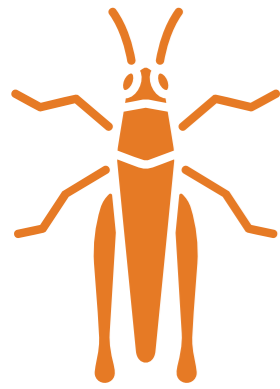




## Key Figures



**13M People in Crisis+**

Over 10 million people already facing severe food insecurity in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse in Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and Sudan are located in areas currently affected by the desert locust infestation. A further 3.24 million in Uganda and South Sudan are under threat from expanding swarms.

**100,000 Hectares**

Locusts have invaded 15 counties in Kenya to date, affecting at least 70,000 hectares of land. Control operations against immature and maturing swarms are ongoing in Ethiopia (22 550 ha), and Somalia (15 000 ha estimated).

**Worst in 25 years**

The worst desert locust outbreak in 25 years has caused significant crop and pasture losses across East and Horn of Africa, mainly in agro-pastoral areas of eastern Ethiopia, central Somalia and northern Kenya.

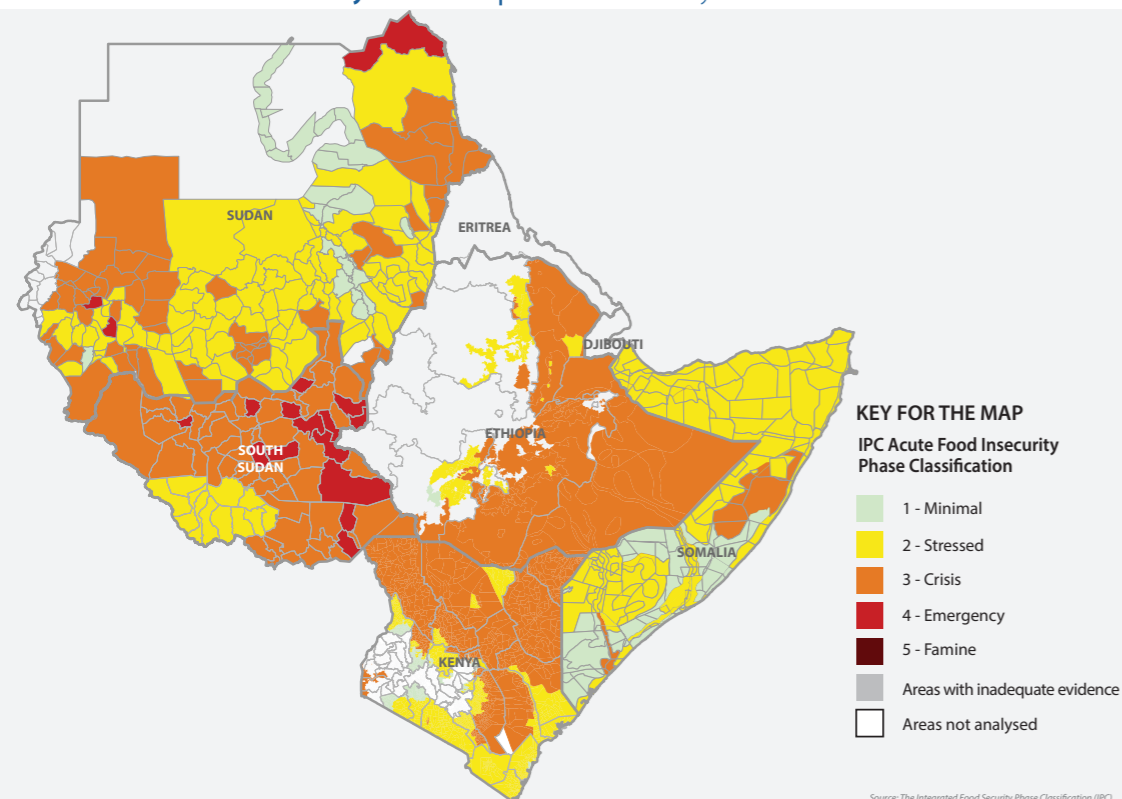
## Overview

The East and Horn of Africa region is currently facing one of the worst infestations of desert locusts - whose destructive impact is likely to cause large-scale crop damage and worsen food insecurity in countries already affected by recurrent drought, conflict and high food prices. Desert locust swarms first invaded the Horn of Africa at the end of June 2019 when spring-bred swarms arrived from Yemen in northeast Ethiopia and northern Somalia. Unusually favourable weather conditions have allowed desert locusts to continue to breed and spread, despite control operations.

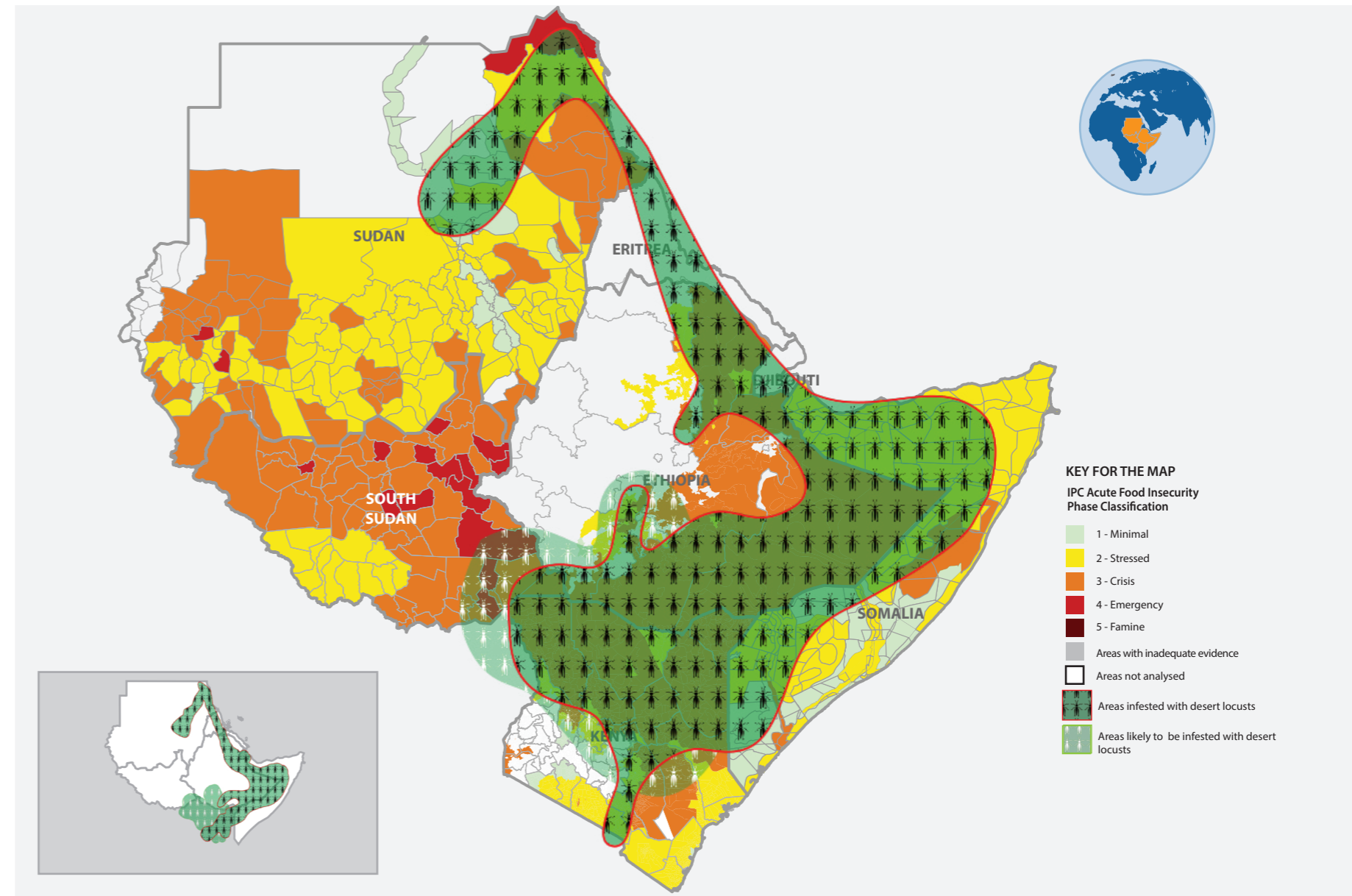
Based on the current and projected analyses by the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), more than 10 million people in Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and Sudan, who are already facing severe food insecurity in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse, are located in areas currently affected by the desert locust infestations. A further 3.24 million severely food insecure people in Uganda and South Sudan, are also under threat, bringing the total number of the population at risk to over 13 million. Key drivers including: two consecutive failed rainy seasons, drought, torrential rains, flooding, ongoing conflict, and economic shocks, have left millions of people severely food insecure in this region. Experts say swarms could swell further in Somalia and Ethiopia.

This threat will be further exacerbated by the breeding of new locusts in the region that has already commenced. Experts fear that by June 2020 swarms could swell, placing 3.24 million already food insecure people in South Sudan and Uganda at further risk if more action to control the infestation and mitigate its damage is not taken. With partners in the region conducting assessments, the impact of the desert locust on the long rains cropping seasons and pasture conditions in Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya will be clearer in the subsequent IPC analyses.

## Regional IPC Acute Food Insecurity Situation | As of 12 February 2020

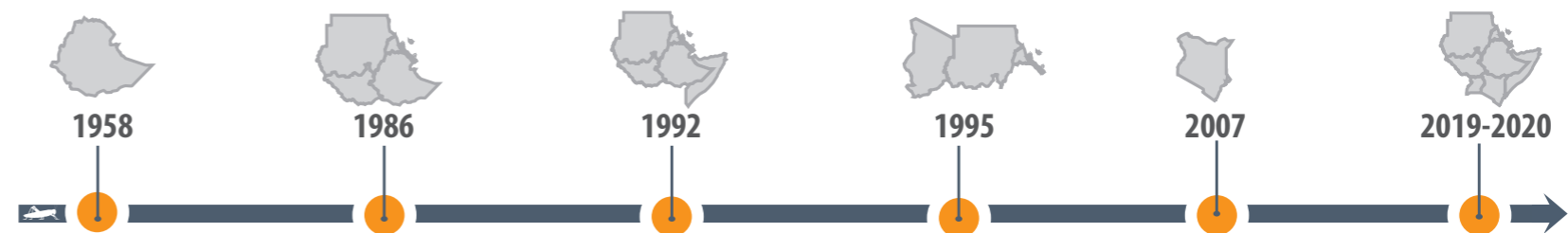


## IPC Acute Food Security Phase Classification and Desert Locust Infestation | As of 12 February 2020



## Desert Locusts Timeline

Since the 1950s, countries in the East and Horn of Africa region have experienced major desert locust plagues. Major infestations were recorded in 1958, 1986, 1992, 1995 and in 2019. The significant crop loss caused by swarming desert locusts exacerbates problems of food shortage, and is a threat to food security in a region faced with conflict, drought and floods. In the current upsurge, Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia have experienced enormous swarms of desert locusts in the worst infestation in 70 years for Kenya, and in 25 years for Ethiopia and Somalia.



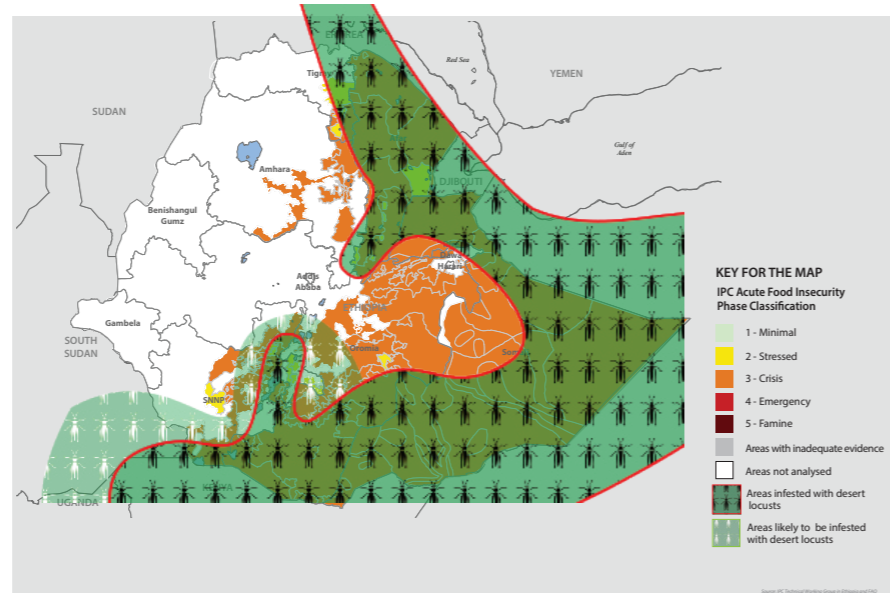
## ETHIOPIA: Acute Food Insecurity Projection: | February - June 2020

 **8.5M**

Nearly 8.5 million people are expected to be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse in Oromia, Somali, Afar, Amhara, SNNPR and Tigray from February to June 2020

The acute food security analysis of the second projection period (February - June 2020) for six regions of Ethiopia indicates that, despite ongoing assistance, an estimated 8.5 million people (26% of the 28.7 million people analysed) were likely to be severely food insecure in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) or worse between February and June 2020. All the six analysed regions have reported infestations of desert locusts. People will likely become more reliant on markets for food throughout the lean season (March to May),

which, along with expected rising food prices, will make it more difficult for poor households to access food. People's physical access to markets is also limited by ongoing inter-ethnic clashes between border areas. Despite ongoing peace-building efforts in the region, fighting over control of resources, including: land, water and pastoral fields, is expected to continue. According to FAO, a locust infestation is reported to have started in October 2019 and is still ongoing, despite aerial and ground operations to control the spread. Swarms are present in eastern areas of Ethiopia and continue to move south and into the Rift Valley with a new generation of locusts expected to cause more damage. With the desert locusts reported to have already caused the most damage in pastoral areas, an impact assessment is planned in the coming weeks. However, the high risk relates to the anticipated expansion of the swarms in the Belg producing and pastoral areas of south and southeastern Ethiopia.



## SOMALIA: Acute Food Insecurity Classification | January - June 2020

 **250,000**

Nearly a quarter million people are facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse in the desert locust affected areas in the Gedo, Mudug, Bay, Galgaduud, Hiraa, Bakool regions of Somalia from January to March 2020

Nearly 250,000 people are classified in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) and IPC Phase 4 (Emergency) food insecurity in the desert locust affected areas in central and southern Somalia between April to June 2020. Despite an above-average rainfall in October-December 2019 resulting in above-average cereal crop and livestock production, many people in these regions are still expected to face food consumption gaps. Somalia's ongoing civil conflict continues to exacerbate food insecurity for many people, and a worsening situation is only mitigated by ongoing humanitarian food assistance. Two of the listed regions face critical levels of acute malnutrition (Gedo and Mudug) while one region faces serious levels of acute malnutrition (Bay): all are in urgent need of treatment.

According to FAO, in October 2019, locust swarms moved into central and southern Somalia. So far, the damage to pastoral land is limited to late-planted crops. However, these areas are still in danger throughout 2020 due to the continual hatching of a new generation of locusts and the formation of new swarms that could result in substantial crop losses. The situation in Somalia requires ongoing close monitoring and an urgent scale-up of control measures to mitigate this risk, as this is likely to be affected by a reinvasion of swarms coming from Kenya. If not, the food and nutrition security situation may continue to deteriorate. Regions with livelihood zones or internally displaced people (IDPs) that are classified in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) or IPC Phase 4 (Emergency) are at risk of deteriorating further into IPC Phase 4 (Emergency) and IPC Phase 5 (Famine).

Classification of food insecurity in the East and Horn of Africa was conducted using the IPC protocols, which are developed and implemented worldwide by the IPC Global Partnership - Action Against Hunger, CARE, CILSS, EC-JRC, FAO, FEWSNET, Global Food Security Cluster, Global Nutrition Cluster, IGAD, Oxfam, PROGRESAN-SICA, SADC, Save the Children, UNICEF and WFP.

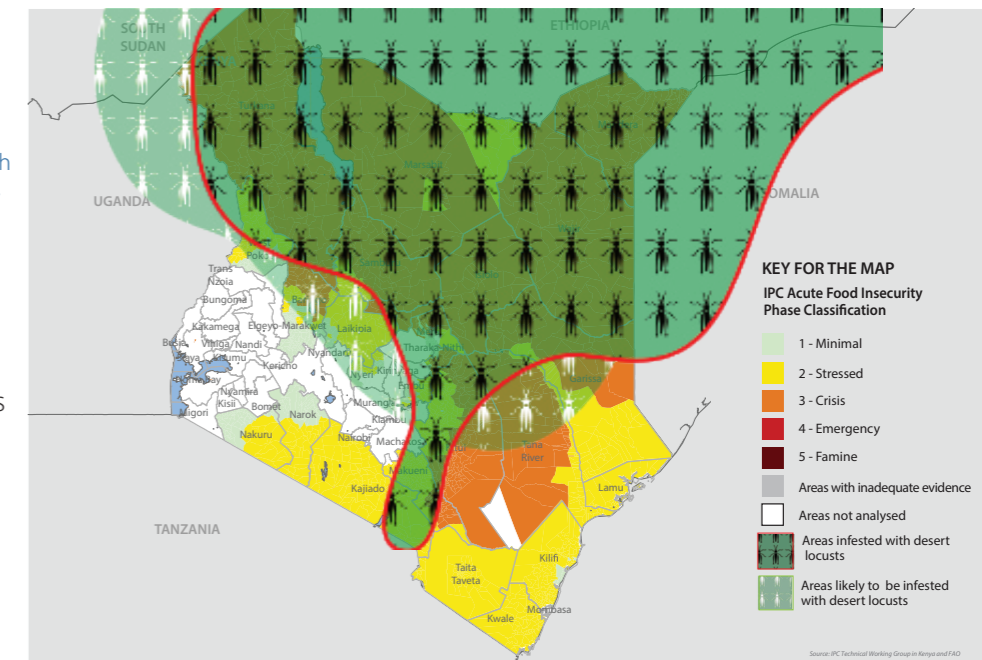
Publication date: 12 February 2020 | \*IPC population data is based on population estimates by the Governments of Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and Sudan. | Desert locust data is from FAO Locust Watch | Feedback: [IPC@FAO.org](mailto:IPC@FAO.org) | Disclaimer: The information shown on this map does not imply official recognition or endorsement of any physical and political boundaries by the IPC.

## KENYA: Acute Food Insecurity Classification | August - October 2019

 **1M**

More than 1 million people were estimated to be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse in counties infested with desert locusts including Turkana, Marsabit, Mandera, Wajir and Garissa from August to October 2019

More than 1 million people were projected to be in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) and IPC Phase 4 (Emergency) food insecurity in northeastern and eastern Kenya between August and October 2019. The main drivers were two consecutive seasons of poor rainfall coupled with high temperatures. Both have led to poor crop and livestock production and a rapid deterioration of rangeland resources. This has also resulted in fewer job opportunities in farming, which, along with high food prices, has strained the incomes of most households and limited their access to food. Many households are also depleting their livelihood assets to cope with food consumption gaps. In all five regions, more than 280,000 children under the age of five are facing acute malnutrition and are in urgent need of treatment, especially in Marsabit, which has higher levels of food insecurity and lower milk production compared to the other analysed counties. According to FAO, since December 2019, immature swarms of locusts continue to arrive in northeastern Kenya, moving throughout the northern and central areas. Locusts have invaded 15 counties to date, affecting at least 70,000 hectares of land. Aerial and ground control operations are in progress but need upscaling according to FAO experts. The locusts are also laying eggs in Kenya's northern counties and, as new locusts hatch through the end of February, immature swarm formations could occur from early February to the end of April with their presence likely to remain. There is high concern over the anticipated expansion of the swarms in Kenya's Rift Valley, potentially affecting marginal cropping and pastoral areas in arid and semi-arid areas (ASAL) in the coming producing season. The worst case scenario relates to the expansion of a second generation of swarms in the bread basket region of Kenya, which could have a ripple effect on food prices across the country.



Current: January - March 2020

Projection: April - June 2020

