

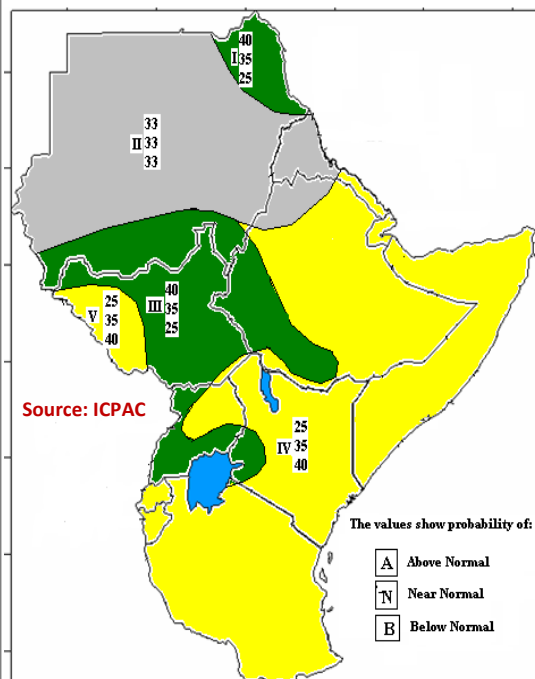
Somalia Rainfall Outlook for Deyr 2016

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Near normal to below normal rains are expected during the Deyr 2016 rainy season

The Deyr rains are usually shorter and less in quantity than the Gu rains. However, they are beneficial in supporting agricultural activities and boosting water availability for different uses. Generally, the season starts in late September and ends in November, but this varies from place to place across the country, with the northern parts receiving rain much earlier than the southern parts.



Map-1: Rainfall Outlook for Oct - Dec 2016

According to the recently issued Seasonal Climate Forecast for the Greater Horn of Africa by the IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC) in Kampala, Uganda, the 2016 Deyr rains in Somalia are expected to be **below normal to near normal** - with a 40% probability of experiencing below normal rains and a 35% probability of near normal rains in the entire country. The upper catchments of the Juba and Shabelle Rivers in Ethiopia are also expected to record depressed rains during the season, as shown in Map 1.

Climate scientists have associated the foreseen poor rains with the weak to moderate La Niña conditions over the tropical Pacific Ocean, which usually leave the Horn of Africa countries in dry spells leading to drought. The infamous 2010/11 famine in the region – which led to the death of thousands of people – was also a result of La Niña. However, no two La Niña events are identical and the effects vary from place to place and year to year.

The below normal rains this year are expected to have negative impacts given the ongoing drought conditions in some parts of the country, especially in Puntland and eastern parts of Somaliland.

These conclusions come from a consensus climate forecast designed for a regional audience that addresses the rainfall totals summed over the three-month period from October to December 2016. The rainfall pattern may vary from place to place, with the areas expected to receive low rains sometimes experiencing heavy storms. SWALIM and other technical partners will keep monitoring performance of the rains for shorter time periods and will provide updates throughout the Deyr season via regular bulletins.

Expected impacts of the rainfall outlook for different sectors

1. Agriculture, Food Security and Livestock

Below normal rains will very likely interfere with agricultural activities in most areas. Foliage and pasture conditions in the pastoral areas are expected to deteriorate as a result of poor rainfall performance during the season. Mobility in search of water sources and greener pastures may trigger conflict among pastoralists.

2. Water Resources

With low rains expected in the upper reaches of the Juba and Shabelle basins, it is foreseen that the river levels may also decrease and may not sustain the various sectors. Communities should take advantage of any rains and harvest the rain-water for future use. On the other hand, in case of depressed rains, replenishment of the surface water points may be minimal and therefore communities should use the available resources sparingly.

3. Disaster Management

Problems related to water scarcity are likely to occur in the pastoral areas, especially in the north eastern and parts of southern regions of the country where the previous Gu rains were below normal. There is also a potential for human and/or livestock conflicts over the limited water resources in these areas. Close monitoring of the situation and contingency measures are necessary in order to adequately cope with the situation. Flash floods and river flooding cannot be ruled out, as well as artificial river bank breakages for irrigation purposes.

4. Health

Diseases associated with water scarcity and poor sanitation, such as typhoid and cholera, may emerge in various parts of the country that are expected to receive depressed rainfall.

5. Environment

The anticipated depressed rainfall is likely to result in land degradation through wilting of vegetation and drying up of grass, exposing top soils to erosion. Soil conservation measures to minimize environmental degradation due to soil erosion, especially in riparian areas along rivers and streams are advised.

SWALIM Technical Partners

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