

## Highlights

Gu 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, observed rain gauge data and satellite data indicate that sunny and dry weather conditions characterized by higher than average daytime temperatures prevailed in most regions of the country in March. Exceptions are some southern regions (Belet-weyne, Qanzaadhere, Bardale, parts of Juba regions and Baidoa) that recorded some rainfall of poor distribution and low intensity mainly in the 2<sup>nd</sup> dekad.

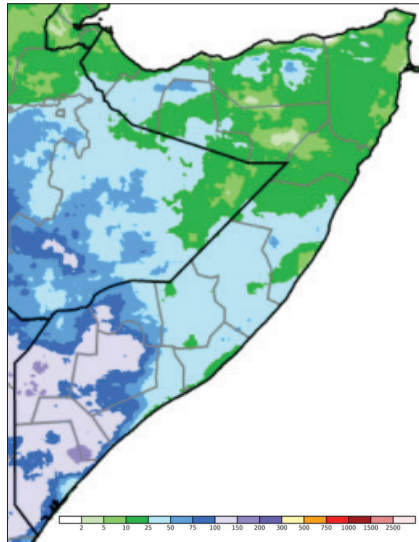
Rainfall conditions started improving in mid-April and by 25 April, most parts of Somalia have received some rainfall of varying amounts and intensities (Map 1). However, cumulative rainfall between 1 March through 25 April is below average in most parts of the country, especially in northwestern central and southern regions (Map 2). Based on available forecasts, further rainfall is expected through 10 May covering many parts of the country (Map 3). However, cumulative rainfall amounts are likely to remain below average in central and southern regions of Somalia (Map 4).

Vegetation conditions measured through the Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) for 11-20 April indicate below average vegetation conditions in most parts of central and southern Somalia and parts of northwest regions (Map 5). Co

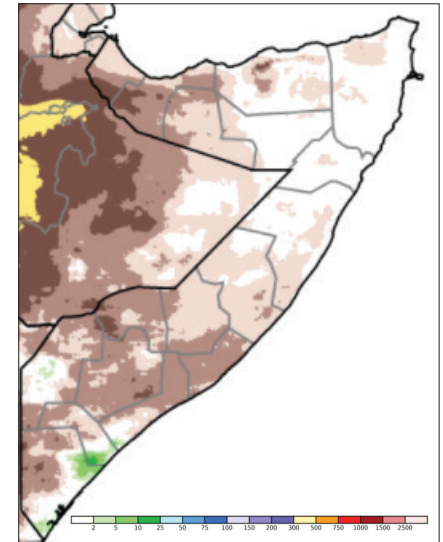
Temporary water sources and catchments in traditional grazing areas have been significantly depleted in most parts of the country. Consequently, significant degradation and depletion of pasture and water have been reported in most parts of the country. As a result, there has been abnormal increase in water prices, increased and earlier than normal water trucking and increased and atypical livestock migration to distant grazing areas in most regions of the country. Due to worsening drought conditions, livestock abortion among small ruminants, culling of new born kids to save the mothers and increased livestock mortality of the new borns was reported in parts of northern and central regions.

Increased rainfall which started in late April is expected to continue through early May and this will bring some relief in pastoral livelihoods, especially in northern Somalia. However, based on current forecasts, rainfall through 10 May is expected to remain below average in most parts of central and southern Somalia. As a result, given the delayed and poor start of the Gu rains, conditions are becoming less favorable for crop cultivation during the season. As a result, a below average Gu season harvest is expected.

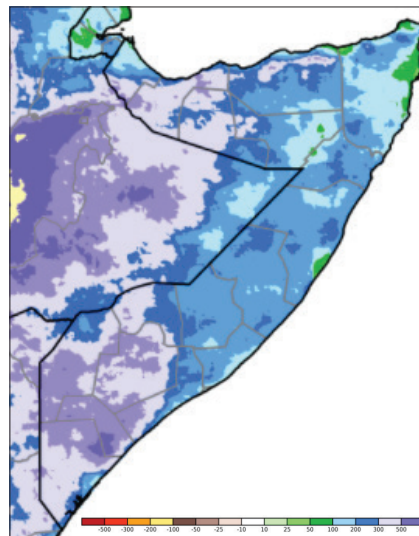
Map 1: Rainfall Total (mm): 1 Mar – to 25 Apr



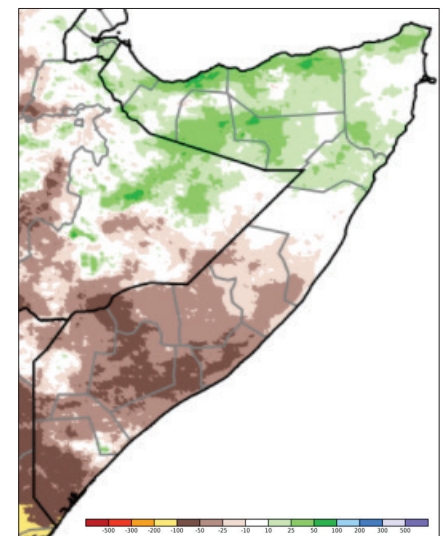
Map 2: Rainfall Anomaly (mm): 1 Mar to 25 Apr



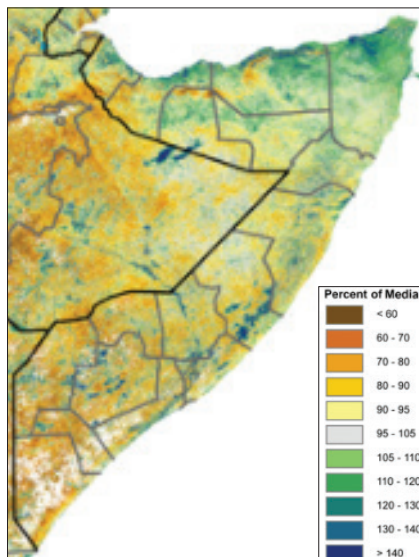
Map 3: Rainfall Total (mm): 1 Mar to 10 May (includes forecast data for 26 Apr to 10 May)



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



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



Map 6: March 2021 Monthly Rain Gauge Data (mm)



## Monthly rain gauge data

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

Northern Regions							Southern Regions						
Station Name	Region	dek 1	dek 2	dek 3	Mar-21	STA	Station Name	Region	dek 1	dek 2	dek 3	Mar-21	STA
Borama	Awdal	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	44.0	Hudur	Bakool	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.0
Qulenjeed	Awdal	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	40.0	Elbarde	Bakool	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	13.0
Gebilley	Wogooyi Galbeed	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	30.0	Baidoa	Bay	0.0	10.5	0.0	10.5	23.0
Malawle	Wogooyi Galbeed	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	28.0	Diinsor	Bay	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	26.0
Wajaale	Wogooyi Galbeed	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	36.0	Bardaale	Bay	0.0	13.0	0.0	13.0	17.0
Hargeisa	Wogooyi Galbeed	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	25.0	BurHakaba	Bay	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	9.0
Darawayne	Wogooyi Galbeed	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	25.0	Luuq	Gedo	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0
Cadaadley	Wogooyi Galbeed	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	22.0	Bardheere	Gedo	0.0	0.0	22.0	22.0	27.0
Dilla	Wogooyi Galbeed	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	36.0	Belet weyne	Hiraan	0.0	4.5	0.0	4.5	9.0
Aburin	Wogooyi Galbeed	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	29.0	Bulo burti	Hiraan	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	11.0
Dhubato	Wogooyi Galbeed	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	25.0	Mataban	Hiraan	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	11.0
Baligubable	Wogooyi Galbeed	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	30.0	Balad	Lower Shabelle	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0
Berbera	Wogooyi Galbeed	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Mogadishu	Banadir	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Burao	Togdheer	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.0	Bualle	Middle juba	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0
Sheikh	Togdheer	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	33.0	Jowhar	Middle Shabelle	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	14.0
Odweyne	Togdheer	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	21.0							
Buadodle	Togdheer	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	12.0							
Eeerigavo	Sanaag	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	22.0							
Elafweyn	Sanaag	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	12.0							
Caynabo	Sool	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	12.0							
Xudun	Sool	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.0							
Taleex	Sool	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.0							
Bossasso	Bari	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0							
Qardo	Bari	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.0							
Dangoroyo	Bari	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.0							
Ballidhin	Bari	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.0							
Alula	Bari	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0							
Bandarbeyla	Bari	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.0							
Iskushuban	Bari	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.0							
Garowe	Nugaal	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.0							
Eyl	Nugaal	7.0	0.0	0.0	7.0	5.0							
Burtnile	Nugaal	10.0	0.0	0.0	10.0	7.0							
Galdogob	Mudug	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.0							
Jarriban	Mudug	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.0							
Galkayo	Mudug	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.0							

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).