert locusts conducted.	15	15
# of households visits during sensitizations	200HH	200HH
# of engagements during feedback and reporting	1 Report	1 Report (50 Pax)
# of participatory planning processes undertaken by the operation	1 Report	1 Report (50 pax)

### Narrative description of achievements

#### Conduct Training for RCATs and CBDRR on locust message dissemination.

Kenya Red Cross Society through the IFRC funded Desert Locust preparedness program facilitated a total sum of 6 trainings to the CBDRRs and KRCS RCATs (2 three day-trainings on new CBDRRs as CCUs -Community Control Units) in Turkana and Marsabit. The trainings were conducted by NDMA and Turkana County Government-Agricultural officers who are the TOTs on the DL Biology, Control, surveillance, monitoring and reporting trained by FAO during the 1st desert locusts invasion in the county. KRCS CEA ToTs also trained the RCATs and CBDRRs on the KRCS CEA approaches/module to integrate their DL preparedness, Surveillance and control with Community Engagement and Accountability for effective operations.

The trained CBDRRs and RCATs facilitated by KRCS joined other Desert locust Community-based Scouts previously trained by FAO and Peace Winds Japan (PWJ) in Turkana and FAO in Marsabit. Those trainees were spread across the county supporting in monitoring, surveillance and reporting using E-Locust APP any DL invasion as well as Tree Locust locations across the counties. The trained CBDRRs also were tasked to educate and engage the communities through KRCS CEA approaches on the indigenous DL controls, negative effects of the chemicals used to control DL and Safety precautions during the DL control operations in their respective areas of stay as well as updating the server on Desert Locust situation. The trainings were influential since they supported the regions with additional manpower in the fight against desert locusts.

The main objectives of the trainings, refreshers and sensitizations were: -

- Help communities recover from previous attacks and damages caused by Desert Locust and to re-adjust to better living through Community Engagements
- To capacity Build CBDRR and Red Cross Action Teams on desert locusts Preparedness-early warning systems, Response and Recovery operations.
- Sensitize the CBDRRs and RCATs on Community Engagement, Accountability, Ramous tracking and Community Feedback mechanisms during DL response operations.
- Train CBDRR and KRCS RCATs on desert locusts Survey, Mapping and Reporting using the E-Locust Mobile App.

Below is a sample detail for the training reach in Turkana, 37 RCATs were trained in Marsabit. Marsabit teams had earlier been trained by the FAO intervention.

Sub County	Wards Reached	Number of Trained RCATs and CBDRRs on DL biology, surveillance and reporting using the E-Locust App and KRCS CEA approaches supported by KRCS		
		Newly Trained	Refreshed on the Course	Trained on KRCS CEA Approaches
Turkana North	Loreng, Kaaleng, Lakezone	26	0	15
Kibish Sub County	Kaikor, Kibish	29	0	21
Turkana South	Lokichar, Katilu, Kapese Kaputir	0	26	10
Turkana East	Lokori/Kochodin, Katilia	0	30	30
Turkana Central	Kerio, Lodwar Township, Kangatotha	0	39	8
Sub Totals		55	95	84
Total reached CBDRRs and RCATs by the program Grand Totals				234

Overall, under this activity, the target goal of training 70 pax (2 counties) was reached. A total of 234 RCATs Members & Staff trained on CBDRR in the 2 counties.

### **Mapping of stakeholders, collaborators and existing resources for Desert Locust in Marsabit County**

A stakeholder coordination meeting was facilitated by KRCS virtually bringing together all the DL partners in the County to strategize, Map, resource mobilize and assign sites for desert locusts preparedness operations and livelihood recovery across the county

Stakeholder mapping was also conducted to assess what various organizations are implementing in response of desert locust infestation in Marsabit County. Below shows the names of the organization and some of the livelihood activities they are implementing.

- PACIDA: Cash Transfer to 5000HH for 3 months @ 4,778 Ksh in Laisamis and North/Horr Sub Counties & Livestock feed distribution to 1233 HH 16680 Bags of 50kg each in Laisamis and North/Horr Sub County too.
- CARITAS: Cash transfer 250 HH in Iltorot 4045 for 3 months & Rangeland Rehabilitation through cash for work reaching 532 HH in Laisamis, Moyale & North/Horr.
- World Vision: Cash Transfer programme for 3 months for 150 HH in Laisamis Sub County @ 3000 Kshs and Distribution of drought-tolerant feeds for the same 150 HH in Laisamis Sub County e.g., Cowpeas.
- CIFA: Rangeland rehabilitation in Moyale Sub County (130Ha of land rehabilitated)

### **Preparedness at the community level - Radio awareness messaging (DL IEC Materials and Reflectors printing)**

DL Control, Biology and Reporting Dissemination Key Messages which were developed in partnership with the County Government-Ministry of Agriculture officers, NDMA and Emergency Locust Response Program (ELRP) Officers were printed and distributed across the counties.

A total sum of 3,500 IEC materials and 120 Reflector jackets were printed and distributed across the county. Two types of the IEC materials were published, A1 Size with Key messages on DL Biology to help the communities and CBDRRs differentiate between Tree and Desert Locust, surveillance mechanisms, Control mechanisms and reporting mechanisms and A5 size with KRCS (0800 720 577 and 1199) and County (0800 720 729) DL Toll-free numbers for the communities to call and report on any sighted DL. The stickers were put in all the three targeted sub-counties at community meeting points, dispensaries, shopping centres, churches and schools.

Marsabit County conducted Radio messaging and the transcription is as annexed in the Swahili language from Borana.

Radio Spots broadcast conducted in 4 different local dialects namely, Swahili, Borana, Rendille and Kiburji and streaming Online via YouTube as IBSE Radio Marsabit. Majorly targeting audience from Marsabit County with its 4 Sub counties of Saku, Moyale, North Horr and Laisamis, Parts of Waso in Isiolo County, Southern part of Ethiopia (Content airing in conjunction with an existing agreement with BBC Afaan Oromo) and Northern part of Wajir North). The reach of this activity is expected to be 77,495 households with an average household size of 5.8 persons per household and a population density of 6 people per square kilometre in Marsabit County.

### **Turkana County DL Partners Coordination Meeting and Certification Exercise**

KRCS also facilitated the Turkana County DL partners coordination meeting which was held virtually and later a certification ceremony which was graced by the County Agriculture and Pastoral Economy CEC.

The virtual coordination meeting which was Hosted by KRCS and chaired by the County Chief Officer of Agriculture and irrigation and was attended by County Agriculture CEC, Agriculture Chief Officers, Directors and County Agricultural officers, Emergency Locust Response Program (ELRP) Coordinator and technical staff, Sub County Administrators, FAO, IRC, Peace Winds Japan, NDMA officials and KRCS Project Manager, MEA&L Officer, KRCS Turkana County Coordinator and Project Officers.

A certification exercise was done thereafter with strict adherence to Covid-19 protocols where the trained CMDRRs as DL Scouts were awarded certificates for completion of the DL Surveillance, Biology, Monitoring and Reporting using the E-Locust3m App module. The County technical teams were also awarded certificates in recognition of their facilitation as TOTs and senior county agricultural officers as Master's Trainers. The County Agricultural and Irrigation Chief officers awarded certificates to the trained scouts while the county CEC-Agriculture and Pastoral Economy handed certificates to the TOTs and Master Trainers.

### **Challenges**

- The action was implemented during the containment measures imposed by the government on covid-19 control, this affected the movement of persons especially during the assessment, household visits and

actual community meetings. In line with this, KRCS adopted to have less physical engagement with the communities and used e.g., cash assistance and virtual meetings. Most notably the graduation of the certification exercise was conducted virtually with the partners and only a handful of the scouts were invited to represent the groups.

### Lessons Learned

- KRCS engaged the UN Agency FAO in the training of the CBDRR groups who also functioned as Desert Locusts Scouts in the communities, this complemented the strategy by FAO in the use of 3M locusts App in the monitoring and reporting of the DL. These trainings enhanced the CBDRR skills in the control operations of locusts.
- KRCS realised a meaningful partnership with other local organisations who were also engaged with operations on DL control in both counties, significantly through a joint assessment in Marsabit there was opportunities for synergies where KRCS and FAO provided training opportunities to scouts/CBDRR while other local partners provided recovery support.  
Recovery by KRCS was focused mostly in Turkana, while in Marsabit partners like **PACIDA** reached 1233 HH by the provision of livestock feeds in Laisamis/North Horr sub-counties, **World Vision** reaching 150 HH with similar intervention, **CARITAS** reaching 532 HH with Cash For Work in Moyale. This helped to bridge a gap of an estimated 2000 HH while KRCS reached approximately another 2000 HH by this action.
- The certification exercise to the CBDRR groups after training on DL operations as a scout by FAO was a huge boost for not only the morale but also strategic community partners in the control and management of desert locust invasion in the plans.
- The dissemination of DL locust control messaging on Radio was impactful and had a lot of acclamation in Marsabit County and approximately 77,000 persons were able to be reached and actively contributed to the messaging.

### Strengthen National Society

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of staff and volunteers trained on integrating CEA in program activities	10	10
No of feedback mechanisms established	2	2
No of workshop supported	5	7
No of documentations produced.	2	4
No of communication strategies supported.	2	3

### Narrative description of achievements

Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) trainings for RCATs, Staffs and CBDRRs were conducted in all the five reached sub-counties in Turkana including Turkana East, Central, South, North and Kibish SCs. The training covered the KRCS basic principles of CEA and its application in various programs and activities conducted by the Kenya Red Cross. The CBDRRs and RCATs were also taken through the importance of CEA and CEA applications in various stages of a project e.g., application of CEA in Assessment, application of CEA in planning and design, in Monitoring and eventually in the evaluation stage.

The trainings also included lessons on feedback mechanisms like the feedback process, collection of feedback from the community, use of the feedback database, analysis and methods of relaying information to the relevant parties.

The CBDRRs and RCATs were also given a step-by-step guide on how to conduct Focus Group Discussions, Household visits, Community Review Meetings, Radio spot broadcasts, mobile cinemas and public addresses in accordance with the RCRC CEA approaches.

The participants were also taught about the Dos and Don'ts on how to approach members of the community and the roles assumed by different people during the community engagement process in DL Context. Several role plays were, and simulations were done with the participants to ensure their effective understanding of the CEA operations.

The trained CBDRRs and RCATs were then deployed to the DL infested sites and also in the high-risk areas anticipated to be invaded by the DL in Turkana County for two days to collect community feedback and tracking rumours on the DL invasion and impacts, beliefs, myths and misconceptions in the targeted sites.

From the rumours tracked, most communities had rumours that the DL had invaded the southern part of the County in Kalapata-Turkana South, but the trained CBDRRs and RCATs based in Turkana South confirmed that the sighted Locust were Tree Locust and Not Desert Locust thus this was fully communicated back to the communities to address their raided rumours.

#### Documentation of Human stories (experiences of locust impacts)

- Documentation of Human-interest stories was aimed at collecting community-based experiences with the 1st swarm of the DL as well as the impacts of the project to the communities reached during the project implementation.
- This was done through video documentation as well as community voices collection on the program with engagement of the County Government Communication teams from the ministry of Agriculture.
- The County Agriculture CEC, Chief officer, ELRP coordinator, NDMA information officer, Sub County Agricultural officers, Area chiefs and Farmers and Pastoralists were also interviewed.
- The documented stories and social media updates have been published and will be attached.
- 2 Video documentaries were made for both Counties.
- Photos on project activities were also collected.

#### Workshops supported

- Turkana South (Ward Admins Office)-4th March 2021
- Turkana East (Ward Admins Office)-4th March 2021
- Turkana Central -Kerio (Ward Admins Office)-13th March 2021
- Kangatotha-(Ward Admins Office)-14th Marchh 2021
- KRCS Turkan County Conference hall- 9th -11th March 2021
- Turkana North (Ward Admins Office)-16th -18th March 2021
- Kibish SC (Ward Admins Office)-16th -18th March 2021

#### Somali Red Crescent Society (SRCS)



##### Livelihoods and basic needs

**People reached:** 960 people

Male:384

Female: **576**

**Outcome 1** Communities, especially in disaster and crisis affected areas, restore, and strengthen their livelihoods

**Output 1.1:** Basic needs assistance for livelihoods security including food is provided to the most affected communities.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of households reached through cash transfers 11,500 ppl (1,700hhs)	11,500 ppl	0 ppl

**Output 1.2:** Household livelihoods security is enhanced through food production, increased productivity, and postharvest management (agriculture-based livelihoods)

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# Households supported to increase/improve household food production	300	160 (960ppl)
# of Post Distribution activities conducted	1	1

#### Progress towards outcomes

SRCS responded to the desert locusts' upsurge in Puntland and Somaliland Regions. However, there were no households reached through cash transfers during the reporting period.

#### Somaliland

**Preliminary meetings with regional MoAD representatives:** SRCS branches in three regions had a courtesy call with the regional representatives from the ministry of agriculture development as briefings and provided overall objectives of the LD response as well as requesting facilitators for the trainings both volunteers and farmers on LD prevention and control. After that, mobilizations were done by community volunteers through meetings with gatekeepers such as local authorities, community leaders, elders, women, youth and religious leaders. The purpose was to brief local authorities/line ministry representatives and enables them to know about the project beneficiaries, roles of the ministry and their involvement throughout the lifetime of the project. At the end of the meetings, government regional representatives were much appreciative of the LD project and committed their contribution of the project in the preparation and selection of the beneficiaries as well as facilitators for the workshops accordingly. In addition, the Ministry of agriculture provided information to SRCS branch coordinators on the current situation of the locust, how it is impacted the farmers' crop production and the magnitude of the locust impact in three targeted regions.

**Distribution of nutritional seeds and agro-tools/input:** A total of 60 farmers (46 male and 14 female) equivalent of 360 people, received nutritional seeds and agro-tools in Baki, Berbera and Erigavo communities under Sanaag, Awdal and Sahil regions of Somaliland. Each farmer received a variety of seeds and agro-tools such as; chilly (1 can/50g), tomato, (1 can/50g), watermelon (1 can 100g), onion (1 can/50g), maize (10kg), sorghum (10kg), shovel 1, hand hoe, hoadag, The purpose of this distribution is to assist farmers increase their production and recover the impact of locust as income generation as well access to food and crop production for household income. The distribution period was 1 day per region. During the distribution, farmers were much appreciated to SRCS and IFRC for their support on these valuable seeds and pointed out that this support came at the right time to the right people at the right place because locust is highly affected and damaged all crops and reduced the production of the farmers. Each beneficiary countersigned/put his/her thumb the distribution list provided by SRCS volunteers/staff from the branches engaged the distribution exercises in the three regions.

### Puntland

**Rapid assessment:** SRCS and Ministry of Environment, Agriculture and Climate Change (MoEACC) jointly conducted a rapid assessment from 14th to 24th July 2020 with the objective of determining the impacts of the DL on livelihoods of Agro pastoralists in Mudug and Nugaal Regions. Using online data collection application, the assessment interviewed 270 respondents (79% male and 21% female). The assessment found that on average, farm sizes were 8.5 hectares, but only 2.6 hectares were planted, and over 84% of farms had been affected by desert locusts, destroying 61% of fruit and vegetables which were the main crops. As a result, 33% of farmers had dropped out of the livelihood, and 35% had halted their operations until the desert locust upsurge would be over. The main crop production challenges identified were pests and diseases, climate related, lack of investment, lack of skilled labor, high labor costs, low quality seeds, soil infertility, and absence of farm tools, invasive plants and weeds.

### Distribution of farming tools and fertilizers:

In **Nugaal branch**, distribution of farm tools and fertilizers to small scale farmers was carried out in Laacdheere, Rabaable, Jibagale, and Shimbiraaley, in collaboration with MoEACC. The Ministry and SRCS selected the most vulnerable farmers had been hardest hit by the desert locust upsurge, and who were unable to obtain basic farm needs like farm tools and fertilizers. Introductory meetings were held with farmers and community leaders, followed by the registration of beneficiaries. In total, 80 farmers (HH heads) were targeted in Nugaal (20 each in the 4 locations). This benefitted 480 people from the targeted households. A total of 63pcs organic fertilizers were distributed, and 560pcs of farm tools, made up of the following: wheelbarrows 80 pcs, shovels 80 pcs, pick mattock 80 pcs, rakes 80 pcs, watering cans 10ltr 80 pcs, axe 80 pcs, and hoe 80 pcs. Following the distribution, feedback from the community and beneficiaries was collected. Some of the challenges experienced in the implementation was the very high expectations of the community, who also inquired about further support. The number of targeted beneficiaries was limited compared to the number of farmers present in the four locations.

In **Galkayo branch**, a comprehensive assessment of the impacts and needs in the community was carried out. Following this, organic fertilizers and farming tools were distributed. 20 farmers (HH heads) in the districts of Galkayo, Galdogob and Jariban were targeted, based on the rapid assessment. This benefitted 120 people from the targeted households. A total of 97 pcs organic fertilizers, and 408 pcs farming tools (108 wheelbarrows, 150 shovels, 150 rakes) were distributed. The main challenge identified was that following the rapid assessment, SRCS submitted a proposal with plans and interventions mainly concerning mitigation of the impact and restoration of livelihoods, but funding limitations constricted these, and the intervention finally targeted only the farmers most in need.



*Distribution of farm tools in Nugaal (left), distribution of farming tools in Galkayo (right).*

### Challenges


- Community expectations were very high, and they were asking what kind of interventions you have beyond these one.

- The number of the target beneficiary were limited while there is a lot of the farmers in selected locations then most of the farmers were asked furthermore to support.

### Lessons Learned

Based on Impacts of Desert Locusts Infestation on Agro-pastoral Livelihoods in Mudug and Nugaal Regions - The Somali Red Crescent Society (SRCS) and Ministry of Environment, Agriculture and Climate Change (MoEACC) jointly conducted this assessment from 14th to 24th July 2020 with the objective of determining the impacts of the DL on livelihoods of Agro-pastoralists in Mudug and Nugaal Regions.

- Based on the above findings and understanding that the DL are still present across Puntland, the assessment recommends integrated approach to dealing with the impacts and the challenges faced by the farmers. These can be achieved in three strategic entry points as follows:
- Improve utilization of available potentially productive farmlands for increased food crop production.
- Enhance capacity of stakeholders in effective crop production and farm management.
- Supporting livelihoods to effectively recover from the impacts of the desert locusts.

	<b>Disaster Risk Reduction</b> <b>People reached:</b> 456 people Male:288 Female: 168	
<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 (2,500 hhs)	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	456
# of community feedback mechanisms established	10	10
# of community feedback comments collected	1	1
<b>Narrative description of achievements</b>		
<p><b>Somaliland</b></p> <p><b>Training farmers on locust desert prevention and control:</b> 60 (46 male and 14 female) selected farmers were trained on locust desert prevention and control for a period total of six days (2 days Erigavo and 2 days in Borama, 2 days Berbera). Each branch trained 20 farmers. The purpose was to equip farmer's skills and knowledge on locust prevention and control in their respective areas as well as build the capacity to effectively response the impact of the locust. This was done jointly to gather with ministry of agriculture and development of Somaliland. A total of three facilitators from the ministry of agriculture and development engaged and conducted the trainings as well as provided the necessary skills and knowledge on the locust desert prevention and control. One facilitator involved per branch/region. During the training, farmers were engaged with practical sessions on mechanical control, digging trenches for the hoppers in Baki, Lasodacawo and Erigavo villages. The participants received adequate knowledge about the locust and equipped with skills how to control the hoppers and manage it well. The training was conducted between the dates from 17-24, 2021 (Awdal, 17-18, Sahil, 22-24, and Erigavo/Sanaag 19-20 June 2021).</p> <p><b>Awareness raising by using community volunteers.</b>  With the help of SRCS branches SRCS reached 456 people (288M 168F) reached through awareness sessions on desert locust, how to dig trenches, and burry, information about how the locusts affect the agricultural production, surveillance and reporting. Reflection from the communities showed that people in the target areas were cascading the awareness raising.</p> <p><b>Training volunteers on locust prevention and surveillance:</b> SRCS in collaboration with ministry of agriculture strengthened and built the capacity of SRCS community volunteers on locust desert prevention, control and surveillance in the three targeted regions of Awdal, Sahil and Sanaag. 16 volunteers (4 female and 12 male) received adequate knowledge and skills on locust desert prevention and surveillance in Awdal, Sahil and Sanaag targeted regions on 19-20 June 2021 (Sanaag) and 25-26 Sahil, 19-20 (Awdal). Three different facilitators from the ministry of agriculture and development engaged with the trainings. Each training, one facilitator engaged for a period of 2 days per branch.</p> <p>During the training, participants received and covered the following major topics:</p>		

**Day one: session 1:** introduction of desert locust

- Damages of desert locust invasion
- Life cycle of desert locust
- Factors influence methods of control used

**Day one: session 2:** control methods of desert locust

- Mechanical methods: digging trenches, smoking and making sound to prevent landing of desert locust on the farm
- Spraying of desert locust: if applicable for recommended chemical or biological pesticides

**Day two: practical session:** the trainees along facilitators covered practical session such as digging trenches.



*Farmer's training in Awdal region*



*Practical exercise for farmers training in baki village by facilitator (Mechanical control digging trenches for hoppers (locust))*



*Distribution of seeds and agro tools to farmers trained in baki awdal region*



*Farmer's training in Sahil region Berbera*



*After buried hoppers by farmers/trainees during practical session (participants also burring locust hoppers)*

**Monitoring and Supervision:** SRCS coordination office with the DRM director paid a visit to the locust desert response targeted areas accompanied with branch staff in Awdal, Sahil and Sanaag regions for a period of 11 days). The purpose was to make sure that branches have implemented the planned locust desert response activities in the three targeted communities under Sool and Maroodijeex regions of Somaliland. This was done through meetings with the communities and beneficiaries/trainees looking at their involvement and awareness of the locust desert response project information, the impact of locust in the selected areas and how the communities are responding after acquired knowledge and skills on locust desert prevention and control. The DRM director is also met with the branches volunteers with the presence of the coordinators getting briefings and also debriefings. Finally, the DRM director much appreciated the commitment of the branches and volunteers on the field in collaboration with the targeted farmers communities for their tireless efforts made during the implementation of the LD response activities accordingly. The monitoring was done June 19-30, 2021, in three respective regions.

**Key major observations/findings:**

- High expectations from the communities on the continuation of the Locust desert response project
- High Commitment and involvement of the government especially, ministry of agriculture took significant role of fighting against locust with support of FAO using helicopters, mounted vehicles spraying (almost six vehicles with bio-chemical/pesticides)
- Good collaboration and coordination with MoAD and SRCS at regional/branch level
- Community/beneficiary appreciation on the LD response support especially farmers trained
- Climate change resulted locust desert which caused a lot of devastation of farmers crop production and animal pasture in Awdal, sahil and sanaag areas

**Puntland**

**SRCS has undertaken the following activities:**

- 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 mobilization.
- Training of volunteers on community mobilization, 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 mobilization 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.
- 2 regions covered. MoUs signed with relevant government ministries/agencies responsible for desert locusts' control and joint plans of action agreed.
- Total 20 SRCS volunteers (13M, 7F) were trained on community desert locusts' surveillance and a monitoring and reporting system established. 100 farmers (HH heads) (69 M, 31 F) were supplied with farm inputs for early recovery out of which 20 came from Galkacyo and 80 Garowe.

**Feedback mechanisms:** Community feedback was gathered throughout the response, through volunteers' presence in the communities. While the SRCS is continuously engaged in capacity building in terms of establishment of formalized community feedback mechanisms such as postboxes or toll-free lines, these modalities are currently not employed by the NS, however feedback is still received through engagement with the communities by volunteers. Volunteers are


#### Challenges

- Availability of resources/funds for LD response
- More capacity building on LD response for the farmers and other pastoral communities
- Increased livelihood/food security support e.g for the farmers/pastoralist through Cash transfer programming (CTP) or distribution of seeds and agro-inputs, business grants


#### Lessons Learned

- The locust breeding sites (hoppers and new swarms) are high in all targeted regions of Somaliland
- High food insecurity was seen all visited sites
- Magnitude of the locust is beyond the capacity of the government (MoAD) need more joint humanitarian response particularly building the capacity of the communities on LD control and provide materials/tools to control the LD breeding
- Limited humanitarian partners intervention on LD response
- Limited resource against locust impact

### South Sudan Red Cross Society (SSRCS)

 <p><b>Livelihoods and basic needs</b>  <b>People reached:0</b>  Male:0  Female: 0</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 households reached through livelihood support activities.	1,200 HH / 6,000 ppl	0
<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	0
# of PDM carried out	2	0

<b>Output 1.2:</b> Household livelihoods security is enhanced through food production, increased productivity, and postharvest management (agriculture-based livelihoods)		
<b>Indicators:</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Actual</b>
# of households reached with Agricultural input support	600	0
# of people trained in climate – smart agricultural practices	600	0
<b>Narrative description of achievements</b>		
<p>SSRC targeted to transfer cash to 6,000 households, however, even though areas for cash support was identified, the ministry of agriculture said that they were funding same beneficiaries. The ministry however advised to look for the alternative new locations. The identification of these new areas took longer than anticipated and by the time feedback came, the operation implementation period had elapsed.</p> <p>The locust invasion in Magwi County devastated food crops in villages of Obo and Pajok, and Pajok and threatened 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 Torit branch responded to the locust infestation in Obbo and Pajok in Magwi County, coordinating efforts with the Ministry of Agriculture. The SSRCS participated in local cluster coordination, where the impact of the locusts was assessed in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and FAO.</p> <p>SSRC raised awareness on the inversion of the locusts that ensured people are aware and hence prepared to chase them away. Assessment teams were deployed across the affected areas, however, these areas had insecurity issues forcing deployed teams to abandon the assessments.</p>		
<b>Challenges</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased insecurity in targeted areas slowed implementation of activities</li> <li>Identification of alternative target locations by ministry of agriculture took long</li> </ul>		
<b>Lessons Learned</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proper mapping of partners responding to the disaster events to avoid delays in substituting with equally vulnerable people.</li> </ul>		

	<p><b>Disaster Risk Reduction</b>  <b>People reached:10,000</b>  Male:4,000  Female: <b>6,000</b></p>	
<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	10,000
<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	10,000
# of community feedback mechanisms established	2	1
# of community feedback comments collected	-	11
<b>Narrative description of achievements</b>		
<p>The following DRR activities were implemented during the intervention:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Training of 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>Conducted 100 Community awareness sessions and mobilization reaching out to targeted 10,000 people. This was done through radio spots and community gatherings.</li> <li>SSRCS collaborated with the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries in the development and conduction of awareness raising sessions, which were carried out in April/May 2021.</li> </ul>		
<b>Challenges</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Insecurity reduced the speed at which the operation was implemented</li> </ul>		
<b>Lessons Learned</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthen coordination of different partners responding to same operation</li> </ul>		

## Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS)



### Livelihoods and basic needs

People reached: 0

Male:0

Female: 0

**Outcome 1** Communities, especially in disaster and crisis affected areas, restore, and strengthen their livelihoods

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of households reached through livelihood support activities.	2100	Cancelled due to lack of funds

**Output 1.1:** 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	By others
# of Market assessment conducted.	3	By others

**Output 1.2:** Household livelihoods security is enhanced through food production, increased productivity, and postharvest management (agriculture-based livelihoods)

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of households reached with crop and pasture seed	3,000	Cancelled due to lack of funds
# of post distribution assessments conducted	3	Cancelled due to lack of funds

### Narrative description of achievements

Due to lack of funds only coordination activities were undertaken within the Livelihoods and basic needs sectors. Funds available were prioritized to community engagement and Disaster Risk Reduction

#### Activity 1.1: Support in monitoring of the evolving food security situation (participation in regional, country and district level analyses), through task forces, working groups and technical forums.

In September 2020, three project start-up meetings were held with district leaders (Chief Administrative Officers, District Production Officers, District Entomologist, Principal Assistant Secretaries) including representatives of the development partners operating within the region involved in the desert locust control (UN FAO, Welt Hunger, ActionAid, Desert locust control Organization – East Africa). The district leaders welcomed Red Cross in the desert locust control and offered all the necessary support as promised. Respective Branch Managers and Focal persons continued to participate in District Disaster Management Committee (DDMC) meetings in Kumi, Katakwi and Amudat districts, which sat on monthly basis to ensure well-coordinated response actions. At National level, the project team participated in Greater horn of Africa monthly update meeting convened by UN FAO on 13th October 2020. (Details of the desert locust situation update shared in the meeting can be found on Locust hub: <https://locust-hub-hqfao.hub.arcgis.com>)

#### Activity 1.2: Conduct Assessment and analysis of Desert Locust (DL) impact on most vulnerable communities and/or groups to identify and support needs in 3 districts

The Food Security and Nutrition Working Group (FSNWG) already conducted a regional Desert Locust impact assessment under the leadership of the FAO in 23 affected districts of Karamoja, Teso, Lango and Acholi sub-regions of Uganda including Amudat, Katakwi and Kumi where URCS had been implementing activities. This assessment used a harmonized approach which data could be used by all partners involved. The assessment established that amongst respondents who currently had crops in their fields or owned livestock, roughly a third experienced Desert Locust-related pasture or crop losses. For impacted households, Desert Locust losses were often quite large. More specifically, roughly half of impacted cropping and livestock-rearing respondents experienced high or very high losses to their crops and rangeland, respectively.

Having had this assessment conducted by FAO, it would not be prudent to conduct another but rather relocating this fund to meet other critical gaps identified, for example the 3 districts of Amudat, Kumi and Katakwi still exhibited information gaps on the assessment findings as this report was not yet disseminated to them. URCS therefore supported the dissemination of this assessment findings in the target districts during the second phase of the Appeal

so that the recommendations were utilized by respective District Local Governments and partners to inform control measures and evidence-based livelihoods support activities.

No market assessment was conducted, as this information was already available through World Food Program (WFP) that implemented cash-based food distribution in Karamoja sub-region. No crop and pasture seeds were procured/distributed to households as earlier planned because the 2nd phase of the project interventions was not subsequently funded, and thus post-distribution assessment could not be conducted.

Similarly, no market assessment was conducted as this information was already profiled, routinely updated and easily accessible from WFP that has been implementing cash-based food aid in Karamoja sub-region for a long time.

**Activity 1.3: Conduct feasibility study to better understand the most effective modality (e.g. cash or in-kind) and mechanisms (e.g. mobile money or commodity vouchers) for delivering the response**

No assessment was conducted because FAO already conducted Livelihoods Impacts Assessment<sup>1</sup> in 23 districts of Uganda, including Amudat, Katakwi and Kumi where URCS implemented community-based interventions. URCS supported the dissemination of these assessment findings in the target districts during the second phase of the Appeal so that the recommendations were utilised by respective District leaderships and partners to inform control measures and evidence-based livelihoods support. However, the information gaps on the assessment findings are still largely felt in the 3 districts of Amudat, Kumi and Katakwi.

**Act 1.4: Document, report and disseminate assessment findings to stakeholders**

No dissemination was conducted by URCS. The URCS could be in better position to support the dissemination of the FSNWG assessment previously conducted as many partners, and district leaders were not aware about the results of these assessments. URCS had expected to be involved by the partner concerned to engage in the dissemination of food security information and reports in the affected districts, but this activity did not progress as it was managed by the partner.

**Activity 1.5: Provision of early livelihood protection (anticipatory actions) such as cash, voucher or in-kind seed support to enable replanting.**

No crop and pasture seeds were procured/distributed to households as earlier planned because the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of the project interventions was not subsequently funded, and thus post-distribution assessment could not be conducted as well.

**Challenges**

- Livelihood interventions that were planned to be implemented during the 2nd phase of the operation were not eventually funded and thus the humanitarian needs remained. This humanitarian gap will leave affected households in the target communities to adopt negative coping mechanisms.
- Occurrence of Desert Locust invasion amidst COVID-19 guidelines that restricted movement of people and need to ensure social distancing as part of Standard Operations Procedures (SoP) established to curb spread of COVID-19 limited the ability of the operation to reach out to large number of people to be sensitised, as community gatherings were not permitted. This affected community outreaches and level of community engagement and sensitizations.
- The triple jeopardy from DL, C-19 and floods increased community vulnerabilities, reduced coping strategies and resilience due to huge impacts on household food security and livelihoods
- Although this is not linked to the invasion of Desert Locust in Uganda, Karamoja sub-region is currently facing acute food insecurity caused by prolonged mid-season dry spelt resulting from erratic rainfalls, with over 30% of the population in 6 districts within the sub-region being food-insecure thus classified as IPC Phase 3 (crisis).<sup>2</sup>

**Lessons Learned**

- Effective country-level coordination of the operation led to an understanding that planned activities like assessment were already implemented by key partners like FAO, thus saving costs and avoiding duplication of efforts.
- Future operations should ensure a wider scope of more sustainable interventions for example training and equipping farmers or farmer groups with spray pumps, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and chemicals that would help them to personally conduct ground spraying of Desert Locusts.

<sup>1</sup>[https://mcusercontent.com/9206ea93bb8c6f35f98cc8ccf/files/65090669-2e24-4c36-a1bf64bd6f5c8468/FSNWG\\_DL\\_ImpactAssessmentR1\\_Final.pdf](https://mcusercontent.com/9206ea93bb8c6f35f98cc8ccf/files/65090669-2e24-4c36-a1bf64bd6f5c8468/FSNWG_DL_ImpactAssessmentR1_Final.pdf)

<sup>2</sup><https://reliefweb.int/report/uganda/uganda-karamoja-ipc-acute-food-insecurity-analysis-march-2021-january-2022-issued-july>



### Disaster Risk Reduction

People reached: 463,100

Male: 250,074

Female: 213,026

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of staff and volunteers trained on CBDRR, CEA and data collection and reporting	60	61
# of surveillance reports submitted	450	387
# of people directly reached through awareness raising (radio, posters etc.)	15,000	463,100
# of staff and volunteers trained in CEA	45	64

#### Narrative description of achievements

##### Act. 1.1.1 Training of 60 staff and volunteers (CBDRR and Red Cross Action Teams RCAT) in data collection and management skills in line with the DL information & data requirements in 3 districts

Total of sixty-one (61) staff and volunteers (21 Females, 40 Males) from Kumi, Katakwi and Amudat districts were trained in Desert Locust data collection and management skills. The 3 training sessions that were facilitated by respective district production Officers and overseen by senior officers from Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industries and Fisheries (MAAIF) and Ministry of Disaster preparedness and Response in the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) delivered theory and practical information on Desert Locusts Biology and Behaviour, Desert Locusts control technology and equipment, Standard Operating Procedures for the desert locusts ground control. These training sessions also integrated the Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) component that equipped the trainees with skills to effectively conduct community mobilization that they immediately embarked on as subsequent follow up activity.

Details of the various category of people trained in each of the target districts is indicated in the table below.

District	Category and No. of persons trained			Total trained
	URCS Volunteers	URCS Branch staff	Agric. extension staff	
Katakwi	15	1	4	20
Kumi	15	1	4	20
Amudat	15	2	4	21
<b>Total trained</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>61</b>

Table 1 showing category of people trained in data management per district.

This has led to the achievement of 102% of target number of 60 staff and volunteers trained. This is because the respective district local government requested for the training to include sub county Agric extension workers so as to promote capacity of the district and sustained programming.



Picture 1: Trained Volunteers demonstrating skills on community-based ground desert locust control method through use of motorised knapsack ground spray.

With these, the trained team were equipped with right knowledge and skills to train 1,027 other staff and volunteers, including farmer groups, community leaders and household members (511 males and 516 females) who were sensitized on how to correctly identify the presence of desert locusts in respective areas and take suitable community-based control actions as well as observe safety from spray chemicals.

District	Sub county	Total number of people reached		
		Males	Females	Totals
1. Katakwi	Magoro	156	48	204
	Palam	55	90	145
2. Kumi	Ongino	84	97	181
	Kumi	87	126	213
3. Amudat	Amudat	72	84	156
	Loroo	57	71	128
<b>Total trained</b>		<b>511</b>	<b>516</b>	<b>1,027</b>

Table 2 Showing number of people reached in surveillance and data management per district.

#### Act 1.1.2 Training of 60 staff & volunteers (comm volunteers /CBDRR) for regular surveillance and reporting on locusts in 3 districts

Sixty-four (64) staff and volunteers composed of 43 male and 21 female participants from Kumi, Katakwi and Amudat districts were trained in Desert Locusts surveillance and reporting skills. The training sessions were facilitated by respective District Production Officers and overseen by senior officers from Food and Agricultural Organization (UN FAO), Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industries and Fisheries (MAAIF) and Ministry of Disaster preparedness and Response in the Office of the Minister (OPM). The hands-on skills on the use of e-Locust Phone App also covered other topics, including Standard Operating Procedures for desert locust ground survey, Desert Locusts Survey, Pesticide Formulation use and safety, Installation guidelines for the desert locust tool and actual installation of the tool to participants smart phones, as well as practical use of the e-Locust Phone Applications. Details of the various category of people trained in each of the target districts is indicated in the table below:

District	Category and No. of persons trained			Total trained
	URCS Volunteers	URCS Branch staff	Agric. extension staff	
Katakwi	15	2	4	21
Kumi	15	1	4	20
Amudat	15	3	4	22
URCS HQ	0	1	0	01
<b>Total trained</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>64</b>

Table 3: showing category of people trained in DL Surveillance & eLocust3m App. per district.

This has led to the achievement of 107% of target number trained. This is because prior to the URCS training activities, staff and volunteers were separately trained as Trainers by FAO on the DL surveillance and application of eLocustm3 Apps. These trainings were conducted in Soroti and Moroto districts for various district officials and NGO partners operating in the Karamoja Teso and Acholi sub-regions.



Picture 2: Representative of MAAIF presiding over the official closing ceremony of training of volunteers in Katakwi district.

**Act 1.1.3 Community awareness on the pesticide effects and local protection measures, community actions, advisories through posters, radio talk shows and radio messaging in 3 districts**

463,100 people comprising of 277,860 females and 185,240 males were reached by community radio talk shows and spot messages in the three districts of Kumi, Katakwi and Amudat.

District entomologist together with Chief Administrative Officers and resident district commissioners conducted the radio talk shows. Two hours were scheduled for each district radio talk show since it involved the presentation of desert locust information to the public and giving time for listeners to call asking questions.

The issues raised by the public were majorly on how the government of Uganda is prepared to handle the effects of spray since the effects of the spray has affected honey production for the case of Amudat district which used to produce a lot of honey for sale. The bees were killed by insecticide, which was used by army to spray the desert locusts. Another issue raised by community was the limited coverage (two sub counties per district) by URCS intervention and yet the desert locusts affected all the sub counties. Since the Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF) conducted the spraying and the communities were sensitized on the danger of the pesticides, some people ended up collecting and eating the desert locust, which affected some of them, and four death cases were reported due to the pesticide effects. Some animals also died from the effects of chemicals that mixed with pond water points for the animals. Birds like chicken and other domestic ones died as well due to eating the dead desert locusts were sprayed by the task force. Another issue was what livelihood options the Government of Uganda and Humanitarian organizations have planned for the household which were affected by both desert locusts and floods especially in Teso.



Uganda Red Cross staff, district political leaders and technical officers from Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industries and Fisheries (MAAIF) participating in live phone-in radio talk show in Amudat district

The target was 15,000 people. However, the community preferred the use radio for interactive sessions which in turn reached a wider audience. Details of the various category of people reached by Radio talk show and spot messages in each of the target districts is indicated in the table below.

District	Total number of people reached		
	Males	Females	Totals
Katakwi	73,800	110,700	184,500
Kumi	54,120	81,180	135,300
Amudat	57,320	85,980	143,300
<b>Total trained</b>	<b>185,240</b>	<b>277,860</b>	<b>463,100</b>

Table 4 Showing number of people indirectly reached in through Radio talk show and spot messages per district.

#### Community awareness on the pesticide effects and local protection measures, community actions, advisories through posters, radio talks shows and radio messaging

Since the start of a cumulative total of 2, 573 (1,391 males and 1,182 females) people were reached with DL awareness and safety information in six sub-counties of the three implementation districts of Kumi, Amudat and Katakwi by the trained volunteers. Details of the various category of people reached in each of the target districts is indicated in the table below.

District	Sub county	Total number of people reached		
		Males	Females	Totals
<b>Cumulative total to date</b>	Magoro & Palam in Katakwi district, Ongino & Kumi in Kumi district as well as Amudat & Loro in Amudat district	<b>1,391</b>	<b>1,182</b>	<b>2,573</b>

Table 5 showing number of directly people reached with Desert Locust awareness information in 6 sub-counties.

#### Act 1.1.4 Distribution of IEC and RC visibility materials (Posters and T shirts)

One hundred (100) T-shirts printed with Desert Locust surveillance message, as well as other visibility materials and volunteers' protective gears were centrally procured, delivered to the field, and distributed to volunteers, staff, and Agricultural extension workers during the month of January 2021. The primary objectives of the IEC and Visibility materials were to provide safety to the Volunteers and the Branch Focal Persons at ground level who are carrying out the activity of the desert locust in the different branches, provide visibility of the IFRC and URCS activities at the community level to differentiate with other community members, as well as help propagate/disseminate the desert locusts information to the public especially on safety measures. The IEC and RC visibility materials were distributed as shown on the table below:

sno	Item	Kumi	Katakwi	Amudat	Total
1.	Umbrellas	15	20	15	50
2.	Gumboots	15	20	15	50
3.	T-Shirts	35	35	30	100

4.	Overalls	15	20	15	50
5.	Red Cross Jackets	15	20	15	50
6.	Head Caps	30	35	35	100
7.	Posters	60	70	70	200

Table 6: showing distribution of volunteers' protective gears, visibility material and IEC



Red Cross Volunteers done their visibility materials and protective gears ready for community engagement in a safe and identifiable manner

#### Act 1.1.5 Conduct awareness raising through door to door, FGD and Farmer association/groups in 3 districts

The 45-trained volunteers conducted house-to-house public awareness and risk communications activities as well as focused-group meetings with farmer groups in Kumi, Katakwi and Amudat districts to disseminate information about DL, as well as safety information related to chemicals used in the DL control interventions. By time end of the operation, 1,027 persons composed of 511 males and 516 females in 6 sub-counties of the 3 implementing districts were so far reached by these volunteers. However, volunteers' community outreach work has been hampered by incidences of increased rainfalls and floods events, which limited their access to certain communities. This safety information dissemination led to lower risks of contamination and exposure to pesticide and residual effects of the aerial and ground control operations

#### Act 1.1.6 Training of 36 staff and volunteers in CEA and integrating CEA in program activities in 3 districts

Total of fifty-eight (58) staff and volunteers (21 Females: 37 Males) from Kumi, Katakwi and Amudat districts have been trained in Desert locust Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) skills. The 3 training sessions were facilitated by URCS community engagement and Accountability program officer and the trainings were overseen by Manager – Emergency Preparedness and Response, Partners for Resilience program Officer and senior officers from district local governments of Kumi, Katakwi and Amudat District local Government. These training sessions will enable the volunteers to integrate the Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) component that they have been equipped with skills to effectively conduct community mobilization that they immediately embarked on as subsequent follow up activity. Details of the various category of people trained in each of the target districts is indicated in the table below:

District	Category and No. of persons trained			Total trained
	URCS Volunteers	URCS Branch staff	Agric. extension staff	
Katakwi	15	1	4	20
Kumi	15	1	4	20
Amudat	15	1	2	18
<b>Total trained</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>58</b>

Table 7: showing category of people trained in in CEA and integrating CEA in program activities

#### Act 1.1.7 Conduct regular community surveillance, monitoring and reporting of locust movements

After training on e-Locust software, volunteers continued to submit surveillance information for suspected presence of locust in the communities via the KOBO platform. During the reporting period, 387 alerts were submitted through the platform, with none of them validated as confirmed presence of locust.

District	# of alerts submitted
1. Katakwi	187
2. Kumi	113
3. Amudat	87
<b>Total</b>	<b>387</b>

Table 8: Total number of alerts submitted by community-based volunteers in the 3 project districts

**Act 1.1.8 Reactivate, reorient/ train 75 CBDRR and VHTs in development and implementation of community action plans in 3 districts.**

75 community-based volunteers in the 6 target sub-counties in Kumi, Katakwi and Amudat districts were oriented on how to support communities to draft DL preparedness and response plans, based on the potential risks of new invasions. These plans are now being validated through community consultative process and will be disseminated to a wider community for implementation by individual households, under technical guidance of agricultural extension officer.

**Act 1.1.9 Facilitate the development of DDMCs DL plans of action for 3 districts.**

With technical support of the Ministry of Disaster Preparedness and Refugee in the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), three workshops were facilitated to develop Multi-hazard District Contingency Plans in the respective districts of Kumi, Katakwi and Amudat. Common hazards often affecting the districts, including crop pest (including Desert Locust) and animal diseases were identified, prioritized, and planned for. All the three districts have gone through the process of contingency planning and have drafts awaiting final review by the respective District Executive Committees and District Councils with final signoff as final documents. The main challenge was limited budgets support to cover sufficient time of a comprehensive Contingency Planning process since the three days allocated for the activity was not adequate to have final documents produced. This means, future occurrence of such hazards, including new invasions from Desert Locust shall be well managed in a coordinated manner.

**Act 1.1.10 Participation in planning meeting with stakeholders at National, sub regional and district levels (Desert Locust working groups/ task forces) in 3 districts**

In September 2020, three project start-up meetings were held with district leaders (Chief Administrative Officers, District Production Officers, District Entomologist, Principal Assistant Secretaries) including representatives of the development partners operating within the region involved in the desert locust control (UN FAO, Welt Hunger, ActionAid, Desert locust control Organization – East Africa). The district leaders welcomed Red Cross in the desert locust control and promised to offer all the necessary support. In the subsequent months, URCS routinely participated in the District Disaster Management Committee (DDMC) meetings

At National level, the project team participated in Greater horn of Africa monthly virtual updates meeting convened by FAO on Tuesday, 10 October 2020<sup>3</sup>, 13th October 2020, and subsequent Locust briefings held on Tuesday, 17 November 2020, (details of the desert locust situation update shared in the meeting can be found on Locust hub: <https://locust-hub-hqfao.hub.arcgis.com>)

**Act 1.1.11 Establishment of CEA feed mechanism in three districts**

Apart from the training, which was conducted, implementing organization has not yet installed feedback mechanisms to the respective district since URCS is consulting with the district officials the best suitable mechanisms to be used. Plans are underway to procure tool-free telephone line and widely disseminate the number for the public to reach out with relevant feedback and necessary inquiries.

**Challenges**

- The number of community-based volunteers was small, compared to the wide geographical area to cover. This reduced their ability to enlist a stronger engagement in risk communication and DL surveillance in the target high-risk communities.
- While District Disaster Management Coordination (DDMC) systems are in place, many of the target districts have not been frequently experiencing crisis events thus having limited coordination experiences. This was evident by that fact that when the operation was launched, URCS established that some of Districts lacked multi-hazard Contingency Plans or possessed one which was outdated and thus were not able to facilitate effective coordination systems nor mobilise adequate resources to support preparedness, response and recovery actions for affected persons/households
- Vehicle running/mileage costs became high against limited budget due to wider geographical operation areas.
- Access to media information in Amudat district is limited due to the fact that the most accessible and reliable radio stations are located far in the neighbouring country of Kenya which could not be accessed due to border closure caused by COVID-19 travel restrictions, as well as limitation to contract/tender as the station is not prequalified in the Uganda Red Cross list of suppliers. This required close cross-border collaboration and networking with the Kenya Red Cross Society, but was later managed through integration of the Government of Uganda tender listing which permitted contracting of such firms under special circumstances
- Lack of airtime and mobile phone data to sustain volunteers' activities of monitoring and submission of surveillance data through the e-Locust platform limited the frequency of data submission and general surveillance actions.

<sup>3</sup> <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tjcauurazqgHNMWwfyf-6lvJ0utA8SscKP> Meeting ID: 937 1235 3067

- The District Production Officers reported that the e-Locust platform and general information about Desert Locust had recently been updated which required refresher training of community-based volunteers, but since there was no additional budget to support this training, the volunteers were not updated on the new version of the software. This affected their continuity to submit surveillance data through the platform.
- Restricted movement and curfews established to curb the spread of COVID-19 infections directly affected volunteers' field activities, as they had to work only within limited geographical environments to find time to return early after community outreach activities. This reduced on the extent of reach to community members, especially those remotely located in extreme ends of the target sub-counties.
- Occurrence of heavy rains and flooding, especially in Katakwi and Kumi districts affected volunteers' field outreach activities as they remained exposed to these weather extremes that limited their extent of home visits. This flooding event as well posed a double jeopardy to the farmer households whose crops were at first, partly destroyed by the Desert Locust swarm and later the floods waters washed all that remained away.

#### Lessons Learned

- Being the first type of crisis managed by Uganda Red Cross Society ever since the first DL invasion in the 1960s, this operation strengthened URCS' capacities in Desert Locust surveillance, reporting, rapid response and pesticide safety awareness. This was through the skills transfer from technical staff of Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industries & Fisheries (MAAIF), Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) and respective District Local Governments. This provided residual cadre of community volunteers experienced and ready to provide rapid response in future desert locust invasions.
- In addition, the operation strengthened URCS' engagement in national, district and community level coordination mechanisms through involvement and participation in District Disaster Management Committee (DDMC) meetings, joint trainings in Locust surveillance systems and coordination meeting.
- Besides, the technical assistance provided to the three project District Local Governments of Kumi, Katakwi and Amudat assisted them to have District Contingency Plans that is subsequently facilitating effective preparedness and coordination activities as and when they continue to face multiple emergencies/crisis events like floods, COVID-19 pandemic, prolonged dry spelt/drought, crop pests and diseases; including potential new invasions from Desert Locust in a more coordinated manner.

## ENABLING ACTIONS

### Strengthening National Societies

**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**

Indicators	Target	Actual
% of staff acknowledging improvements in its management system	75%	Overall survey not carried out

**Output: NS has effective and motivated volunteers who are protected**

Indicators	Target	Actual
% of volunteers who are adequately trained and insured	100%	100%

#### Narrative description of achievements

National Society volunteers were the front-line of this operation, and attention was given to ensure the technical relevance of their work with methodologies adapted to the context and volunteers' skills. Duty of care was a particularly important component, taking in consideration the additional risks by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Volunteers were trained and sensitized on rules of social distancing, hygiene promotion and use of protective equipment while performing the activities. This knowledge was also shared with communities where these volunteers were engaged. Furthermore, proper insurance was provided to assure that volunteers could access appropriate health care if required.

### Strengthening Coordination and Accountability

**Outcome 1: Effective and coordinated international disaster response is ensured**

Indicators	Target	Actual
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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	5
% of branches with feedback mechanisms	100%	100%
<b>Narrative description of achievements</b>		
<p>The target for the response was the five affected countries and corresponding National Societies: Ethiopia; Kenya; Somalia; South Sudan; Uganda.</p> <p>The community engagement approach was 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, was undertaken to strengthen ongoing National Society preparedness activities.</p> <p>Additionally, IFRC actively participated 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, was articulated on this platform to shape/reshape community level locust management approaches and well as underline messaging. Translation of key messages was also undertaken through the collective support on this coordination platform.</p> <p>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 was provided to National Societies to undertake community learning sessions to identify the lessons learnt and best practices that can be adopted into current and future DRR programming/projects.</p>		
<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%	100%
% of security assessments carried out and updated	100%	100%
<b>Narrative description of achievements</b>		
<p>The IFRC Regional and Cluster PMER (Planning Monitoring Evaluation and Reporting) units ensured compliance with expected deliverables and reporting requirements. The PMER units provided 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 worked 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 contributed 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 supported PMER teams in the countries to create/strengthen data management systems to support data collection, analysis, and reporting of project indicators. This included 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 were adopted. This included 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 provided 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**

Indicators	Target	Actual
# of advocacy and lobbying initiatives carried out	5	5
<b>Output 1.1: IFRC and NS are visible, trusted, and effective advocates on humanitarian issues</b>		
Indicators	Target	Actual
# of external communications activities undertaken	5	5
# of social media platforms active	5	5
<b>Narrative description of achievements</b>		

The Emergency Appeal contributed to fostering partnerships with key lead organizations, 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 linked with the national and sub-regional strategies to influence humanitarian ways of work, as well as articulating the voices of the targeted communities.

### ERCS

- ERCS coordinated 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 were 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.
- KRCS worked with the Food and Agriculture Organization in the assessment of desert locusts impacts in 16 Counties that informed the efficacy of previous desert locusts control efforts, the impact on livelihoods, documentation and recommendation for livelihood recovery interventions
- Completion of 2 assessments for Turkana and Marsabit counties, 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 was concluded with key mapping of stakeholders and their roles, community engagements through interviews on desert locusts operations by partners.

### SSRCS

- The SSRCS coordinated 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.

### SRCS

- 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 mobilization.
- Training of volunteers on community mobilization, 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 produced content to support the objectives of this Emergency Appeal, with 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 gathered included audio-visuals materials, interviews, and written content 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%	65%
<b>Narrative description of achievements</b>		

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

**D. Financial Report**

The Appeal was launched with a funding request of 1,8million Swiss francs. Income to the Appeal is 279,105 Swiss francs and a DREF loan of CHF 350,000, the coverage of the Appeal was 16%. As per the financial report attached, the operation was closed with a zero balance and CHF 5,685 was returned to the DREF pot.

## Contact information

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

### In the National Society

#### Ethiopian Red Cross Society:

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#### Somali Red Crescent Society:

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

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### In the IFRC

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### For IFRC Resource Mobilization and Pledges support:

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### 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
- Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA)

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## 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.

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**Saving lives, changing minds.**



The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace