

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7276

AN ACT

To establish an interagency working group to develop a comprehensive, strategic plan to control locust outbreaks in the East Africa region and address future outbreaks in order to avert mass scale food insecurity and potential political destabilization, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Desert Locust Control
3 Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

5 It is the policy of the United States to prioritize ef-
6 ferts to control the ongoing desert locust outbreak in East
7 Africa and other affected regions, mitigate the impacts on
8 food security, economic productivity, and political sta-
9 bility, improve interagency coordination to prevent future
10 outbreaks, and promote resilience in affected countries.

11 **SEC. 3. FINDINGS.**

12 Congress finds the following:

13 (1) The United States Agency for International
14 Development reports that countries in East Africa
15 are currently suffering the worst desert locust out-
16 break in decades, which will devour crops and pas-
17 ture and destroy local livelihoods across the region.

18 (2) As of June 2020, there were more than 26
19 million people experiencing acute food insecurity in
20 Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Tanzania,
21 Uganda, Sudan, and Djibouti, and these numbers
22 are projected to increase if the desert locust out-
23 break is not controlled.

24 (3) As the desert locust outbreak continues,
25 there may be insufficient resources to continue to
26 conduct aerial spraying and without such resources

1 the current outbreak could develop into a plague by
2 the end of 2020.

3 (4) The desert locust outbreak in East Africa,
4 particularly in Kenya, Ethiopia, and Somalia, is neg-
5 atively impacting food security, local livelihoods and
6 economic productivity, and may threaten political
7 stability in the region.

8 (5) Proactive investments now to control the
9 desert locust outbreak could reduce the need for a
10 much larger United States humanitarian response
11 effort later, as well as support economic and political
12 stability and build resilience in affected countries.

13 (6) In order to optimize the United States re-
14 sponse to the desert locust outbreak, an interagency
15 working group should be established to develop and
16 implement a comprehensive, strategic plan to control
17 the desert locust outbreak in East Africa and other
18 affected regions, mitigate impacts on food security,
19 economic productivity, and political stability and
20 prevent future outbreaks.

21 **SEC. 4. INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP.**

22 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The President shall establish
23 an interagency working group to coordinate the United
24 States response to the ongoing desert locust outbreak in
25 East Africa and other affected regions, including the de-

1 velopment of a comprehensive, strategic plan to control the
2 outbreak, mitigate the impacts on food security, economic
3 productivity, and political stability, and prevent future
4 outbreaks.

5 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—The interagency working
7 group shall be composed of the following:

8 (A) Two representatives from the United
9 States Agency for International Development.

10 (B) One representative from each of the
11 following:

12 (i) The United States Mission to the
13 United Nations Agencies for Food and Ag-
14 riculture.

15 (ii) The National Security Council.

16 (iii) The Department of State.

17 (iv) The Department of Defense.

18 (v) The Department of Agriculture.

19 (vi) Any other relevant Federal de-
20 partment or agency.

21 (2) CHAIR.—The President shall designate one
22 of the representatives from the United States Agen-
23 cy for International Development described in para-
24 graph (1)(A) to serve as chair of the interagency
25 working group.

1 (c) DUTIES.—The interagency working group shall—

2 (1) assess the scope of the desert locust out-
3 break in East Africa and other affected regions, in-
4 cluding its impact on food security, economic pro-
5 ductivity, and political stability in affected countries;

6 (2) assess the impacts of restrictions relating to
7 the coronavirus disease 2019 (commonly referred to
8 as “COVID–19”) pandemic;

9 (3) monitor the effectiveness of ongoing assist-
10 ance efforts to control the desert locust outbreak
11 and mitigate its impacts and identify gaps and op-
12 portunities for additional support to such programs;

13 (4) review the effectiveness of regional and mul-
14 tilateral efforts to control the desert locust outbreak
15 and the coordination among relevant United States
16 Government agencies, regional governments, and
17 international organizations, including the World
18 Food Programme and the United Nations Food and
19 Agriculture Organization; and

20 (5) not later than 90 days after the establish-
21 ment of the interagency working group under sub-
22 section (a), develop and submit to the President and
23 the appropriate congressional committees a com-
24 prehensive, strategic plan to control the desert locust
25 outbreak, including a description of efforts to—

1 (A) improve coordination among relevant
2 United States Government agencies, regional
3 governments, and international organizations,
4 including the World Food Programme and the
5 United Nations Food and Agriculture Organiza-
6 tion;

7 (B) ensure delivery of necessary assets
8 control the desert locust outbreak and humani-
9 tarian and development assistance to address
10 and mitigate impacts to food security, economic
11 productivity, and political stability; and

12 (C) to the extent practicable, prevent and
13 mitigate future desert locust and other, similar
14 destructive insect outbreaks (such as Fall
15 Armyworm) in Africa and other parts of the
16 world, which require a humanitarian response.

17 (d) INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP SUPPORT.—The
18 interagency working group shall continue to meet not less
19 than semi-annually to facilitate implementation of the
20 comprehensive, strategic plan required by subsection
21 (c)(5).

22 (e) SUNSET.—This section shall terminate on the
23 date that is 2 years after the date of the enactment of
24 this Act, or at such time as there is no longer an upsurge

1 in the desert locust outbreak in East Africa, whichever oc-
2 curs earlier.

3 (f) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DE-
4 FINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate congres-
5 sional committees” means—

6 (1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the
7 Committee on Appropriations of the House of Rep-
8 resentatives; and

9 (2) the Committee on Foreign Relations and
10 the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

Passed the House of Representatives November 18,
2020.

Attest:

Clerk.

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