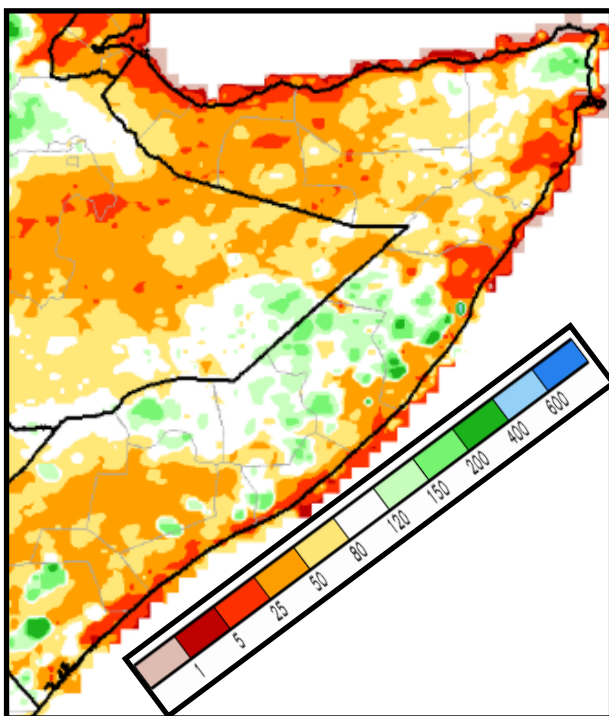


This bulletin provides a summary of the progress of observed rainfall for the current Gu season in Somalia

The 2019 Gu (March/April-June) season rainfall season was marked by a delayed start in most parts of the country. The distribution of the rains have been poor in terms of quantity, temporal and spatial distribution throughout March and May. The month of May saw increased rainfall activities in the first half of the month with some stations recording moderate to heavy rains. Although this comes too late for most crop growing areas, the rains in May led to replenishment of pasture and ground water sources in most of the pastoral areas that have been affected by moderate to severe drought since January 2019.

Exacerbated by below-average 2018 Deyr (October-December) season rainfall, the cumulative 2019 Gu season rainfall is way below the long-term average and not sufficient to fully address the water shortage across Somalia. As a result, mild to moderate drought conditions are still present in many areas across the country. The table below is a brief summary of the rainfall situation for the current Gu season. An update will be issued every 10-days throughout the remainder of the season.

Figure 1: 2019 Gu Season Rainfall as Percent of Long-Term Average: 20 Feb-20 May 2019



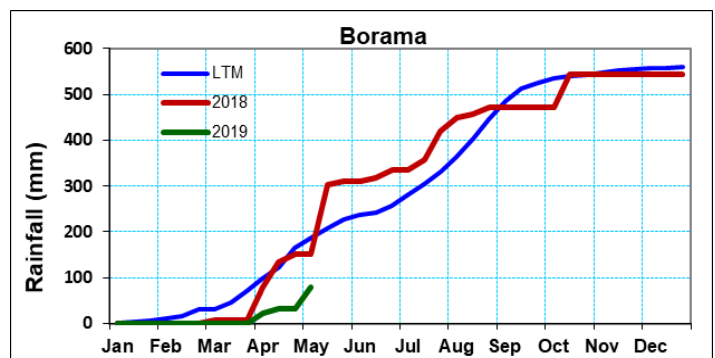
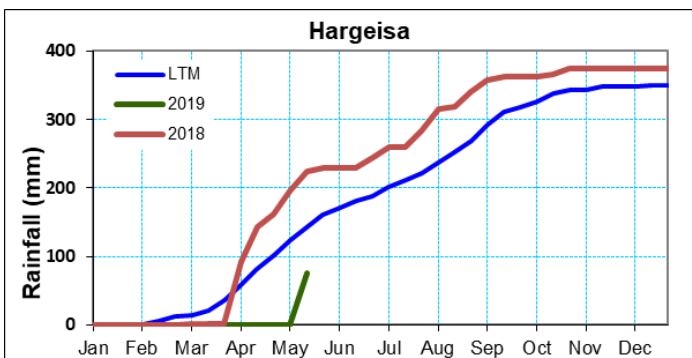
Northwest regions

Figure 2: 2019 Monthly Observed Rainfall Compared to the Long Term Average (LTA) for 1963-1990

Hargeisa					
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
LTA	2.0	11.0	25.0	85.0	65.0
2019	0.0	0.0	0.0	31.5	75.0*
Gebilley					
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
LTA	1.0	6.0	30.0	58.0	61.0
2019	0.0	0.0	0.0	18.5	20.0*
Belet Weyne					
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
LTA	0.0	0.0	9.0	72.0	86.0
2019	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.0	65.0*
Jowhar					
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
LTA	0.0	1.0	14.0	100.0	97.0
2019	0.0	0.0	16.0	28.0	11.0*
Luuq					
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
LTA	1.0	1.0	18.0	82.0	52.0
2019	0.0	0.0	0.0	33.0	28.0*
Baidoa					
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
LTA	3.0	3.0	0.0	165.0	95.0
2019	0.0	0.0	8.0	38.5	153.0*

*The data for these stations is up to 20 May 2019.

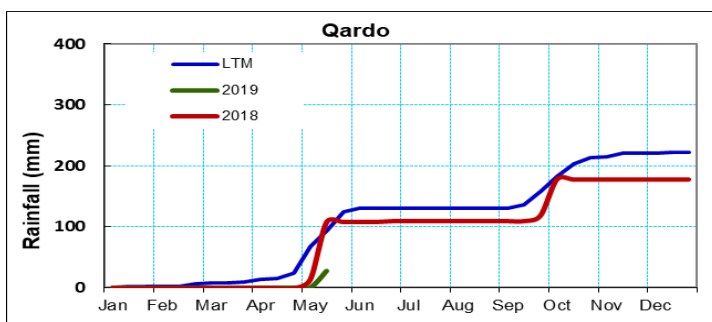
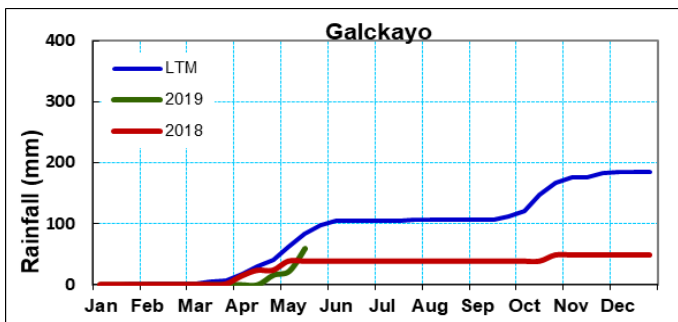
The quantitative rainfall analysis from selected stations across northwest regions shows that there is a big deficit of rainfall amounts compared with the long-term average (LTA) since the start of the Gu season in March/April. Moderate to heavy rains that led to flash floods and minor destruction of properties were recorded during the second dekad of May. However, the total amounts received in April and May are not sufficient to meet the water demand for human consumption and crop and livestock production, leaving the region in continued water stressed conditions. The rainfall forecast for coming two weeks is also not promising, therefore, drought conditions will likely persist in most of the northwest regions.



Northeast and Central Regions

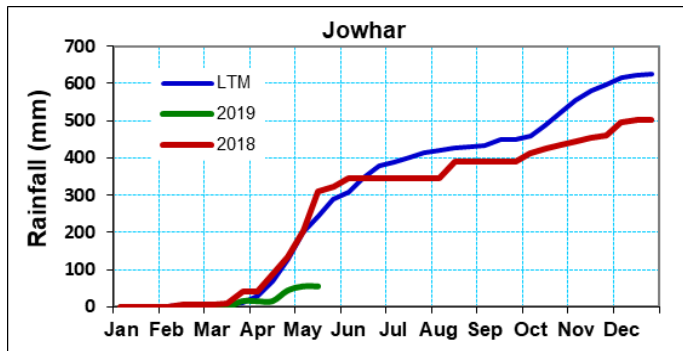
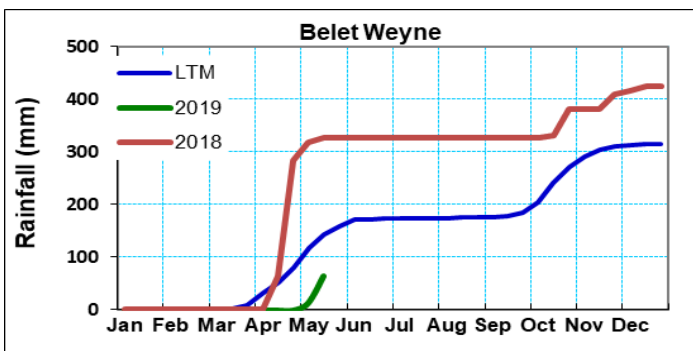
Most of the northeast regions recorded the lowest rainfall amounts during the 2018 *Deyr* season which led to worsening drought conditions with the late start of the 2019 *Gu* season. Some stations only saw the start of the rains during the second week of May while a few others have not recorded any rains. Other areas have remained dry and yet to receive the *Gu* rains which are seemingly late especially in Bari region.

Northeast and central regions remain under serious water stress conditions and given the rainfall forecast for coming weeks, the situation may get worse.



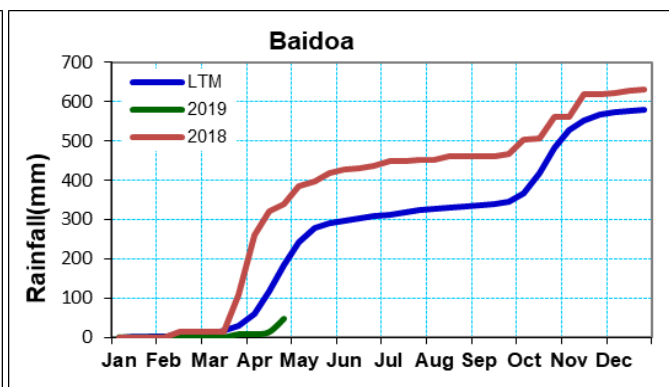
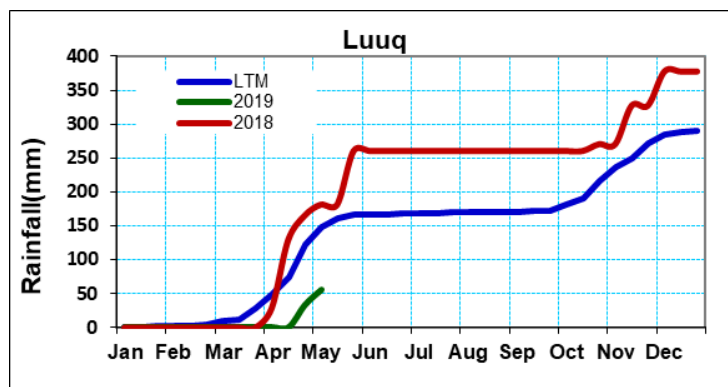
Shabelle Valley (Hiran, Middle Shabelle and Lower Shabelle)

Most stations along Shabelle did not record any significant rainfall during since the beginning of the current *Gu* season which came late in the third dekad of April. River levels remained very low until the beginning of May which saw a gradual rise following moderate rains within the catchment both in Somalia and in the Ethiopian highlands. The late rains and low flows have negatively affected crop production of the riverine areas. *Gu* season rainfall performance to date in the Shabelle Valley shows a big deficit compared to the long-term average. More rains are needed to meet the water demand in the area which has remained under mild drought conditions for several months.



Juba Valley, Bay and Bakool regions

Many places in Gedo, Bay, Bakool and Middle Juba saw a start of the *Gu* rains in the third dekad of April and first dekad of May. Just like the rest of the country, mild drought conditions are still apparent in most areas and more rains are required especially for crop, livestock and groundwater recharge.



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