Climate Watch Advisory

The Dry Conditions in Eastern Africa

ICPAC

Watch No. 20251113-01-u4

Area concerned: Climate watch valid for the Equatorial Eastern Africa Region

Initial statement issued on **13 November 2025**

First update issued on **13 December 2025**

Second update issued on **12 January 2026**

Third update issued on **13 February 2026**

Final issue on **18 March 2026**

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

Snapshot

Current status

Drought hotspots across Eastern Africa, including eastern Kenya, Somalia, central Uganda, southern Ethiopia, and parts of Tanzania, are recovering following February 2026 rains. Standardized Precipitation Index analysis, for February 2026, confirms significant rainfall improvements across most affected areas, with crop and pasture conditions responding positively, except for lingering rangeland stress in parts of Tanzania and Somalia. Overall, alert levels have eased, signalling a broader recovery in agricultural and pastoral activities across the region.

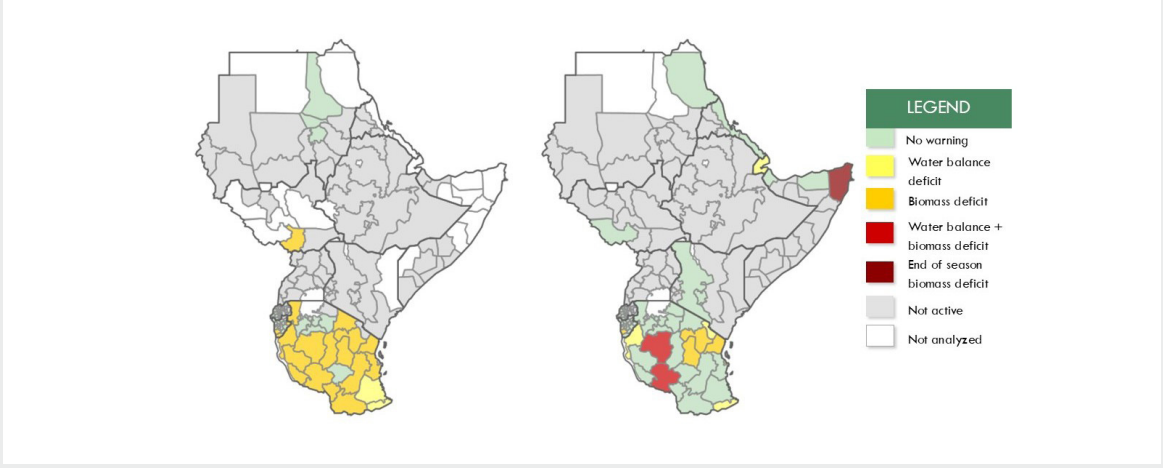
Global climate influences

Current sea surface temperatures and atmospheric circulation anomalies point to continued weakening of La Niña conditions in the tropical Pacific, while the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) is in positive phase. Forecasts indicate a continued weakening of La Niña, with ENSO-neutral conditions expected to develop (with 80% probability) through the MAM period. The IOD is expected to remain in positive phase. It should be noted, however, that these global climate factors generally have only weak influences on the upcoming March-May (MAM) season rainfall.

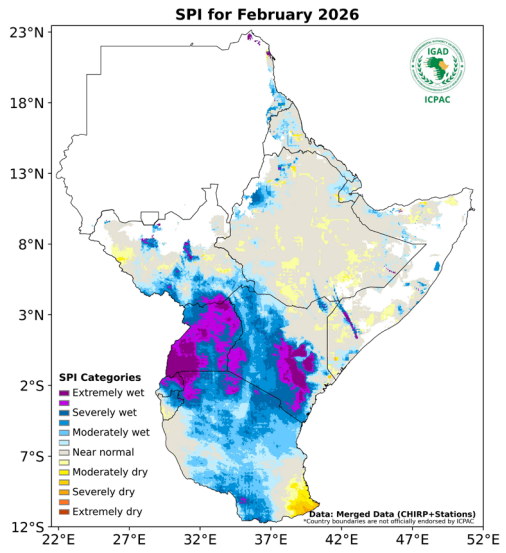
Forecast for the areas concerned

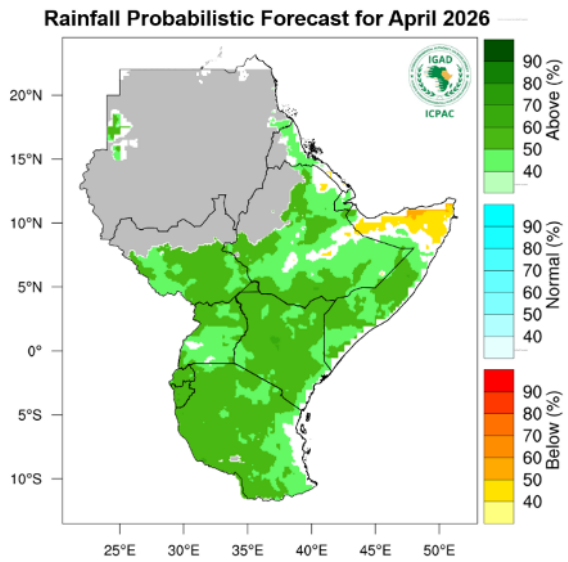
ICPAC's probabilistic forecast for April 2026 points to enhanced chances of above-normal rainfall across Djibouti, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania, Kenya, and southern Somalia supporting continued improvement in agricultural and pastoral conditions as the MAM season progresses. This outlook raises prospects for continued recovery in agricultural and pastoral conditions. However, the tip of the Horn of Africa, particularly Somalia, there is more than 40% chance of rainfall in the below-normal category, with accumulated moisture deficits and associated vegetation stress likely to persist through April.

This bulletin marks the final issue of the Eastern Africa Dry Conditions Climate Watch. The Somalia Meteorological Agency is nonetheless advised to continue monitoring the evolving situation closely.



Observed warning levels for crop (left) and rangeland (right) conditions during the 1st dekad of March 2026 across the Eastern Africa region. The map highlights (in red) areas in Somalia, and parts of Tanzania experiencing both water and biomass stress. Source: East Africa Agriculture Watch (EAAW).





Observed SPI for February 2026 (leftl) and probabilistic rainfall forecast for April 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 or the observed warning levels for crops and rangelands are in the **Water balance+biomass deficit** or **End of season biomass deficit**. Refer to the East Africa Drought Watch (EADW) and East Africa Agriculture Watch (EAAW) for the definitions.

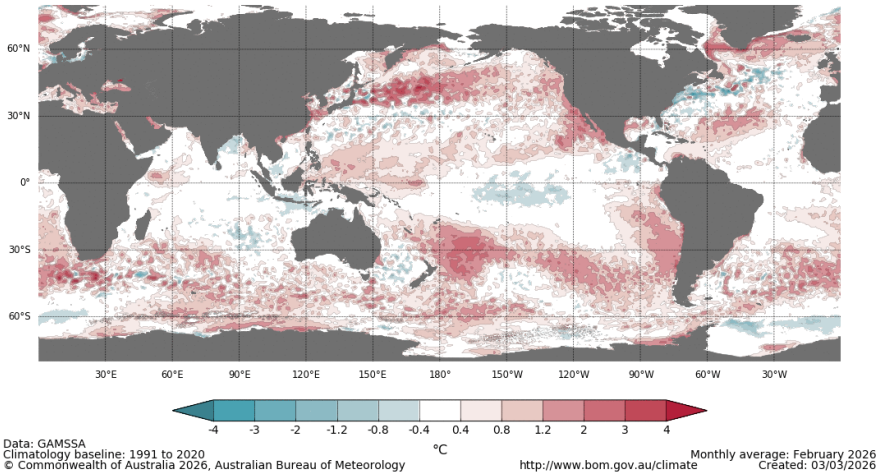
— The sub-region covers parts of at least two countries and the population exposed to the hazard exceeds 5 million people.

— Combined forecast probability of the Near-Normal and Below-Normal categories is greater than 70% or the sub-region is in dry season.

Drivers of Climate

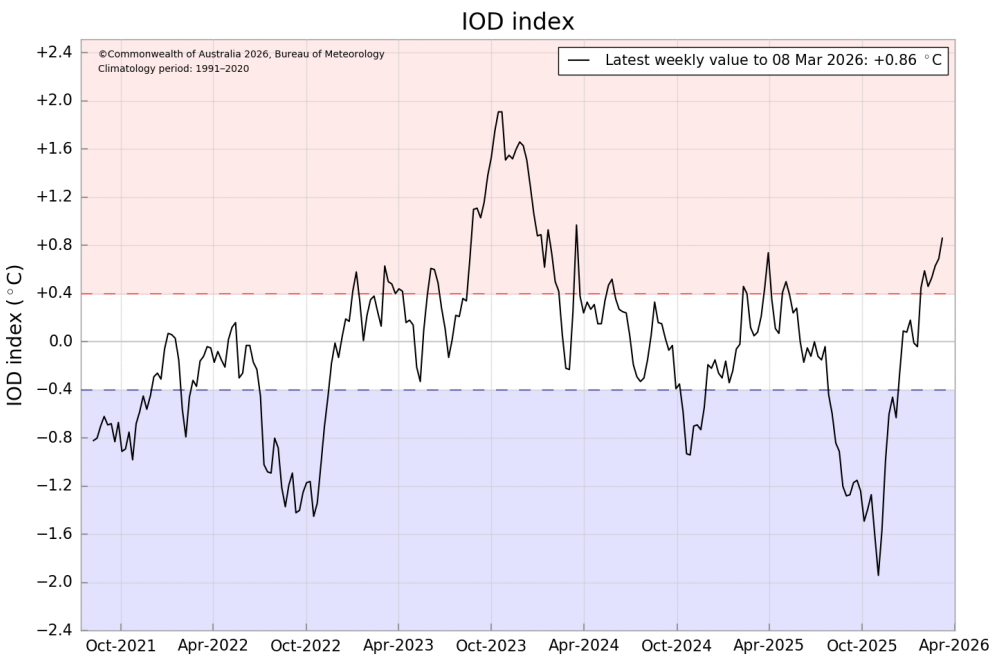
Observed SST Conditions[4]

Sea surface temperature anomaly: 01/02/2026 to 28/02/2026

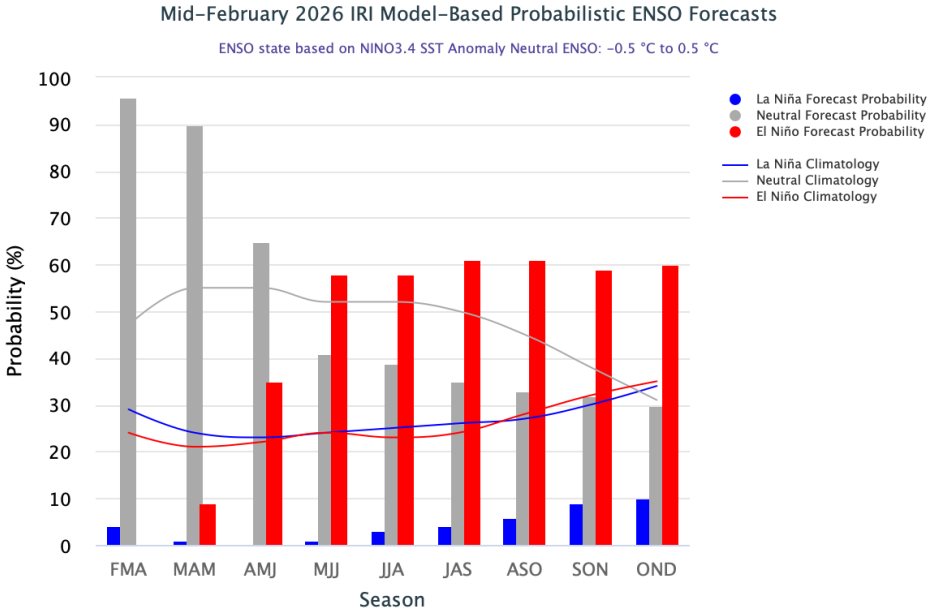


1. EADW: https://droughtwatch.icpac.net/mapviewer/
2. EAAW: https://agriculturehotspots.icpac.net/
3. Observed SSTs: https://www.bom.gov.au/climate/ocean/sst/#/anom/global/weekly/20251102

IOD[5]



ENSO[6]



4. Observed SSTs: https://www.bom.gov.au/climate/ocean/sst/#/anom/global/weekly/20251102
5. IOD: https://www.bom.gov.au/climate/enso/?ninoIndex=nino3.4&index=rnino34&period=weekly#tabs=Indian-Ocean
6. ENSO: https://iri.columbia.edu/our-expertise/climate/forecasts/enso/current/