

SOMALIA Rain Watch

November 24, 2009

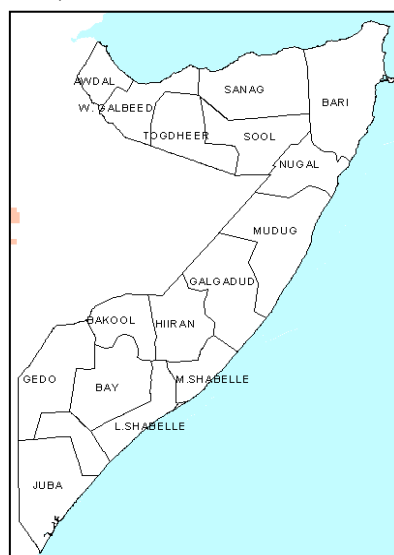
FEWS NET will publish a Rain Watch for Somalia every dekad through the end of the current Deyr (October-December) rainy season. The purpose of this document is to provide updated information on the progress of the Deyr rains to facilitate contingency and response planning. This Somalia Rain Watch is valid through November 29, 2009 and is produced in collaboration with USGS, the Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU) Somalia, a number of other agencies, and several Somali NGOs.

Deyr rains subsided during the second dekad of November

Following recent rains during earlier dekad in October and November, rangeland resources in terms of water supply, pasture and browse remain favorable throughout most parts of the country. As a result, availability of good pasture and vegetation is likely to remain encouraging. However, field reports and satellite-based rainfall estimates confirm that rains during the second dekad of November (11-20) subsided and dry conditions exist, especially in the central and most of southern regions (Figure 1). Although this is normal during this time of the year in certain areas, it raises concerns in the rain-dependent zones over pasture and crop conditions.

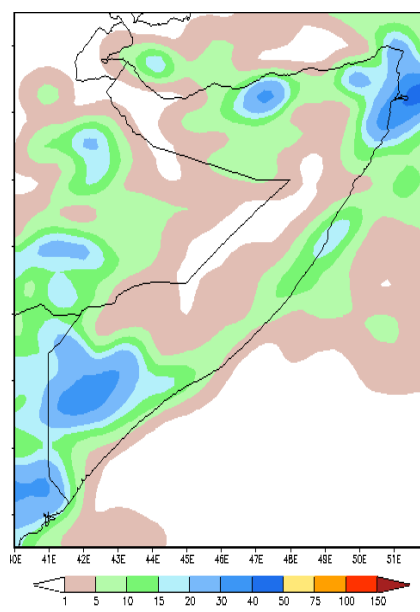
In the northern regions, a dry spell persists as rains subsided in most of the North and Northeast regions since mid October. Of particular concern is Eastern Togdheer and most of western Sanaag region in the districts of El Afweyn and Aynabo, where rains have been erratic and localized leading to normal pastoral migration into neighboring areas with better pasture and browse conditions. In parts of the pastoral areas of the drought-affected regions of Galgadud and Mudug, and parts of the north, poor pasture conditions have also been reported. On the other hand, parts of Awdal, W.galbeed and Nugal rangeland conditions are normal, thereby causing pastoral in-migrations from surrounding rain-deficit zones, and putting pressure on rangeland resources.

Figure 1. Rainfall estimate (mm), Nov 11-20, 2009



Source: FEWS NET/USGS

Figure 2. Rainfall forecast Nov 21-29, 2009



Source: FEWS NET/NOAA/CPC

In the southern agricultural regions of Bay, Bakool, Gedo, Hirran, the Shabelles and the Jubas, most of the areas experienced dry weather since early November. Rain gauge stations located in these regions read zero mm between Nov 10 and 20. This condition is raising alarms among agro-pastoral communities, especially in the rain fed regions of Bay, Bakool, Hirran and Gedo. If more rains are not received in the coming dekad, according to field based analysts, the season will deal a blow to farmers in those regions in terms of crop performance. In some areas moisture stress is already causing crops to dry up. However, vegetation condition as measured by Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) satellite imagery shows that current vegetation conditions in most of the south and parts of central regions are generally within normal levels.

The climate outlook for the coming seven days, valid through November 29 (Figure 2), indicates that moderate rains are expected in parts of Jubba, Gedo Bay, Bari, and Sanaag regions, while light precipitation are likely along the coastal areas.

For more rain gauge data please contact hdro@faoswalim.org or visit <http://www.faoswalim.org>.



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