



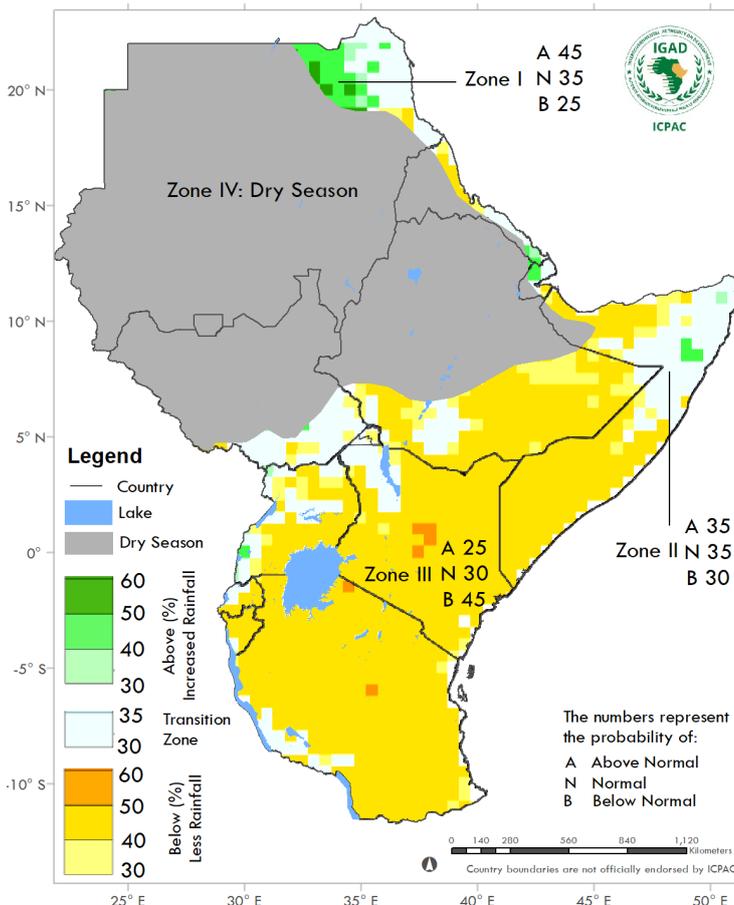
Below average to average rains expected in most parts of Somalia during the 2020 Deyr season

Deyr (Sep/Oct-Dec) season rainfall is usually of shorter duration and less amount and intensity compared to *Gu (April-June)* season rainfall. However, they are beneficial in supporting seasonal agricultural activities and replenishing water and pasture resources. Generally, Deyr season starts in late September and ends in early December, but this varies from place to place across the country, with the northern regions receiving rainfall much earlier than southern regions.

According to the recently issued Seasonal Climate Forecast issued by IGAD’s Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC), the 2020 Deyr rains in Somalia are likely to be **below normal to near normal** with a 45 percent chance of experiencing below normal rains and a 30 chance of near normal rains in Somaliland, central and southern regions of the country. Similarly, the upper catchments of the Juba and Shabelle Rivers in neighboring Ethiopia are also expected to record below normal to near normal rainfall during the 2020 *Deyr* season (Map 1. Most parts of Puntland have equal chances of (35%) of experiencing normal or above normal rains during the season.

Further, the outlook predicts a delayed start of the season with warmer than normal temperatures.

Map– 1 Rainfall Outlook for Sept to Dec 2020



Map Source: ICPAC

Climate scientists have associated the forecast poor rains during Deyr season with the weak to moderate La Niña conditions developing over the tropical Pacific Ocean. This usually creates dry spells and drought conditions in the Horn of Africa sub-region. The most recent drought period that was associated with La Niña in Somalia was the severe drought of 2016/2017. The catastrophic 2010/11 famine in Somalia was also a result of La Niña. However, no two La Niña events are identical and the effects vary from place to place and year to year.

The below *Deyr* normal rains this year are expected to have negative impacts on agriculture, livestock and water availability for other uses. However, areas that received rainfall during the Hageai (Jul-Sep) season may be impacted less. Parts of the Shabelle basin are still water logged and may remain till end of September and the moisture in the soil could mitigate impact of poor Deyr season rainfall on crop cultivation in riverine livelihoods.

This update is produced by the: *FAO - Somalia Water and Land Information Management—SWALIM Project.*
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The foregoing analysis and conclusions are based on a regional consensus climate outlook for September-December 2020 for the Greater Horn of Africa region targeting a regional audiences. Rainfall patterns may vary from place to place, with the areas expected to receive low rains could also experience occasional heavy storms.

SWALIM will continue to monitor performance of rainfall throughout the Deyr season and will provide updated information in the form of regular bulletins.

Likely impacts of Forecast Deyr Season Rainfall for Different Sectors

1. Agriculture, Food Security and Livestock

Below normal *Deyr* rains are expected to adversely affect seasonal agricultural activities in most areas. With low rains expected in the upper reaches of the Juba and Shabelle basins, it is foreseen that the river levels may also decrease and may not adequately support crop production in riverine livelihoods. Pasture and water availability in the pastoral areas are also expected to deteriorate as a result of poor rainfall performance during the *Deyr* season. This in turn could lead to abnormal livestock migration and may trigger conflict among pastoralists over scarce pasture and water resources.

2. Water Resources

In case of depressed rains, replenishment of surface water points may also be minimal and therefore communities should use available water resources sparingly and maximize water harvesting.

3. Disaster Management

Problems related to water scarcity are likely to occur in the pastoral areas, especially in the north eastern and parts of southern regions of the country where the previous *Gu* rains were below normal. There is also a potential for conflicts over the limited water resources in these areas. Close monitoring of the situation and contingency measures are necessary in order to adequately cope with the situation. Flash floods and river flooding cannot be ruled out, as well as intentional river bank breakages for irrigation purposes. In areas where normal to enhanced rains are foreseen especially in Puntland, flash floods cannot be ruled out.

4. Health

Diseases associated with water scarcity and poor sanitation, such as typhoid and cholera, may emerge in various parts of the country that are expected to receive depressed rainfall.

5. Environment

The anticipated depressed rainfall is likely to result in land degradation through wilting of vegetation and drying up of grass, exposing top soils to erosion. Soil conservation measures to minimize environmental degradation due to soil erosion, especially in riparian areas along rivers and streams are advised.

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