

**Ethiopia**

Nairobi, 6 March 2020

| <b>SITUATION</b>  |   |                                     |                 |                          |                                       |                          |                                      |                          |   |                                     |                       |                          |                     |                                     |                    |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| <p>On the morning of Tuesday the 3rd March 2020 six out of nine regional states namely - Afar, Amhara, Oromia, Somali, Tigray and Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' as well as the administration city of Dire Dawa are affected by desert locust invasion. A total of 173 districts are affected, up from 56 in October 2019. The desert locust invasion if not controlled can cause large scale-scale crop, pasture, and forest cover losses which worsening food and feed availability, especially in areas emerging from recurrent El nino induced drought. According to FAO, numerous immature swarms appeared in a large portion of the Somali region in Ethiopia (between Jijiga, Gode and Warder). Desert locusts continue coming into Ethiopia from Somalia while cross - border swarm movements with Kenya are ongoing. An increasing number of swarms have been moving towards the southwest to central and southern Oromia region while other swarms remained in the Ogaden of the Somali region. The locust swarms had extended as far south as the Ethiopia/Kenya border (Moyale) and onwards near Konso and adjacent areas of eastern Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' Region (SNNPR). It is noted that there are also significant cross-border swarm movements. By the end of February, locust swarms had moved into the Ethiopian Rift Valley from the south and already reached Awassa and Nazareth. It is forecasted that swarm movements are likely to occur in Somalia, Oromia and parts of SNNP regions, and are expected to reach the central highlands. To make it worse, the swam movements will breed substantially due to cross-border swarm movements into Ethiopia along the Somali and Kenya border, causing hopper bands to form. the problem is unprecedented. Current operations is underway in the Somali, Oromia and SNNPR by the Ethiopian government. The Ethiopian government Ministry of Agriculture has conducted aerial control operations and treated 22, 500 ha but the scale of the problem is unprecedented since so far, the locusts have only been intercepted in 1,033km<sup>2</sup>. Control operation has been attempted and only 966 km<sup>2</sup> by applying over 75 000 litres of pesticides mainly through aerial spraying. The control operations need to be scaled up, already, Ethiopia national Disaster Risk Management – Agriculture Task Force in collaboration with FAO and Ministry of Agriculture have initiated an assessment of the impact of the locust invasion in Ethiopia and findings would be shared mid-March 2020.</p> |   |                                     |                 |                          |                                       |                          |                                      |                          |   |                                     |                       |                          |                     |                                     |                    |
| <b>NEEDS</b>  |   |                                     |                 |                          |                                       |                          |                                      |                          |   |                                     |                       |                          |                     |                                     |                    |
| <p>The insect invasion has put the region in a state of crisis. The insect invasion affected persons find themselves in a desperate situation, with many unmet vital humanitarian needs such as access to</p> <table border="1"> <tbody> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>sufficient food</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>safe shelter and basic non-food items</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>basic health services and facilities</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>safe drinking water, as well as sanitation and hygiene infrastructure</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>livelihood activities</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>protection services</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>adequate nutrition</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>   |   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | sufficient food | <input type="checkbox"/> | safe shelter and basic non-food items | <input type="checkbox"/> | basic health services and facilities | <input type="checkbox"/> | safe drinking water, as well as sanitation and hygiene infrastructure | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | livelihood activities | <input type="checkbox"/> | protection services | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | adequate nutrition |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>   | sufficient food   |                                     |                 |                          |                                       |                          |                                      |                          |   |                                     |                       |                          |                     |                                     |                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/>  | safe shelter and basic non-food items                                 |                                     |                 |                          |                                       |                          |                                      |                          |   |                                     |                       |                          |                     |                                     |                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/>  | basic health services and facilities                                  |                                     |                 |                          |                                       |                          |                                      |                          |   |                                     |                       |                          |                     |                                     |                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/>  | safe drinking water, as well as sanitation and hygiene infrastructure |                                     |                 |                          |                                       |                          |                                      |                          |   |                                     |                       |                          |                     |                                     |                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>   | livelihood activities   |                                     |                 |                          |                                       |                          |                                      |                          |   |                                     |                       |                          |                     |                                     |                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/>  | protection services   |                                     |                 |                          |                                       |                          |                                      |                          |   |                                     |                       |                          |                     |                                     |                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>   | adequate nutrition  |                                     |                 |                          |                                       |                          |                                      |                          |   |                                     |                       |                          |                     |                                     |                    |
| <p>The dire situation is further compounded for the insect invasion affected people with vulnerabilities especially woman and girls Already, about 8 million people are severely acutely food insecure and in need of food assistance in Ethiopia. Of these, over 6 million live in the desert locusts infested districts. A key season that is critical for pastoralists and households relying on short rains (February -May) for crop production in the country has started. If the locusts are not controlled now, pasture and crop fields will most likely be devastated. There is an urgent need to scale up the control operations, preparation for response to provide food for the most affected has to be prioritized along with animal feed and health support particularly to communities in the lowland areas. There is a pressing necessity to provide immediate assistance to minimize loss of life and to ensure that the needs of the most vulnerable are covered first.</p>   |   |                                     |                 |                          |                                       |                          |                                      |                          |   |                                     |                       |                          |                     |                                     |                    |

| <b>STAKEHOLDERS</b>   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <p>The following national and international entities are present and doing their best to respond to the crisis:</p>   |  |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>   | National government  | The Government of Ethiopia Ministry of Agriculture is trying to respond but the magnitude of infestation is huge   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>   | UN Agencies  | FAO in collaboration with Desert Locust Control Organization for Eastern Africa                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>   | Affected communities   | Affected communities are trying to respond in traditional way through physically damaging, making noise and smokes |
| <p>The emergency response is currently being coordinated by Government of Ethiopia Ministry of Agriculture, the National Disaster Risk Management Commission, and in collaboration with Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Desert Locust Control Organization for Eastern Africa, and development partners. To ensure that the humanitarian response is well coordinated and complementary, the ACT forum will take part in meetings with all relevant sector stakeholders (Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Agriculture Bureaus ) and establish an open line of communication with crisis affected persons and communities to ensure a humanitarian response based on participation and feedback.</p> |  |  |
| <b>ACT Alliance</b>   |  |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>   | ACT Ethiopia Forum has been working in all Ethiopia regional states for many years, now planning to help people affected by the insect invasion  |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>   | ACT Ethiopia Forum works in areas affected by the insect invasion, and is assessing the impact of the disaster to better understand the needs and vulnerabilities  |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>   | ACT Ethiopia Forum is currently monitoring the situation and is preparing a rapid needs assessment to have an in-depth context analysis and better understanding of existing vulnerabilities.  |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>   | ACT Ethiopia Forum is monitoring the situation and emergency teams are ready/preparing to respond according to the results of a contextual analysis and rapid needs assessment.  |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>   | In collaboration with relevant stakeholders, the ACT Ethiopia Forum has identified a gap in FAO has initiated an assessment of the impact of locust invasion and findings would be available end of March 2020. However, recognizing the urgent need to scale up the control operations, preparation for response to provide food for the most affected along with animal feed has to be prioritized and has resolved that if funded, it will have the capacity to properly bridge the identified gap. |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>   | The ACT Ethiopia forum is planning on submitting a funding proposal to provide support to the regional or federal agricultural bureaus in their effort to control desert locust infestation, assessment to measure impact and livelihood response to ensure that the insect invasion affected persons' basic needs are met with regards to livelihoods like provision of seeds, cash transfer and technical support for government staff.  |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>   | Furthermore, ACT Ethiopia will engage in advocacy on the national and international level to ensure that the voices of those affected by the insect invasion are amplified.  |  |

**Any funding indication or pledge should be communicated to the Head of Finance and Administration, Line Hempel ([Line.Hempel@actalliance.org](mailto:Line.Hempel@actalliance.org))**

For further information please contact:

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**Core Humanitarian STANDARD** The ACT Alliance Secretariat's continuous improvement in the application of the Core Humanitarian Standard is independently verified by HQAI

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