



**OXFAM**

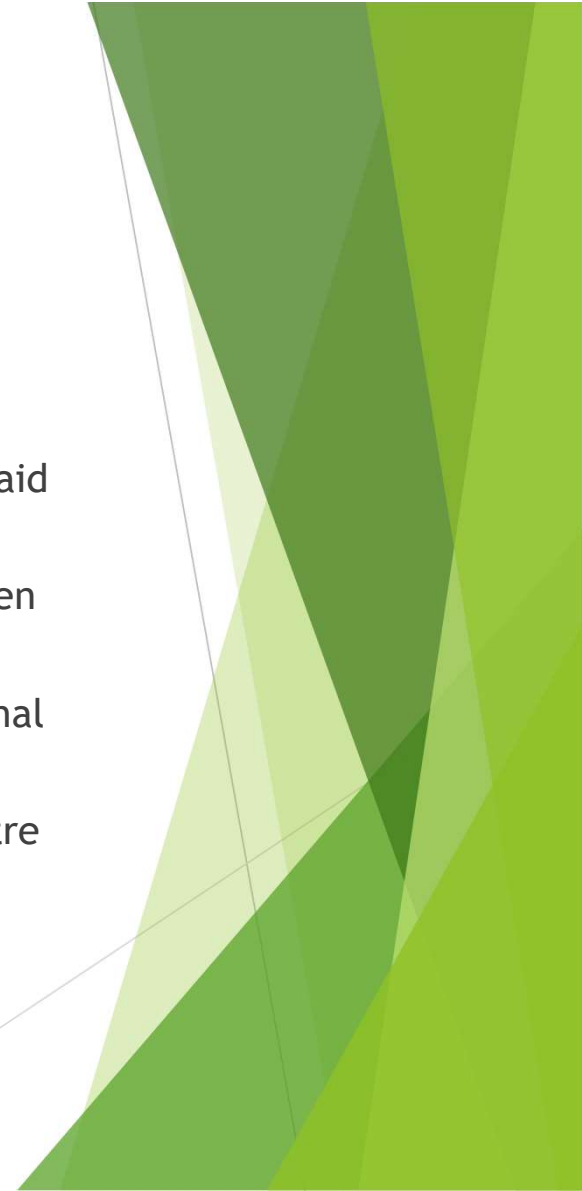
How to be better prepared:  
Community-based Surveillance

# LOCUSTS and The Climate crisis

- ▶ Locusts invasion affected areas already vulnerable to impact of climate crisis.
- ▶ Over 3m people already extremely food insecure 1.5m in IPC 3+
  - ▶ 86% of pastoral communities and 46% of agro-pastoral communities had poor food consumption scores (April).
  - ▶ 76% were already purchasing food on credit; 44% consuming seeds for planting; 41% selling last female animals (April)
  - ▶ 26% prioritized food/ 26% prioritized farm inputs/20% livestock feed and vaccinations
- ▶ Crises have become more frequent and intense affecting same communities, leaving little opportunity for recovery. Drought and flood cycles recur every 2-3 years from 7-8 years a decade ago
- ▶ Impacts are exacerbated by rising inequality with many of the counties also recording absolute poverty rates above 80%.
- ▶ In most arid areas of the country, chronic underinvestment, climatic crisis, conflicts and Covid-19 makes it difficult to reach the hardest to reach first
- ▶ The climate crisis is as inevitable as the impacts are predictable. Need to invest in preparedness and resilience.

## Crises do not affect all people equally

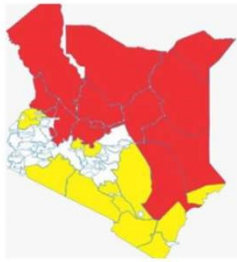
- ▶ Women, yet again, bear the disproportionate brunt of the impact,
- ▶ It is primarily women that skip meals for their children, spend time on unpaid care work.
- ▶ Impact of locusts on food security and nutrition be intergenerational, burden on health care system, educational attainment, GDP (tax receipts)
- ▶ Households *may* resort to extreme coping mechanisms including transactional sex and early child marriage.
- ▶ Community preparedness and response must ensure women are at the centre of the design of projects.



## Early Warning – Early Action

### Acting with no regrets

- ▶ Oxfam supported a network of **local humanitarian partners** across seven affected counties.
- ▶ Set up a system of **community-led surveillance** of locusts and promote awareness measures on pesticide use.
- ▶ Sought to protect food security by enhancing information for govt. control operations. Big gap in knowing where locusts were. **Cheap and effective vs. addressing food security impact**
- ▶ Developed and rolled out **locust tracking App** early March, later transitioned to FAO eLocust App.
- ▶ **300+** community monitors trained in locust surveillance
- ▶ **5,000+** data points submitted to the Desert Locust Control Centres (with geolocation, photos and life cycle stages and approximate area infested)
- ▶ **1m people** reached with community radio broadcasts (in local languages) and phone-ins through a toll-free line, to enable communities to ask questions about locusts and locust control efforts.
- ▶ **8,000 people** provided with multi-purpose cash transfers for two months (\$30-\$48/HH) to cushion impact. Scaling up to **66,000 people** for five months. Cash enables flexibility, maintains dignity, can be implemented at speed, and support local economies.



# ASAL HUMANITARIAN NETWORK

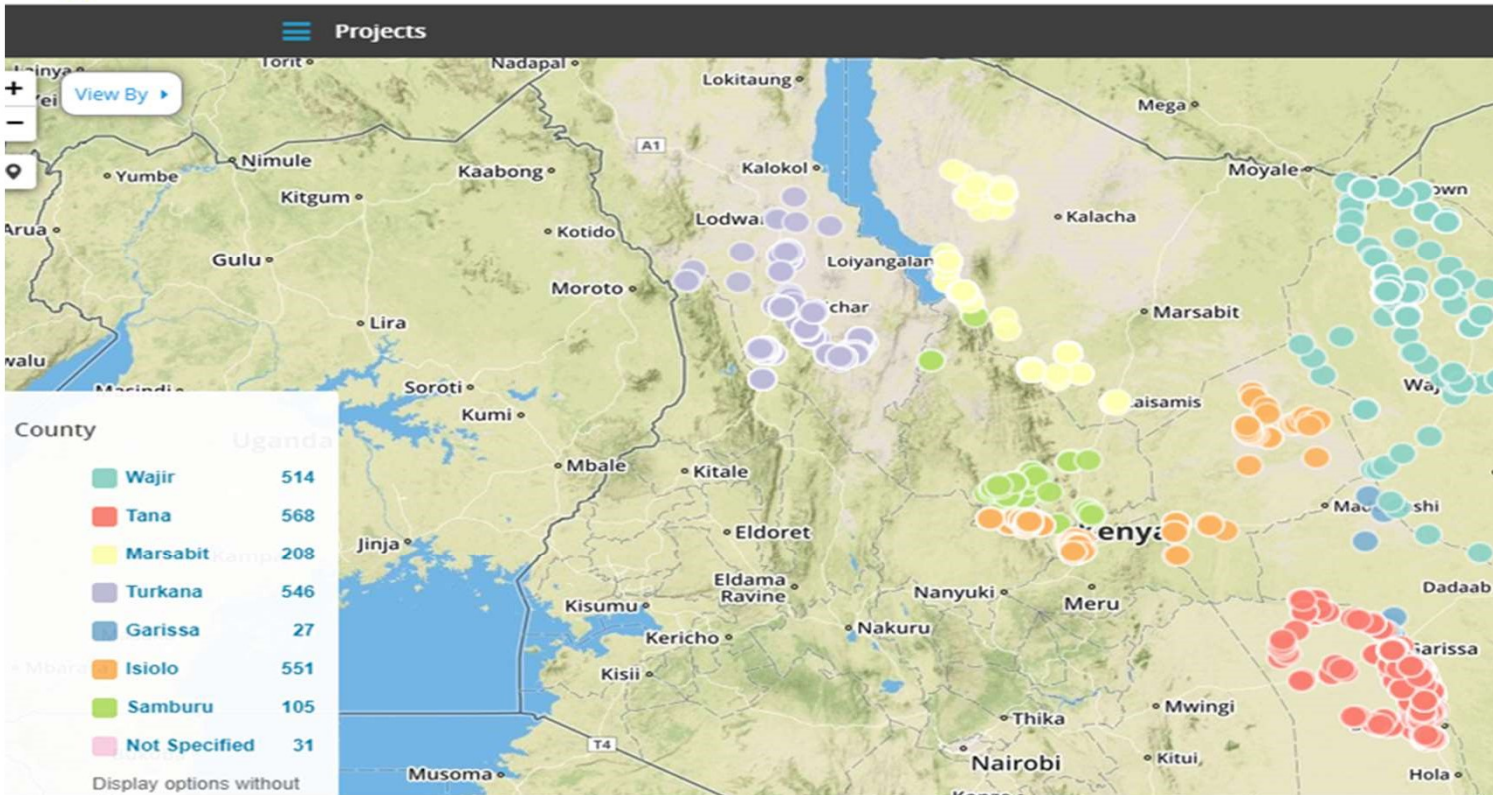
*Building Resilient Communities*




**RACIDA**  
innovatively empowering the pastoralist communities



**OXFAM**



County	wajir
Location	Dela/Abdiwaqo
Has there been a locust infestation in this area ?	yes
When did it start	2019-12-16
What is the status of the locust infestation	ongoing
Finish date	
Which development stage are the locusts ?	nymph
Take a photo of the swam of locusts	
What is the estimated number of locusts per tree/on the ground ?	30_100
What is the average size of affected land in Ha ?	500
Are there any ongoing responses to the infestation ?	yes_2

## Local partners are essential

- ▶ When local actors are involved, and combined with innovative approaches, responses are more effective.
- ▶ Local actors have geographical spread, access (esp with Covid-19), are rooted in communities, and contribute year-round, not just in times of crisis. Provided quick assessment of needs.
- ▶ Crowd sourced information on locusts.
- ▶ Impact of making control efforts timelier and more precise.
- ▶ Most funding went to UN system for support to government for control efforts. Near total absence of funding for local NGOs for surveillance/mitigation. More so for response. Could have rapidly expanded on limited capacity of local Govts.
- ▶ Could have done more surveillance earlier, had funding been available. Could have enhanced control efforts earlier, and saved money.

# Coordination improves efficiency And Accountability

- ▶ Coordination of the locusts response in Kenya was weak, both at county level and nationally. (I) NGOs rarely consulted, and offers of support not taken up in time.
- ▶ Opportunity to utilize a whole of society response missed. A multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral approach is essential to improve effective, efficient and timely response.
- ▶ We must better leverage the comparative advantages of government authorities, local actors, INGOs, the UN system and non traditional responders.
- ▶ Responses aligned with the government have more impact, and involving local NGOs encourages accountability for ensuring resources are prioritized
- ▶ Improve mechanism to fund all aspects of mitigation, not just control and response.
- ▶ Feed back and accountability mechanisms, with communities, need to be strengthened.
- ▶ Investment in resilient systems, disaster preparedness and risk reduction needs to be enhanced or we will continually be on a reactive footing. This will reduce humanitarian needs and help people recover faster from crisis.
- ▶ We are seeing change in Kenya, and this must be accelerated and better incentivized