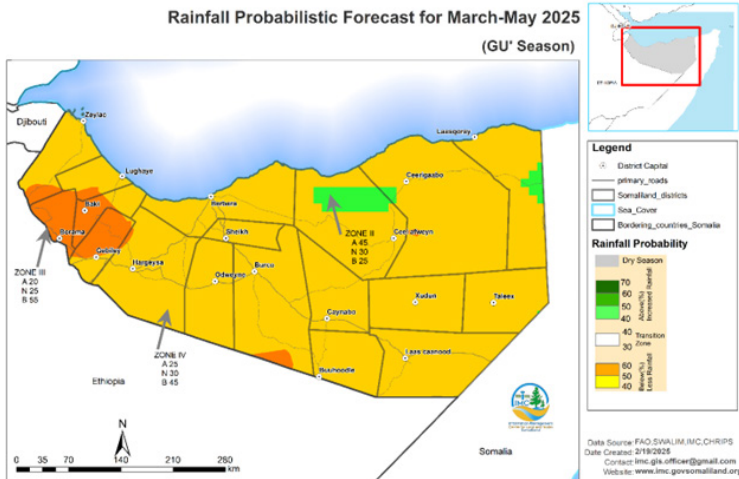




Somaliland Seasonal Probabilistic Rainfall Forecast March-May 2025

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Map 1: Probabilistic Rainfall outlook for Gu 2025 over Somaliland

Probabilistic Rainfall and Temperature Forecast

Contributing to about 60 % of annual rainfall, Gu season is critical for the Greater Horn of Africa (GHA) including Somaliland. According to IGAD Climate Prediction and Application Centre (ICPAC), Gu 2025 is predicted to be characterized by below normal rainfall and above normal temperatures. There is a 45 % likelihood that most parts of the country (Zone IV in yellow/orange in Map 1) will observe below normal rains. There is even a higher likelihood (55 %) of below normal rains being observed over some parts of Baki and Borama districts in Awdal region, Gabiley district in Maroodijeex region and southmost parts of Burco district in Togdheer region (dark orange). However, there are chances of very isolated above normal rains in the northern parts of Ceel-Afweyn district and eastern parts of Laasqoray district in Sanaag region. There is very low probability that cumulative Gu rainfall amount will exceed 200 mm particularly over the Saaxil, Togdheer and most parts of Maroodijeex regions.

Deterministic and Probabilistic Rainfall Onset Forecast

The Gu 2025 rains are likely to start over Awdal and Maroodijeex regions in the third week of April. It will then spread eastern parts of the country like Togdheer region in the fourth week of April. Onset is not likely until the last week of April in Sool and Sanaag regions.

Based on climatology, the probabilistic forecast of onset is mixed with chances of being early over Awdal region, late over Sanaag region and normal over the rest of Somaliland.

Anticipated Impacts Associated with the Gu 2025 Seasonal Outlook

Varying rainfall patterns were observed across Somaliland during the Deyr 2024 season with notable differences in total rainfall amounts and their impacts on the environment, agriculture, and livelihoods. The season began with peak rains in October, tapering off in December in many regions in the country. The highest rainfall totals ranging between 100 mm and 200 mm were recorded in Hargeisa, Gacanlibah, El-afwayn, Gumburaha, Malawle, Baki, Sheikh, Aburin and Dhubato areas. This above-normal rainfall is likely to have favored agropastoral activities. Conversely, moderate rainfall ranging from 40 mm to 100 mm was observed in locations such as Odwayne, Burco, Caynabo, parts of Ceel afwayn, Buhodle, and parts of Awdal. Understanding these variations is essential for assessing the resilience and productivity of diverse regions within country ahead of the Gu 2025 rains.

The following impacts are likely to be associated with the Gu 2025 outlook:

- **Temperature:** Higher-than-normal temperatures will likely increase evapotranspiration rates, leading to higher water demand.
- **Rainfall Onset Timing:**
 - o The expected early rainfall onset in parts of Awdal will likely enable earlier planting of crops and fodder, benefiting agricultural productivity.
 - o Conversely, delayed rainfall onset in parts of Sanaag could reduce soil moisture, negatively impacting crop and fodder growth, and worsening overall agropastoral conditions.
- **Water Availability:** Water scarcity is expected to worsen, especially in areas already experiencing water deficits and in Sanaag, where delayed rains are forecasted.
- **Agriculture:** Late onset and below-average rainfall are likely to delay planting activities, decrease crop yields, and heighten dependency on food assistance.
- **Livestock:** Poor pasture regeneration will increase livestock stress, resulting in higher mortality rates.
- **Humanitarian Situation:** Increased food insecurity, higher rates of malnutrition, and rising displacement are anticipated, disproportionately affecting women, children, and marginalized communities.

Conclusion and Call for Preparedness

The analysis presented in this report indicates a likely intensification of drought conditions during the Gu 2025 season, especially in critical areas such as the coastal zones of Awdal and Saaxil regions. Below-average rainfall, delayed onset of rains, and higher-than-normal temperatures are expected, posing significant risks to water resources, agriculture, livelihoods, and humanitarian efforts.

To effectively manage and mitigate these anticipated challenges, the Somaliland Multi-Stakeholder Climate Outlook Forum recommends the following proactive measures:

- **Government and Humanitarian Agencies:**

Strengthen early warning systems, scale up preparedness and drought-response activities, and proactively assist at-risk communities.

- **Farmers and Livestock Keepers:**

Adopt climate-resilient agricultural practices and water conservation methods to safeguard livelihoods and minimize losses from drought impacts.

- **Health and Disaster Management Authorities:**

Prepare adequately for increased incidences of heat-related illnesses, vector-borne diseases (such as malaria and dengue), and waterborne diseases triggered by elevated temperatures and water shortages.

- **Development Partners and NGOs:**

Ensure the timely provision of targeted humanitarian assistance, prioritizing the most vulnerable and severely impacted regions.

Disclaimer: *Users are advised that this is a forecast and at times there may be discrepancies between estimates and actual amounts of rainfall received.*

