



# PROTECTING YOURSELF FROM EFFECTS OF PESTICIDES

Desert locusts upsurges can cause significant and widespread crop losses. Consequently, extensive control efforts are mounted whenever hopper band or swarms develop in or invade a region. The spraying of pesticides is still the principal approach in swarm control. However, pesticides may have adverse effects on human health and the environment.

## ABOUT DESERT LOCUSTS

- A desert locust lives for about 3 months: - 2 weeks for eggs to hatch - 6 weeks for hoppers to become adults - 4 weeks for adults to become mature and lay eggs.
- Immature swarms fly the farthest and are the most destructive locust stage.
- Desert Locusts target crops and vegetation used as forage by pastoralists' herds.
- Locusts do not attack people or animals. There is no evidence to suggest that they carry diseases that could harm humans.





## FOR THE COMMUNITY

- Keep yourself and your family safe from pesticide exposure. Do not enter the sprayed fields for at least 48 hours after spraying.
- Do not collect, consume, eat or sell locusts found near or around the pesticide application areas. They could contain traces of pesticide and this is dangerous for your health.
- Do not reuse empty pesticide containers to store food or water. Pesticide residues will always be present in the container, even after cleaning them.
- If your eyes, hands or any other body part have been in contact with pesticide, wash them immediately with plenty of clean water. If you have migraines or nausea, visit the nearest health center as soon as possible.

## FOR FARMERS AND HERDERS

- If your field is treated with insecticides, you should wait for a minimum number of days before you can harvest the crop. The label attached to the used pesticide will state how long the crop must remain in the garden or field after spraying. If you respect the pre-harvest interval, pesticide residues on the crop will not pose a risk for consumers.

- In the case of aerial spray to fight against locusts, a wide range of pesticides is being use at a low concentration. Therefore, you should wait 2 -3 days before harvesting the crop.
- If your livestock grazes in or close to pastures treated with insecticides, you should wait for a minimum number of days before you can let the animals re-enter the treated plots. If you respect the withholding period, pesticide residues on the grass will not pose a risk to your livestock or for consumers who are drinking milk or eating meat from your animals.
- Remove beehives from the fields that will be treated, especially if plants are flowering. Generally, 3 to 5 km is a safe distance. You should wait at least one week until you return your honeybees to forage again close to the treated fields.

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