

SOMALIA Rain Watch

June 24, 2013

FEWS NET will publish a Rain Watch for Somalia every 10 days (dekad) through the end of the current Gu (April to June) rainy season. The purpose of this document is to provide updated information on the progress of the Gu season to facilitate contingency and response planning. This Somalia Rain Watch is valid through April 15, 2013, and is produced in collaboration with [U.S. Geological Survey \(USGS\)](#), [the Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit \(FSNAU\) Somalia](#), [the Somali Water and Land Information System \(SWALIM\)](#), a number of other agencies, and several Somali non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

The March to June Gu 2013 rains were largely near-normal to normal.

Earlier than normal Gu 2013 rains started in late March in most parts of the country. Over the course of the March to June Gu season, rainfall performance was largely near-normal to normal in terms of amount, duration, and spatial coverage in most parts of the country, excluding most of Bari and parts of Sanag, Galgadud, Hiran, Bakol, and Gedo Regions (Figure 1). Comparing [the rainfall estimate \(Figure 1\) for February 1 to June 22 and the 1983 to 2011 long-term mean \(ARC2\)](#) shows that rainfall in most of the southern and the northwestern regions was normal to above normal (Figure 2).

In the **Northwest**, most of Guban Pastoral livelihood zone received above normal to heavy, sporadic rains from March through the first ten days of May, which is an atypical pattern for this time of the year. Rangeland conditions are average to above average following these exceptional Gu rains in this livelihood zone. Most parts of the agropastoral and pastoral livelihood zones received moderate rains, but it varied in terms of timing and distribution. However, parts of the Sool Plateau, East Golis Pastoral, and most of Gabi Valley Pastoral livelihood zones in Sanag Region and the eastern part of Nugal Valley in Sool Region had localized areas where total rainfall was below normal over the course of the Gu season. Field reports confirm increasing livestock in-migration into the Sool Plateau Pastoral livelihood zone in Sanag Region from Bari Region, which places additional pressure on the pasture and browse availability on the Sool Plateau.

In the **Northeast**, in most of Nugal and northern Mudug Region, the rainfall performance in pastoral areas has been fairly average and well distributed, including in the Coastal Deeh Pastoral livelihood zone, which is experiencing a second season of recovery following several successive seasons of far below average rainfall. Ground reports indicate that the Nugal Valley Pastoral livelihood zone in Nugal Region had relatively poor rains since the start of the season in late March. As a result, both pasture and water conditions are largely below normal. Similarly, in the Sool Plateau, Dharoor Valley Pastoral, East Golis Pastoral, and Coastal Deeh Pastoral livelihood zone in Bari Region, considerably low total rainfall for the season compelled pastoralists and livestock to migrate to adjacent livelihood zones such as the Addun and Hawd Pastoral livelihood zones of the Northeast and the Sool Plateau in Sanag Region. The situation was further exacerbated by the early cessation of Gu rains in mid-May followed by strong *Hagaa* winds, which accelerating the depletion of water sources and the deterioration of pasture conditions.

In the **central regions**, despite the long dry spell from May 11 to 31, both satellite-based rainfall estimates and ground reports confirm that the March to May Gu 2013 rainfall in most of the Hawd, Addun Pastoral livelihood zone, and some parts of the cowpea-growing areas in Central Agropastoral livelihood zone had near normal to normal total rainfall but with poor coverage and frequency. These rains have rejuvenated pasture, partially replenished water sources, and supported both cowpea seed germination and development, but the lack of rain in May at the critical flowering and podding and grain-filling stages of development decreased the crops' yields. In addition, very poor rains fell in most parts of Coastal Deeh Pastoral livelihood zone in the central regions, which halted the recovery process of rebuilding herds that had started during the October to December Deyr 2012 rains. Both pasture and water availability have deteriorated.

In the **South**, most of the regions received fairly distributed, average to good total rains according to field reports and satellite-based rainfall estimates from March to May 2013. Rains were favorable in most riverine, pastoral, and agropastoral livelihood zones. Pasture, browse, and water conditions markedly improved, especially in the rainfed agropastoral and the pastoral areas in the South. These rains have also improved the performance of maize, sorghum, cowpea, and sesame crops. Exceptions to the generally positive trends are found in the rainfed, agropastoral areas of Hiran Region, parts of Bakol, and northern Gedo Region where due to the long dry spell in May and inadequate total rainfall, crop development was poor with some crops wilted and

others unlikely to be useable for anything other than fodder. The recent dry spell and the early cessation of the *Gu* rains have affected rangeland and water resources in these rain-deficit areas. In Coastal Deeh Pastoral livelihood zone in Lower Shabelle and Lower Juba Regions, *Hagaa* rains in early to mid-June reversed the deterioration in rangeland vegetation conditions, which improved pasture and browse availability (Figure 3). Only some coastal areas are likely to receive rain over the next week (Figure 4).

For more rain gauge data, please, contact So-Hdro@fao.org or visit www.faoswalim.org.

Figure 1. Estimated rainfall totals, March 1 to May 31, 2013 (RFE2) in millimeters (mm)

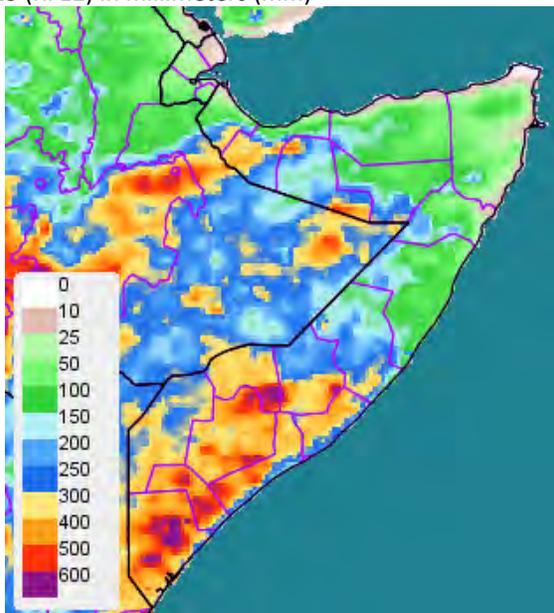


Figure 2: March 1 to May 31 rainfall anomaly in mm from 1920 to 1980 long-term mean (LTM)

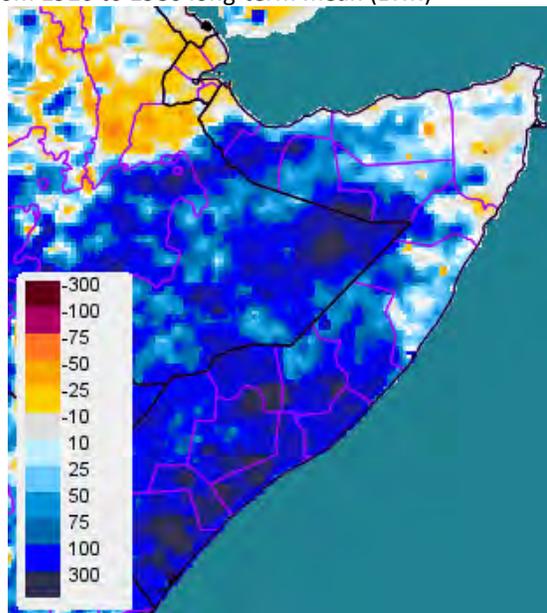


Figure 3. eMODIS Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) anomaly from 2001-2010 mean, June 11 to 20, 2013

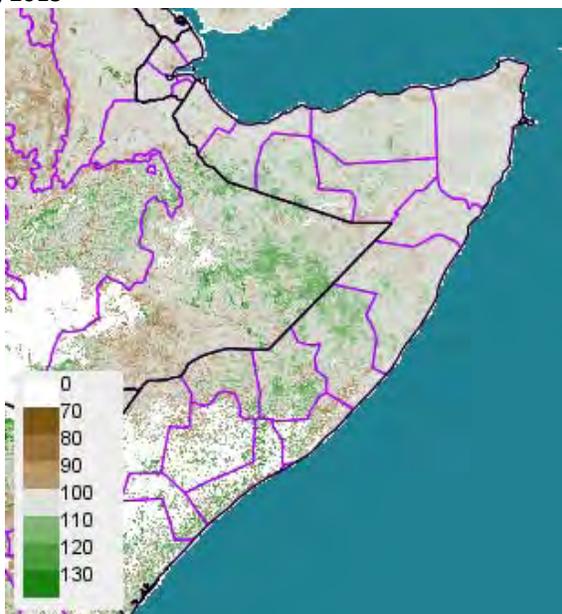
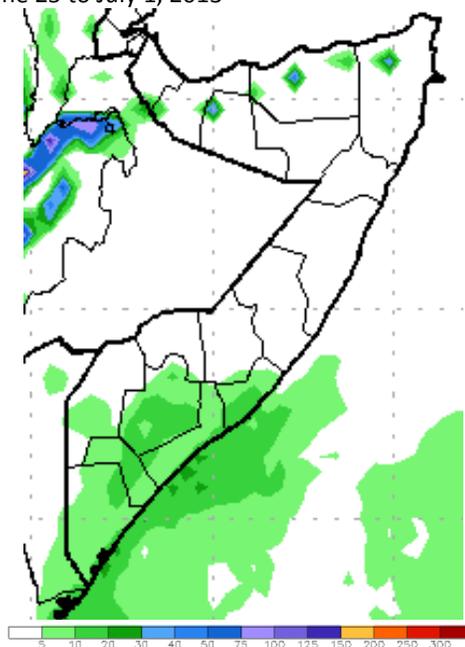


Figure 4. Global Forecast System (GFS) rainfall forecast for June 25 to July 1, 2013



Sources: [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration \(NOAA\)/Climate Prediction Center \(CPC\)](#) and [USGS/FEWS NET](#)