



Summary for Decision Makers

SEASONAL FORECAST

October to December 2025

Rainfall and Temperature

The OND season is a critical rainfall period for the equatorial Greater Horn of Africa (GHA), contributing up to 70% of the annual rainfall in parts of Kenya and Somalia. Analysis of predictions from seven Global Producing Centres (GPCs), tailored for the region, indicates an elevated likelihood of below-normal rainfall in OND 2025 across the eastern and southern sector, including southern Ethiopia, much of Somalia, eastern Kenya, and parts of central and southern Tanzania (Figure 1). The strongest signal for drier-than-average conditions (probability 55%) is observed over southern Ethiopia, eastern Kenya, and eastern Tanzania, central to southern Somalia, as well as parts of coastal northern Somalia and northern Eritrea. In contrast, wetter-than-normal conditions are favoured in parts of the western sector, notably in parts of southern South Sudan, north-eastern and south-western Uganda, and localised areas of northern Rwanda. Localised parts of north-eastern Somalia also show weakly enhanced probabilities for above normal rainfall.

Parts of southern Ethiopia, northern Somalia, north-western Kenya, central to northern Uganda, much of Rwanda, and western Burundi have equal chances (33% each), of receiving above-normal, normal, or below-normal rainfall.

The analysis of rainfall probabilities for the OND 2025 season shows a high likelihood (>70%) of exceeding 300 mm in parts of western Kenya, southern Uganda, much of Rwanda and Burundi, and north-western Tanzania (Figure 3).

Conversely, the probability of surpassing this threshold is low (<30%) over southwestern Ethiopia, northern and eastern Kenya, central to eastern Tanzania, and southern Somalia. Relative to historical climatology, the likelihood of receiving 300 mm is reduced (by up to 30%) in southern Ethiopia, eastern Kenya, southern Uganda, and most of Tanzania. In contrast, probabilities are above climatological levels in western Kenya, northern and central Uganda, parts of Burundi and Rwanda, as well as north-western Tanzania (Figure 4).

The predicted start dates of the OND 2025 season, based on six Global Climate Model forecasts that provide daily rainfall outputs, are shown in Figure 2a, while the forecast probabilities for the three onset-timing categories (early, normal, and late) are presented in Figure 3. A delayed onset is predicted over the eastern parts of the region, whereas a normal to early onset is expected across much of the western parts of the region.

How should I use seasonal forecasts? Seasonal forecasts are tailored for planning purposes as they are associated with uncertainties. Therefore, this seasonal forecast should be used in conjunction with weekly and monthly forecasts as well as climate monitoring products issued by ICPAC and National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) of the region.

Rainfall Probabilistic Forecast October - December 2025

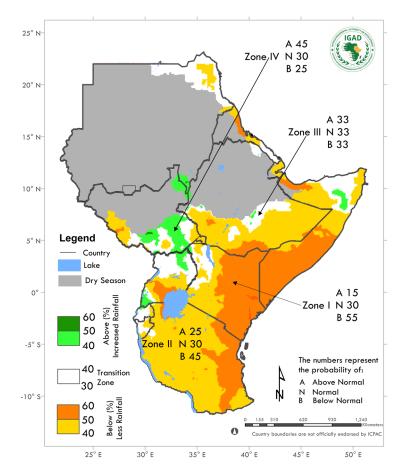
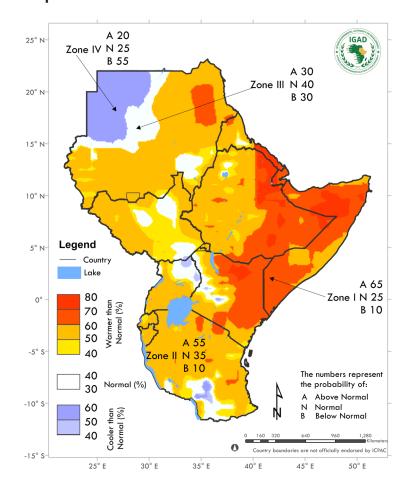




Figure 1 (a): Probability forecast of rainfall for various zones within the GHA region for October to December 2025. Grey shading indicates regions where OND is climatologically a dry season.

Temperature Probabilistic Forecast for October - December 2025



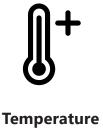


Figure 1 (b): Probability forecast of mean surface temperatures for OND 2025 season.

Below-normal rains and warmer-than-usual conditions expected over most parts of the Greater Horn of Africa

October - December 2025 onset

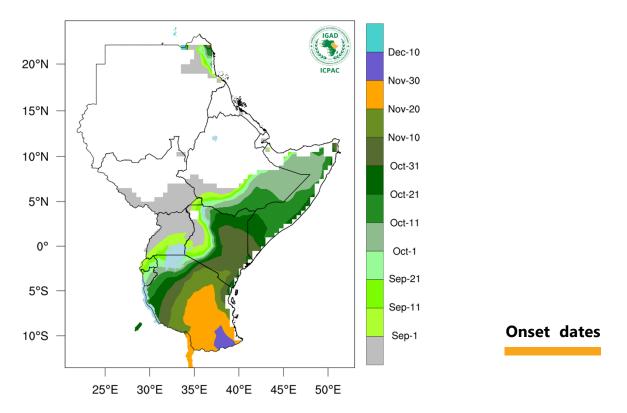


Figure 2 (a): October - December 2025 onset dates.

October - December 2025 onset probability

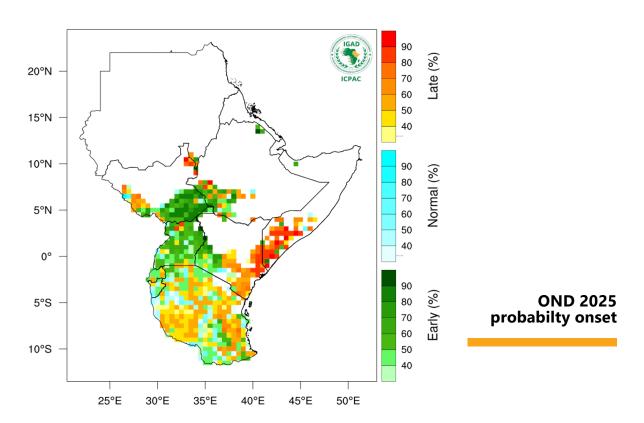


Figure 2 (b): October - December 2025 onset probability

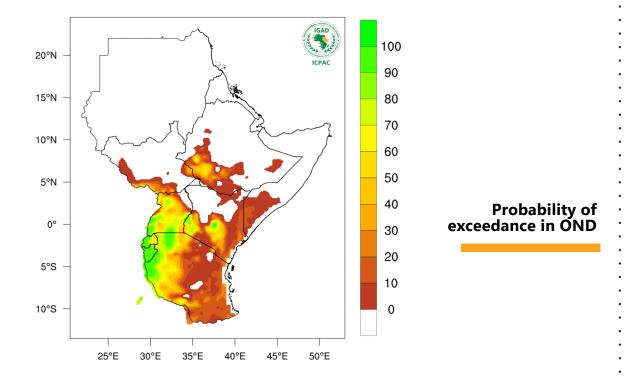


Figure 3: October - December 2025 probability of exceeding 300 mm in OND.

- The probability of seasonal rainfall accumulations exceeding user-relevant thresholds may be used to aid the management of risks in the food security and agriculture sectors.

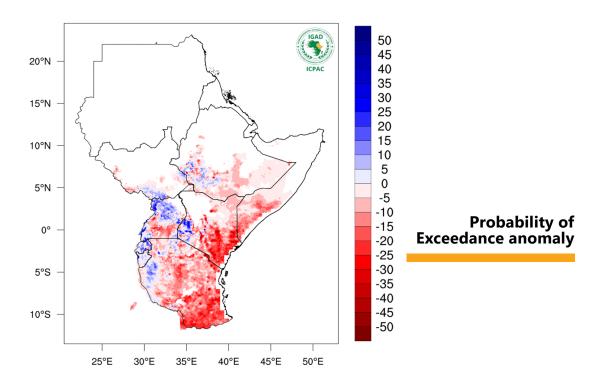


Figure 4: October - December Probability of Exceedance Anomaly

- Predicted probability of exceeding 300 mm for the OND 2025 season is lower than historical over mots parts of the region.

October 2025 forecast

Rainfall Probabilistic Forecast for October 2025

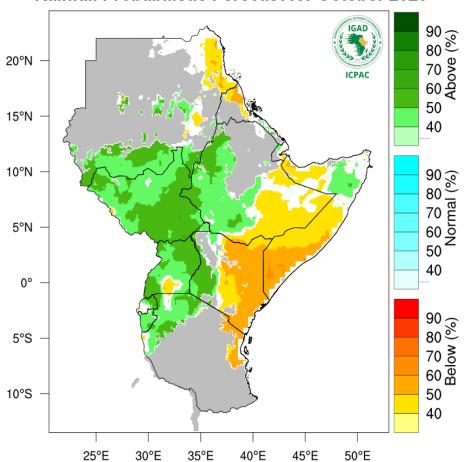


Figure 5: October rainfall forecast

- Wetter than normal conditions expected over southern areas of Sudan, South Sudan, western Ethiopia, north-eastern Somalia, western Kenya, Uganda, most parts of Rwanda, Burundi, and north-western Tanzania.
- Drier than usual conditions expected over coastal areas of Sudan and Eritrea, south-eastern Ethiopia, north-western, central to southern Somalia, central to eastern Kenya, and northern coastal Tanzania.

DJIBOUTI



Disaster Risk Management

Water scarcity, increase in both human and livestock diseases, loss of livestock due to lack of pasture, water and diseases, and malnutrition cases among the children and other vulnerable groups.

Advisories

- Disseminate early warning information.
- · Preposition humanitarian assistance nutritious food
- Rehabilitate boreholes, water reservoirs and small dams.



Agriculture and Food Security

Lower yields of cereals, fruits, vegetables, and forage crops, and rising food market prices due to reduced supply.

Advisories

- Strengthen and implement early warning system for drought monitoring.
- Provide drought-tolerant seeds, agricultural tools, motorised pumps, and plant protection products.
- Support vulnerable populations with food rations.
- Provide cash transfers to affected households to enhance coping capacity.



Water and Energy

Coming from a prolonged drought in JJAS, there is a likelihood of exacerbated reduction of water availability in surface and groundwater sources, and groundwater sources are likely to become more saline due to increased reliance on boreholes.

Advisories

• Encourage water conservation measures and conjunctive use of surface and groundwater sources.



Livestock

Severe water & pasture scarcity, worsening livestock condition, mortality, and loss of indigenous breeds, including, reduced livestock prices & incomes, spread of invasive species, increased mobility fueling cross-border conflicts.

Advisories

- Encourage voluntary destocking, expand livestock insurance, and explore flexible market models (e.g., animal leasing) to protect incomes and reduce losses.
- Provide supplementary feeds, conserve crop residues, truck water where critical, and open/manage reserve grazing areas to maintain livestock productivity.
- Deliver timely climate advisories (heat stress, market info), expand mobile vet/disease surveillance, and promote livelihood diversification.



Health

Rising temperatures in Djibouti are expected to worsen heat-related health risks, including heightened risk of birth complications among pregnant women, in addition, there is an elevated cardiac risk among the elderly, and heightened heat sensitivity among persons with disabilities.

- Strengthen early warning systems, establish cooling shelters in public spaces,
- Distribute free oral rehydration solution (ORS) kits, enforce mandatory shade and rest breaks for outdoor workers.
- Issue targeted prenatal heat advisories, and ensure reliable access to safe drinking water.



ETHIOPIA



Disaster Risk Management

Shortage of water and pasture, failure of crop production, outbreak of livestock disease, death of livestock, and increase in malnutrition cases (children and PLW).

Advisories

- Disseminate early warning information.
- · Disease surveillance.
- · Rainwater harvesting.
- Preposition vaccine and livestock feeds.
- Create awareness for communities in vulnerable groups.



Agriculture and Food Security

Southern and southeastern parts of the country are expected to face reduced yields, crop losses, and rising cost of irrigation due to dry conditions, while wetter conditions in September and October may support late-planted crops, food insecurity is likely to worsen in drought-affected areas.

Advisories

- Farmers should prioritize planting early maturing and drought-tolerant crop varieties.
- · Crop diversification, in-situ water harvesting, and supplementary irrigation should be promoted.
- Timely harvesting and threshing practices are essential to reduce losses.



Water and Energy

At the end of the JJAS season, water availability in the Wabi-Shebelle and Genale-Dawa basins is expected to be sufficient, ensuring stable hydropower generation throughout OND. In contrast, the Tekeze, Abay, and Omo-Gibe basins are likely to face reduced water availability, which will affect domestic use, livestock, and hydropower production.

Advisories

- · Water conservation measures.
- Continuously monitor water levels and adopt appropriate strategies.



Livestock

Wetter conditions in September and October are expected to regenerate pasture and water, improving livestock body conditions, food security, and household incomes. However, reduced rainfall in the southern and southeastern areas is likely to worsen livestock conditions and increase mortality.

Advisories

- Rehabilitate water sources, conserve excess feeds/hay, and preserve reserve grazing areas to ensure resilience during future droughts reducing risks of overgrazing and siltation.
- Promote early maturing fodder crops, rangeland reseeding, and disease surveillance to improve livestock condition and food security while addressing risks of vector-borne outbreaks.



Health

Rising temperatures are projected to increase heat-related health risks, while vector-borne diseases are also expected to rise. Drought-like conditions may further drive malnutrition and undernutrition, particularly among children, and heightened livelihood stress is likely to worsen mental health challenges.

Advisories

• Mitigation measures and awareness to reduce impacts of heat on health, awareness and measures to reduce vectors and deployment of mobile mental health and trauma-care teams.





Conflict

Impacted Cluster

Mandera System: Ethiopia-Kenya-Somalia

The anticipated depressed rainfall from October to December means further dissipation of fodder and water for livestock, creating increased resource stress among the communities. This is expected to be further aggravated by the anticipated high temperatures, leading to increased desiccation of resources. There is a likelihood of increased conflicts around the more resilient Dollo Ado and Filtu areas in Ethiopia, between Somali and Ethiopian pastoralists, and deeper in Mandera among migratory communities.

Advisories

• The already established Mandera peace committees will require reinvigorating to avert any potential escalation of violence while mitigating the impacts through actively engaging the migrating pastoralists and the host communities. The Conflict Early Warning and Response Units -CEWERUs are urged to prioritise the cluster because of the anticipated high conflict risk.

KENYA



Disaster Risk Management

There is a high likelihood of crop failure, while pasture depletion might lead communities to trek longer distances in search of water. Acute water scarcity and food insecurity are also driving negative coping mechanisms such as early marriages and gender-based violence. In addition, widespread livestock deaths and poor livestock body conditions are expected.

Advisories

- Disseminate timely and reliable early warning information.
- Distribute and plant drought tolerant/early maturing crops.
- Create awareness on pasture/fodder conservation, controlled grazing.
- Enhance disease surveillance, vaccinations and integrated health outreaches.
- Rehabilitate strategic boreholes.



Agriculture and Food Security

Dry conditions are expected to cause crop moisture stress, reduced yields, rising food insecurity, price inflation, migration, and localized conflicts. On the positive side, crops harvested between October and December will benefit from reduced aflatoxin risk, lower post-harvest losses, better market access, and reduced drying and transportation costs.

Advisories

- · The adoption of short-season, drought-tolerant crops, irrigation practices, mulching, and integrated pest management should be promoted.
- Farmers should be encouraged to store food, adopt value addition, and use available produce sparingly.
- · The government should procure and store surplus food, expand social protection measures such as cash transfers, food aid, and school feeding programs.
- · Crop insurance schemes and livelihood diversification into non-farm activities should be expanded.



Water and Energy

Reduced river inflows in Kaju are expected to lower hydropower generation, while increased inflows at Sondu will support optimal production. At the same time, some areas face an elevated risk of flooding.

Advisories

- · Promote water conservation measures.
- Optimize hydropower production at different plants.
- · Raise awareness about possibility of flooding.



Livestock

Severe water and pasture scarcity in Kenya's ASALs is likely to worsen livestock conditions and increasing the risk of mortality. These challenges are compounded by higher incidences of anthrax, transboundary diseases, and zoonoses, while heat stress may further reduce productivity driving food insecurity.

- · Deliver timely climate advisories (heat stress, market info), expand mobile vet/disease surveillance.
- · Conserve crop residues, truck water where critical, and open/manage reserve grazing areas to maintain livestock productivity.





Conditions are conducive for the spread of kala-azar (visceral leishmaniasis) and other vector-borne diseases. In addition, dust events are likely to increase cases of respiratory and eye infections.

Advisories

• Create awareness for early diagnosis and prompt treatment to prevent death and disability; Vector prevention measures. PPEs for children particularly in degraded areas.



Conflict

Impacted Clusters

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Advisory

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Cluster I north: (Kenya- Uganda-South Sudan

Cluster I north is categorised as a low-risk area with impacts anticipated to set in after December. The flooding in Lake Turkana is anticipated to aggravate the situation by greatly reducing the resilience of the communities.

Advisory

• Peace committees should be encouraged to sustain the existing peace currently witnessed between the Turkana and Toposa through continuous engagement with the various peace and conflict actors. The Kenya and South Sudan CEWERU will be encouraged to draft a joint proposal under the upcoming rapid response fund of CEWARN to follow up on the peace pacts.

Pokot System: (Kenya-Uganda cross-border

Impacts are not expected to set in before November, and have therefore been categorised as a low risk, with some hotspot zones from the Alale – Loima corridor to the Turkana south - West Pokot boundary areas.

Advisorv

• It is crucial to contain the current ongoing skirmishes at the border areas of the communities to avoid escalation when the conditions worsen from November. Peace committees and other actors will need to be capacitated to facilitate this process.

SOMALIA



Disaster Risk Management

Food insecurity might rise, with increasing cases of malnutrition among vulnerable communities. Resource-based communal conflicts are may also intensify, while water scarcity continues to affect both households and livestock.

Advisories

- · Early Warning information dissemination.
- · Pre-position lifesaving packages.
- Evacuation in cases of conflicts.
- Enhance cross boarder collaboration to address cross boarder drought related challenges.



Agriculture and Food Security

In northeastern Somalia, wetter conditions may improve crop performance, pasture, and water availability, though they may also bring risks of flooding and livestock diseases. By contrast, the central and eastern regions are expected to face drier conditions, resulting in poor crop growth and worsening food insecurity.

Advisories

- In drier parts, farmers should adopt drought-tolerant crops, practice water harvesting, and prepare fodder reserves, while safety nets and food assistance should be strengthened.
- In wetter regions, farmers should maximize cereal and vegetable production.



Water and Energy

The Juba basin is expected to experience reduced river flows and surface water shortages affecting multiple sectors, while the Shabelle basin will maintain stable flows.

Advisories

- Enforce conservation and water-use regulations.
- Implement water conflict-resolution strategies.



Livestock

In northeastern Somalia, wetter-than-normal conditions are expected to regenerate pasture and water, improving livestock body condition, food security, and household incomes. However, the rest of the country will face severe water and pasture scarcity, leading to reduced livestock prices and incomes, the spread of invasive species, increased mobility, and heightened cross-border conflicts.

- NE Somalia Strengthen water and grazing management, including rehabilitate of water points, conserve excess feeds/hay, and preserve reserve grazing areas to ensure resilience during future droughts.
- · Timely advisories tailored to local zones
- Voluntary destocking, expand livestock insurance, and explore flexible market models (e.g., animal leasing).



Drought-like conditions in Somalia are likely to heighten the risk of stunting and malnutrition, while also increasing the likelihood of neurological health complications.

Advisories

• Recommendations include providing targeted nutritional support for pregnant women and children, as well as ensuring reliable access to clean water in drought-prone areas.



Conflict

Ilmpacted Cluster

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Advisory

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SOUTH SUDAN



Disaster Risk Management

South Sudan is likely to experience floods, which could displace women, children, and persons living with disabilities, while also increasing the risk of conflict as populations and livestock move. Flooding is further expected to damage infrastructure, disrupt livelihood activities, and trigger disease outbreaks in both humans and livestock. These challenges will deepen food insecurity and drive higher levels of malnutrition among children.

Advisories

- Disseminate localised EW messages & advisories.
- Provide medical and veterinary services.
- Rehabilitate roads, restore drainage systems and repair damaged dykes.
- Provide clean drinking water for women, children, and livestock.
- Preposition food supplies.



Agriculture and Food Security

Bimodal rainfall areas are expected to produce good second-season crops. In the southeast, wetter conditions are likely to favor the growth of long-maturing sorghum, while the drier northwestern zones may experience reduced yields of these crops. However, excess moisture poses a high risk of aflatoxin contamination in cereals.

- · Farmers should be supported with early-maturing seeds and encouraged to invest in water harvesting prac-
- Government investment in solar driers may help reduce aflatoxin contamination.
- Cereals should be moved from surplus to deficit regions to balance food prices.
- · Diversification into alternative livelihoods such as beekeeping should be encouraged.



Water and Energy

While OND is normally a dry season in the north, its impacts are influenced by the preceding wet JJAS season, the forecasted wetter-than-normal conditions in the southeast, and inflows from upstream member states. These factors are expected to sustain above-average river levels in the White Nile, increasing the risk of continued flooding and sedimentation.

Advisories

- Carry out minor repairs of dykes and clear drainage infrastructure.
- Raise flood awareness.
- Continuously monitor water levels and adopt appropriate strategies.



Livestock

In southeastern South Sudan, wetter-than-normal conditions are expected to regenerate pasture and water resources, improving livestock body condition, food security, and household incomes. However, these conditions also increase the risk of flooding, mudslides, and the spread of vector-borne diseases such as Rift Valley Fever, Lumpy Skin Disease, and trypanosomiasis

- · Promote early maturing fodder crops, rangeland reseeding, and disease surveillance to improve livestock condition and food security while addressing risks of vector-borne outbreaks.
- · Provide timely advisories tailored to local zones (flood-prone, rangeland, pastoral) to guide country-level strategies, manage uncertainties, and support anticipatory action under climate variability.





Increase in malaria incidences in much of southern South Sudan, and increased likelihood of an increase in cholera outbreaks and cases of Acute and Watery Diarrhea (AWD).

Advisories

• WASH programs, fumigation and vector control in affected areas. Oral vaccination campaign against cholera to continue in affected areas.



Conflict Early Warning

Cluster I north: (Kenya- Uganda-South Sudan

Cluster I north is categorised as a low-risk area with impacts anticipated to set in after December. The flooding in Lake Turkana is anticipated to aggravate the situation by greatly reducing the resilience of the communities.

Advisory

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SUDAN



Disaster Risk Management

Crop failures and partial losses are expected, accompanied by increased cases of water stress and shortages. Livestock mortality may increase, further aggravating food insecurity and contributing to higher levels of malnutrition.

Advisories

- Timely disseminate early warning alerts through SMS or Radio.
- Provide adequate feeders for livestock.
- Rehabilitate drainages both in the rural and city centres.
- Enhance disease surveillance and early vaccinations.
- Preposition medicines and storage in the affected areas.
- · Hold community health campaigns in the high-risk areas.
- Provide fodder seeds for livestock and support animal fodder production..



Water and Energy

Although OND is typically a dry season, the impacts will depend on the preceding JJAS season and the predicted hydrology of upstream countries. Water availability is expected to remain sufficient until the next season, supporting stable hydropower production, with no significant risk of flooding.

Advisories

- · Water conservation measures.
- · Continuous monitor water levels and adopting appropriate strategies.



Health

With rising temperatures, heat-related illnesses are projected to increase, alongside a higher likelihood of respiratory infections and eye conditions such as conjunctivitis.

- Proposed measures include enhancing early warning systems, setting up cooling shelters in public areas, providing free oral rehydration solution (ORS) kits.
- Enforce mandatory shade and rest breaks for outdoor laborers, issuing tailored prenatal heat advisories, and guaranteeing consistent access to safe drinking water.

UGANDA



Disaster Risk Management

Seasonal forecasts indicate that northeastern and southwestern Uganda are likely to experience floods, while central Uganda will face drought. Flooding is expected to cause loss of lives and property, damage to roads, bridges, and houses, displacement of people, increased waterborne diseases, and higher pest and disease incidences in livestock. On the other hand, drought conditions are likely to trigger resource-based conflicts and gender-based violence, lead to livestock losses, worsen food insecurity, and increase malnutrition among children and other vulnerable groups, as well as heighten pest and disease outbreaks.

Advisories

- Disseminate timely drought and flood early warning information.
- · Create awareness on raising and sensitisation of vulnerable communities.
- Pre-position food and medical supplies and other relief items.
- Desilt drainage channels.
- Enhance disease surveillance and early vaccination.



Agriculture and Food Security

Warmer and drier areas will likely experience soil moisture stress and reduced productivity.

Advisories

- Farmers should adopt drought-tolerant crops in bimodal areas.
- Investment in rainwater harvesting and small-scale irrigation should be expanded.
- Climate-smart farming practices should be promoted, and early warning systems should be strengthened and disseminated through extension services.



Water and Energy

High lake levels during the current JJAS season will ensure water availability for different sectors during OND, supporting stable hydropower production throughout the period. However, above-average flows in the north and southwest are expected, which may increase the risk of flooding.

Advisories

- · Continuously monitor lake and river water levels and raise awareness about potential for flooding.
- · Update downstream countries on the status of water resources that pose a risk to them.
- · Monitor and remove floating islands in the lakes.



Livestock

In the wetter-than-normal areas of southwestern and northeastern Uganda, pasture and water regeneration will improve livestock body condition, food security, and household incomes. However, in southwestern Uganda, these conditions also raise the risk of flooding and mudslides.

- Strengthen water & grazing management, rehabilitate water sources, conserve excess feeds/hay, and preserve reserve grazing areas,
- Promote early maturing fodder crops, rangeland reseeding, and disease surveillance to improve livestock condition and food security while addressing risks of vector-borne outbreaks.
- Enhance climate & early warning services provide timely advisories tailored to local zones.



Climate extremes are expected to increase the risk of injuries from landslides, alongside a projected rise in malaria and cholera cases.

Advisories

- It is recommended to expand first aid training particularly in areas where landslides are common.
- Strengthen public awareness initiatives, and enhance malaria control measures, alongside promoting oral cholera vaccinations and awareness campaigns.



Conflict

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Advisory:

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BURUNDI



Water and Energy

There is a likelihood of reduced river inflows which may lead to insufficient water supply for both domestic and agricultural uses.

Advisories

- · Continuously monitor water levels.
- Maintenance of rainwater harvesting infrastructure.



Health

Forecasted rainfall is projected to heighten the risk of landslide-related injuries and contribute to an increase in malaria and cholera cases.

Advisories

- Scale up first aid training in areas prone to landslides.
- · Increase public awareness efforts.
- · Reinforce malaria control measures.
- Promote oral cholera vaccinations alongside targeted awareness campaigns.

RWANDA



Agriculture and Food Security

Dry spells in the east, more pests and diseases, and higher post-harvest losses in wet zones.

Advisories

- Farmers should prepare fields early and use improved or drought-tolerant seeds.
- Water and soil conservation should be strengthened through terracing, mulching, rainwater harvesting, and zero tillage.
- Integrated pest and disease management should be scaled up.
- Investments should be made in drying and storage facilities, as well as in reinforcing feeder roads in flood-prone areas.



Water and Energy

There was reduced river inflows during JJAS dry season. There is a likelihood of further reduction which may lead to insufficient water supply for domestic, agriculture and hydropower generation.

- · Water conservation measures.
- Optimize hydropower plants.



Projected rainfall is expected to elevate the risk of landslide-related injuries and lead to a rise in malaria and cholera cases.

Advisories

- It is recommended to enhance first aid training in landslide-prone areas, strengthen public awareness initiatives, and bolster malaria control measures.
- · Advance oral cholera vaccination programs accompanied by focused awareness campaigns.

TANZANIA



Agriculture and Food Security

Reduced rainfall is expected to shorten the growing season, leading to drought stress, crop wilting, lower yields, and potential food shortages. On the positive side, drier conditions may improve transportation access and help reduce post-harvest spoilage.

Advisories

- Farmers should be encouraged to diversify crops and adopt drought-tolerant and early-maturing varieties.
- Water harvesting, small-scale irrigation, integrated pest management, and soil fertility management should be promoted.



Water and Energy

Coming from JJAS dry season, there is a likelihood of further reduction in water levels in reservoirs, lakes and rivers.

- Implement water conservation measures.
- Conjunctive use of both surface and groundwater sources.
- · Continuously monitor water levels.



Contacts

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