

117<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 1079

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## 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Desert Locust Control  
5 Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

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

13 **SEC. 3. FINDINGS.**

14 Congress finds the following:

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

20 (2) As of December 2020, the Food and Agri-  
21 culture Organization reported that there were 42  
22 million people experiencing acute food insecurity in  
23 East Africa, which numbers are projected to in-  
24 crease if the desert locust outbreak is not controlled.

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

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

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

19 **SEC. 4. INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP.**

20          (a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The President shall establish  
21          an interagency working group to coordinate the United  
22          States response to the ongoing desert locust outbreak in  
23          East Africa and other affected regions, including the de-  
24          velopment of a comprehensive, strategic plan to control the  
25          outbreak, mitigate the impacts on food security, economic

1 productivity, and political stability, and prevent future  
2 outbreaks.

3 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—

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

6 (A) Two representatives from the United  
7 States Agency for International Development.

8 (B) One representative from each of the  
9 following:

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

13 (ii) The National Security Council.

14 (iii) The Department of State.

15 (iv) The Department of Defense.

16 (v) The Department of Agriculture.

17 (vi) Any other relevant Federal de-  
18 partment or agency.

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

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

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

5           (2) assess the impacts of restrictions relating to  
6           the coronavirus disease 2019 (commonly referred to  
7           as “COVID–19”) pandemic on efforts to control the  
8           desert locust outbreak and mitigate its impacts and  
9           in exacerbating food insecurity;

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

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

21          (5) not later than 90 days after the establish-  
22          ment of the interagency working group under sub-  
23          section (a), develop and submit to the President and  
24          the appropriate congressional committees a com-

1       comprehensive, strategic plan to control the desert locust  
2       outbreak, including a description of efforts to—

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

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

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

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

24       (e) SUNSET.—This Act shall terminate on the date  
25       that is 2 years after the date of the enactment of this

1 Act, or at such time as there is no longer an upsurge in  
2 the desert locust outbreak in East Africa, whichever oc-  
3 curs earlier.

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

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

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

Passed the House of Representatives July 20, 2021.

Attest:

*Clerk.*

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