



Madagascar Locust Crisis

SITUATION UPDATE – 31 October 2014



FACTS



Locust plague
since April 2012



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



Time critical support
funding needed now
to carry out locust activities
beyond February 2015

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:

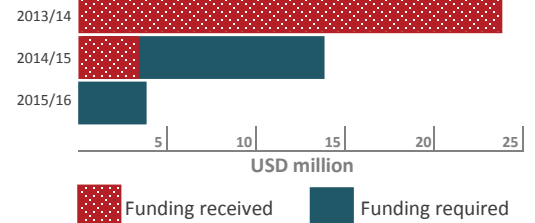
- 10-day bulletins
- Monthly bulletins

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

Programme budget: USD 42.9 million

Funding received: USD 28.2 million

Funding gap: USD 14.7 million



LOCUST SITUATION

The end of the winter period was marked by the first rains in late September. These rains have continued throughout October, resulting in the growth and greening of the vegetation and in a first replenishment of soil water reserves. However, some regions in the southwest of Madagascar are still very dry and subject to the practice of bushfires.

Most of the adult locust populations still present are now able to breed and have already laid eggs once or twice. Hatching has started and important hopper bands have been observed, mainly in the southwestern part of the country.

The situation is quite different from the one which prevailed last year at the same period: grouped locust populations persist but they are far less numerous and dense and the infestation level dropped throughout the Island as a result of the huge aerial control operations carried out during the previous anti-locust campaign.

RESPONSE

1st locust campaign (Sep. 2013 – Aug. 2014). The survey and control operations of the 1st campaign came to an end on 10 September 2014, when the aerial base that had been maintained during the winter period was demobilized. During the 2013/14 anti-locust campaign, a total of 1 218 353 hectares were treated or protected. The Report on the evaluation of the first campaign, as well as the Report of the Food Security Assessment mission in Madagascar have been distributed and are available on-line. The final report on the implementation of the 1st campaign will be distributed in the coming weeks.

Preparedness for and implementation of the 2nd locust campaign (Sep. 2014 – Aug. 2015). In September, a detailed planning of activities of the 2nd campaign was prepared by the FAO Response Coordinator, in mission in Madagascar, the Campaign Coordinator and the national Locust Expert. From late September to mid-October, all the international experts required for the launch and implementation of the aerial operations were fielded to Madagascar. These include: two aircraft Logisticians, two junior Locust Experts, an Environmentalist Expert and an Expert in spraying techniques. The first helicopter was delivered on 8 October 2014 and large-scale aerial surveys began the day after in the western side of Madagascar, from Majunga to Toliara. These surveys were aimed at identifying the locust populations, confirming their importance and determining their characteristics in order to decide where to deploy the two aerial bases. The first survey/control aerial base was established in Tsiroanomandidy on 13 October and the second one, in Ihosy, is operational since 20 October (with the delivery of the second helicopter on 18 October). The intensive survey operations carried out from base 1 allowed the localization of the first targets for treatments and control operations began on 17 October. As of 28 October, a total of 23 600 hectares has been treated and protected.

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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