



ICPAC

Climate Watch Advisory

The Evolving Dry Conditions in Eastern Africa

Watch No. 20251114-01

Initial limate Watch

Area concerned: Climate watch for the Horn of Africa

Issued on: 14 November 2025

Valid until: 13 December 2025

To: The National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) of Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia.

Snapshot

Current status

The Horn of Africa—covering south-eastern Ethiopia, eastern Kenya, and southern Somalia—has experienced drier-than-usual conditions since the start of the short-rains season. Rainfall analysis for August to October, based on the Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI), shows a significant rainfall deficit across the region. The Combined Drought Indicator (CDI) further indicates that these deficits have resulted in soil moisture shortages and vegetation stress, with some areas reaching Alert levels..

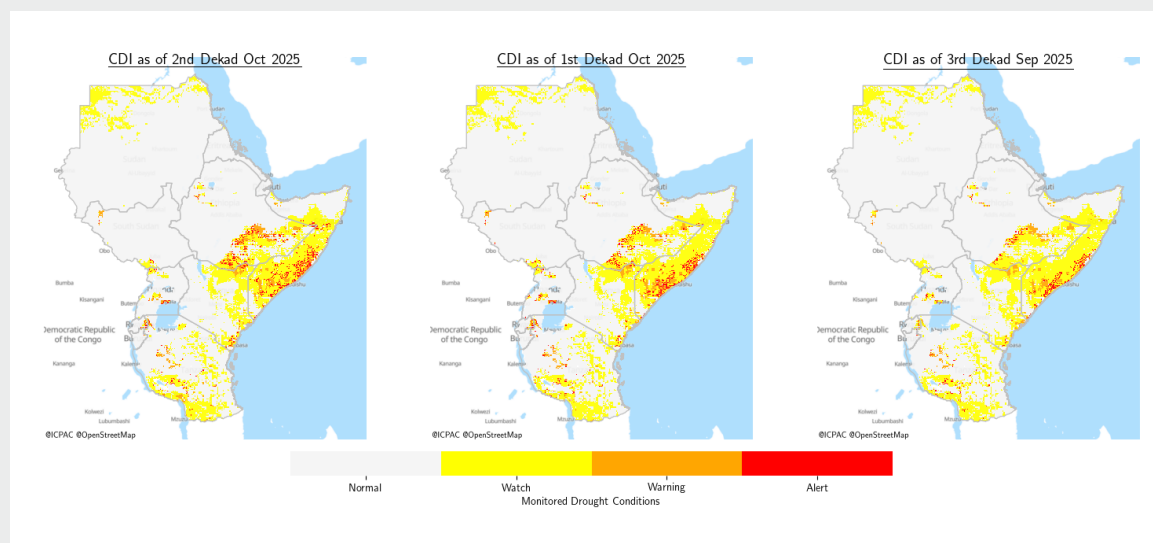
Global climate influences

Both La Niña conditions and the negative phase of the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) are historically linked to rainfall deficits over the Horn of Africa during the September–December period, as observed during the severe droughts of 2010 and 2022 in Kenya, Ethiopia, and Somalia. Current Sea Surface Temperature (SST) anomalies and atmospheric circulation patterns indicate that the ongoing La Niña and negative IOD events are comparable in magnitude to those past drought years. The negative IOD is expected to persist through December 2025, while La Niña conditions are forecast to continue until February 2026, likely exacerbating the already dry conditions across the affected areas.

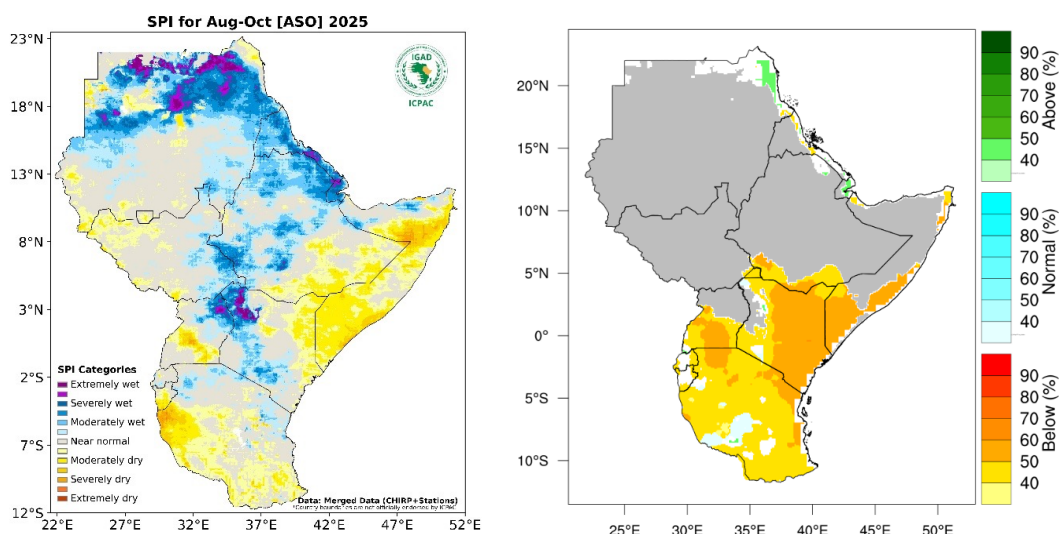
Forecast for the areas concerned

ICPAC's seasonal outlook for November 2025 to January 2026 indicates a high likelihood of continued drier-than-normal conditions over the Horn. This is expected to worsen the current situation, with significant impacts anticipated across critical socio-economic sectors, including Agriculture and food security, water resources, livestock, health and nutrition among others.

This climate watch is expected to be updated on or before **13 December 2025**.



Combined Drought Indicator (CDI) patterns for 1st and 2nd Dekads of October and the 3rd Dekad of September. Definition of CDI and its categories can be found at this link: <https://droughtwatch.icpac.net/mapviewer/>



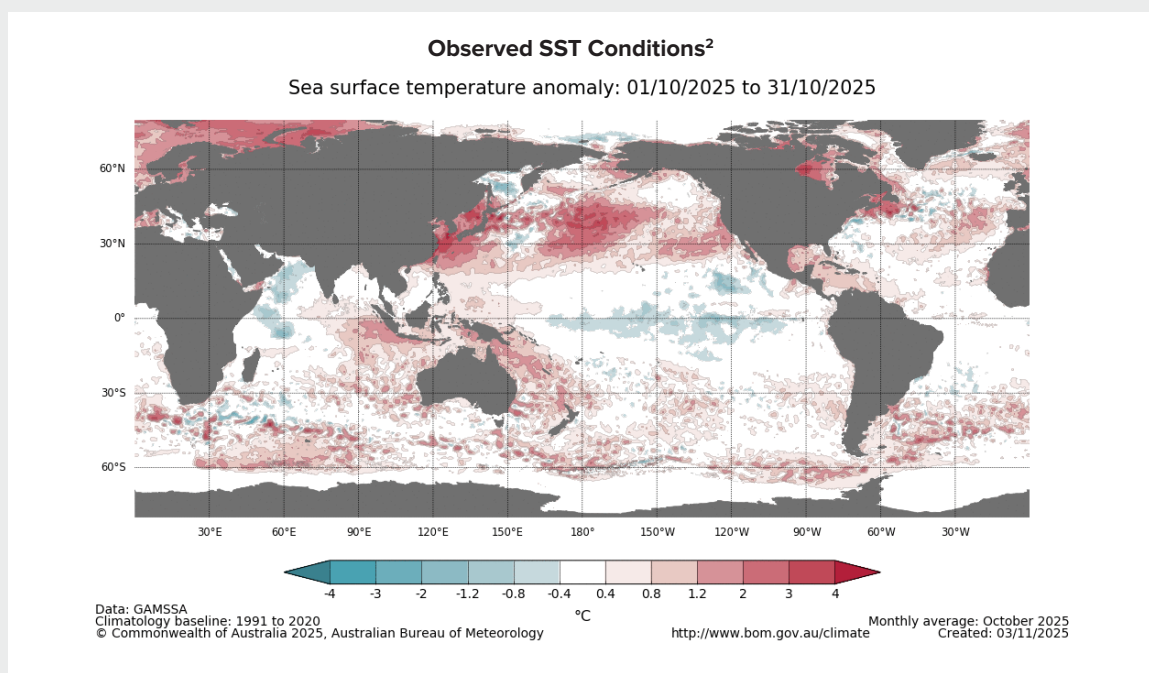
Observed SPI for August to October 2025 (left) and rainfall forecast for November 2025 to January 2026 (right).

Annex 1

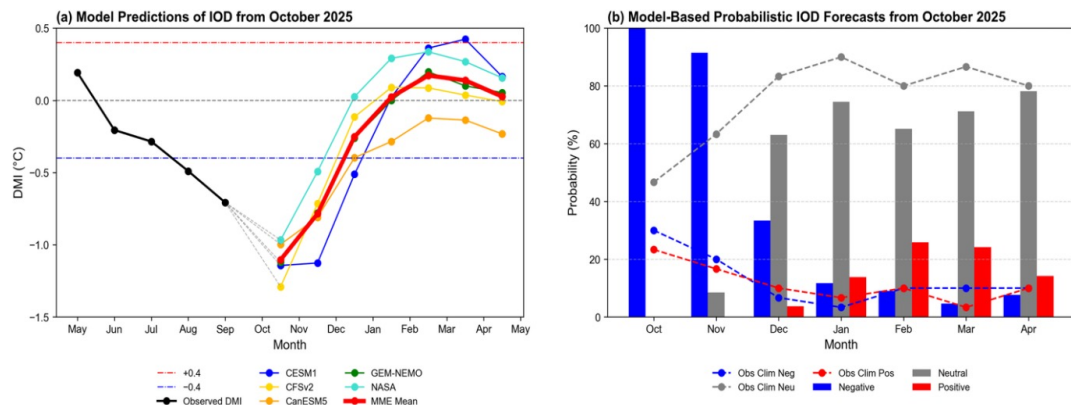
The criteria for issuance of a Climate Watch for drought for a GHA sub-region are:

- The Combined Drought Indicator (CDI) in the sub-region is at **Watch**, **Warning** or **Alert** levels. Refer to the [East Africa Drought Watch¹\(EADW\)](#) for the definitions.
- The sub-region covers parts of at least two countries and the population exposed to the hazard exceeds 5 million people.
- Combined forecast probability of the Near-Normal and Below-Normal categories is greater than 70% in the hotspot regions

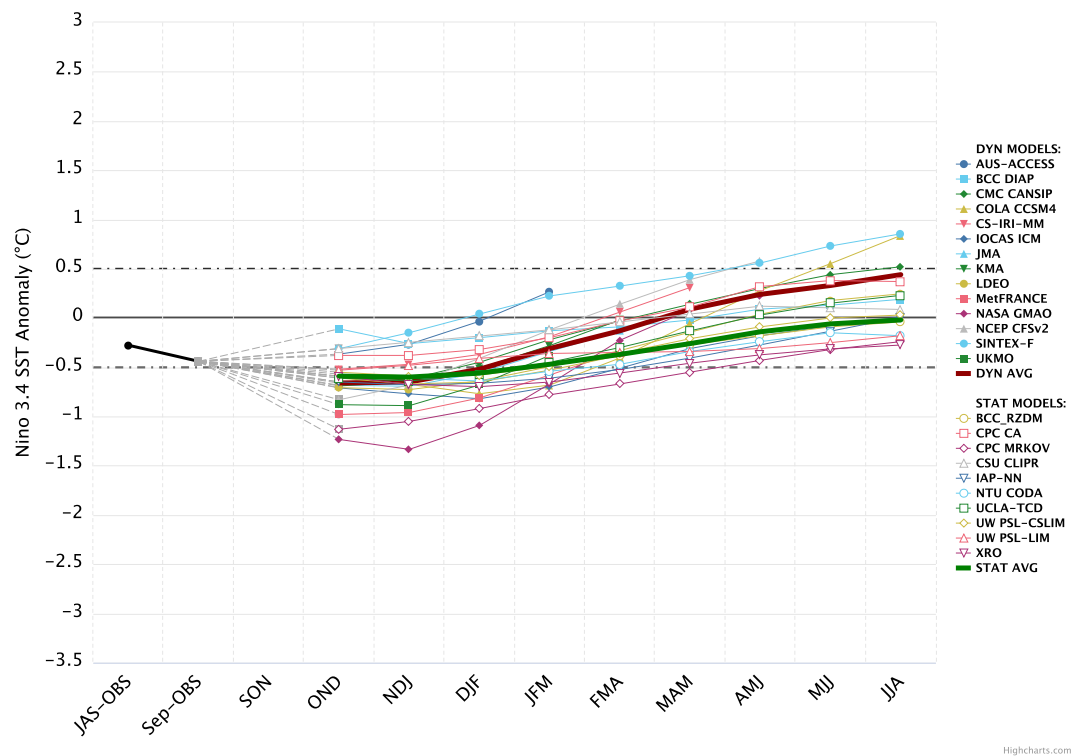
Drivers of Climate



1. EADW: <https://droughtwatch.icpac.net/mapviewer/>
2. Observed SSTs: <https://www.bom.gov.au/climate/ocean/sst/#/anom/global/weekly/20251102>



Model Predictions of ENSO from Oct 2025



3. IOD: https://iri.columbia.edu/our-expertise/climate/forecasts/enso/current?enso_tab=enso-iod_forecast
4. ENSO: <https://iri.columbia.edu/our-expertise/climate/forecasts/enso/current/>