



# Deyr (October | November | December) 2025 Seasonal Performance over Somaliland

## Key Message:

The Deyr 2025 season over Somaliland was short, poorly distributed, and largely ineffective, resulting in limited livelihood recovery and progressive drought stress despite isolated rainfall extremes.

## Key Highlights

- Below-normal rainfall dominated most of Somaliland, in line with the ICPAC GHACOF-71 outlook, confirming good forecast skill for the season.
- Rainfall was highly uneven in space and time, with meaningful totals recorded at only two stations (Sheikh and Balligubadle), both exceeding 200% of their long-term mean, while most stations recorded very light rainfall (<20 mm).
- The Deyr rains had an early onset (early October) but ceased prematurely by early November, with no rainfall recorded in December, leading to prolonged dry spells exceeding 60 consecutive days across most areas.
- Localized heavy rainfall did not translate into seasonal recovery: improvements in vegetation and soil moisture around Sheikh and Balligubadle were short-lived, with negligible impact on groundwater recharge, rangeland regeneration, or rain-fed agriculture.
- Agro-pastoral and pastoral livelihoods experienced limited seasonal gains, particularly in eastern and coastal areas where rainfall deficits were most pronounced.

## 1. Deyr 2025 Rainfall Outlook

The Deyr (October to December) 2025 seasonal outlook issued by the IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC) during the Greater Horn of Africa Climate Outlook Forum (GHACOF-71) indicated a higher likelihood of below-normal rainfall across most of Somaliland.

## 2. Deyr 2025 Rainfall Performance

Based on actual station observations (Figure 1), the performance of the Deyr 2025 rains varied from one station to another, with only Sheikh (262.0 mm) and Balligubadle (108.0 mm) receiving substantial rainfall above 100 mm. The following stations received light cumulative rains of below 20 mm: Alleybadey (16.0 mm), Aburiin (3.5 mm), Boon (2.0 mm), Cada (06 mm), Caynabo (17.0 mm), Dhahar (8.5 mm), Dilla (10.0 mm), Gatiitaley (11.0 mm), Gumburaha (12.0 mm), Lasadacawo (12.0 mm), Malowle (10.0 mm), Oodwayne (13.0 mm), Ruqi (8.0 mm), Wajale (7.0mm), Wardidad (11.0 mm), Yagori (3.0 mm) and Zaila (8.5 mm).

Based on climatology, most parts of Somaliland were characterized by below-normal rainfall consistent with the seasonal outlook. However, the very localized rain observed at Sheikh ( $2.4 * LTM$ ) and Balligubadle ( $2.3 * LTM$ ) was more than double their respective station long-term mean (LTM). The onset of Deyr rains was recorded in early October, initially spread across central and eastern parts of Somaliland but ending sharply in early November, with no rainfall recorded in December. Prolonged dry spells were observed over most areas where no rain was received for more than 60 consecutive dry days between 1 November and 31 December 2025.

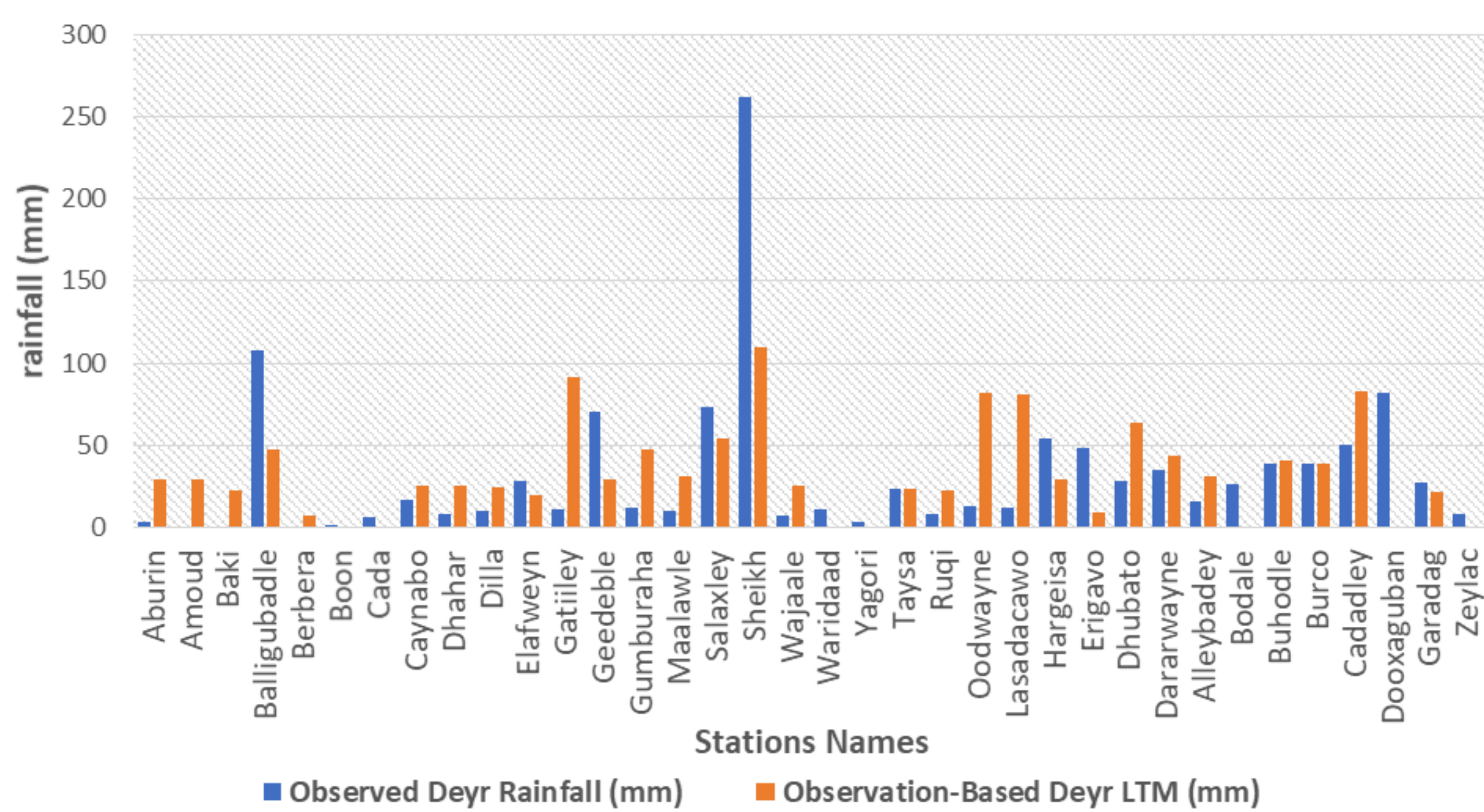
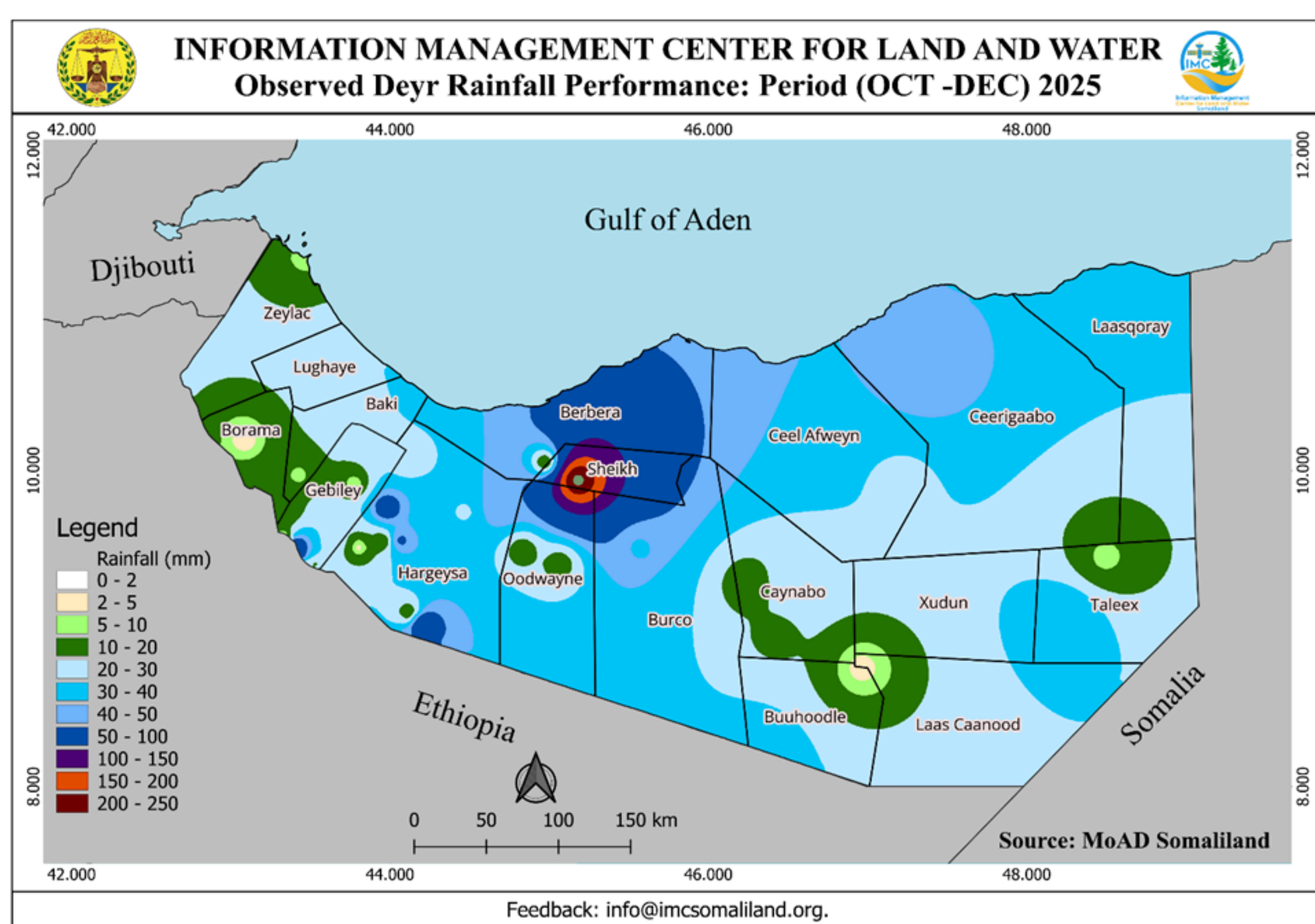


Figure 1: Cumulative Deyr rainfall amounts received at different stations in Somaliland between 1 October and 31 December 2025



Map 1: Spatial distribution of cumulative Deyr rainfall amounts received in Somaliland between 1 October and 31 December 2025

The poorly distributed rains in both space and time translated to highly variable soil moisture and vegetative conditions with serious implications for agropastoral livelihoods. The rains over Shiekh and Balligubadle were very localized and short-lived very with negligible positive impacts on seasonal agropastoral activities. The water supply and soil moisture may have improved for a short duration during the rainy week but were not sufficient for notable groundwater recharge, rangeland recovery and rain-fed agricultural activities. Most other areas experienced below-average rainfall, resulting in limited agricultural gains and minimal groundwater replenishment.

### 3. Drought Evolution during Deyr 2025

Throughout the Deyr 2025 season, extreme to severe drought conditions persisted along the northern coastal belt, particularly across the Zeylac–Lughaya–Berbera corridor, reflecting chronic rainfall deficits compounded by high evapotranspiration demand. These areas remained the most drought-affected during the season, with minimal response to the limited and short-lived rainfall events.

Between October and December 2025, the Combined Drought Index (CDI) indicates a gradual inland expansion of moderate drought, most notably across:

- Southern Togdheer (Burco–Oodwayne–Buhoodle),
- Southern Sool (Laascanod–Caynabo–Xudun), and
- Southern Sanaag (Ceerigaabo–Ceelafwayn)

Although areas classified under normal CDI conditions expanded slightly by December, these improvements were largely confined to interior highland and plateau zones and frequently coexisted with patches of mild drought, highlighting fragile and reversible recovery rather than sustained improvement. Overall, the CDI trajectory reflects a seasonal transition from rainfall-driven stress in October to soil moisture and vegetation stress dominance during November–December, consistent with the early cessation of Deyr rainfall.

#### 3.1 Drought Conditions as of 31 October 2025 (Figure 3)

- Extreme to Severe Drought: Northern coastal areas, including Zeylac and Lughaya, northern parts of Baki district (Awdal), eastern and western parts of Berbera district (Saaxil), and isolated northern areas of Laasqorey district (Sanaag).

- Mild Drought: Parts of Baki and Borama districts (Awdal); northern Gabiley and northeastern Hargeisa (Maroodijeex); northern Sheikh (Saaxil); southern Oodwayne, northern Burco, and parts of Buhoodle (Togdheer); and portions of Laascanod, Caynabo, and Xudun (Sool)
- Normal Conditions: Large parts of Awdal, Maroodijeex, Saaxil, Togdheer, Sanaag, and Sool regions, though often interspersed with mild drought patches

### 3.2 Drought Conditions as of 30 November 2025 (Figure 4)

By late November, extreme drought remained concentrated along the northern coastal fringe, including Zeylac, Lughaya, northern Baki, and parts of Berbera and Laasqorey. Moderate to mild drought expanded inland, affecting southern and central areas of Awdal, Maroodijeex, Togdheer, Sool, and southern Sanaag. Areas under normal conditions persisted mainly in the interior and western districts, but with increasing spatial fragmentation

### 3.3 Drought Conditions as of 31 December 2025 (Figure 5)

By the end of December, extreme to severe drought areas had reduced slightly in spatial extent but persisted in localized coastal and Saaxil zones, including parts of Zeylac, Lughaya, Baki, and Berbera. Moderate drought remained prevalent across southern Togdheer, southern Sool, and southern Sanaag, while normal conditions dominated interior highland districts, albeit with widespread mild drought pockets, indicating incomplete recovery entering the Jilaal dry season.

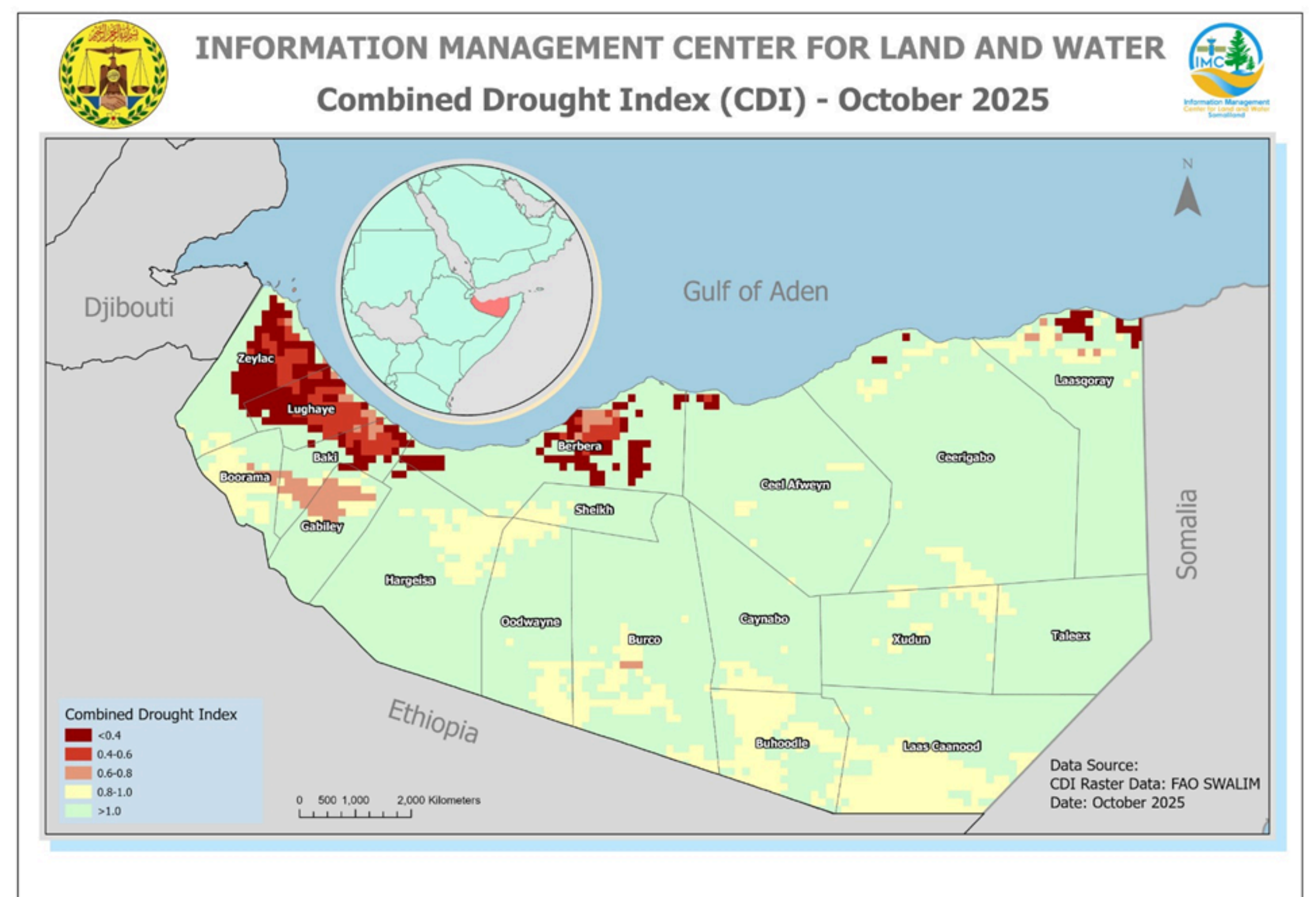


Figure 3: Spatial distribution of drought severity over Somaliland as of 31 October 2025 based on Combined Drought Index (CDI)

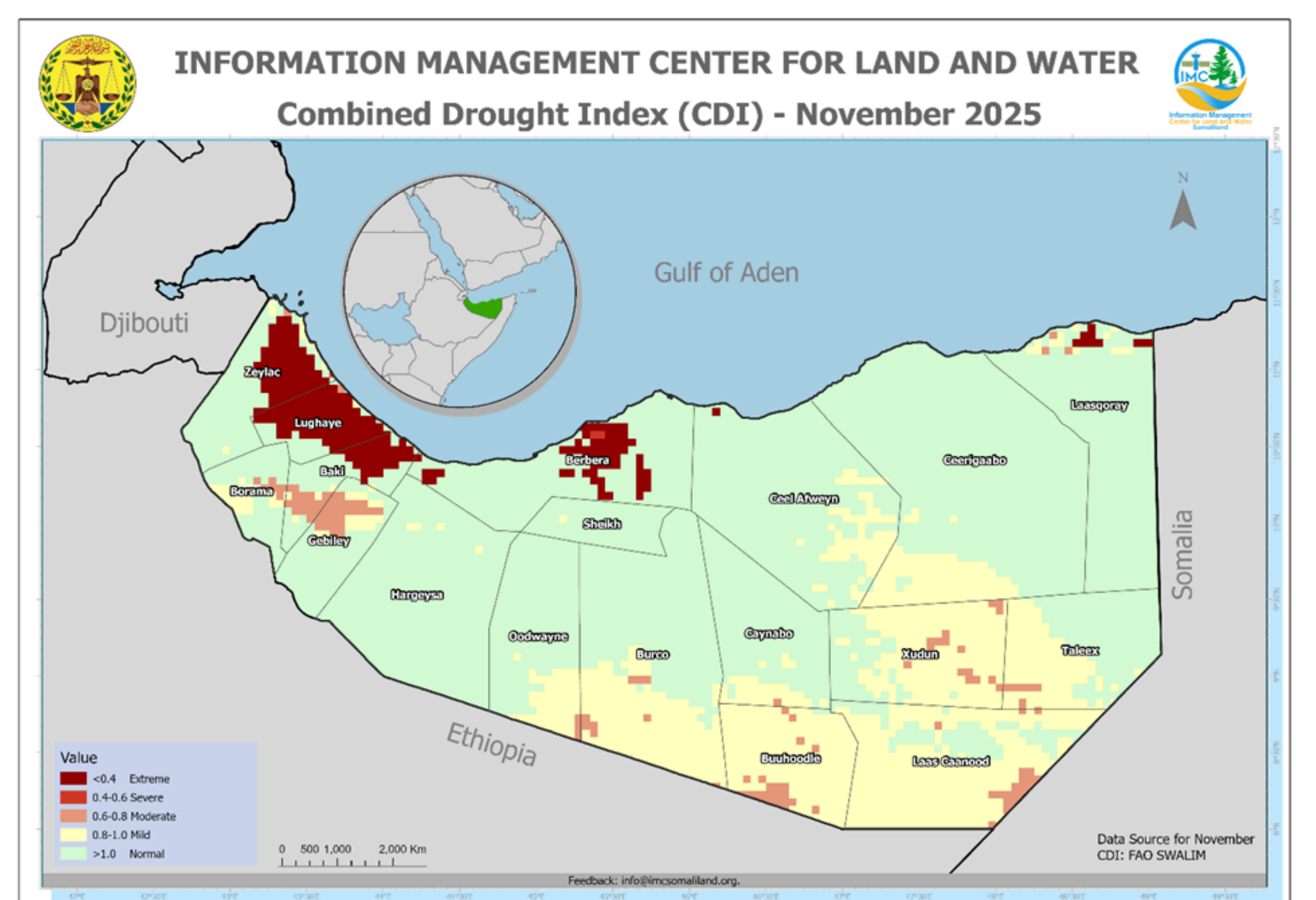


Figure 4: Spatial distribution of drought severity over Somaliland as of 30 December 2025 based on Combined Drought Index (CDI)

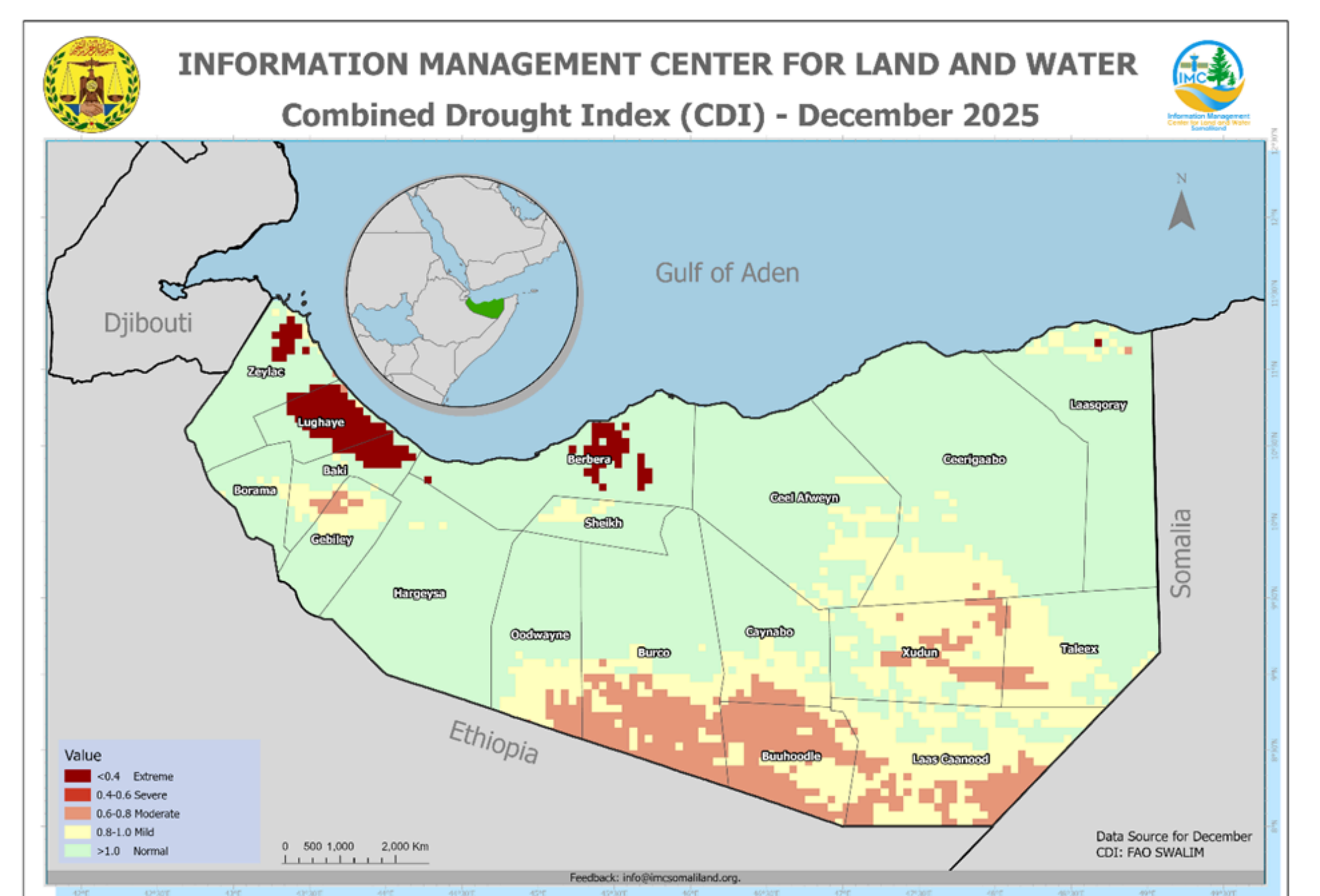


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## Conclusion

The Deyr (October–December) 2025 season in Somaliland was characterized by below-normal rainfall across most regions, consistent with the seasonal outlook issued by ICPAC during GHACOF-71. While localized areas such as Sheikh and Balligubadle received substantial rainfall—temporarily improving vegetation conditions, agricultural activities, and limited groundwater recharge—these benefits were spatially restricted and short-lived, with no widespread seasonal recovery.

Rainfall onset in early October was followed by early cessation in early November, after which prolonged dry spells exceeding 60 consecutive days affected large parts of the region. This markedly constrained crop development, pasture regeneration, and water availability. Consequently, most areas experienced limited agricultural gains, minimal groundwater replenishment, and progressive deterioration of drought conditions, as reflected in the evolution of the Combined Drought Index (CDI) from October to December 2025.

Overall, the season demonstrated high drought carryover sensitivity, where short-duration rainfall events were insufficient to offset cumulative moisture deficits. The temporal concentration of rainfall—few effective wet days—proved more limited than total seasonal rainfall, underscoring a key consideration for future impact-based forecasting. CDI analysis further indicates that hydrological and ecological recovery thresholds were not crossed, despite localized rainfall extremes.

The Deyr 2025 outcome reinforces the need to treat localized rainfall surpluses cautiously in seasonal assessments, strengthen dry-spell and rainfall cessation monitoring alongside cumulative totals, and integrate CDI with livelihood and water access indicators to better inform anticipatory action, drought preparedness, and water resource management planning.