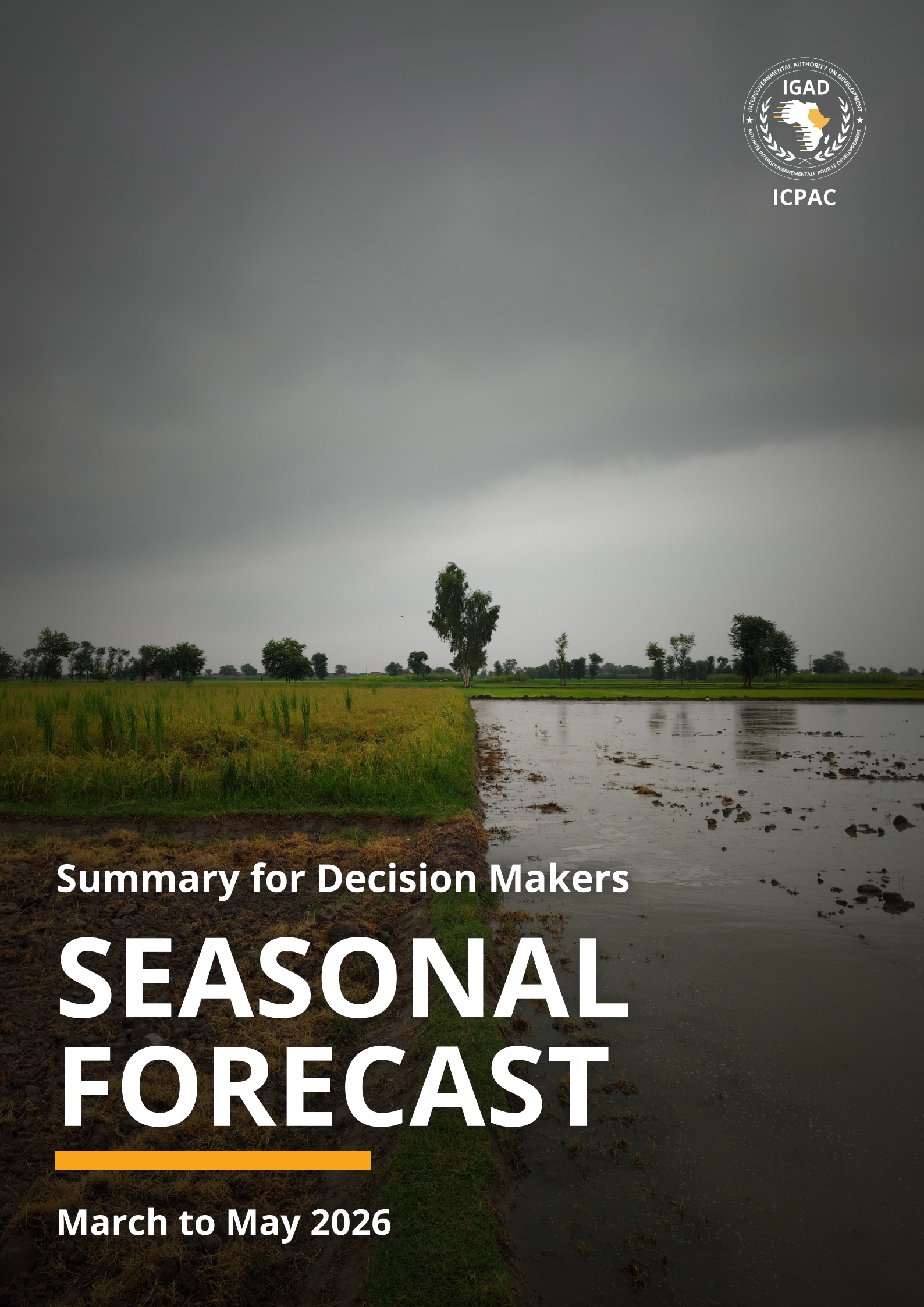


IGAD

ICPAC

Summary for Decision Makers

SEASONAL FORECAST

March to May 2026

Rainfall and Temperature

March to May (MAM) constitutes an important rainfall season, particularly in the equatorial parts of the Greater Horn of Africa (GHA), where MAM rainfall contributes up to 60% of the total annual rainfall. The performance of the MAM season is therefore critical for rain-fed socio-economic sectors in the region, including agriculture, livestock production, water resources, and other livelihoods. Analysis of global climate model predictions from nine Global Producing Centres (GPCs) customised for the Greater Horn of Africa (GHA) region indicates slightly raised probabilities (40%) for near normal conditions over much of Somalia, northern and eastern Kenya, coastal and parts of northern Tanzania, eastern and western South Sudan, a few regions in western Ethiopia and parts of Uganda. However, in these regions, the probabilities for below-normal and above-normal are not markedly lower, with both equal at 30% and therefore these outcomes should be considered in contingency planning.

In contrast, the forecast indicates enhanced probabilities for above-normal rainfall over Burundi, Rwanda, most of Tanzania, western Kenya, much of Uganda, South Sudan, and Ethiopia. Forecast probabilities favour drier-than-usual conditions, specifically for parts of the coastal areas of Kenya (Figure 1a).

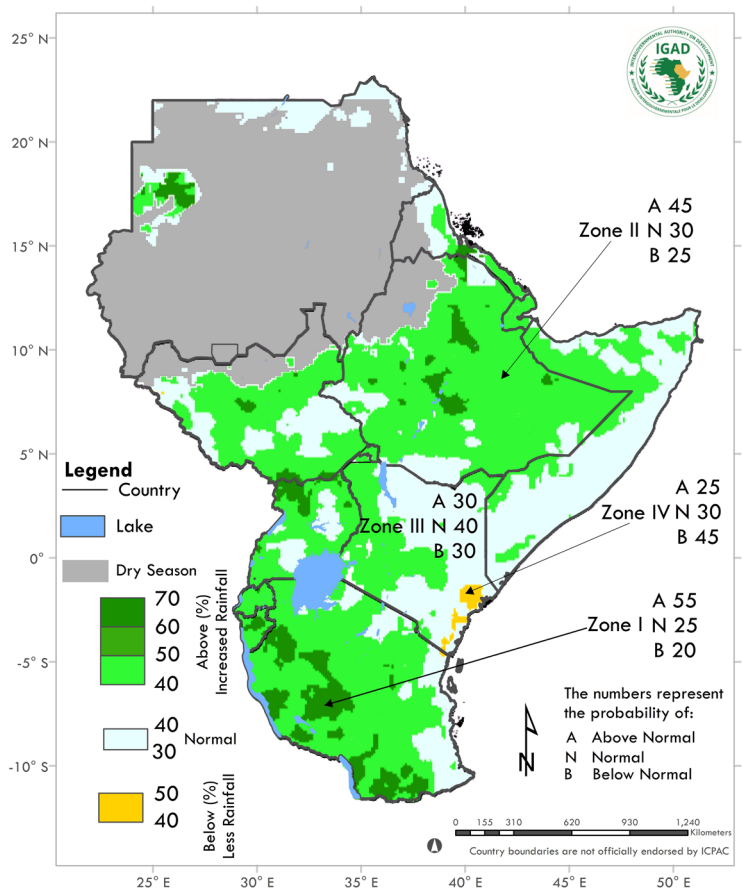
The forecast probability of seasonal rainfall exceeding user-relevant thresholds indicates that there is over 70 % chance of exceeding the 300mm threshold over southwestern Ethiopia, western Kenya, southern South Sudan, much of Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and Tanzania (Figure 3). Comparison of the forecast probabilities with the climatological probabilities for this threshold indicates that the predicted probability of exceeding 300mm is higher than the climatological chance over much of the western parts of the region. In contrast, probabilities of exceeding 300mm are lower or similar to climatological chances over the eastern sector.

Additionally, warmer-than-average temperatures are expected over most parts of the Greater Horn of Africa, with higher probabilities over Sudan, Djibouti, Tanzania, and parts of Ethiopia, Somalia, and Kenya (Figure 1b).

The predicted start of the MAM 2026 season, based on 6Global Climate Model forecasts that provided daily outputs, is shown in Figure 2a. Forecast probabilities favour an early or normal onset timing over most parts of the GHA region, except for a few localised areas. Raised chances of an early onset are indicated over much of Rwanda, Burundi, and the cross-border areas of Ethiopia and Somalia. On the other hand, higher chances for a delayed onset are indicated over localised areas in South Sudan as well as in parts of western Ethiopia and central Somalia (Figure 2b).

How should I use seasonal forecasts? 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.

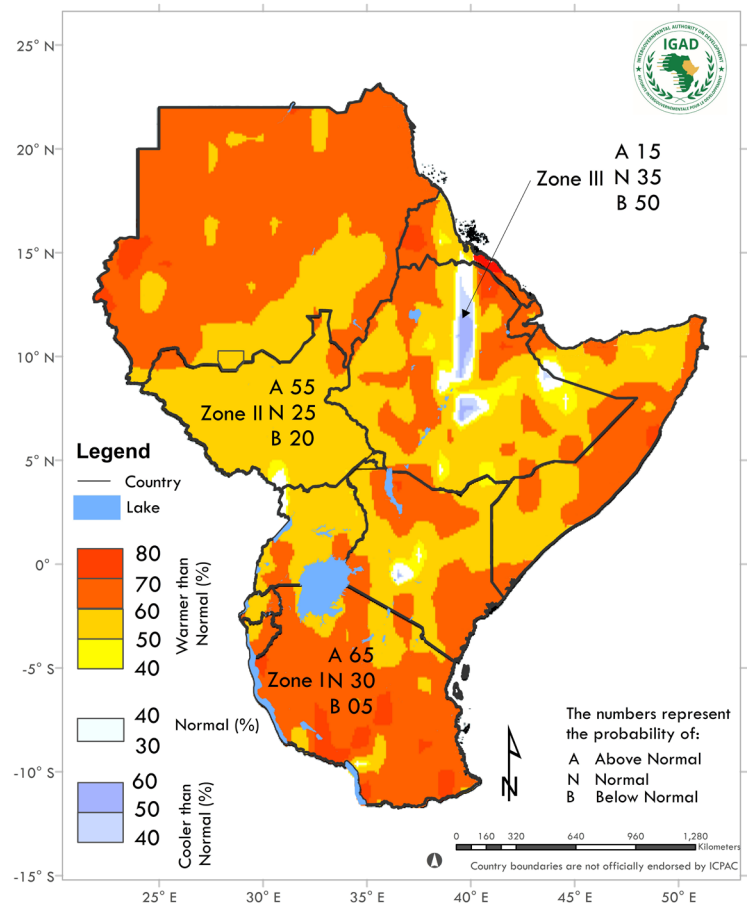
Rainfall Probabilistic Forecast March - May 2026

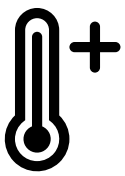


Rainfall

Figure 1 (a): Probability forecast of rainfall for various zones within the GHA region for March to May 2026. Grey shading indicates regions where MAM is climatologically a dry season.

Temperature Probabilistic Forecast for March - May 2026

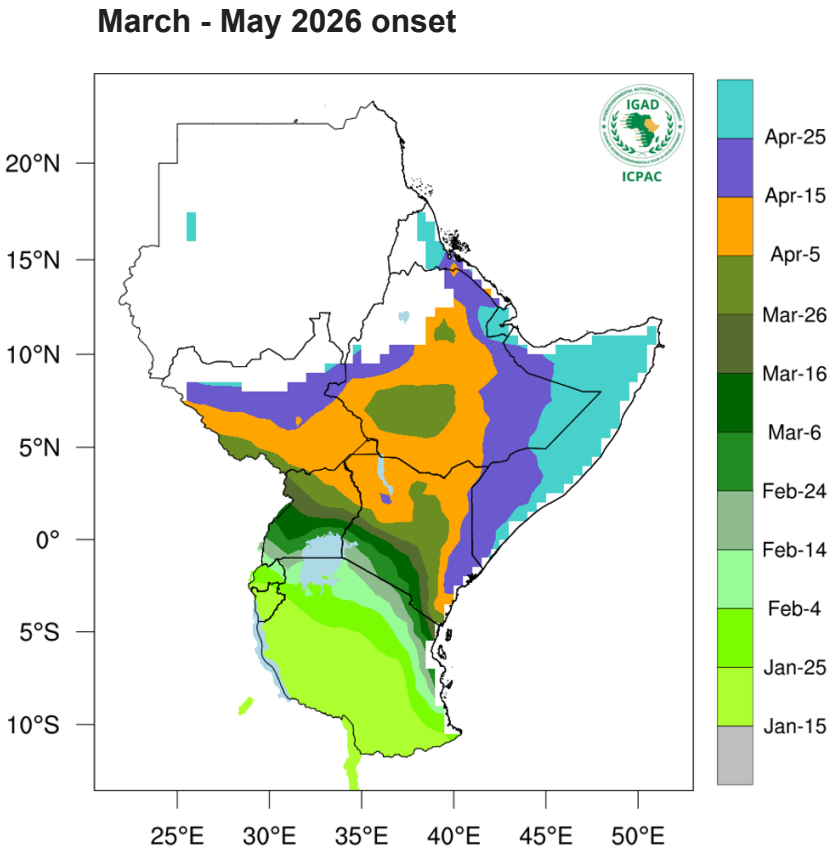




Temperature

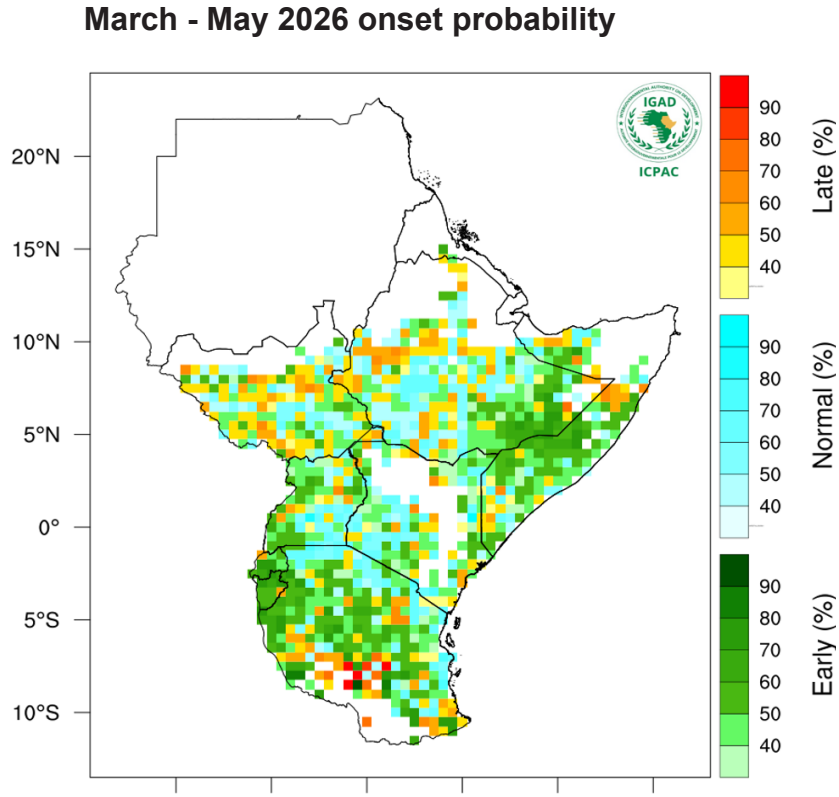
Figure 1 (b): Probability forecast of mean surface temperatures for MAM 2026 season.

Wetter-than-normal conditions expected across much of the Greater Horn of Africa



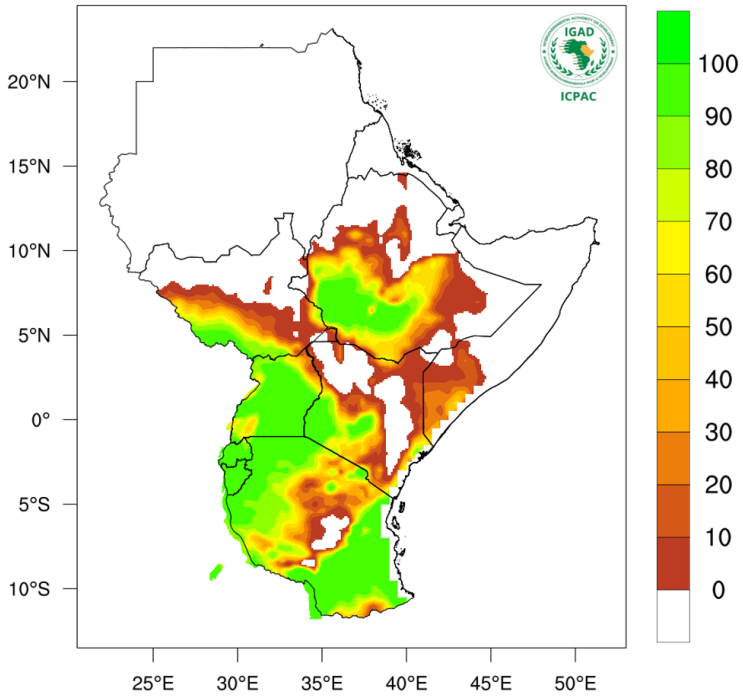
Onset dates

Figure 2 (a): March - May 2026 onset dates.



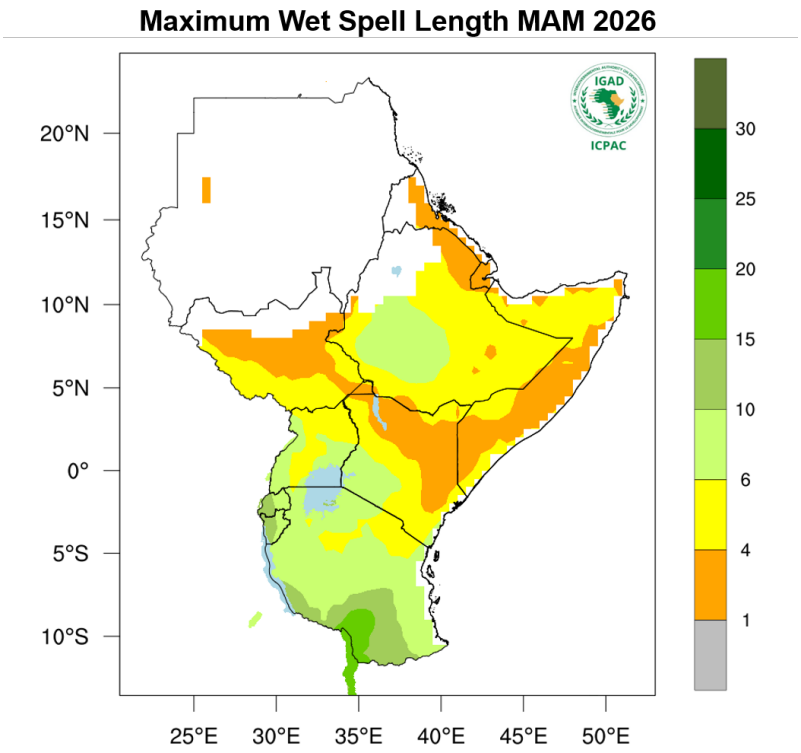
MAM 2026 probabilty onset

Figure 2 (b): March - May 2026 onset probability.



Probability of exceedance in MAM

Figure 3: March - May 2026 probability of exceeding 300 mm in MAM.



Maximum wet spell

Figure 4 : March - May 2026 Maximum wet spell length

- Shortest wet spell (< 4 days) expected over eastern Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Djibouti while the rest of the region is expected to experience wet spells of between 4 and 10 days.

DJIBOUTI

Disaster Risk Management

- Localised flooding is expected in Djibouti City, Balbala, Oued Ambouli and Vietnam when rainfall exceeds 20–30 mm; major flooding is possible in northern and southern regions.
- Service disruption (water, roads, health, schools) and increased water- and vector-borne diseases in flood-prone areas.

Advisories

- Disseminate early warnings at 20–30 mm threshold and activate the national flood task force.
- Clear drainage and protect water infrastructure near wadis.
- Pre-position emergency supplies and evacuation arrangements in flood hotspots.

Agriculture and Food Security

- Favourable rainfall may support crop diversification and agroforestry.
- Flooding and flashfloods may damage irrigation, gardens, and cause erosion, waterlogging and fungal diseases.
- Infrastructure damage may disrupt supply chains and raise prices.

Advisories

- Promote short-cycle and moisture-tolerant crops.
- Protect irrigation systems and install temporary flood barriers.
- Monitor pests and markets to prevent losses and price spikes.

Water and Energy

- Improved surface and groundwater availability.
- Increased flood risk in urban and coastal areas.

Advisories

- Strengthen flood-risk awareness and maintain drainage systems.
- Enhance coordination for timely early warning and response.

Livestock

- Improved pasture and water may enhance livestock productivity.
- Flooding may cause livestock losses and disease outbreaks; below-normal rainfall areas may face pasture stress..

Advisories

- Strengthen disease surveillance and vaccination.
- Promote fodder conservation and rehabilitation of critical water points.

Health

- Flooding may disrupt access to health services for vulnerable groups.
- Increased risk of water-, food-, and vector-borne diseases.

Advisories

- Pre-position essential health supplies and deploy mobile teams.
- Scale up WASH, surveillance and vector control.

ETHIOPIA

Disaster Risk Management

- Flash floods and landslides are expected, especially in southern regions.
- River flooding along Wabe Shebelle may damage farmland and infrastructure.

Advisories
- Pre-position supplies in landslide and urban flood zones.
- Maintain 24/7 monitoring and rapid response teams.
- Prepare evacuation routes and strengthen disease surveillance.

Agriculture and Food Security

- Above-normal rainfall may improve Belg crop performance.
- Flooding, waterlogging and pests may reduce yields in irrigated and riverine areas.
- Delayed onset may affect planting in localized areas.

Advisories
- Adjust planting dates and support replanting where needed.
- Improve drainage and promote timely harvesting.
- Strengthen pest and disease control.

Water and Energy

- Enhanced surface and groundwater availability is expected to support domestic use, irrigation, and hydropower generation.
- Elevated flood risk and sedimentation may affect water quality and damage water infrastructure.

Advisories
- Monitor water levels and quality closely, particularly in flood-prone basins.
- Strengthen coordination between water, energy, and disaster management institutions for early warning and flood response.

Livestock

- Improved pasture and water availability may boost livestock productivity, reproduction, and market conditions.
- Flooding may trigger livestock disease and losses, and temporary market access constraints, while areas with below-normal rainfall may experience pasture stress, increased mobility, and heightened conflict over resources.

Advisories
- Enhance vaccination and surveillance.
- Promote fodder conservation and water rehabilitation.

Health

- Reduced access to health services in flooded areas.
- Potential rise in gender-based violence and psychosocial distress following displacement and asset losses.
- Increased water and vector-borne diseases.

Advisories
- Pre-position essential health supplies and mobile team for health education in water treatment.
- Scale up WASH interventions, disease surveillance, and vector control during peak rainfall periods.
- Integrate psychosocial support and gender-based violence prevention into seasonal health response plans.

KENYA

Disaster Risk Management

- Basin, Tana River Basin, Central Kenya, Nairobi, and North-Western Kenya, with landslides expected in West Pokot, Elgeyo Marakwet, Murang'a, Baringo, and Tharaka Nithi.
- Drought in northern and coastal areas may cause crop failure, conflict, and wildfires.

Advisories

- Disseminate early warnings and activate contingency plans.
- Clear drainage and protect infrastructure.
- Pre-position supplies and intensify surveillance.

Agriculture and Food Security

- Above-normal rainfall is expected to improve soil moisture and water availability in high- and medium-potential areas, supporting crop growth.
- Flooding, waterlogging, erosion, and pest and disease outbreaks may reduce productivity in riverine and low-lying areas, while delayed onset in some regions may disrupt planting.

Advisories

- Adjust planting dates and improve drainage.
- Enhance pest and disease monitoring, and promote timely harvesting of irrigated crops.
- Provide supplementary irrigation in moisture-stressed areas to stabilise crop production.

Water and Energy

- Improved water availability in western Kenya is expected to support domestic use and hydropower production.
- Flooding and pollution risks may affect water quality, and risk of displacement of people due to further inundation of Lake Turkana.
- Reduced water availability in eastern and coastal areas.

Advisories

- Monitor water levels and quality, particularly in flood- and drought-prone basins.
- Strengthen flood-risk awareness, promote water conservation measures in water-stressed regions, and enhance operation and maintenance of hydropower systems.

Livestock

- In areas receiving normal to above-normal rainfall, improved pasture and water availability is expected to enhance livestock productivity, reproduction, and market conditions.
- Flooding may cause livestock losses and disease outbreaks, while areas with below-normal rainfall may experience pasture stress, increased mobility, livestock mortality, and heightened conflict.

Advisories

- Enhance vaccination and early livestock offtake.
- Promote fodder conservation and mobility planning.
- Support coordinated, gender-responsive mobility planning and peace mechanisms to mitigate conflict over pasture and water.

Health

- Increased risk of malaria in western and coastal regions, Rift Valley Fever, and waterborne diseases following heavy rains and flooding.
- Flooding and landslides may disrupt access to health services, particularly in informal settlements and high-land areas, with increased risk of snakebites and trauma.

Advisories

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

SOMALIA

Disaster Risk Management

- The severe drought is currently affecting 3.5 million people.
- Riverine floods along Shabelle and Jubba may affect up to 1 million.

Advisories

- Strengthen water harvesting and storage systems through rehabilitation of berkads, ponds, shallow wells, and catchments.
- Reinforce early warning and preparedness for riverine communities to reduce flood-related agricultural loss-es.

Agriculture and Food Security

- Improved rainfall distribution is likely to enhance Gu cropping prospects and household food access in agro-pastoral areas.
- Flooding may destroy farmland in riverine zones, disrupting agricultural production and incomes.

Advisories

- Strengthen water harvesting and storage systems through rehabilitation of berkads, ponds, shallow wells, and catchments.
- Reinforce early warning and preparedness for riverine communities to reduce flood-related agricultural loss-es.

Water and Energy

- Improved water availability is expected in northern regions.
- Elevated flood risk and potential water shortages in southern and coastal areas may affect access to safe water.

Advisories

- Monitor water levels and quality in flood- and drought-prone areas.
- Promote rainwater harvesting and water conservation measures, alongside flood-risk awareness in vulnerable communities.

Livestock

- In areas receiving normal to above-normal rainfall, pasture regeneration and water availability are expected to improve livestock productivity, nutrition, reproduction, and market conditions.
- Flooding may cause livestock losses and disease outbreaks, while areas receiving below-normal rainfall may experience pasture stress, increased mobility, mortality, and conflict over resources.

Advisories

- Strengthen animal disease surveillance, vaccination, and community awareness of transboundary and climate-sensitive livestock diseases.
- Promote fodder production and conservation, supplementary feeding, rehabilitation of critical water sources, and targeted restocking where conditions allow.
- Support coordinated, gender-responsive livestock mobility planning and peace mechanisms to reduce conflict.

Health

- Increased risk of water & food related, and vector-borne diseases following flooding and prolonged drought conditions.
- Reduced access to health services for displaced and vulnerable populations, with heightened psychosocial stress and gender-based violence risks.

Advisory

- Pre-position essential health supplies and deploy mobile health and outreach teams in high-risk and displaced communities.
- Scale up WASH interventions, disease surveillance, and timely distribution of vector-control tools.
- Integrate psychosocial support, GBV prevention, and community health awareness into seasonal response plans.

SOUTH SUDAN

Disaster Risk Management

- Heavy rainfall is likely to cause soil erosion, blocked drainage, and riverine flooding, damaging roads and bridges and disrupting access to basic services.
- Increased risk of displacement and localised conflict, with persons living with disabilities and other vulnerable groups disproportionately affected.

Advisories

- Clear drainage and reinforce dykes.
- Pre-position supplies and strengthen early warning.
- Mobilise and coordinate resources across sectors to support timely and unified emergency responses.

Agriculture and Food Security

- Improved rainfall is expected to support crop production, particularly vegetables and wild foods, enhancing household food availability.
- Flooding and waterlogging in lowland areas along the Nile Basin may damage crops, disrupt feeder roads, and increase post-harvest losses.

Advisories

- Promote cultivation on higher ground and support access to farm inputs for timely planting.
- Strengthen pest and disease surveillance and promote simple vegetable preservation techniques to reduce post-harvest losses.
- Maintain critical feeder roads to protect market access for perishable produce.

Water and Energy

- Sustained high streamflows in the Nile increase the risk of riverine flooding, sedimentation, and displacement.
- High temperatures in western regions may increase evaporation and reduce water availability despite overall wet conditions.

Advisories

- Monitor river levels and reinforce dykes in flood-prone areas.
- Improve drainage and strengthen coordination with disaster response teams for early warning.
- Promote water management, rainwater harvesting, and conservation measures in water-stressed western regions.

Livestock

- In areas receiving normal to above-normal rainfall, pasture regeneration and water availability are expected to improve livestock productivity, nutrition, and reproduction.
- Flooding may cause livestock losses, disease outbreaks, environmental contamination, and temporary loss of grazing access, while areas with below-normal rainfall may experience pasture stress, increased mobility, and conflict.

Advisories

- Enhance animal disease surveillance, vaccination, and community awareness of climate-sensitive livestock diseases.
- Promote fodder production, conservation, supplementary feeding, and rehabilitation of critical water sources.
- Support gender-responsive livestock mobility planning, peace committees, and coordinated anticipatory actions to reduce conflict.

Health

- Increased risk of water & food related, and vector-borne diseases during flooding periods.
- Flooding and displacement may limit access to health services for women, children, elderly, and displaced populations, with heightened risks of gender-based violence and psychosocial distress.

Advisories

- WASH programs, fumigation and vector control in affected areas. Oral vaccination campaign against cholera to continue in affected areas.
- Pre-position essential health supplies and deploy mobile health teams in flood-affected and displaced communities.
- Scale up WASH interventions, disease surveillance, and timely distribution of vector control tools.
- Integrate psychosocial support, GBV prevention, and community health awareness into seasonal health response activities.

SUDAN

Disaster Risk Management

- Heatwave conditions (35–47°C) are expected across northern, northeastern, and northwestern regions, potentially affecting up to 15 million people, with heightened health risks for children, the elderly, and other vulnerable groups.
- Extreme heat may strain water supplies, health services, and livelihoods, increasing heat-related illness and mortality.

Advisories

- Disseminate heat early warning messages and public advisories on hydration, heat avoidance, and recognition of heat illness symptoms.
- Issue heat advisories and prepare medical facilities.
- Ensure water supply continuity.
- Provide targeted protection and outreach for children, the elderly, and other high-risk populations.

Agriculture and Food Security

- The MAM season is climatologically dry, with cultivation concentrated along the Nile and areas with deep groundwater, supporting vegetables, horticulture, and fodder production.
- Prolonged sunshine may enhance opportunities for solar-powered groundwater extraction for agriculture and domestic use.

Advisories

- The government should establish early inter-ministerial planning committees to coordinate land preparation and ensure timely provision of agricultural inputs, including fuel, seeds, fertilizers, and financing, ahead of the summer season.

Water and Energy

- Sustained high flows in the White Nile are expected to support hydropower generation and ensure adequate water availability in the Main Nile until the next rainy season.
- Elevated river levels may increase the risk of localized riverine flooding and sedimentation.

Advisories

- Monitor river levels and water quality closely and strengthen coordination with disaster response institutions for flood preparedness.
- Maintain and manage hydraulic structures along the Main Nile to reduce flood and sedimentation risks.
- Conduct targeted awareness campaigns in riverine communities on flood risk and water safety.

Health

- Increased risk of water-, food-, and vector-borne diseases, compounded by heat stress and limited access to health services for displaced and vulnerable populations.
- Heightened risks of gender-based violence and psychosocial distress linked to displacement and loss of livelihoods.

Advisories

- Pre-position essential health supplies and deploy mobile health services in underserved and heat-affected areas.
- Scale up WASH interventions, disease surveillance, and timely distribution of vector control tools.
- Integrate psychosocial support, GBV prevention, and community health awareness into seasonal health response plans, and train health workers on heat-related illness management.

UGANDA

Disaster Risk Management

- Flash floods, mudslides, and hailstorms are expected to affect multiple districts, damaging crops, homes, and infrastructure, and disrupting markets and electricity supply.
- Increased water levels in lakes and rivers may trigger localized displacement and damage to roads and bridges.
- Elevated risk of waterborne, mosquito-borne, and respiratory infections following heavy rains.

Advisories

- Disseminate targeted early warning and risk communication to at-risk communities and update District Contingency Plans.
- Clear drainage systems, repair gabions, desilt dams, and identify evacuation grounds in flood- and landslide-prone areas.
- Pre-position relief, medical supplies, and repair equipment for power and infrastructure networks.
- Strengthen disease surveillance, distribute mosquito nets and water treatment supplies, and conduct simulation exercises for local responders.

Agriculture and Food Security

- Improved rainfall is expected to increase cereal production and reduce food prices.
- Flooding may cause soil erosion, nutrient loss, and crop damage (particularly beans and cassava), while pest outbreaks such as Fall Armyworm and stalk borers may increase.

Advisories

- Promote soil and water conservation practices, including trenches and water-harvesting structures.
- Ensure timely delivery of agricultural inputs and promote early planting and proper crop management.
- Strengthen pest and disease monitoring and encourage crop diversification and agroforestry.

Water and Energy

- Sustained high lake levels and outflows are expected to support hydropower generation.
- Increased risk of flooding, sedimentation, and dislodging of floating vegetation (including water hyacinth) along the Nile.

Advisories

- Monitor water levels and quality and coordinate closely with disaster response authorities.
- Conduct flood-risk awareness campaigns in lake and riverine communities.
- Promote rainwater harvesting and implement measures to manage water hyacinth upstream.

Livestock

- In areas receiving normal to above-normal rainfall, pasture regeneration is expected to improve livestock productivity, reproduction, and market conditions.
- Flooding may cause livestock losses and disease outbreaks, while areas with below-normal rainfall may experience pasture stress, increased livestock mobility, and conflict over resources.

Advisories

- Strengthen animal disease surveillance, vaccination, and community awareness of climate-sensitive livestock diseases.
- Promote fodder production and conservation, supplementary feeding, and rehabilitation of critical water sources.
- Support gender-responsive mobility planning and peace mechanisms to reduce resource-based conflict.

Health

- Increased malaria transmission in lake regions and risk of cholera and other waterborne diseases in flood-prone districts.
- Flooding may disrupt health infrastructure and increase exposure to vector-borne diseases such as dengue and chikungunya.

Advisories

- Intensify malaria prevention (ITN distribution and IRS) and pre-position cholera response supplies in high-risk districts.
- Strengthen disease surveillance and case management during peak rainfall periods.
- Conduct public health education on flood-related risks and ensure functionality of water treatment systems.

BURUNDI

Water and Energy

- Improved water availability is expected nationwide.
- Continued rise in Lake Tanganyika levels may increase flood risk and reduce water quality due to sedimentation.

Advisories

- Monitor lake and river water levels and water quality regularly.
- Promote rainwater harvesting and water conservation practices.
- Conduct awareness campaigns in lakeside communities on high water levels and flood preparedness.

Health

- Improved agricultural performance may enhance household nutrition.
- Increased malaria transmission and risk of cholera and acute diarrheal diseases during peak rainfall periods.

Advisories

- Intensify malaria prevention measures in endemic districts.
- Pre-position cholera response supplies in high-risk areas.
- Strengthen disease surveillance, WASH interventions, and community health risk communication.
- Translate climate and health advisories into local languages for broader outreach.

RWANDA

Agriculture and Food Security

- Good water supply is expected to support domestic use and hydropower generation.
- Flood risk and sedimentation may reduce water quality, and increased water hyacinth infestation may affect water flow and infrastructure.

Advisories
- Monitor water levels and quality, particularly in flood-prone basins.
- Optimize hydropower generation while maintaining safety protocols.
- Promote erosion control measures to reduce sedimentation.
- Implement water hyacinth management measures and conduct community awareness on flood risk.

Health

- Improved agricultural performance may enhance nutrition outcomes.
- Increased malaria transmission and risk of waterborne diseases (cholera, diarrheal diseases, typhoid) in flood-prone and marshland areas.

Advisories
- Pre-position malaria commodities and conduct Indoor Residual Spraying in endemic districts.
- Strengthen surveillance for waterborne diseases and stock essential treatment supplies.
- Intensify hygiene and sanitation awareness campaigns in high-risk communities.

TANZANIA

Agriculture and Food Security

- Enhanced water availability is expected to support irrigation, domestic supply, hydropower generation, and groundwater recharge.
- Continued rise in lake levels may increase localized flood risk.
- Increased runoff may reduce water quality due to sedimentation.

Advisories
- Monitor lake and river water levels and water quality, particularly in flood-prone basins.
- Conduct targeted awareness campaigns in lakeside and low-lying communities on flood preparedness.
- Optimize hydropower generation while ensuring maintenance of critical infrastructure.
- Strengthen rainwater harvesting and storage systems, particularly for newly constructed dams and reservoirs.

Climate, Peace and Security

Key Locations at risk of climate-induced conflict and insecurity

Kokuro–Omorate; Lokichoggio; Kaabong–Moroto–Amudat corridor; Moyale–Mandera; Lake Turkana lowlands; Turkana–South Omo border areas; Karamoja cluster.

Impacts

- Early rainfall onset and above-normal rainfall are likely to trigger rapid returns and seasonal mobility, leading to re-concentration of people and livestock around shared resources and localized tensions.
- Intra-seasonal dry spells and heat stress may create short conflict spikes despite overall improved conditions, increasing risks of cattle theft, violence, and accelerated mobility.
- Localized flooding and overlapping populations are expected to cause temporary disruption and congestion rather than large-scale displacement, with heightened protection and possibly also human–wildlife conflict risks.

Advisories

- Use forecasts on rainfall onset and dry spells for anticipatory action: activate dialogue and negotiated access before peak migration and expected pressures on natural resources.
- Actively manage and monitor high-pressure resources (water points, grazing areas, cattle migration corridors).
- Integrate protection and peace actions into climate response, anticipating GBV and possibly also human–wildlife conflict in mobility and congestion hotspots.

Contacts:

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