

SOMALIA Rain Watch

November 24, 2012

FEWS NET will publish a Rain Watch for Somalia every dekad (10 days) through the end of the current October to December Deyr 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 30, 2012 and is produced in collaboration with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), the Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU) Somalia, a number of other agencies, and several Somali NGOs.

Light to moderate rains resumed in most parts of southern and central Somalia

Moderate *Deyr* rains fell across most of southern and central Somalia and across some parts of the northern regions between November 11 and 20 (Figure 1). In parts of Jowhar District in Middle Shabelle and Kurtunway District in Lower Shabelle, localized floods were reported. In the northern regions, rains fell in a few areas, but most parts recorded little or no rain.

In the North, the Hawd, Adun, and Coastal *Deeh* pastoral livelihood zones received moderate rains. The Nugal Valley in Togdher and Sool Regions received light to moderate rains. Both field reports and satellite imagery rainfall estimates indicate that most of Sanag, Bari, Awdal, Waqooyi Galbeed, and parts of Nugal Region remained dry. In addition, most of the Nugal Valley, the Golis Mountains, and the Sool Plateau remained dry. Water and pasture conditions improved considerably in areas that received rain, and these conditions sustained normal, opportunistic livestock migration.

Three to four days of moderate intensity rains have continued in most of the cowpea belt, the Coastal *Deeh* and parts of Adun livelihood zones in Galgadud and Mudug Regions as well as most parts of Hiran Region. Rain gauges in Harardhere and Wisil (near Hobyo) in Mudug Region and Elder in Galgadud Region recorded 12.5 millimeters (mm), 20 mm, and 120 mm of rain, respectively, with three to five rainy days from November 11 to 20. These rains have also supported the establishment of the cowpea and sorghum crops. They have had a noticeable impact on pasture conditions and water replenishment in all water sources. In Hiran Region, rain gauges in Beletweyne, Jalalaqsi, and Halgan in Buloburte District recorded 37 mm, 41.8 mm, and 13 mm, respectively, with one to three rainy days. Rains have significantly improved crop establishment and pasture conditions and have replenished water sources. However, the Hawd and parts of Adun pastoral livelihood zones in Galgadud Region have reported poor rainfall performance.

In the crop growing regions of the South, near-normal rainfall with average coverage has been reported. For example, rain gauge stations in Baidoa, Bardale, Dinsor, and Qansahdhere recorded 95 mm, 25 mm, 49.5 mm and 173 mm of rainfall, respectively, with four to six rainy days. Janale and Qoryoley in Lower Shabelle recorded 27 mm and 29 mm, respectively, with two to three rainy days. November 11 to 20 cumulative rainfall compared to the long-term 1983-2011 average confirms that rainfall performance is below normal in large portions of Lower and Middle Juba, Hiran, Lower Shabelle, and Gedo Regions (Figure 2). These rains rejuvenated the crops and the pasture, browse, and water conditions in pastoral and agropastoral livelihood zones. As a result, livestock body conditions and production for all species have improved. Weak banks and river bank breakages in Jowhar District in Middle Shabelle and Kurtunwarey District in Lower Shabelle caused localized river flooding. Flooding damaged standing crops and isolated villages. In addition, torrential rainfall between 11 and 17 November inundated crops in some localized lowland areas in Lower Shabelle and Bay Regions.

The current satellite-derived Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) shows poor vegetation levels in most parts of the Juba Valley, the Coastal *Deeh* livelihood zone in Lower Shabelle, and parts of Gedo, Sool, Sanag, and Awdal Regions due to the effect of continued dry weather during late October and early November (Figure 3). The seven-day weather forecast, valid through November 28, indicates that most parts of northern regions of Awdal, Bari, Nugal, Sool, Sanag, Togdher, and Waqooyi Galbeed and most of the central regions of Mudug and northern Galgadud will experience dry conditions. However, most of southern regions of Bay, Bakol, Hiran, Gedo, Lower and Middle Shabelle, Lower and Middle Juba, and southern Galgadud will experience light to moderate rains between five and 50 mm (Figure 4).

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

Figure 1. Rainfall estimate (mm), November 11-20, 2012

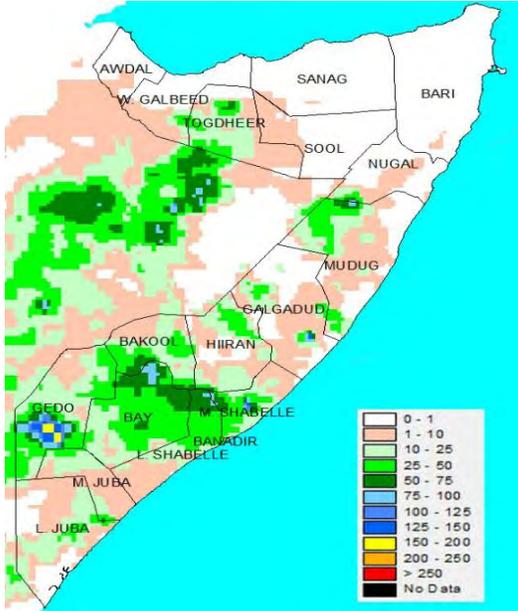


Figure 2: Rainfall percent of 1983-2011 mean, November 11-20, 2012

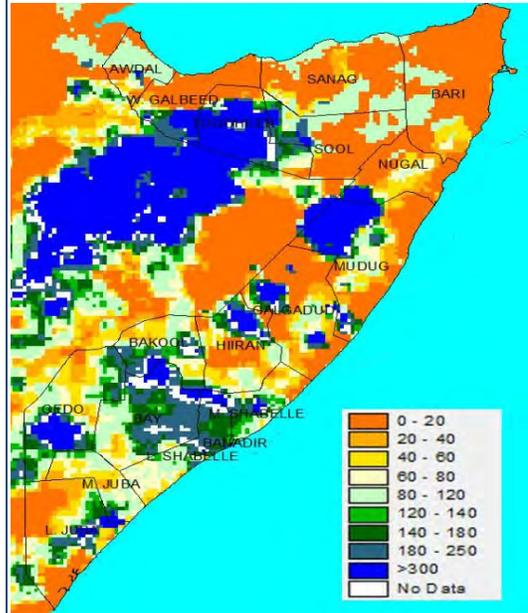


Figure 3. E-modis NDVI anomaly second dekad of November 2012

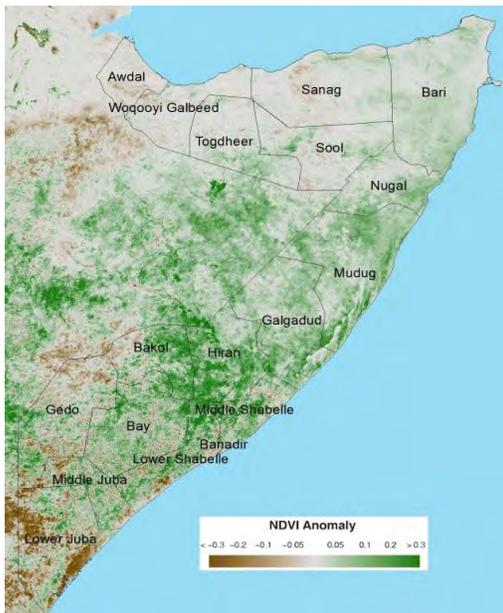


Figure 4. Seven days forecast valid up to November 28, 2012



Sources: FEWS NET/NOAA/CPC