

Highlights

The 2021 Gu (March/April-June) season rainfall of varying amounts and intensities (Map 1) continued in most parts of Somalia through the first dekad of May but significantly decreased during the second and third dekads of May and the first dekad of June.

Based on data from rain gauge readings, a few stations recorded significant amount of rainfall (exceeding 100 mm) in May 2021: Qulenjeed (101mm), Cadaadley (106mm), Malawle (115mm), Sheikh (122.5mm), Buadodle (158mm) and Caynabo (193mm) and in northwest, Ballidhin (110mm) in northeast regions; Galdogob (110.8mm) in North Mudug region; Diinsor (105.1mm) Bulo-burto (126mm) and Jowhar (182mm) in southern regions of Somalia – Table 1. However, cumulative rainfall from 1 March to 10 June 2021 remained below average in most regions of southern Somalia, Galgaduud in central regions and Awdal, W. Galbeed and Bari regions in northern Somalia - Map 2.

Rainfall performance since the second dekad of May and current forecast through 25 June indicate earlier than normal end of the 2021 Gu season rainfall as the forecast indicates little to no rainfall through 25 June. Cumulatively, total rainfall amounts since 1 March, including forecasts through 25 June 2021, are expected to remain below average with large rainfall deficits in most parts of southern Somalia and in parts of Galgaduud in central regions and Awdal, W. Galbeed and Bari in northern regions (Maps 3 and 4).

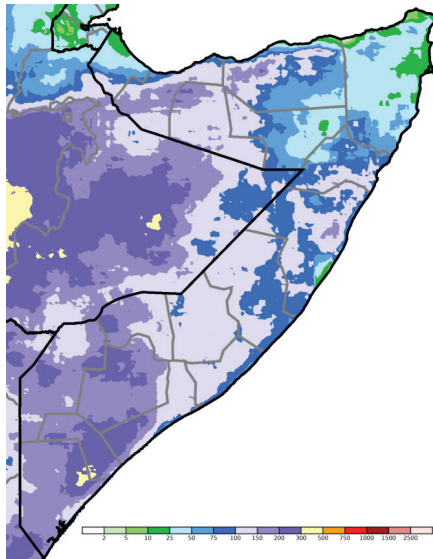
Reflecting the positive impact of heavy rainfall between late April and early May, vegetation cover measured through the Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) continued to improve in most parts of northern and central Somalia from early May through the first dekad of June (Maps 5-8). However, below average vegetation is still observed in the coastal parts of northeast and central regions and several parts of southern Somalia as of the first dekad of June (Map 8).

The reduction in rainfall amounts both inside Somalia and in the upper catchments of the Shabelle and Juba rivers in the Ethiopian highlands are reflected in Shabelle and Juba river levels which remained below Moderate flood-risk except in Dollow where the Juba River briefly surpassed Moderate flood-risk levels around May 9. Similarly, in Belet-weyne, Jowhar/Mahday and Balad districts, Shabelle River levels surpassed Moderate and High flood-risk levels between May 11 and May 17, reaching Bank Full on May 25, before starting to decline the following day. As a result, some flooding and related population displacements were reported in Belet-weyne town. Damage to crops was also reported in rural Beletweyne and several riverine villages in Middle Shabelle region. However, as at June 15, all stations along Shabelle and Juba rivers are below Moderate flood-risk levels.

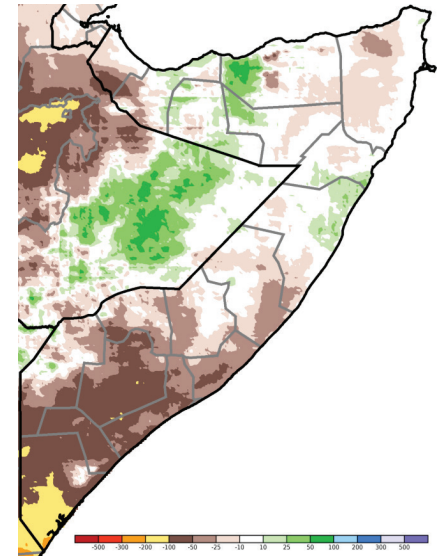
Intensified rainfall between late April and early May has improved water availability, browse and pasture availability. However, this improvement may not be adequate to support livestock through the forthcoming and mostly dry Hagaa (July-September) season. With little or no forecast rainfall in through late June, the residual moisture in the soil is also not adequate to support crop growth and development through the remainder of the Gu cropping season. As a result, the combination of delayed and erratic distribution and early cessation of current season rainfall, the overall 2021 Gu season cereal crop production is likely to be 20-40 percent below average.

The latest FAO Desert Locust Watch (11 June 2021) reports that numerous hopper bands have formed in northwest Somalia. Infestations are likely to continue further east to Puntland, but some areas are not accessible. Although substantial control operations are underway, new swarms will start to form as of mid-June, which are likely to persist in northern Somalia until conditions dry out. This could threaten Gu season crop harvest prospects as well as availability of pasture during the Hagaa season.

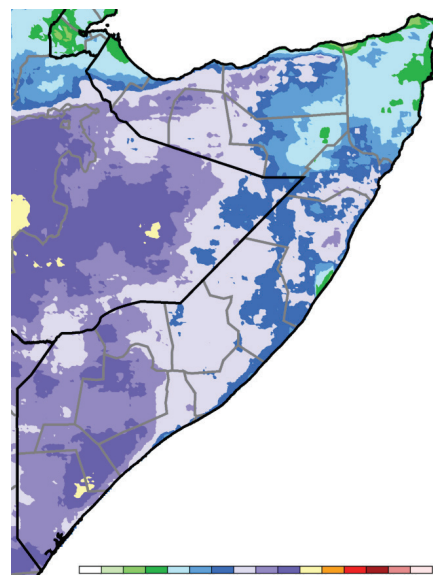
Map 1: Rainfall Total (mm): 1 Mar to 10 Jun



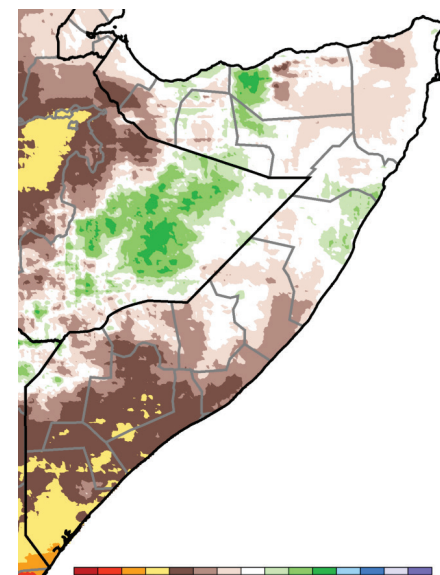
Map 2: Rainfall Anomaly (mm): 1 Mar to 10 Jun



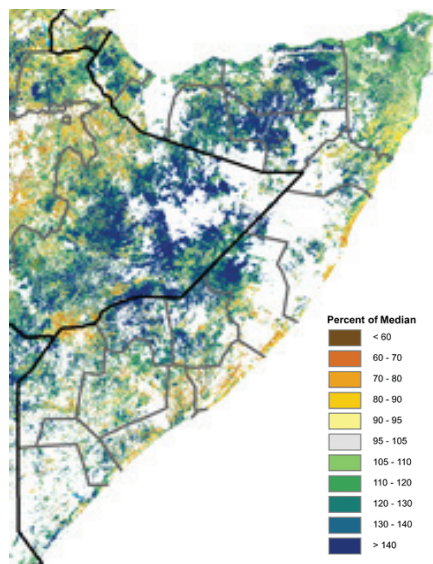
Map 3: Rainfall Total (mm): 1 Mar to 25 Jun
(includes forecast data for 11 to 25 Jun)



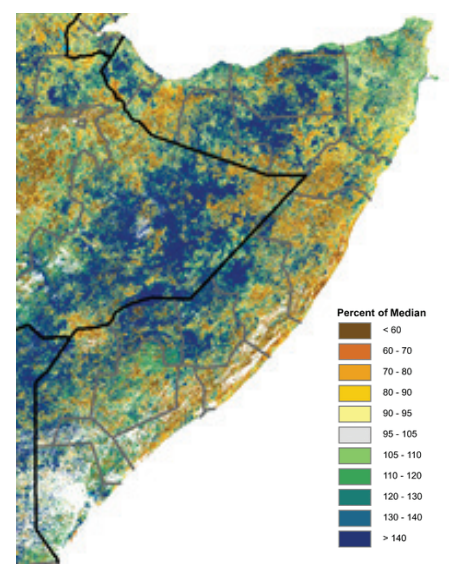
Map 4: Rainfall Anomaly (mm): 1 Mar to 25 Jun
(includes forecast data for 11 to 25 Jun)



Map 5: NDVI Percent of Median: 1–10 May

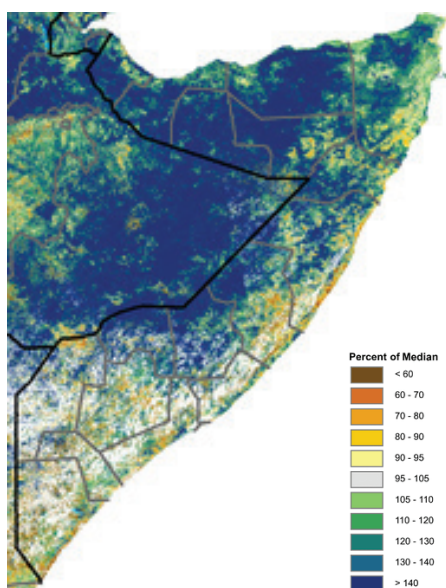


Map 6: NDVI Percent of Median: 11–20 May



Monthly rain gauge data

Map 7: NDVI Percent of Median: 20–31 May



Map 8: NDVI Percent of Median: 1–10 Jun

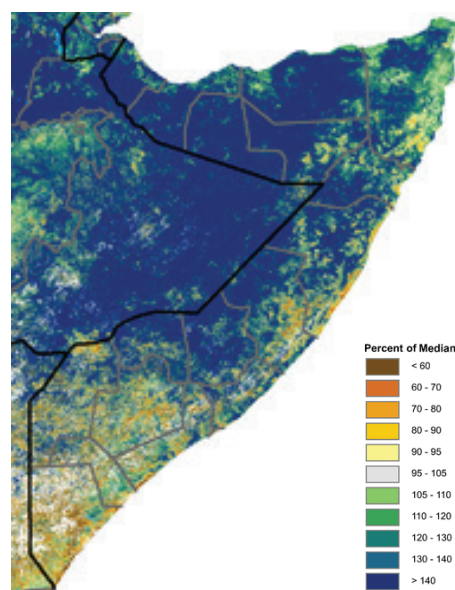


Table 1: Observed rain gauge data compared to Short term averages - STA (May 2021)

Northern Regions

Station Name	Region	dek 1	dek 2	dek 3	May-21	STA
Borama	Awdal	97.0	0.0	0.0	97.0	56.4
Qulenjeed	Awdal	101.0	0.0	0.0	101.0	53.1
Gebilley	Wogooyi Galbeed	54.0	0.0	0.0	54.0	59.1
Malawle	Wogooyi Galbeed	115.0	0.0	0.0	115.0	61.8
Wajaale	Wogooyi Galbeed	55.0	0.0	4.0	59.0	59.1
Hargeisa	Wogooyi Galbeed	83.5	0.0	0.0	83.5	61.8
Daraweyne	Wogooyi Galbeed	78.0	0.0	0.0	78.0	57.8
Cadaadley	Wogooyi Galbeed	101.5	4.5	0.0	106.0	68.5
Dilla	Wogooyi Galbeed	100.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	56.4
Aburin	Wogooyi Galbeed	33.5	0.0	0.0	33.5	61.8
Dhubato	Wogooyi Galbeed	89.0	0.0	0.0	89.0	61.8
Baligubable	Wogooyi Galbeed	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	75.9
Berbera	Wogooyi Galbeed	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Burao	Togdheer	26.0	21.0	0.0	47.0	66.5
Sheikh	Togdheer	122.5	0.0	0.0	122.5	75.3
Odweyne	Togdheer	85.0	0.0	0.0	85.0	84.0
Buadodle	Togdheer	149.0	9.0	0.0	158.0	62.5
Eerigavo	Sanaag	88.0	8.0	0.0	96.0	58.5
Elafweyn	Sanaag	27.5	0.0	18.0	45.5	63.8
Caynabo	Sool	137.0	56.0	0.0	193.0	61.1
Xudun	Sool	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	56.4
Taleex	Sool	37.6	12.0	22.0	71.6	41.0
Las Aanod	Sool	14.0	0.0	0.0	14.0	51.7
Bossasso	Bari	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7
Qardo	Bari	7.4	0.0	6.0	13.4	30.2
Dangoroyo	Bari	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	43.7
Ballidhin	Bari	110.0	0.0	0.0	110.0	11.4
Alula	Bari	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7
Bandarbeyla	Bari	8.0	0.0	0.0	8.0	33.6
Iskushuban	Bari	12.0	5.0	4.0	21.0	20.8
Garowe	Nugaal	14.8	39.8	0.0	54.6	47.7
Eyl	Nugaal	8.0	0.0	0.0	8.0	56.4
Burtnile	Nugaal	20.4	11.6	0.0	32.0	51.1
Galdogob	Mudug	110.8	0.0	0.0	110.8	51.7
Jarriban	Mudug	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	53.1
Galkayo	Mudug	52.0	5.0	0.0	57.0	49.7

Southern Regions

Station Name	Region	dek 1	dek 2	dek 3	May-21	STA
Hudur	Bakool	9.0	0.0	0.0	9.0	74.6
Elbarde	Bakool	15.0	0.0	0.0	15.0	71.2
Baidoa	Bay	95.5	0.0	0.0	95.5	94.7
Diinsor	Bay	59.1	0.0	46.0	105.1	69.9
Bardaale	Bay	43.0	10.5	7.5	61.0	71.9
BurHakaba	Bay	48.0	0.0	0.0	48.0	130.4
Luuq	Gedo	32.0	0.0	32.0	64.0	51.7
Bardheere	Gedo	42.0	0.0	42.0	84.0	70.6
Belet weyne	Hiraan	62.5	0.0	6.0	68.5	86.0
Bulo burti	Hiraan	126.0	0.0	0.0	126.0	67.2
Mataban	Hiraan	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	68.5
Wanleweyne	Lower Shabelle	12.7	12.0	0.0	24.7	90.0
Mogadishu	Banadir	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	75.9
Bualle	Middle juba	30.0	0.0	0.0	30.0	96.8
Jowhar	Middle Shabelle	164.0	18.0	0.0	182.0	94.1
Jamame	Lower Juba	7.5	7.0	4.5	19.0	116.9

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).