

**SITREP.04.04****SITUATION REPORT ON EMERGENCY  
TRANSBOUNDARY OUTBREAK PESTS  
(ETOPS) FOR APRIL WITH A  
FORECAST TILL MID-JUNE 2004****SUMMARY**

1. **Summary:** This report provides an update on the situation of emergency transboundary outbreak pests (ETOPs) in April with a forecast till mid-June 2004 in the various outbreak and invasion areas in Africa, the Middle-East, and Central and Southwest Asia. The report covers locusts, grasshoppers, armyworm and grain-eating *Quelea* birds. A brief overview on the status of each of these pests for the month is outlined in the remainder of this summary and detailed accounts with a six-week forecast are provided thereafter.

**DESERT LOCUST, *Schistocerca gregaria*  
(FORSKAL)**

2. **The desert locust, *Schistocerca gregaria* (Forsk.)**, situation continued to further deteriorate in Mauritania, Morocco and Algeria in April. Swarms that have reached the southern part of the Atlas Mountains in Morocco and northern and northwestern Algeria have laid eggs and begun giving rise to hopper in several places. Aggressive control operations treated close to 300,000 ha in Morocco in April bringing the total areas treated since the beginning of the current campaign to more than 924,000 ha. Similar activities were undertaken in Algeria where more than 205,000 ha were treated in April. Some swarms that moved

east into western Libya further developed and controlled on some 10,000 ha. Locust swarms were seen causing damage to crops and pasture in northern Mauritania. While reporting critical shortages of pesticides and lack of resources, Mauritania was able to treat close to 13,000 ha in April, which brings the total areas treated since October 03 to more than 320,500 ha. The country is still soliciting additional external support to keep the locusts under control and avoid further threats in the coming months.

Control operations were also conducted in April against hoppers and adults on 1,500 ha in Niger where shortages of resources have severely hampered operations. Hoppers were treated on some 600 ha in the River Nile and Northern State, Sudan, on 43 ha in southern Egypt and on more than 1,000 ha in Saudi Arabia. The situation in the other outbreak areas remained relatively calm during the month. **USAID/OFDA has recently contributed an additional 500,000 USD in support of the locust campaign operations in Morocco and Mauritania. This brings the Agency's total contributions to the locust operations in northwestern and western Africa to more than 1.56 million USD.**

3. **Forecast:** More locusts will be seen in northern Mauritania, eastern and northeastern Morocco, eastern, northern and northwestern Algeria, western Libya, and possibly western Tunisia, northeastern Sudan, and southern Egypt during the forecast period. It is likely that some of the locusts in northern Mauritania, eastern Morocco and Algeria could begin moving south into the Sahel during and after the forecast period and further develop and pose threats in the summer cropping season. Some locusts from northwestern Africa may also begin moving south into

**Chad and east into western Sudan, including Darfur Province. If and when that happens, the locusts could begin breeding undisturbed, given the prevailing situation in the area and could worsen during the summer cropping season. Assistance provided now will certainly minimize threats to the regional food security and agricultural production and avoid a potential economic impact.**

#### OTHER LOCUSTS AND GRASSHOPPERS

4. **Red locust, *Nomadacris septemfasciata* (Surville):** The red locust populations reported in March in the Iku-Katavi and Rukwa Valley outbreak areas, Tanzania, persisted throughout April. The situation in the other outbreak areas in Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia remained relatively calm during the month. Small swarms and concentrates will likely appear in a few places in the Iku-Katavi plains, Wembere plains, Malagarasi basin and Rukwa Valley in Tanzania once grass burning commences in late June. The other outbreak areas will likely remain calm during the forecast period.

5. **Brown locust, *Locusta pardalina* (Walker):** A late received report indicated that gregarious hopper bands of brown locust, *Locusta pardalina* (Walker), were controlled in Marydale and Kenhardt districts, South Africa during the last week of March. No report was received in April.

6. **Madagascar migratory locust, *Locusta migratoria capito* (L.).** No report was received on the Madagascar migratory locust in April.

7. **African migratory locust, *Locusta migratoria migratorioedes* and others.** No

report was received on the African migratory locusts in April.

Adults and nymphs of Sudan Plague Locusts, *Aiolopus simulatrix simulatrix*, were seen in March feeding on wild oats and *Rottaboellia exaltata* (a common weed) in some 190 ha in the Western and Eastern parts of the Bahi Valley, Tanzania in March.

8 ***Zonocerus variegatus* (L)**, the variegated grasshopper is being reported from Senegal in Nioro and other regions. The pest was seen attacking vegetables and fruits. No reports were received on *Oedaleus senegalensis* (Krauss) (OES), the Senegalese grasshopper in April.

9. ***Doclostaurus maroccanus*, Moroccan locus:** Control campaign was carried out in April against the Moroccan locust, in Kunduz, Baghlan, Samanghan and Balkh Provinces, Afghanistan. The campaign was launched by the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry with the help of FAO and assistance from GOAL, USAID, Norway, Switzerland, and Belgian. No locusts were reported from the other countries in Central Asia and it is likely that they are still in recession due to the cold and wet spring.

10. **Armyworm, *Spodoptera exempta* (Walker).** Armyworm outbreaks were reported on maize, sorghum and pasture in Kilimanjaro region in April where control operations were launched by the affected farmers. Outbreaks were also reported in Eastern province, Coast province, Rift Valley province and Central province, Kenya. It is likely that the pest will persist in northern Tanzania, central and north-central Kenya during the forecast period.

11. **Quelea quelea (L).** Quelea birds were seen and controlled on some 850 ha in Dodoma and Shinyanga Regions Tanzania by the DLCO-EA. Quelea birds were also seen and controlled in Kisumu and Nyanza Provinces, Kenya by DLCO-EA. Quelea and other grain eating birds are likely to further breed and pose a problem to small grain cereal growers in Kenya and Tanzania.

13. **ETOPs in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC).** No report was received on ETOPs from LAC countries in April. No forecast is being made due to a lack of sufficient information. **End of summary.**

#### ENVIRONMENTAL SITUATION: WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS

13. Light to medium and at times heavy rain fell in several places in the spring breeding areas south of the Atlas Mountains in Morocco, Algeria, southern Tunisia and western Libya. As a result breeding conditions continued to be favorable over most of these areas. Conditions were also favorable in Western Sahara, northern Mauritania, and eastern Air Mountains, Niger. Dry conditions persisted in northern Mali.

14. Moderate to heavy rain fell in the interior of the Arabian Peninsula and light rains were recorded along the Red Sea coasts of Saudi Arabia, Yemen, and parts of Oman. Northern Kordofan, Northern Red Sea and Northern States, Sudan received light rain in April. Heavy rains were reported in eastern Ethiopia, Djibouti, and northwestern Somalia. Heavy cloud cover and light rains were reported in Eritrea.

15. The Eastern region spring breeding areas remained fairly dry and unfavorable in April.

16. Heavy rains continued to fall in the southern and northern highlands as well as the lake regions, Tanzania. The coastal and southwestern parts of the country received light to moderate rain in April. Central Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Mozambique, and Swaziland received light to heavy rain in late March into April. Other red and brown locust outbreak areas received very light to no rain during the month.

#### DESERT LOCUST ACTIVITIES

17. **Western and Northwestern Africa Outbreak Region: The desert locust, *Schistocerca gregaria* (Forsk.)**, situation continued to further deteriorate in Mauritania, Morocco and Algeria in April. Swarms have reached the southern parts of the Atlas Mountains in Morocco and northern and northwestern Algeria where egg laying and hoper developments have been sighted. Aggressive control operations treated more than 300,000 ha in Morocco in April bringing the total areas treated since the beginning of the current campaign to close to 924,000 ha. Similar activities were also launched in Algeria where more than 205,000 ha were sprayed in April. Some swarms that moved east into western Libya further developed and controlled on some 10,000 ha. Locust swarms were also seen causing severe damage to crops and pasture in northern Mauritania where reports of nomads have been forced to relocate in search of pasture. Despite the critical shortage of pesticides and lack of resources, Mauritania was able to treat some 13,000 ha during the month. The country is still looking for additional support to keep the locusts under control over the next two to three months. **USAID/OFDA has just contributed an additional 500,000 USD in support of the locust campaign operations**

in northwestern Africa bringing the Agency's total contribution to date to more than 1.56 million USD. Control operations treated 1,500 ha in Niger where lack of resources is reported to have greatly hampered further operations. The situation in the other outbreak countries in the central and western region invasion and outbreak areas remained relatively calm during the month.

**18. Forecast: More locusts will be seen in northern Mauritania, eastern and northeastern Morocco, northern and northwestern Algeria, western Tunisia and Libya during the forecast period. It is likely that some of these locusts could begin moving south into the Sahel where they could further develop and cause serious threat to agricultural production in the region in the coming months. It is important that vigilant survey and control operations are implemented to mitigate further deterioration and reduce the possibility of a major upsurge in the coming months.**

**19. Eastern Africa, Northeastern Africa, and the Near East Outbreak Region: Hopper bands of various densities and sizes were seen in a number of places in the Northern State and the Rive Nile provinces, Sudan where control operations were carried out against hoppers on some 600 ha. Some locusts were seen laying eggs in southern Egypt where they were treated on some 43 ha. Hoppers and fledglings were treated on some 1,000 ha in the Red Sea coasts of Saudi Arabia.** The situation remained clam in April in the other central region outbreak countries.

**20. Forecast: It is possible that some of the untreated locusts from northwestern and**

**northern Africa will begin moving south into the Sahel, including Chad and east into western Sudan. If and when that happens, the locusts could begin breeding undisturbed due to the current situation in the region and possibly give rise to more swarms that could invade crops and pasture in the summer season.**

21. The Eastern outbreak region remained dry and only low density scattered adults and hoppers were seen in the spring breeding areas in Baluchistan along the Iran-Pakistan border in April.

22. Forecast: Significant activities are not expected during the forecast period.

#### **OTHER LOCUST AND GRASSHOPPER ACTIVITIES**

23. **Red locust, *Nomadacris septemfasciata* (Surville):** A late received report indicated the presence of red locusts in Botswana, Namibia, and Tanzania in March. In Tanzania the red locust was seen and controlled in Iku-Katavi outbreak areas. A mixture of hoppers and fledglings Locusts were also seen in Isimba plains in North Rukwa outbreak and controlled using 400 litres of Fenitrothion 96%. No locusts were reported from the other outbreak areas in Zambia, Malawi and Mozambique during in March. The locust populations that were reported in Iku-Katavi and Rukwa Valley outbreak areas, Tanzania, persisted in April. The situation was calm in the other outbreak areas in Lake Chilwa plains, Malawi, Buzi-Gorongosa plains, Mozambique, Wembere plains, Tanzania, and the Kafue Flats in Zambia remained relatively calm.

24. **Forecast:** Grass burning in the Red Locust outbreak areas is likely to begin in late June. This will create concentrations of adult locusts

and could give rise to small swarms and dense populations in the Iku-Katavi plains, Wembere plains, Malagarasi basin and Rukwa Valley in Tanzania. The other outbreak areas will likely remain fairly calm during the forecast period.

**25. Brown locust, *Locustnaa pardalina*., (Walker):** A late received report indicated that some 34 bands of 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> instar gregarious hopper bands of brown locust were seen and controlled during the last week of March in Marydale and Kenhardt districts, Northern Cape Province, South Africa. No additional information was received at the time this report was compiled.

**26. Madagascar migratory locust, *L. migratoria capito* (L.).** No report was received on the Madagascar migratory locust in April.

**27. African migratory locust, *Locusta migratoria migratorioides*.** No report was received on the African migratory locust, *Locusta migratoria migratorioides*, or tree locust, *Anacridium melanorhodon* in April. A late received report indicated that an infestation of adults and nymphs Sudan Plague Locusts (*Aiolopus simulatrix simulatrix*) covering a total area of 190 ha was located on the Western and Eastern parts of the Bahi Valley in Tanzania feeding on wild oats and *Rottaboellia exaltata* (a common weed) in March. No further information was received at the time this report was compiled.

**28. *Zonocerus variegatus* (L), the variegated grasshopper** is being reported from Senegal in Nioro and other regions. The pest was seen attacking vegetables and fruits. No reports were received on *Oedaleus senegalensis* (Krauss) (OES), the Senegalese grasshopper in April. It is likely that ZVA

will continue appearing and OSE will begin developing during the forecast period.

**29. Moroccan locust, *Doclostaurus maroccanus*.** The locust season in Afghanistan has begun. Campaign operations were carried out against the Moroccan locust, *Doclostaurus maroccanus* in April in northern Afghanistan covering the provinces of Kunduz, Baghlan, Samanghan and Balkh. The locusts are controlled using pesticides and the operation is launched by the Plant Protection and Quarantine Department (PPQD) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry with the technical, application and safety equipment, pesticides, and/or logistical and transportation support from the UN/FAO, an NGO GOAL, USAID's, Rebuilding Agricultural Markets, the Governments of Norway and Switzerland, and The Belgian Air Force. The Italian locust, *Calliptamus italicus* (L), or migratory locust, *Locusta migratoria migratoria* activities in Central Asia are still in recession due to the cold and wet spring season. AELGA will continue monitoring the situation in collaboration with its partners at the FAO's Migratory Pest Unit, GTZ and others and issue updates as necessary.

**30. Forecast:** It is likely that locust activities in Afghanistan will continue well into the forecast period. Some locust activities (Italian locust *C. italicus* (L) and the *D. maroccanus* will likely begin appearing in Central Asia during the forecast period.

**31. Note: The Afghanistan Plant Protection and Quarantine Department was able to carry out limited survey and control operations with the assistance of the UN/FAO and donors. However, shortage of technical and material resources will continue impeding its capacity to carry out full-scale and regular survey and**

**monitoring as well as organizing and launching control operations. Thus, it is likely that external assistance will continue to play a significant role in PPQD's efforts to implement effective locust campaign in this country for quite sometime.**

### ARMYWORM ACTIVITIES

#### 32. Armyworm, *S. exempta* (Walker).

A late received report indicated that armyworm outbreaks occurred on pasture in Narok, Nandi, Machakos, Taita-Taveta and Makueni districts, the Rift Valley Province, Kenya in March and controlled by farmers with the help of the Ministry of Agriculture.

Armyworm outbreaks were also reported in eastern Swaziland on pasture and in Bulawayo and Harare Districts, Zimbabwe where the pest was controlled on some 2080 ha of maize and pasture. Armyworm outbreaks were reported on maize, sorghum and pasture in Kilimanjaro region in April where control operations were launched by the affected farmers. Outbreaks were also reported in Machakos, Makueni districts of Eastern province, Taita-Taveta in Coast province, Kajiado in Rift Valley province and Kiambu in Central province. No report was received from the other outbreak countries in April.

33. Forecast: It is likely that armyworm outbreak will persist in northern Tanzania, central and north-central Kenya.

### QUELEA BIRD ACTIVITIES

#### 34. Red-billed quelea, *Quelea quelea* (L.).

A late received report indicated that significant quelea activities occurred in Botswana, South Africa, Tanzania, and Kenya in March. In Tanzania, the bird was seen and controlled in Shinyanga, Tabora Region (Iguma), Dodoma Region ((Dodoma) and Mara Region and in

Kenya it was reported and controlled on sorghum, pasture, and rice crops in Nyanza Province. In April, quelea birds were seen and controlled in Dodoma and Shinyanga Regions Tanzania on some 850 ha by the DLCO-EA in collaboration with MOAFS. Quelea was also seen threatening rice crops in Kisumu and Nyanza Provinces, Kenya where control operation was launched by the DLCO-EA on some 270 ha.

35. Forecast: Quelea activities are likely to continue in Shinyanga, Dodoma and Morogor Regions, Tanzania. Mozambique, South Africa, Ethiopia, Sudan, Kenya, Zimbabwe and other outbreak counties may also experience some quelea activities during the forecast period.

36. **ETOPs in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC).** No report was received on ETOPs from LAC countries in April. No forecast is being made due to a lack of sufficient information.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

37. Favorable ecological conditions persisted in several locations in Mauritania, Morocco, Algeria, Niger and a few places in northern Sudan and southern Egypt. Control interventions have been going on against the locust invasions for several months, but have severely hampered due to lack of resources by affected countries. **Locusts that have moved into the spring breeding areas have laid eggs and hoppers have started developing in most of these places. This is likely to continue and give rise to more swarms during the coming months.** Given the fragility of the ETOP ecosystems, a slight shift in the externalities, such as end of drought, could trigger pest proliferation and significantly offset the already precarious food

security in most of the ETOP-prone countries. Hence, regular survey, monitoring, reporting and aggressive and coordinated control interventions can avert any undesirable consequence.

**38. The Assistance for Emergency Locust/Grasshopper Abatement project (AELGA), formerly known as Africa Emergency Locust/Grasshopper Assistance under the USAID's Bureau for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance (DCHA), Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA), continue monitoring ETOP situations in close collaboration with its partners, including the UN/FAO-MPU and EMPRES Regional Programs, DLCO-EA, IRLCO-CSA, host-country counterparts, etc. and provide assistance and updates.**

#### **ACTION BEING REQUESTED**

39. USAID field Missions with portfolios on food security, agriculture, environment, and conflict are solicited to encourage host country counterparts to send us updates on ETOPs. FEWS field personnel are solicited to share with us information they may obtain on ETOP activities. Regional organizations with ETOP mandates and host country partners are kindly requested to send us their updates by the last day of the reporting month or within the first two days of the forecasting months. **Reports and/or information on ETOPs and related activities are warmly welcome and appreciated.**

**Please, forward reports, updates, questions, and/or requests to: Dr. Yene T. Belayneh: [ybelayneh@ofda.net](mailto:ybelayneh@ofda.net) FAX: 202-347-0315; Phone: 202-661-9374 (USA)**

#### **40. LINKS AND INFORMATION**

**For more information on the weather conditions, you may visit the following web sites:**

<http://www.fews.net/>

<http://www.fao.org/giews/english/giewse.htm>

**For more information on ETOP activities and related issues, you may visit:**

<http://www.fao.org/news/global/locusts/Locuhome.htm>

<http://www-web.gre.ac.uk/directory/NRI/quel/>

<http://icosamp.ecoport.org/>

<http://www.fao.org/EMPRES/default.htm>

- **TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR ACTIVITIES, PLEASE, VISIT US AT OUR WEB SITE: [WWW.AELGA.NET](http://WWW.AELGA.NET)**

#### **UPCOMING EVENT**

 **Pesticide Stewardship Networking Workshop, Tanzania**

**For more information please, contact: Dr. Yene T. Belayneh**

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