



FACTS



Locust plague
Since April 2012



Livelihoods of 13 million people threatened
of which 9 million depend on agriculture



Time critical support
Funding needed now to complete the third campaign as well as the Three-year Programme and return to a locust recession situation in 2016

RESPONSE

Three consecutive locust campaigns needed to return to a locust recession and to safeguard the food security of rural populations in Madagascar

Human Health and Environmental Plan is being implemented with key partners

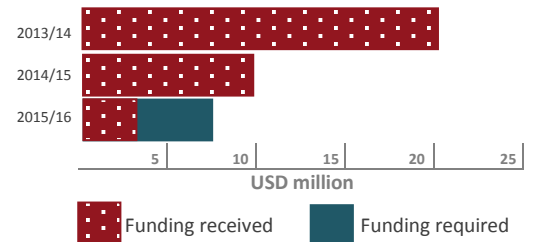
Locust Watch Unit analyses locust situation and documents results of survey and control operations

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

Programme budget (*): USD 37 million

Funding received: USD 34 million

Funding gap: USD 3 million



(*): Budget revised end of June 2015 taking into account the estimated expenditures for the 3rd campaign and the estimated cost of the 2nd.

LOCUST SITUATION

From late August onwards, temperatures have gradually increased and bushfires have continued. As a result, young grass regrowth have appeared in early October. Although the first rains have not started yet, the eco-meteorological conditions should slowly improve for the Malagasy Migratory Locust.

In August and September, some small grouped adult populations of the Malagasy Migratory Locust in the form of light flights were observed in the Invasion Area (Antsirabe, Befato and Mandoto regions). At the end of September, these populations were mainly mature and scattered and egg-laying had started. First hatching are expected before the end of October. In the Outbreak Area, the scattered adult populations, at a low to medium density, observed at the end of September and at the beginning of October in the Zomandao lowlands and the Horombe plateau, were highly heterogeneous (all instars and phases). Some of these populations had already started to lay eggs and were preparing the second and third egg-laying, hatching had occurred and hopper development was in progress. In early October, some mixed scattered adult populations of the Malagasy Migratory Locust (*transiens degregans*) and of the Red Locust have been observed in Tsiroanomandidy area (Invasion Area) and in the Ikalamavony lowland (Outbreak Area).

RESPONSE

Second anti-locust campaign (September 2014 – August 2015). Survey and control activities of the 2nd campaign ended on 15 August 2015, when the two ground teams were demobilized. During this anti-locust campaign, locust infestations were controlled, in the respect of the human health and the environment, over an area of 640 035 ha, 98 percent of which by air. The report on the evaluation of the 2nd campaign, the FAO/WFP Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission report and the final report on the implementation of the 2nd campaign are being finalized and will be available online.

Implementation of the 3rd anti-locust campaign (September 2015 – June 2016). Ground surveys started on 26 August 2015 in order to localize grouped populations having survived to the winter period and determine where to deploy ground teams. The following teams, active since 08 September 2015 in the Mandoto/Tsiroanomandidy and Ihosy areas, have been mobilized for the beginning of the 3rd campaign: one survey team, two survey/control teams, one human health and environmental monitoring team and one pesticide management team. As at 10 October 2015, 430 ha were treated by ground. In early November, one aerial base equipped with one helicopter will be deployed in order to reinforce ground operations. As part of the pesticide provision process for this 3rd campaign, a first lot of 25 000 litres of insect growth regulator has been purchased and pesticide analyses are being performed in view of the triangulation of 100 000 litres of conventional pesticide. In early October, an international GIS Expert arrived to Madagascar in order to deliver to the three members of the Locust Watch Unit refresher courses on data management, analysis and mapping. International Experts required for the implementation of the anti-locust campaign are expected to arrive in Madagascar during the second half of October.

PROGRAMME

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

Resource partners include: The Governments of Austria, Belgium, France, Italy, Japan, Madagascar (through loans from the World Bank and the International Fund for Agricultural Development and a contribution from Turkey), Norway and the United States of America, and the European Union, FAO through the funds of the Technical Cooperation Programme and the United Nations Central Emergencies Response Fund. The Governments of Algeria, Mauritania and Morocco contributed to the provision of pesticides (triangulation).

CONTACT

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