

**ANNUAL REPORT OF
THE RESIDENT/HUMANITARIAN COORDINATOR
ON THE USE OF CERF GRANTS**

Country	Malawi
Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator	(FAO Regional Project)
Reporting Period	1 January 2009 – 31 December 2009

I. Summary of Funding and Beneficiaries

Funding (US\$)	Total amount required for the humanitarian response:	\$544,861	
	Total amount received for the humanitarian response:	\$544,861	
	Breakdown of total country funding received by source:	CERF \$544,861 CHF/HRF COUNTRY LEVEL FUNDS OTHER (Bilateral/Multilateral)	
	Total amount of CERF funding received from the Rapid Response window:	\$544,861	
	Total amount of CERF funding received from the Underfunded window:		
	Please provide the breakdown of CERF funds by type of partner:	a. Direct UN agencies/IOM implementation:	\$544,861
		b. Funds forwarded to NGOs for implementation (in Annex, please provide a list of each NGO and amount of CERF funding forwarded):	
		c. Funds for Government implementation:	
		d. TOTAL:	\$544,861
	Beneficiaries	Total number of individuals affected by the crisis:	Potentially more than 15 million people of the larger region are at risk while those food insecure in the targeted countries are at direct risk
Total number of individuals reached with CERF funding:		total individuals	
		children under 5	
		females	
Geographical areas of implementation:	Ecologically sensitive areas in Tanzania, Malawi and Mozambique as required.		

II. Analysis

During the period January to May 2009, the International Red Locust Control Organization for Central and Southern Africa (IRLCO-CSA) undertook surveys in the Red Locust breeding areas of Tanzania, Malawi and Mozambique using financial support from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) through TCP/RAF/3118(E) covering Tanzania and Malawi and TCP/MOZ/3203(E) covering Mozambique.

The surveys conducted in Tanzania revealed widespread infestation with hopper bands in Ikuu-Katavi, one of the biggest and richest wildlife areas in Tanzania, the Rukwa plains and the Malagarasi Basin, and it became imminent that a potentially serious locust upsurge was developing. With the onset of the dry season and the beginning of bush fires by May/June the Red Locust population would concentrate and form swarms. At this point these swarms would escape from the original breeding areas and invade adjacent farmland and neighbouring countries causing serious damage to crops and pasture and thus worsening the already precarious food situation in the sub-region. Simultaneous locust outbreaks also in Malawi and Mozambique significantly increased the risk of a plague potentially more serious than the one of 1996 with devastating consequences for the livelihoods of millions of people.

It was against this background that IRLCO-CSA together with Ministries of Agriculture of Tanzania, Mozambique and Malawi launched an appeal to FAO for assistance. The United Nation's Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and FAO responded to the request with a project titled 'Emergency response to control a Red Locust outbreak in Central and Southern Africa' (project code; OSRO/RAF/909/CHA). The total budget of the survey and control programme in the Region was of US\$2,845,752, including the budget available under CERF of US\$1,873,824, to facilitate aerial survey and control operations. The specific objective of the CERF project was provision of equipment to prevent humanitarian crisis emanating from food crops destruction caused by Red locust swarms. The funding, therefore, sought to mitigate the chances of swarms escaping from the outbreak areas by strengthening the response capacity of IRLCO-CSA and the national plant protection agencies in Tanzania, Malawi and Mozambique to effectively cope with developing Red Locust threats. The project placed emphasis on safeguarding food security by taking important aspects of human health and environmental protection into consideration in the process of its implementation.

The timely intervention facilitated through the CERF support played a key role in safeguarding food security and livelihood of farmers in Eastern and Southern Africa. Of significance was the demonstration that the bio-pesticide used during the operations can successfully be used also on adult Red Locust populations. This result should lead to a reduction of chemical pesticides in locust control and hence reducing the risks of chemical pesticides on people and wildlife living in and close to the ecologically vulnerable locust outbreak areas.

The aim of the UN-CERF project was to preserve food security and livelihoods of rural populations and mitigate further damage to already fragile agricultural production in Central and Southern Africa region.

A generally favourable food security situation prevailed in Malawi from October to December 2008. But the number of households running out of own-produced food increased and high maize prices put them at risk of food insecurity, particularly in the Southern region as result of low production. It was estimated that about 674,000 people require food aid assistance. Particularly the communities in southern parts are vulnerable due to the vicinity to the Red Locust outbreak areas.

It should be noted that more 15 million people of the larger region were potentially at risk, in case the Red Locust outbreaks had not been contained on time to avoid a full plague.

Consequently, the immediate objective of the assistance was to mitigate the chances of Red Locust swarms leaving the outbreak areas and causing extensive damage to crops which would result in a major humanitarian food crisis. To achieve this objective, the project aimed at strengthening the response capacity of IRLCO-CSA and the national plant protection agencies in Tanzania, Mozambique, Malawi and Zambia to effectively deal with the locust outbreaks. The project also paid special attention to human health issues and protection of the environment. In this regard, control of Red Locust in the Ikuu wetlands which is part of Katavi National Park, one of the most valuable wildlife areas of Tanzania, was carried out using a fungal based biopesticide, which has no side effects on non-targets.

The project achieved its principle objective to prevent the risk of the Red Locusts on agricultural production and livelihoods of the rural communities. An independent evaluation of the operations conducted in September 2009 revealed that the early intervention and timely response prevented a major humanitarian crisis due to the Red Locust in Central and Southern Africa. An estimated 598,000 ha of food crops were protected in Tanzania alone. Through the emergency assistance it was possible to quickly scale up the locust survey and control capacities in the Region, and achieved ecologically sound management of the locust infestation by applying principles of Integrated Pest Management (IPM).

To this end, the project accomplished the following:

- timely delivery inputs in support of survey and control operations, such as camping kits, communication equipment (VHF and HF radios) and sprayers and provision of funds for the operations;
- rapid transfer and airlifting of certified conventional pesticides from existing stocks in Mali to the region in need;
- timely procurement of a sizable amount of biopesticides for control operations in ecologically sensitive areas;
- detachment of two national consultant to monitor the safe use of chemical pesticides;
- strengthening the intervention capacity of IRLCO-CSA through the delivery of a track-guidance system and modern spray equipment for up-grading the fixed-wing spray aircraft of the Organization;
- support to survey and control operations through timely fielding of an international locust expert to reinforce the management of the operations, and by providing Letters of Agreement between FAO and IRLCO-CSA.

Impact of Regional CERF project

Disaster prevention: Timely intervention using the FAO/UN-CERF project averted Red Locust outbreaks of the magnitude which would have caused extensive damage and food deficits in Tanzania, and Mozambique and in neighbouring countries. Threat of Red Locust swarms escapes from outbreak areas was prevented resulting in an estimated 589,000 ha of cereal crops in western Tanzania. In Mozambique 450,000 people faced severe food deficit due to floods and devastation of crops by locusts would have compounded the already desperate situation.

Environmental protection: Successful control using *Metarhizium* confirmed that the biopesticide can be used to control Red Locust on a large scale. Given that the biopesticide selectively kills members of the Acrididae family, thus non-target organisms were not affected hence preserving the biodiversity.

Capacity building: The capability of IRLCO-CSA to undertake emergency locust control in future was greatly enhanced through upgrading of equipment e.g. spray aircraft and operational equipments.

The interaction between consultants and IRLCO-CSA/MASFC provided a forum for exchange of knowledge in the use of the biopesticide.

Public awareness: The use of Green Muscle to protect food security in the region received publicity locally and internationally.

The primary objective of preventing Red Locust escaping from outbreak areas in Tanzania, Mozambique, Malawi and Zambia was achieved. It was also demonstrated that Green Muscle can be used for large scale control of Red locust in ecologically sensitive areas.

III. Results:

Sector/ Cluster	CERF project number and title (If applicable, please provide CAP/Flash Project Code)	Amount disbursed from CERF (US\$)	Total Project Budget (US\$)	Number of Beneficiaries targeted with CERF funding	Expected Results/ Outcomes	Results and improvements for the target beneficiaries	CERF's added value to the project	Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanisms	Gender Equity
Agriculture	Emergency response to control Red Locust Outbreak in Central and Southern Africa (Regional Submission) (09-FAO-016A)	\$ 544,860	\$ 544,860	Potentially more than 15 million people of the larger region at risk while those food insecure in the targeted countries are at direct risk.	At least 800 kg of spores of bio-pesticide purchased and delivered and applied in ecological sensitive areas in Tanzania, Malawi and Mozambique as required.	Malawi operations IRLCO-CSA in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MOAFS) of Malawi carried out an assessment survey in April 2009 covering a total of 89,000 ha and detected only low density infestations of Red Locusts in the Lake Chilwa and Lake Chiuta plains which did not merit control.	Timely intervention using the FAO/UN-CERF project averted Red Locust outbreaks of the magnitude which would have caused extensive damage and food deficits in Tanzania, and Mozambique and in neighbouring countries.	Internal FAO mechanisms. Coordination of project activities ensured by IRLCO-CSA with support from FAO's HQs, FAO Representations in the three countries as well as the FAO's team leader.	This project benefited all people equally.