SOMALIA DROUGHT UPDATE

18 October 2021

Drought Severity			
DROUGHT CONDITION	**IMPROVING**	**STABLE**	**WORSENING**
NORMAL *Normal conditions*		Awdal; Toghdheer; Woqooyi Galbeed; south of Sool	
MILD *Going into drought, long term dryness slowing planting and growth of crops. Also coming out of a drought – water deficits, partial loss of crops and pasture*		Sanaag, Sool, parts of Bari and parts of Shabelle middle and Lower shabeelle regions	
MODERATE *Damage to early planted crops, reduced land cultivation, and shortage of pastures and water*			Larger parts of Hiraan, of Middle Shabelle riverine and agro pastoral, parts of Bari, Nugaal and Galmudug
SEVERE *Crop or pasture losses is likely; water shortages common and water trucking imminent*			Gedo, Middle Juba and Lower Juba, and larger parts of Bay and Bakool Regions, Mudug and Galgadud regions

Key messages

- The Deyr 2021 rains kicked off in parts of Somalia with moderate rains being observed in Puntland (Bari region) and a few pockets in the southern regions. However, more than half of the country is still experiencing serious drought conditions.
- The Southern parts of the country that had remained in moderate drought conditions in the previous months are now facing moderate to severe drought due to further depletion of the limited resources in the areas. This has led to serious human suffering and livestock death.
- Drought impacts are worse in Jubaland, Southwest state, GalMudug (central regions) and parts of Puntland which have suffered from consecutive seasons of poor rainfall. Water resources and pasture conditions have deteriorated in these areas triggering livestock migration and increased competition among pastoralists on the already limited resources.
- The rainfall forecast for the second half of October indicates depressed rains in the south and central regions while the northern regions will record within normal rains. In November, the rain will subside in the northern areas and increase in the southern areas.
- Further, the Deyr 2021 seasonal rainfall is expected to be cumulatively below average in many parts of Somalia according to ICPAC.
- Given the rainfall forecast, the depressed rains are not going to be effective in mitigating the drought conditions
- A return to normal rainfall patterns and in good amounts is necessary for drought conditions to be reversed. Short and intensive rains are not effective in mitigating the drought conditions, as they trigger floods (damaging the crops and washing away the upper fertile layer of soil) but does not give enough time for the water to infiltrate in the ground and improve crop germination

Drought Severity Analysis

The drought severity (Map 1), which shows drought magnitude as of end of September 2021, is produced with data from the more than 100 rainfall monitoring stations across the country - Somalia climate monitoring network, reports from the ground and the SWALIM drought monitoring tool.

As shown in Map 1, the hardest hit areas are in Jubaland, Southwest state and parts of Puntland. In these areas drought conditions developed earlier in the year and persisted through the Gu and Haggai, further deteriorating in September. Livestock migration increased in the Southern areas with many pastoralist crossing to the neighboring countries.

Vegetation conditions anomaly as of 10 October are displayed in Map 2. A negative trend of vegetation conditions are observed in most southern and central areas. However, a positive anomaly is seen in pockets of Bay, Bakool and Puntland due to the rains received in the first week of October which regenerated the herbaceous component, producing a temporary positive trend.

In Somaliland, the Karan rains received in August and September alleviated the dry conditions. Within the Guban Pastoral livelihood zone of Zeila and Lughaya of Awdal region and Berbera district, reports indicate good pasture and water availability. The livestock body conditions are also reported to be good.

The drought conditions are updated on a monthly basis and the maps can be accessed online via the link below:

https://cdi.faoswalim.org/index/cdi

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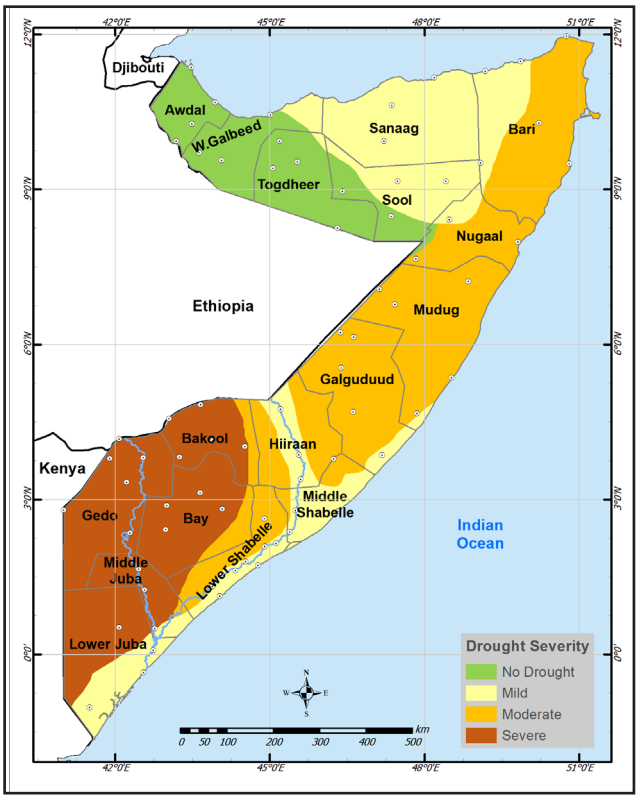
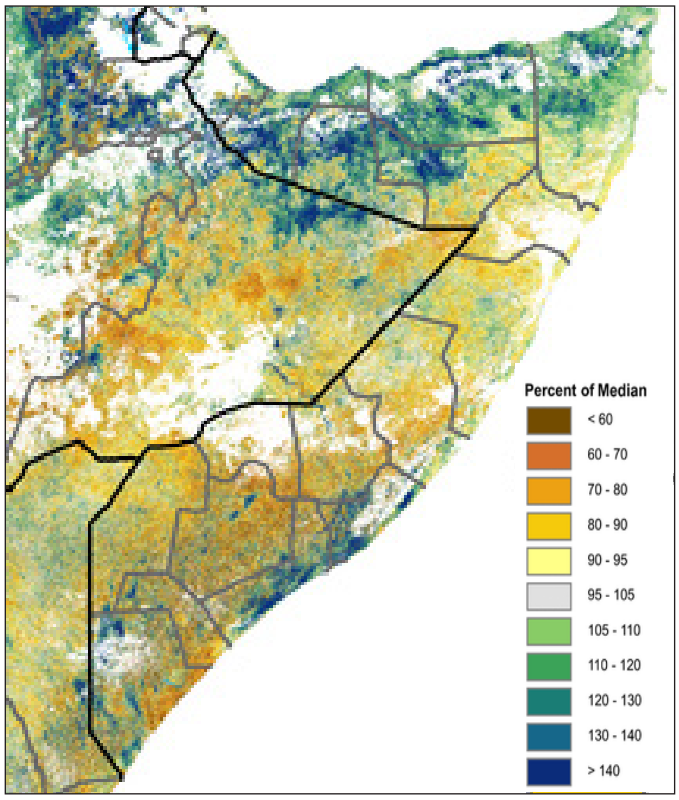


Map 1: Drought severity map for September 2021



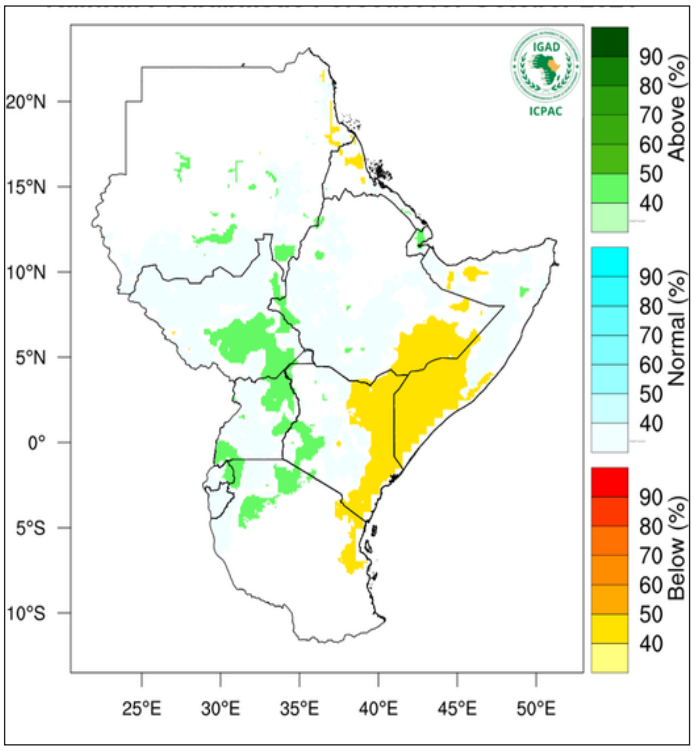
Map 2: Anomaly vegetation conditions (01-10 August 2021)

Deyr 2021 Season Rainfall Outlook

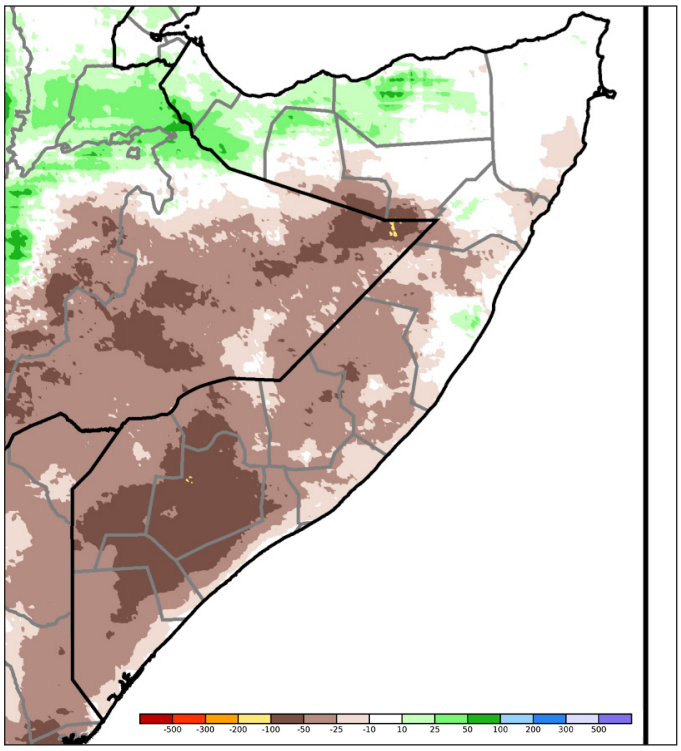
According to the recently issued Seasonal Climate Forecast for the Greater Horn of Africa by the IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC), the 2021 Deyr rains in Somalia are expected to be normal to below normal in most places - with a 50% probability of experiencing below normal rains in Gedo and Middle Juba regions, 45% of below normal rains in Larger parts of Somaliland, central and southern regions. There is 35% probability of near normal rains in Puntland. The upper catchments of the Juba and Shabelle Rivers in Ethiopia are also expected to record depressed rains during the season.

Maps 3 and 4 shows the rainfall forecast for the month of October and the anomaly for the same period respectively. The two maps indicate depressed rains during the second half of the month especially in the southern areas which are worst affected drought areas.

Given the seasonal forecast, current drought conditions and with little to no rainfall expected through the end of October 2021, current drought conditions and impact are expected to worsen in the coming weeks.



Map 3: October 2021 Rainfall Outlook



Map 4: October 2021 Anomaly Rainfall Outlook

This update is co- produced by the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management of the FGS (MoHADM) and FAO - Somalia Water and Land Information Management—SWALIM Project. For more information regarding this product please contact communications@mohadm.gov.so or swalim@fao.org

Primary data sources are; Ministry of Agriculture & Irrigation and Ministry of Energy & Water Resources of the Federal Government of Somalia, SWALIM, ECMWF, TAMSAT and NOAA/USGS. Tables, maps and graphs in this bulletin are produced from these sources.