

# Breaking News English.com

## Worst locust invasion in East Africa in 70 years – 7th February, 2020

### Level 4

Millions of farmers' lives in Africa are at risk from locusts. Swarms of locusts have destroyed large areas of farmland and crops in Somalia, Kenya and Uganda. The locusts are spreading and could go to other countries. The United Nations' Food and Agricultural Organisation say swarms have been seen as far away as Oman in the Gulf. It is the worst locust invasion in 70 years. Some say it is like a scene from the Bible.

The invasion affects over 12 million people. Many of these have little food due to poor harvests and no rain. The locusts will make things worse. Locusts are very hungry pests. One locust can eat its body weight in 24 hours. A small swarm could eat enough to feed 35,000 people for a day. A worried farmer said: "We depend a lot on this season and we worry that the locusts will destroy our harvest. We will end up...hungry through the rest of the year."

### Level 5

The living of farmers in East Africa is under attack from locusts. Authorities say swarms of locusts are destroying large areas of farmland. Millions of people are at risk. The insects destroyed crops in Somalia, Kenya, Uganda and other countries. The swarms are spreading and could affect neighbouring countries. The United Nations' Food and Agricultural Organisation say some swarms have been sighted as far away as Yemen and Oman in the Gulf. It is the worst locust invasion in 70 years. Some say it is nearing a Biblical scale.

The locust invasion is affecting over 12 million people. Many of these were experiencing food insecurity due to poor harvests and no rain. The locusts will only worsen the plight of people. Locusts are very voracious pests. One locust can eat its body weight in just 24 hours. A small swarm could eat enough food to feed 35,000 people for a day. A farmer in Kenya was concerned. She said: "We depend a lot on this season and we worry that the locusts will destroy our harvest. We will end up remaining hungry through the rest of the year [until next year's harvest]."

### Level 6

The livelihood of farmers and other food growers in East Africa is under attack from locusts. Authorities say swarms of millions of locusts are ravaging large swathes of farmland and vegetation. Millions of people are at risk after the insects destroyed crops in Eritrea, Kenya, Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan and Uganda. The swarms of locusts are spreading and could affect the agriculture, bushland and forests of neighbouring countries. The United Nations' Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) report that some swarms have been sighted as far afield as Yemen and Oman in the Gulf. It is the worst locust invasion in 70 years and some say it is reaching Biblical proportions.

The locust invasion is seriously affecting the lives of over 12 million people. Many of these were already experiencing food insecurity due to poor harvests from a lack of rain. The swarms of locusts will only worsen the plight of people living in the region. Locusts are extremely voracious pests. One locust can eat its entire body weight in just 24 hours. A small swarm could chomp its way through enough food to feed 35,000 people in just one day. Esther Kithuka, a farmer in Kenya, expressed her concern about the invasion. She said: "We depend a lot on this season and we worry that the locusts will destroy our harvest and we will end up remaining hungry through the rest of the year [until] next cropping season."