

Gu 2017 Rainfall Performance

March–June 2017

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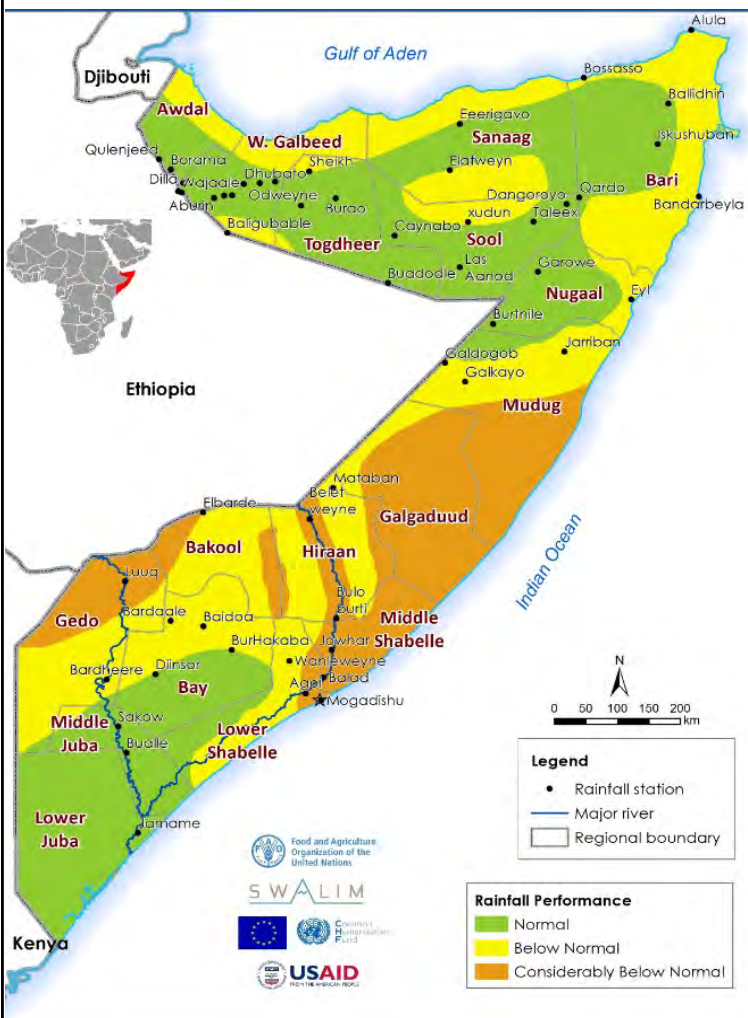


Summary

Somalia is in the second year of a severe drought—the kind that is increasingly likely as the climate warms. Somali communities were looking forward to a relief from the Gu 2017 rainfall season but the devastating drought conditions meant that the country experienced yet another below-average season affecting the recovery of the key livelihood sectors; agricultural and livestock. So far, drought conditions continues to affect Somalia; a situation that may persist until the next rainy season in October.

The Gu rainy season was generally poor in most parts of the country except some places in Puntland and Somaliland that saw good rains during the month of May. The southern regions of Middle Juba, Lower Juba and southern Bay also recorded good rains during the months of May and June. Regions that recorded very poor rains include Mududg, Galgaduud, Hiraan, Middle Shabelle, Lower Shabelle, Bakool, Gedo and southern parts of Bay (Map 1).

The Gu rains were sporadic and scattered. In March, a few pockets of Somaliland recorded good rains followed by a long dry period until end of April when the rains started in most parts albeit very late. The rains then spread in space, time and quantity in May. While many parts continued to receive rains until the last week of May, there was an early cessation of the rains in many parts of south and central regions except South of Bay and Middle and Lower Juba regions that continued to receive rains in June.



Even with the rains, most parts of the country remain under drought conditions with the impacts being felt across the country. More rains are required to end the ongoing drought in the country and the drought situation is expected to continue until the coming Deyr season in October.

It is important to note that only 20% to 40% of the ground water sources have been sufficiently recharged throughout the country. The rest remain water stressed.

The rains, though poorly distributed, eased stress levels for the livestock sector due to regrowth of pasture, which provided grazing lands. Areas with below normal rains also saw regrowth of pasture, but may not last until the next season expected in October.

If El Niño predictions for late 2017 prove correct, Deyr rainfall in Somalia could be substantial. Most climate models give the El Niño event a 45 percent chance of returning in 2017. El Niño events tend to cause enhanced rainfall events in Somalia, generally cool temperatures and lots of run-off, which would be good for both ground and surface water recharge in the country.

Map 1: Spatial distribution of Gu 2017 rainfall (source: SWALIM & FSNAU)

Overall Gu rainfall performance

South and Central: There was a late kick off rains in these regions which started in late April and continued until mid May indicating an early end in most areas. However, parts of Middle Juba, Lower Juba and southern parts bay region continued to record good rains until June. Drought conditions still continue to be felt in many parts of these regions.

Gedo, Hiraan, Middle Shabelle, Lower Shabelle, Galgaduud and Mudug regions recorded the lowest amounts of rainfall in the season. Figure 1 shows the Gu 2017 cumulative rainfall amounts compared to the average for the same season for some selected areas in south and central regions. Huddur, Dinsoor, Baidoa, Bualle and Jamame recorded 200mm of rainfall during the season. Other stations recorded less rains which were below the average amounts. Annex 1 shows the total amounts of rainfall during the Gu 2017 season for individual stations compared to the long term average for the Gu.

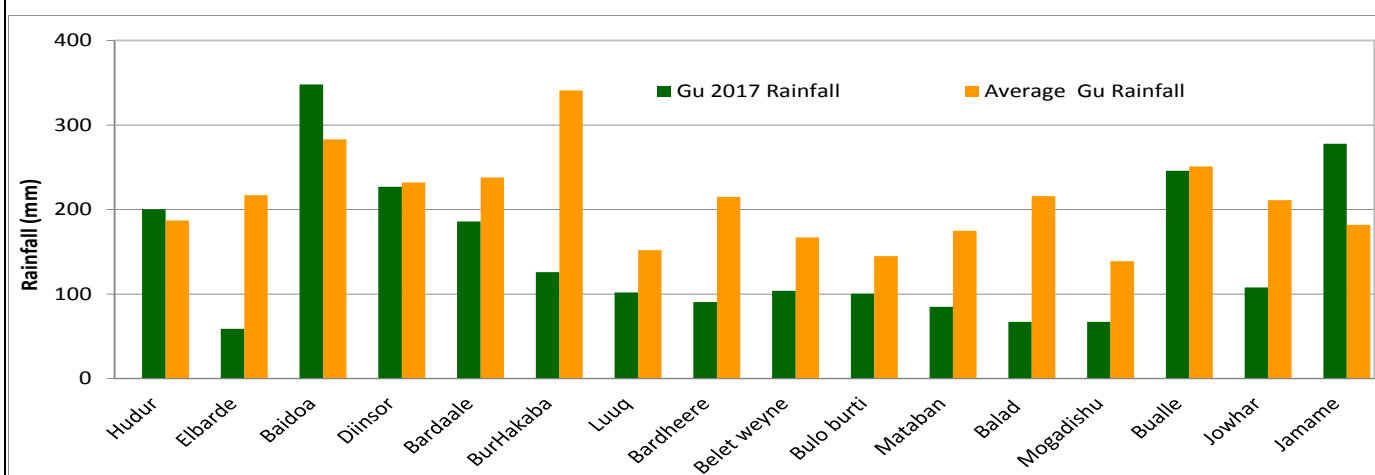


Figure 1: Gu 2017 Rainfall Performance in South and Central Somalia (Source—SWALIM)

Somaliland: Rains started well on time in the last week of March but a prolonged dry spell in April was noticed across Somaliland. There was a relief in May when the region received good rains with good distribution in time and space. The good rains in May led to a relief in the water dependent sectors which may continue to benefit from the *Karan* rains (June—August) thus improving pasture growth and crop production in the agro pastoral areas. Heavy rains in May also led to flash floods in some areas with reported cases of lose of lives and property. Figure 2 shows the GU 2017 rainfall performance for selected stations within Somaliland compared to the average rains of the sae period.

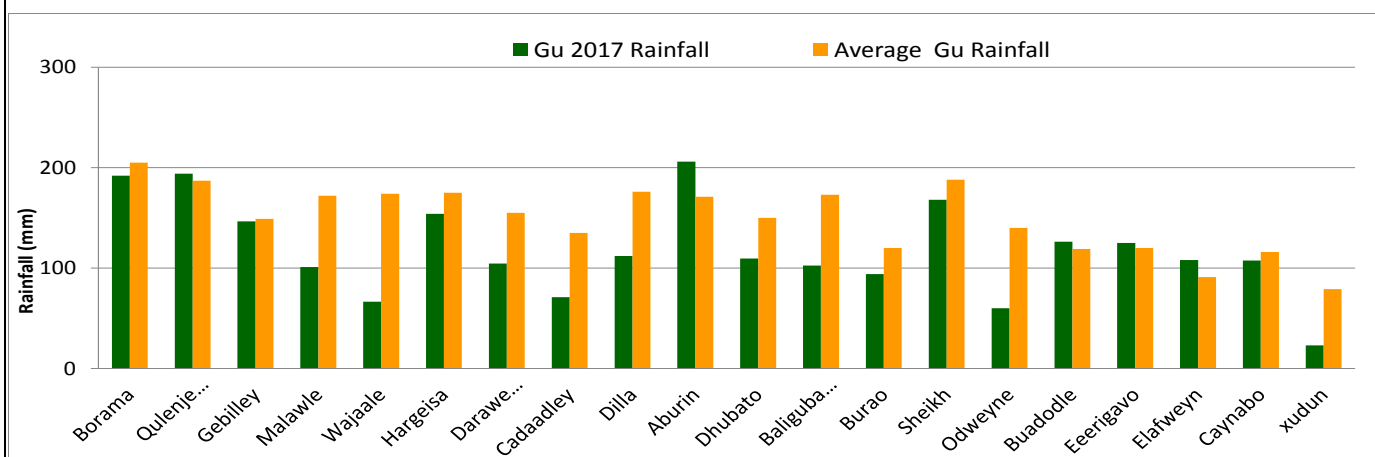


Figure 2: Gu 2017 Rainfall Performance – Somaliland (Source—SWALIM)

Puntland: The rains started off late in last week of April and continued to spread further in quantity and space during the month of May. The rains ended in the first week of June. Many areas in Puntland that had experienced prolonged dry periods following consecutive failed seasons recorded good rains during this season. The rains were a major relief among the communities because there was pasture growth and ground water replenishment. This however just served as an immediate relief and did not completely end the drought conditions in area. More rains are required to end the impacts of droughts the region.

The May rains saw some days of heavy storms that led to flash floods in some areas with cases of destruction of property.

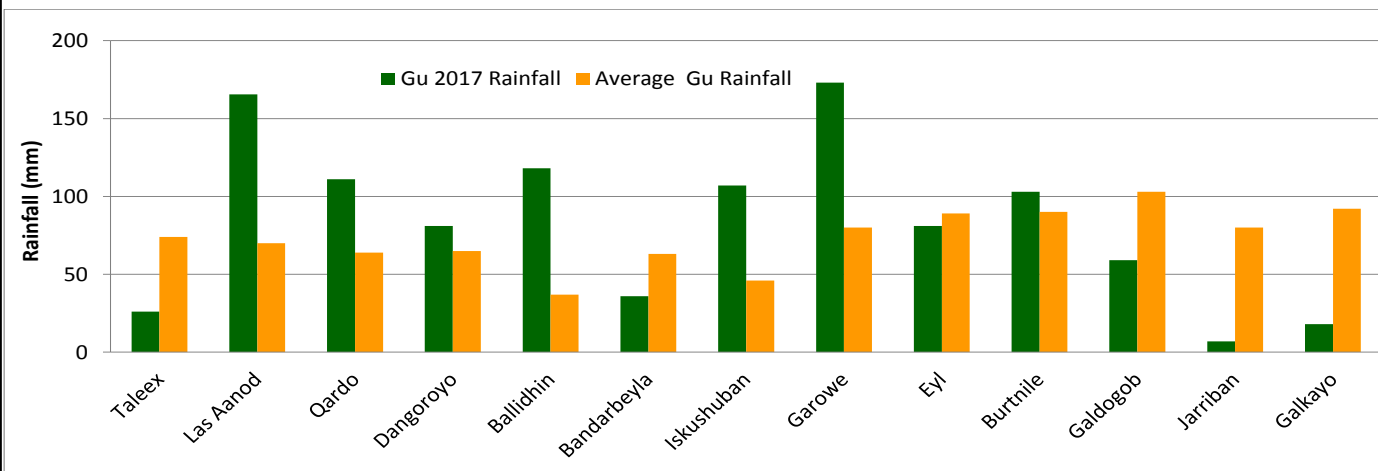
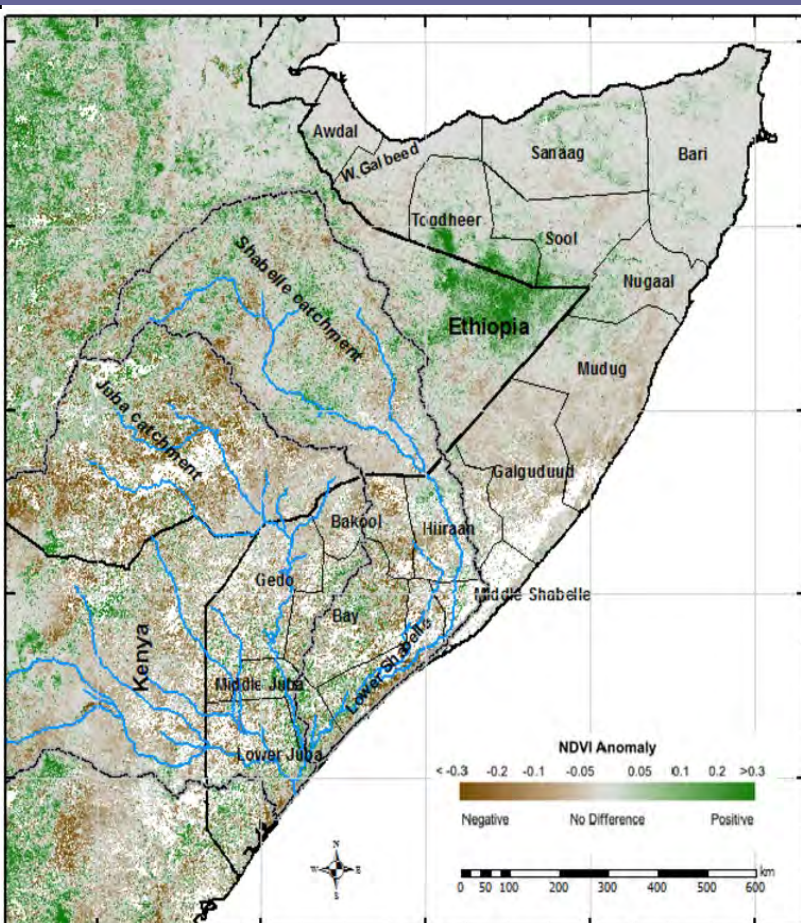


Figure 3: Gu 2017 Rainfall Performance – Puntland (Source—SWALIM)

Vegetation conditions



Satellite-derived vegetation condition was used to assess the spatial distribution of vegetation during the season. Many areas in Somalia indicate good or positive (green shades in Map 2) conditions compared to the long-term average. This was particularly due to the significant rains recorded in May, which boosted the growth of pasture and crops. The southern parts however show mixed vegetation conditions, with pockets of negative anomalies (Brown Shades) in areas where there were rainfall deficits such as the areas of Gedo and Lower Shebelle, Galgaduud and Mudug regions. Pockets of negative vegetation conditions can also be seen in parts Sanaag and Sool regions in the north.

Map 2: Vegetation conditions at the end of Gu 2017 rainy season (Source—USGS)

Water resources

The water resources sector benefited from the rains. This is seen in the increased river flow along the Juba and Shabelle rivers. The rains received during the Gu 2017 rainy season within the Juba and Shabelle river basins inside Somalia and in the Ethiopian highlands translated to increased river levels in the two rivers which was good for irrigation, livestock and domestic use.

Figures 4 and 5 show the river levels at Belet Weyne (upper Shabelle) and Luuq (upper Juba) during the season respectively. Levels remained high from the beginning of May along the Shabelle with the middle reaches experiencing overbank flow that led to floods. River levels along Juba fluctuated during the season with no riverine floods; only a few isolated cases of localized flooding were reported.

The northern parts of the country also benefited immensely from the good rains in May by replenishing the ground water which is the major source of water in the regions.

Flash floods were observed in parts of Somaliland and Puntland due to unusually heavy rains during the first week of May.

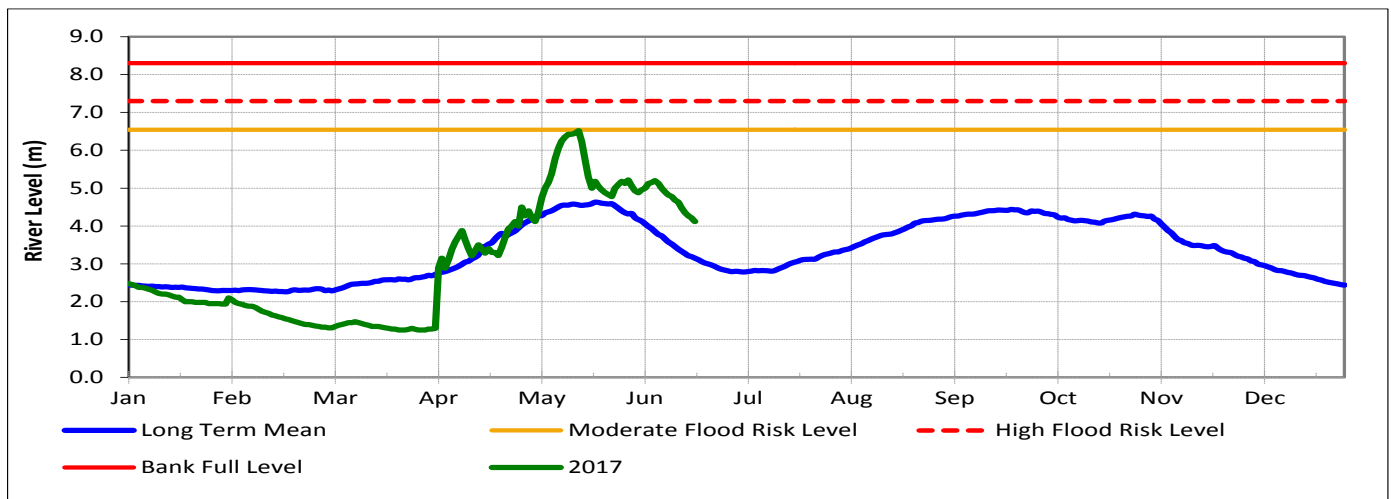


Figure 4: Observed river levels along Shabelle River at Belet Weyne (Source—SWALIM)

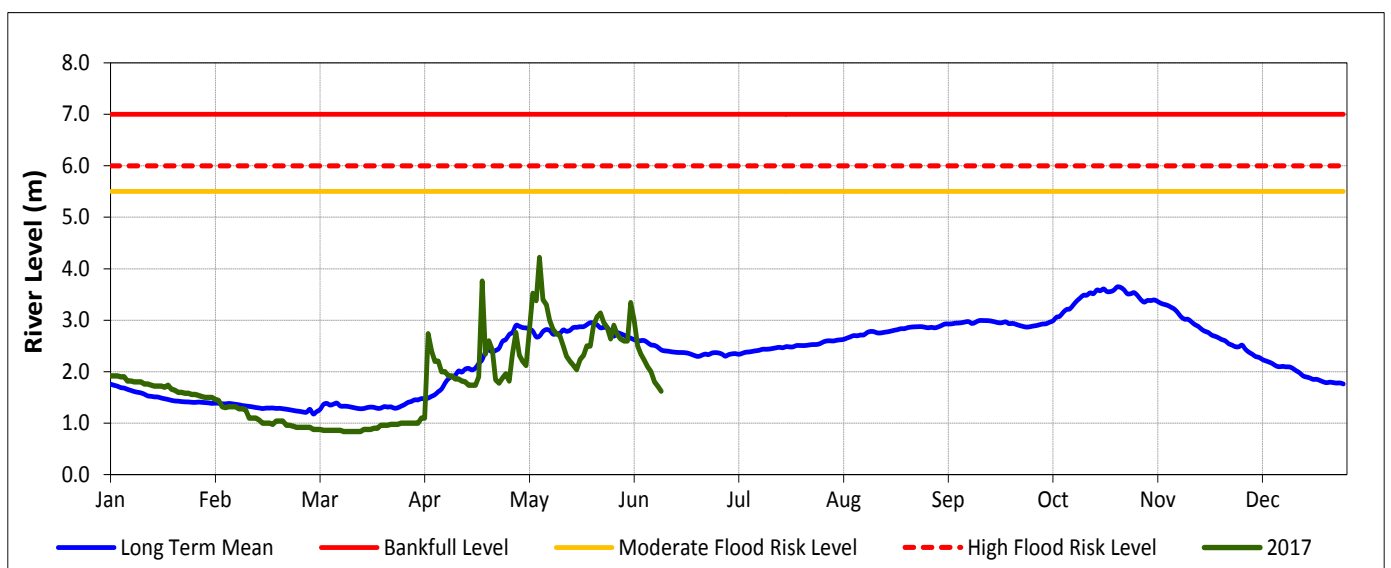


Figure 5: Observed river levels along Juba River at Luuq (Source—SWALIM)

Annex 1—GU 2017 rainfall performance

Station	Region	Gu 2017 Rainfall (mm)	Gu Average Rainfall (mm)	Percent of Normal (%)
Borama	Awdal	192.0	205.0	93.7
Qulenjeed	Awdal	194.0	187.0	103.7
Gebilley	Wogooyi Galbeed	146.5	149.0	98.3
Malawle	Wogooyi Galbeed	101.0	172.0	58.7
Wajaale	Wogooyi Galbeed	66.5	174.0	38.2
Hargeisa	Wogooyi Galbeed	154.0	175.0	88.0
Daraweyne	Wogooyi Galbeed	104.5	155.0	67.4
Cadaadley	Wogooyi Galbeed	71.0	135.0	52.6
Dilla	Wogooyi Galbeed	112.0	176.0	63.6
Aburin	Wogooyi Galbeed	206.0	171.0	120.5
Dhubato	Wogooyi Galbeed	109.5	150.0	73.0
Baligubable	Wogooyi Galbeed	102.5	173.0	59.2
Burao	Togdheer	94.0	120.0	78.3
Sheikh	Togdheer	168.0	188.0	89.4
Odweyne	Togdheer	60.0	140.0	42.9
Buadodle	Togdheer	126.2	119.0	106.1
Eerigavo	Sanaag	125.0	120.0	104.2
Elafweyn	Sanaag	108.0	91.0	118.7
Caynabo	Sool	107.5	116.0	92.7
xudun	Sool	23.0	79.0	29.1
Taleex	Sool	26.0	74.0	35.1
Las Aanod	Sool	165.5	70.0	236.4
Qardo	Bari	111.0	64.0	173.4
Dangoroyo	Bari	81.0	65.0	124.6
Ballidhin	Bari	118.0	37.0	318.9
Bandarbeyla	Bari	36.0	63.0	57.1
Iskushuban	Bari	107.0	46.0	232.6
Garowe	Nugaal	173.0	80.0	216.3
Eyl	Nugaal	81.0	89.0	91.0
Burtnile	Nugaal	103.0	90.0	114.4
Galdogob	Mudug	59.0	103.0	57.3
Jarriban	Mudug	7.0	80.0	8.8
Galkayo	Mudug	18.0	92.0	19.6
Hudur	Bakool	200.5	187.0	107.2
Elbarde	Bakool	59.0	217.0	27.2
Baidoa	Bay	348.0	283.0	123.0
Diinsor	Bay	227.0	232.0	97.8
Bardaale	Bay	186.0	238.0	78.2
BurHakaba	Bay	126.0	341.0	37.0
Luuq	Gedo	102.0	152.0	67.1
Bardheere	Gedo	90.5	215.0	42.1
Belet weyne	Hiraan	104.0	167.0	62.3
Bulo burti	Hiraan	100.5	145.0	69.3
Mataban	Hiraan	85.0	175.0	48.6
Balad	Lower Shabelle	67.0	216.0	31.0
Mogadishu	Banadir	67.0	139.0	48.2
Buulle	Middle juba	246.0	251.0	98.0
Jowhar	Middle Shabelle	108.0	211.0	51.2
Jamame	Lower Juba	278.0	182.0	152.7

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