

SOMALIA DROUGHT UPDATE

26 August 2021

Drought Severity			
DROUGHT CONDITION	IMPROVING	STABLE	WORSENING
NORMAL <i>Normal conditions</i>		Awdal; Woqooyi Galbeed; Toghdeer; south of Sool	
UNUSUAL DRYNESS <i>A prolonged dry period that has persisted for over two months with no drought conditions</i>			Localized areas of the northwest regions
MILD <i>Going into drought, long term dryness slowing planting, growth of crops. Also coming out of a drought – water deficits, partial loss of crops and pasture</i>			Eastern parts of Bay and Bakool; Costal areas and riverine areas of southern and central regions; Parts of Bari and Nugaal; parts of Galmudug
MODERATE <i>Damage to early planted crops, reduced land cultivation, and shortage of pastures and water</i>			Western parts of Bay and Bakool; Gedo; Middle Juba; of coastal areas of Bari, Nugaal and Galmudug

Key messages

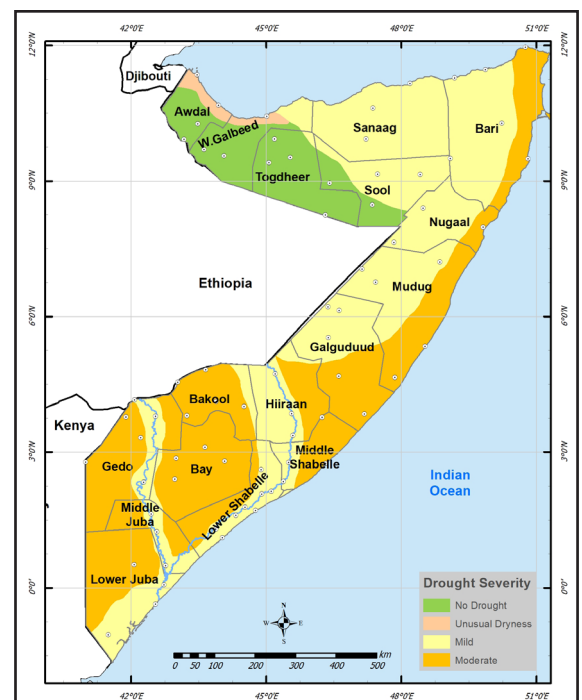
- The failure of Dery 2020 (Oct- Dec) rainy season followed by a by a harsh and warmer than normal Jan-Mar Jilaal season, and a poorly distributed Gu 2021 (Mar/Apr-Jun) rainy season have led to mild to moderate drought conditions in some parts of Somalia.
- The southern parts of the country including the Middle juba, Gedo and parts of Bay and Bakool have been worst affected and are experiencing moderate drought conditions.
- River levels along the Juba and Shabelle rivers remained significantly below average since Mid-June and started to rise at the beginning of August following moderate rains in the upper parts of the Ethiopian highlands.
- Preliminary rainfall forecast for the coming months indicates dry conditions throughout August and September in most parts of the country except Awdal region and southern coastal areas that will continue to receive the Karan rains.
- According to the seasonal outlook by IGAD Climate Prediction and Application Centre (ICPAC), the Deyr 2021 rainy season is expected to be below average in most parts of the country.
- Mild to moderate drought conditions are expected to persist in many parts of the country until early 2022 given the current situation and the Deyr 2021 rainfall outlook.

Drought Severity Analysis

FAO SWALIM's Combined Drought Index (CDI) has been used to measure the magnitude and severity of drought in Somalia based on remotely-sensed data of vegetation cover, temperature and rainfall. CDI analyses were complemented with field reports, including water prices, livestock and crop conditions to generate a drought severity map for the month of August 2021 (Map 1). Vegetation conditions anomaly as of 10 August are displayed in Map 2 while Figures 1 to 4 show analysis from January to July 2021. Each value in the graphs represents the persistence of dry conditions (average) in the preceding six months. The graphs demonstrate a downward trend of the index in southern regions implying that the situation has deteriorated from the previous months while an upward trend is noted in the northern regions due to improved conditions following heavy rains in May 2021.

In Gedo, Hiraan and Juba regions, extreme temperature during the Jilaal have led to rapid depletion of pasture, browse and water resources. According to field reports from Gedo region, the area is experiencing water scarcity while most rain-fed crops have failed following the poor Gu rainy season. Livestock migrated to Dinsoor, Buale and Sakow districts and some have crossed to Ethiopia. A similar situation is being experienced in Bay with abnormal livestock migration. Parts of Middle and Lower Juba received monsoon rains in July which led to pasture growth. However, this may not last long due to the surge of livestock migration into the regions from neighboring districts.

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Map 1: Drought severity map for August 2021

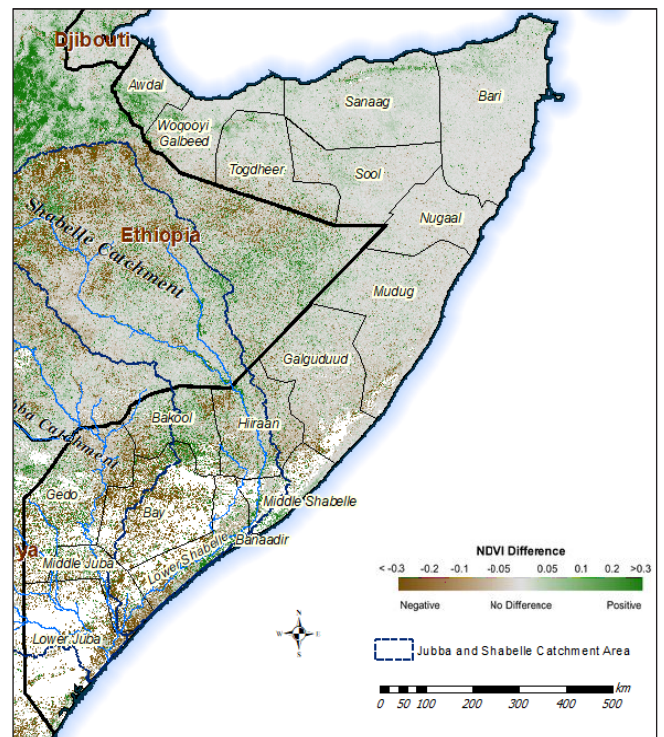
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In Puntland, the performance of Gu 2021 was mixed, with below average to average amount and uneven distribution. Water scarcity has been reported especially in Bari and Nuggal regions where the Gu rains were minimal and this may worsen in the coming month of September.

In Somaliland, the Gu rains were erratic and unevenly distributed leading to late planting of long cycle sorghum especially in the west agro-pastoral livelihood zone of Awdal region, Gebiley and Hargeisa districts. It is reported that Agro-pastoralists from Gabiley migrated their herds of livestock to Hawd of Hargeisa particularly Qoolcaday plain in search of pasture and water in June 2021 and have since returned back with the expectation of good Karan rains.

Within the West Guban livelihood zone of Zeila and Lughaya of Awdal region and Berbera district, reports indicate good pasture and water availability due to good rains received in the month of May 2021. The livestock body conditions is reported to be good.

The drought conditions are updated on a monthly basis and the maps can be accessed online via <https://cdi.faoswalim.org/index/cdi>



Map 2: Anomaly vegetation conditions (01-10 August 2021)

Figure 1: Drought Analysis using CDI in Wanla Weyne District, Lower Shabelle Region

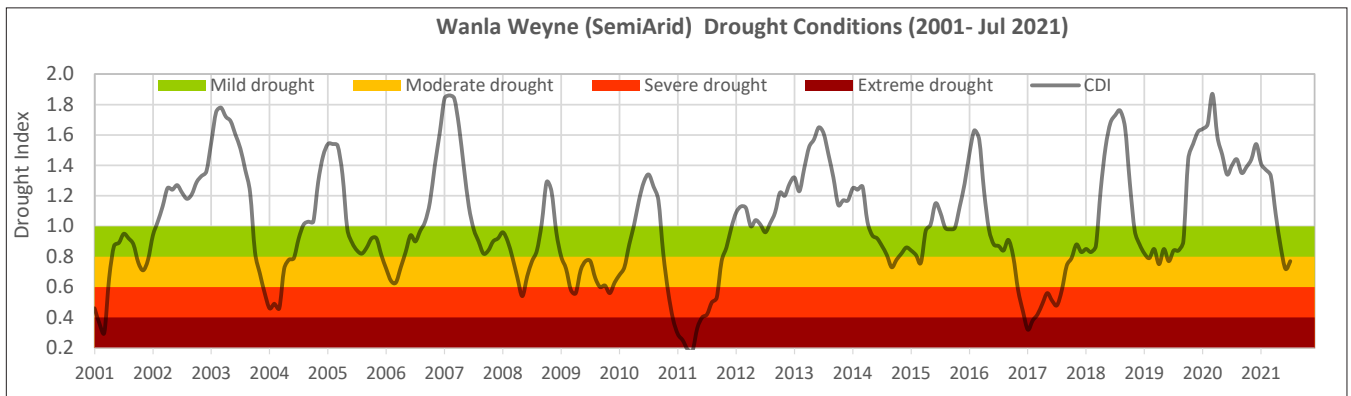


Figure 2: Drought Analysis using CDI in Afmadow District, Lower Juba Region

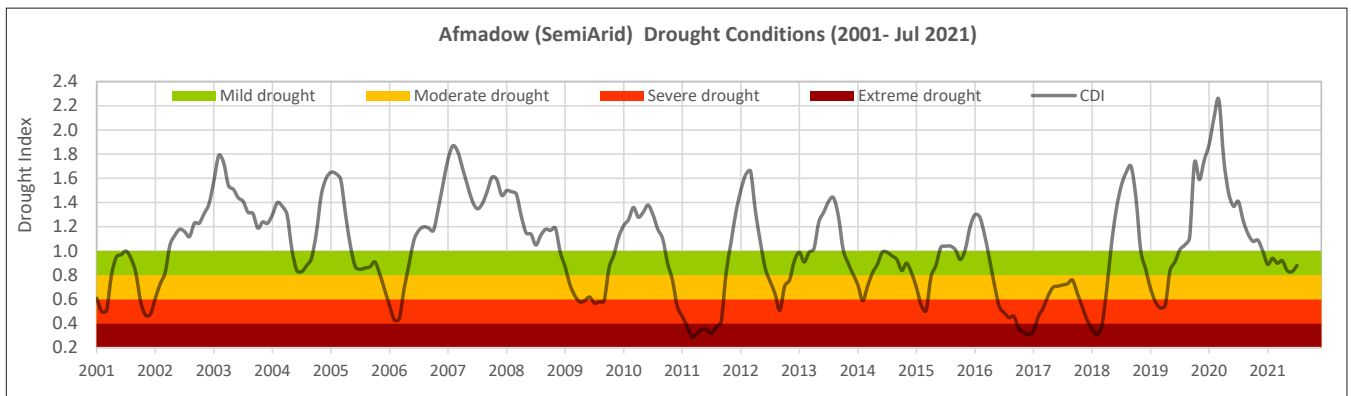


Figure 3: Drought Analysis using CDI in Xudun District, Sool Region

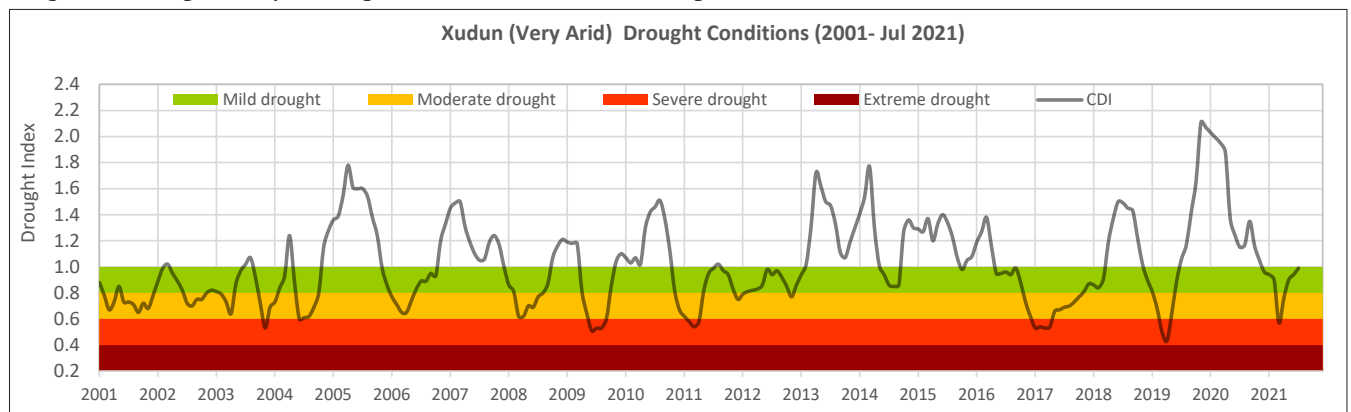
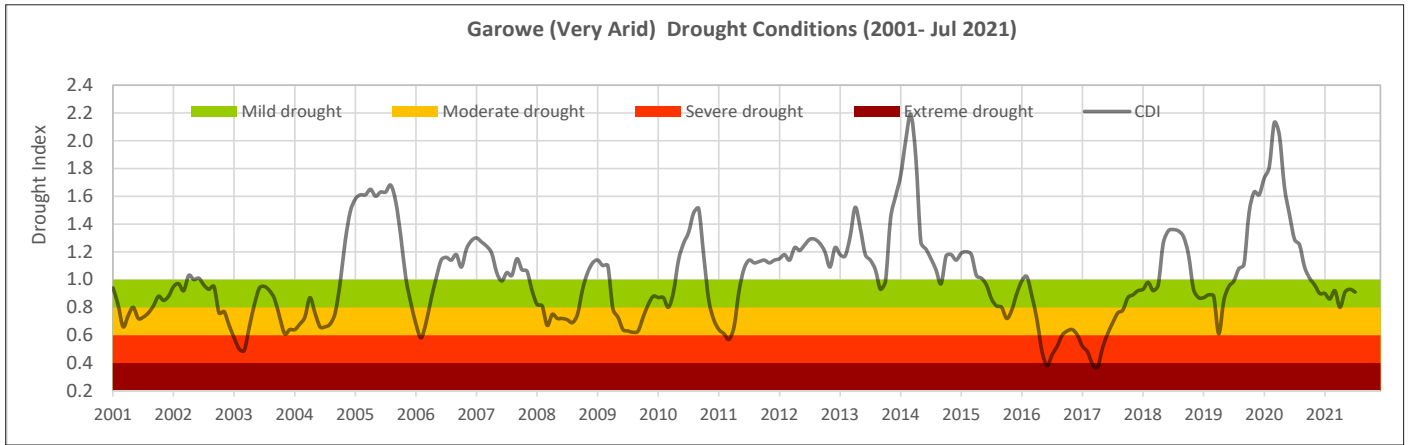


Figure 4: Drought Analysis using CDI in Garowe District, Nugaal Region

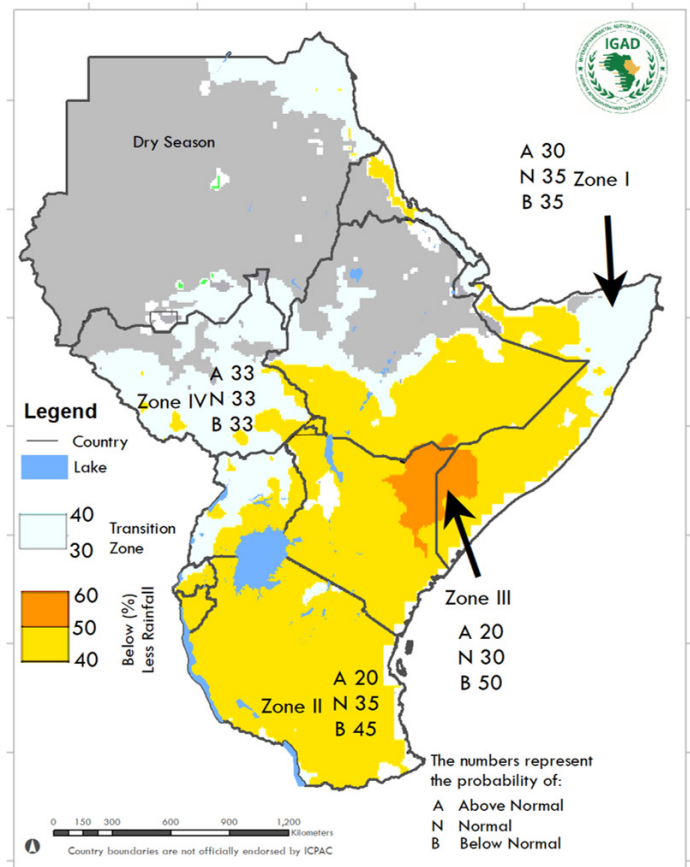


Deyr 2021 Season Rainfall Outlook

According to the recently issued Seasonal Climate Forecast for the Greater Horn of Africa by the IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC), the 2021 Deyr rains in Somalia are expected to be normal to below normal in most places - with a 50% probability of experiencing below normal rains in Gedo and Middle Juba regions, 45% of below normal rains in Larger parts of Somaliland, central and southern regions. There is 35% probability of near normal rains in Puntland. 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 3.

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, central and southern parts of the country..

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 2021. 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.



Map 3: October-December (OND) 2021 rainfall outlook

This update is co-produced by the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management of the FGS (MoHADM) and FAO - Somalia Water and Land Information Management—SWALIM Project. For more information regarding this product please contact communications@mohadm.gov.so or swalim@fao.org

Primary data sources are; Ministry of Agriculture & Irrigation and Ministry of Energy & Water Resources of the Federal Government of Somalia, SWALIM, ECMWF, TAMSAT and NOAA/USGS. Tables, maps and graphs in this bulletin are produced from these sources.

FAO SWALIM Technical Partners: 		SWALIM is Managed by FAO and Currently Funded by: 	
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