



Madagascar Locust Crisis

FACTS



Locust plague
since April 2012



Livelihoods of 13 million people threatened
9 million depend on agriculture



Time critical support
funding needed now to start the 2014/15 locust campaign on time, in September 2014

RESPONSE

Three consecutive locust campaigns needed to return to a locust recession

Human Health and Environmental Plan is being implemented with key partners

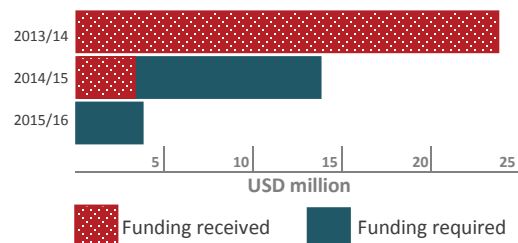
Locust Watch Unit: analyses locust situation and documents results of survey and control operations:

- 10-day bulletins
- Monthly bulletins

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

Programme budget: USD 42.9 million

Funding gap: USD 14.7 million



LOCUST SITUATION

The dry and cool season is coming to an end; temperatures started increasing during the last week of August but the weather and ecological conditions are still unsuitable for locust breeding. However, these higher air temperatures allowed remaining swarms to move more actively and for more hours every day, i.e. to fly over longer distances. As a consequence, a swarm flew over the capital, Antananarivo, on 28 August. This widely broadcasted spectacular and unusual event does not undermine the positive results of the first campaign, whose objective of halting the plague was reached; indeed, no further extension of the plague towards the eastern or northern parts of the country occurred during the 2013/14 locust campaign, the main cereal baskets were protected and the number of swarms was drastically reduced as well as the surface of the infested areas. That was confirmed by the surveys carried out during the winter period. The situation was generally calm in the Outbreak Area, with only one small swarm located in July and scattered adult populations and a few groups of adults in August. In the Invasion Area, some small- to large-size swarms (14 reported in July and 9 in August) persisted throughout the winter period.

RESPONSE

1st locust campaign (Sep. 2013 – Aug. 2014). From early July up to 31 August, during the winter period, one aerial base was maintained, which was highly mobile to assess the importance, location and status of the remaining locust populations (both scattered and grouped) and carry out control operations as needed. Among others, the swarm which flew over Antananarivo on 28 August was treated as soon as it left inhabited areas. Since the beginning of the 2013/14 locust campaign, a total of 1 216 323 hectares were treated. Nevertheless, locust populations are still present both in the Invasion and Outbreak Areas; vigilance has to be maintained. Survey and control operations shall be pursued, in particular against the first generation of breeding of the Malagasy Migratory Locust after the onset of the rainy season.

Preparedness for and implementation of the 2nd locust campaign (Sep. 2014 – Aug. 2015). As planned in the Three-year Programme in response to the locust plague, a 2nd locust control campaign is essential to support the decline of the plague. In order to ensure timely and large-scale survey and control operations as well as supervision of field activities, preparation for the 2nd locust campaign continued during the winter period. This includes: screening tenders for helicopter services; analysis of stored pesticides in view of triangulation process; procurement of additional inputs such as vehicles and equipment for survey and control operations; and the identification and recruitment of the required technical expertise. An International Logistician arrived in Madagascar late August, and the Campaign Coordinator arrived early September.

PROGRAMME

Three-year Emergency Response Programme (2013–2016). Prepared by FAO and the Ministry of Agriculture. Focuses on:

- Improving the monitoring and analysis of the locust situation
- Large-scale aerial control operations
- Monitoring and mitigating the impact of locust control operations on human health and the environment
- Assessing the effectiveness of each locust campaign and the impact of locusts on crops and pastures

Contributors include: Austria, Belgium, the European Union, France, Italy, Japan, Madagascar through a World Bank loan, Norway, the United Nations Central Emergencies Response Fund (CERF) and the United States of America. Algeria, Morocco and Mauritania have contributed to the triangulation of pesticides.

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