

## Highlights

Gu (March/April-June) season rainfall typically starts between late March to early April in northwestern and southern parts of Somalia and expands eastwards to cover central and northeast regions by mid-April.

This year, a mostly dry period in March was followed by continued dry period through mid to late April. Rainfall conditions started improving in mid-April and by 25 May, most parts of Somalia have received some rainfall of varying amounts and intensities (Map 1). Most of this year's Gu season rainfall was concentrated between the last week of April and the first week of May. Some stations recorded significant rainfall for the month of April, exceeding 100 mm: Wajaale (165mm), Dhubato (137.5mm), Sheikh (119.5mm) and Hargeisa (108mm) in northwest regions and Dinsor (173mm) and Elbarde (149mm) in southern Somalia – Table 1. However, cumulative rainfall between 1 March through 25 May remained below average in parts of Awdal, Bari, Galgaduud, Hiran, Bakool, Gedo and in most of the other regions in southern Somalia (Middle Shabelle, Lower Shabelle, Bay, Middle Juba and Lower Juba) - Map 2.

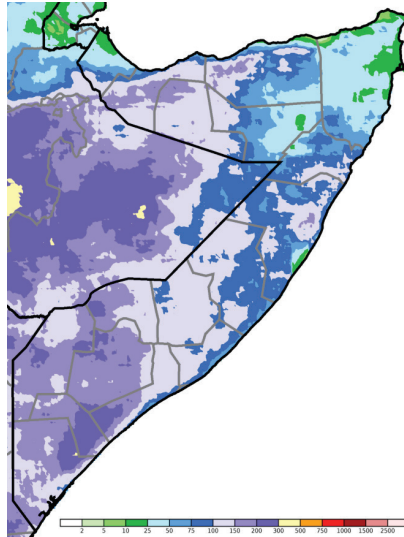
Current forecast indicate little to no rainfall through mid-June, possibly signaling the earlier than normal end of the rainy season. When incorporating the forecast information, cumulative rainfall amounts between 1 March and 10 June are expected to remain below average in most parts of Somalia, with substantial rainfall deficits in northwest, central and southern regions of Somalia (Maps 3 and 4).

Vegetation cover measured through the Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) indicates below average vegetation in most parts of northwest, central and southern Somalia through the end of April. This reflects the impact of below average rainfall amounts in March through late April (Maps 5 and 6). Vegetation conditions improved in early to mid-May in many areas due to substantial rainfall between late April and first week of May (Maps 7 and 8).

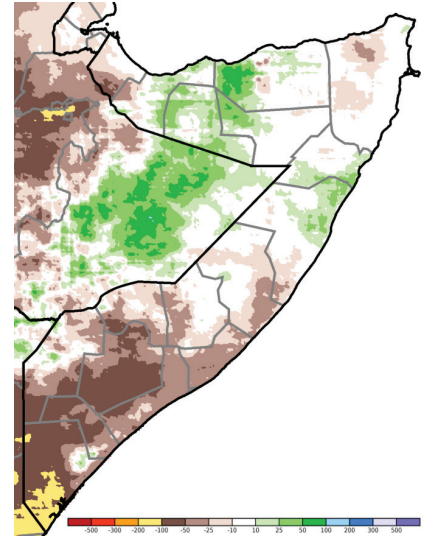
With reduced rainfall amounts both inside Somalia and in the upper catchments of the Shabelle and Juba rivers in the Ethiopian highlands, Shabelle and Juba river levels remained below Moderate flood-risk levels, except in Dollow where the Juba River briefly surpassed Moderate flood-risk levels around May 9. Similarly, in Beletweyne, Shabelle River levels surpassed Moderate and High flood-risk levels between 11 and 17 May, reaching Bank Full on 25 May before starting to decline the following day. As a result, some flooding and related population displacements were reported in Beletweyne town and parts of riverine villages.

Intensified rainfall between late April and late May have improved water availability, browse and pasture condition. However, this improvement is likely to be short-lived with current forecast through mid-June indicating a likely early cessation of Gu season rainfall. Due to delayed and erratic distribution and potential early cessation of the rains, overall Gu season cereal crop production is likely to be 20-40 percent below average.

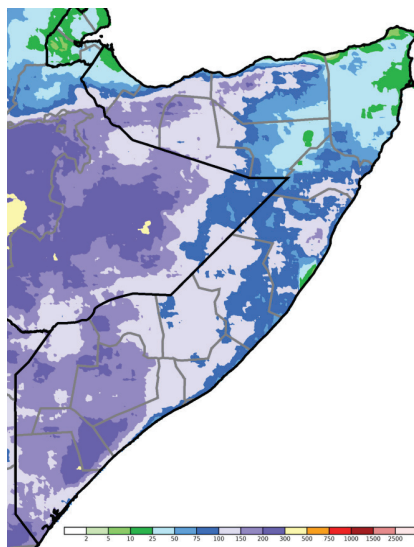
Map 1: Rainfall Total (mm): 1 Mar – to 25 May



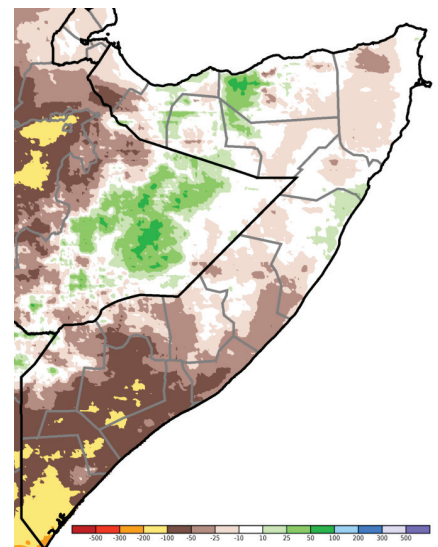
Map 2: Rainfall Anomaly (mm): 1 Mar to 25 May



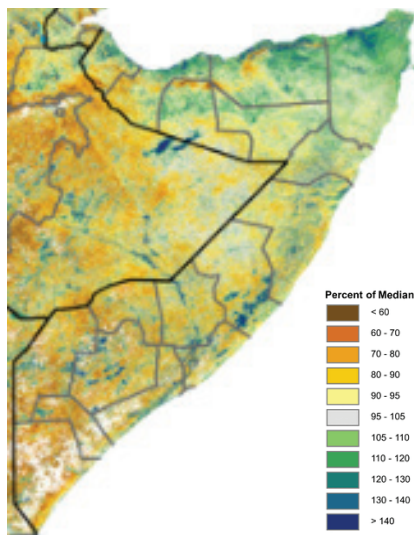
Map 3: Rainfall Total (mm): 1 Mar to 10 Jun (includes forecast data for 26 May to 10 Jun)



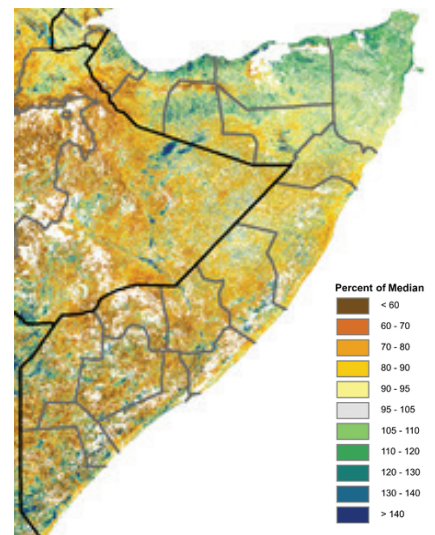
Map 4: Rainfall Anomaly (mm): 1 Mar to 10 Jun (includes forecast data for 26 May to 10 Jun)



Map 5: NDVI Percent of Median: 11–20 Apr

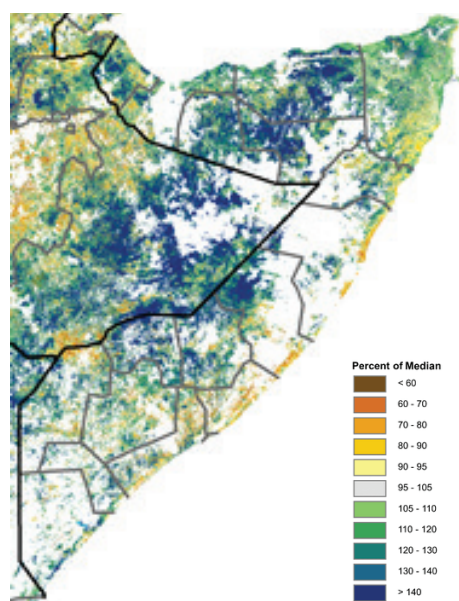


Map 6: NDVI Percent of Median: 21–30 Apr



# Monthly rain gauge data

Map 7: NDVI Percent of Median: 1–10 May



Map 8: NDVI Percent of Median: 11–20 May

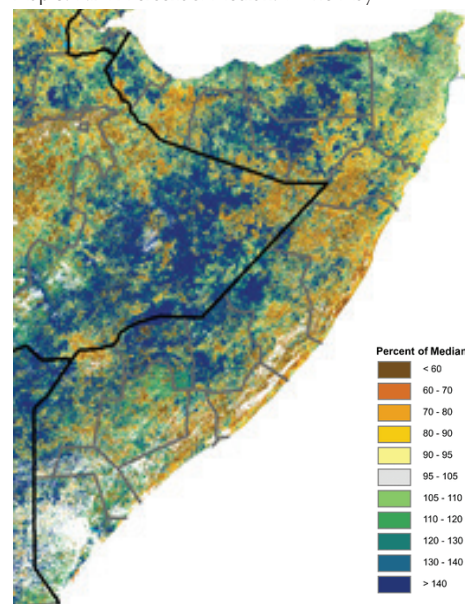


Table 1: Observed rain gauge data compared to Short term averages - STA (April 2021)

## Northern Regions

Station Name	Region	dek 1	dek 2	dek 3	Apr-21	STA
Borama	Awdal	0.0	8.0	60.0	68.0	104.0
Qulenjeed	Awdal	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	119.0
Gebilley	Wogooyi Galbeed	0.0	18.5	29.0	47.5	58.0
Malawle	Wogooyi Galbeed	0.0	0.0	87.0	87.0	79.0
Wajaale	Wogooyi Galbeed	0.0	39.5	125.5	165.0	71.0
Hargeisa	Wogooyi Galbeed	0.0	14.0	94.0	108.0	85.0
Darawayne	Wogooyi Galbeed	0.0	2.0	20.0	22.0	71.0
Cadaadley	Wogooyi Galbeed	0.0	0.0	73.5	73.5	60.0
Dilla	Wogooyi Galbeed	0.0	8.0	85.0	93.0	75.0
Aburin	Wogooyi Galbeed	0.0	4.0	53.0	57.0	77.0
Dhubato	Wogooyi Galbeed	0.0	0.0	137.5	137.5	68.0
Baligubable	Wogooyi Galbeed	0.0	0.0	10.5	10.5	76.0
Berbera	Wogooyi Galbeed	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Burao	Togdheer	0.0	5.0	51.0	56.0	47.0
Sheikh	Togdheer	0.0	21.0	98.5	119.5	79.0
Odweyne	Togdheer	0.0	0.0	58.0	58.0	60.0
Buadodle	Togdheer	0.0	0.0	65.0	65.0	50.0
Eerigavo	Sanaag	0.0	0.0	20.0	20.0	39.0
Elafweyn	Sanaag	0.0	8.5	83.0	91.5	34.0
Caynabo	Sool	0.0	0.0	73.0	73.0	49.0
X bvn udun	Sool	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	28.0
Taleex	Sool	0.0	0.0	6.0	6.0	27.0
Bossasso	Bari	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.0
Qardo	Bari	0.0	12.0	3.0	15.0	26.0
Dangoroyo	Bari	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	23.0
Ballidhin	Bari	0.0	7.0	18.1	25.1	14.0
Alula	Bari	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.0
Bandarbeyla	Bari	0.0	0.0	5.0	5.0	30.0
Iskushuban	Bari	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	22.0
Garowe	Nugaal	0.0	0.0	18.5	18.5	30.0
Eyl	Nugaal	0.0	0.0	40.0	40.0	27.0
Burnile	Nugaal	0.0	16.1	54.9	71.0	34.0
Galdogob	Mudug	0.0	11.0	26.4	37.4	44.0
Jarriiban	Mudug	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	31.0
Galkayo	Mudug	0.0	5.0	5.0	10.0	37.0

## Southern Regions

Station Name	Region	dek 1	dek 2	dek 3	Apr-21	STA
Hudur	Bakool	12.0	30.5	53.0	95.5	107.0
Elbarde	Bakool	0.0	61.0	88.0	149.0	129.0
Baidoa	Bay	12.5	25.0	25.5	63.0	165.0
Diinsor	Bay	68.8	74.8	29.4	173.0	136.0
Bardaale	Bay	5.5	26.5	67.5	99.5	142.0
BurHakaba	Bay	0.0	58.0	0.0	58.0	202.0
Wanleweyne	Bay	0.0	53.5	14.0	67.5	75.0
Luuq	Gedo	0.0	8.0	45.1	53.1	82.0
Bardheere	Gedo	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	117.0
Belet weyne	Hiraan	0.0	38.0	52.5	90.5	72.0
Bulo burti	Hiraan	0.0	45.0	44.5	89.5	70.0
Mataban	Hiraan	0.0	45.0	0.0	45.0	69.0
Balad	Lower Shabelle	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	92.0
Mogadishu	Banadir	0.0	46.0	3.5	49.5	60.0
Bualle	Middle juba	0.0	21.0	8.5	29.5	70.0
Jowhar	Middle Shabelle	0.0	2.0	0.0	2.0	100.0

Source of satellite Images used in this analysis are the Climate Hazard Center at the University of California Santa Barbara (for rainfall) and FEWS NET (for NDVI).