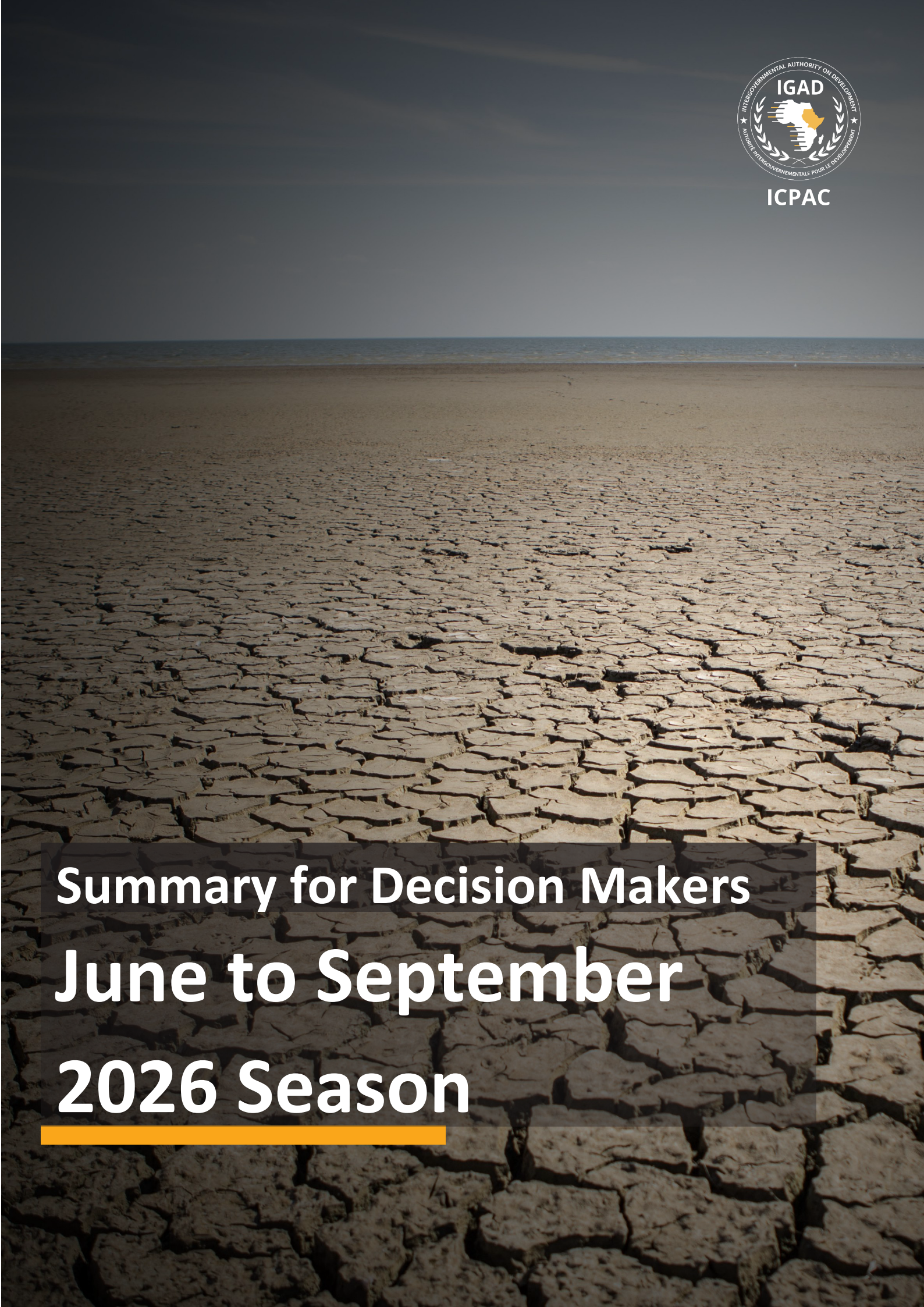


ICPAC

Summary for Decision Makers

June to September 2026 Season

Seasonal Forecast Overview

The June to September (JJAS) 2026 rainfall outlook indicates a high likelihood of below-normal rainfall across most parts of the Greater Horn of Africa, where JJAS is the main season, particularly in South Sudan, Uganda, Ethiopia, Djibouti, much of Eritrea, Sudan and western and coastal Kenya. The highest likelihood of below-normal rainfall is projected over central, northeastern and northwestern Ethiopia, southern Sudan, and northern Uganda, where probabilities exceed 60%, with peaks reaching up to 80% in northeastern Ethiopia.

In contrast, isolated areas in northern Sudan, southeastern Ethiopia, and southern and northern Somalia are expected to receive enhanced rainfall. Areas of northern Sudan, southern coastal Somalia and Kenya are expected to receive near-normal rainfall (Fig. 1a). The forecast indicates an enhanced likelihood of a late onset in parts of South Sudan, Ethiopia and southern Sudan (Fig.2b). In contrast, a few localised areas, particularly over north-central Ethiopia and parts of central Sudan, are expected to experience near normal to earlier-than-normal onset (Fig. 2b).

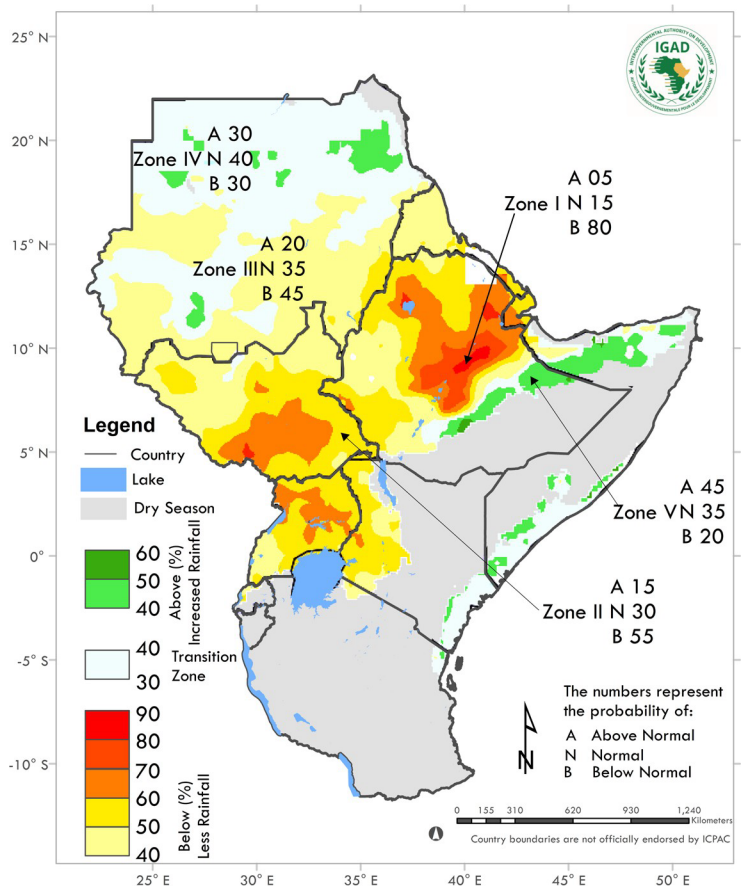
It is important to note that in regions such as western Kenya, Uganda, parts of Ethiopia, and much of South Sudan, the early part of the JJAS season can manifest as a continuation of rainfall from the preceding season, and the onset is not well-defined.

The temperature outlook indicates a higher likelihood of above-normal temperatures across most parts of the Greater Horn of Africa. The highest probabilities of warmer-than-normal conditions are indicated over northern Sudan, most parts of South Sudan, and Ethiopia. The forecast points to a dominant warmer-than-usual season, with very low chances of below-normal temperatures across the region (Fig. 1b).

The evolving 2026 climate conditions closely resemble those experienced during the strong El Niño years of 1997 and 2023. During both analogue years, several parts of Ethiopia, South Sudan, Uganda, and western Kenya recorded below-normal rainfall during the June–September season, similar to the conditions currently forecast for 2026. These past years provide useful guidance for preparedness and anticipatory action; however, this seasonal forecast remains the main reference for planning and decision-making.

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.*

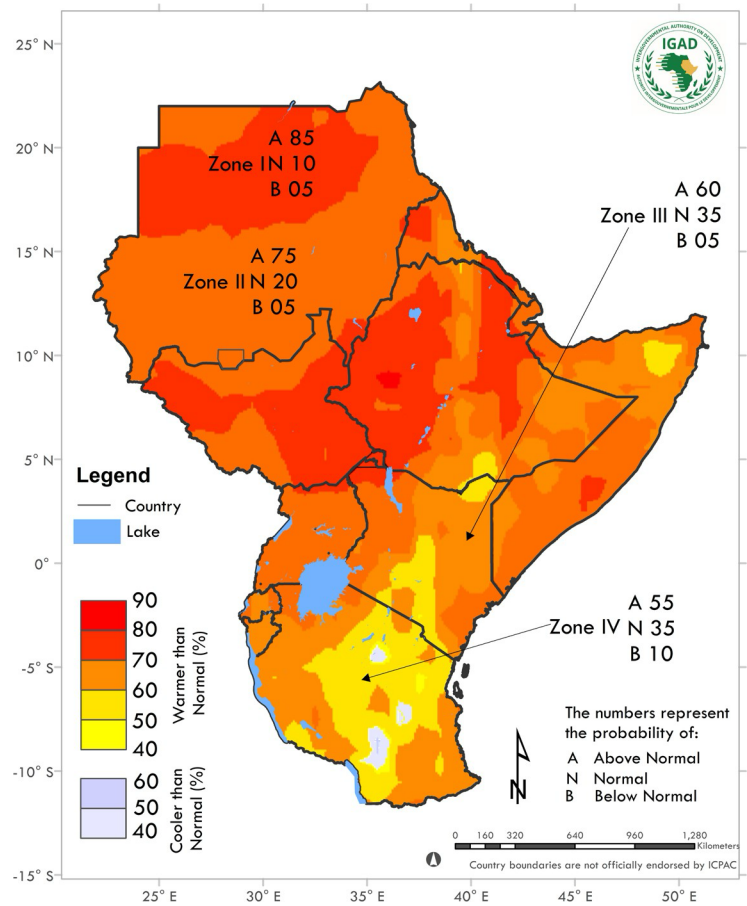
Rainfall Probabilistic Forecast June - September 2026

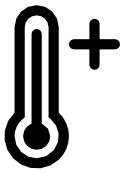


Rainfall

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

Temperature Probabilistic Forecast June - September 2026





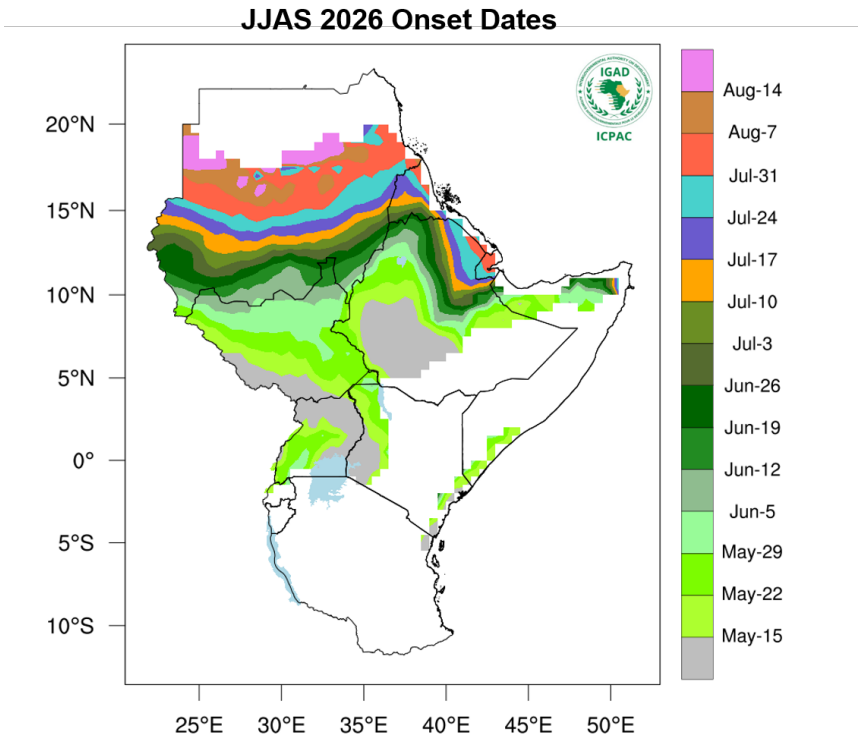
Temperature

Figure 1 (b): Probability forecast of mean surface temperatures for the June to September 2026 season.

June to September 2026

Drier than usual conditions with warmer than average Temperatures expected in the Greater Horn of Africa

June - September 2026 onset



Onset dates

Figure 2 (a): June - September 2026 onset dates.

June - September 2026 onset probability

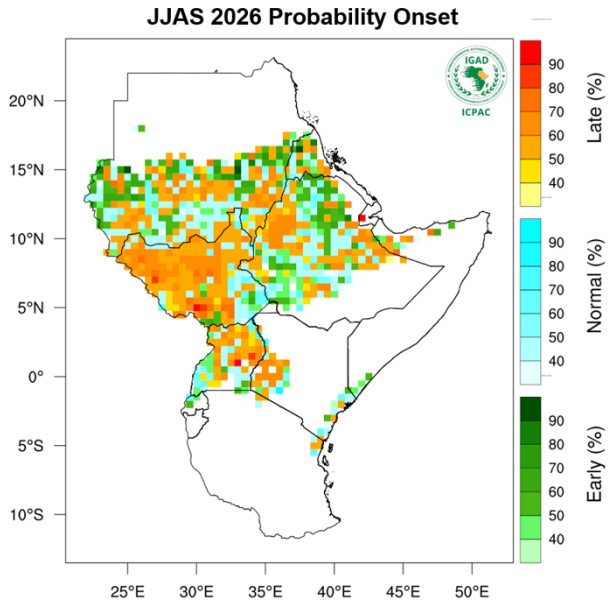
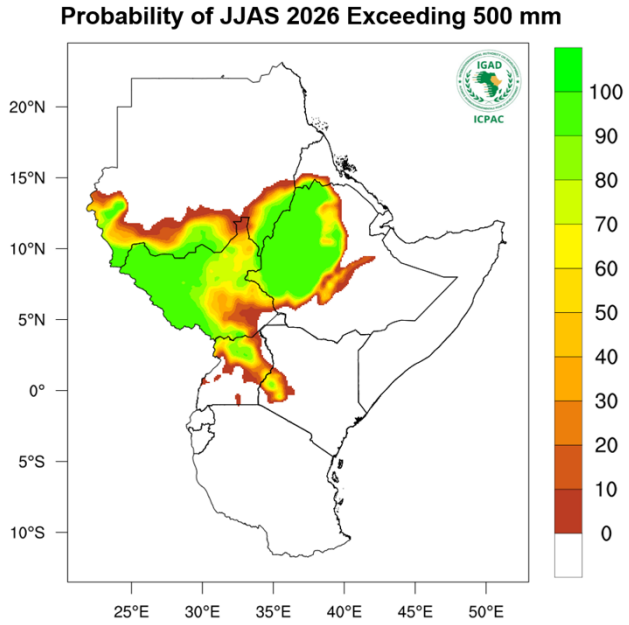


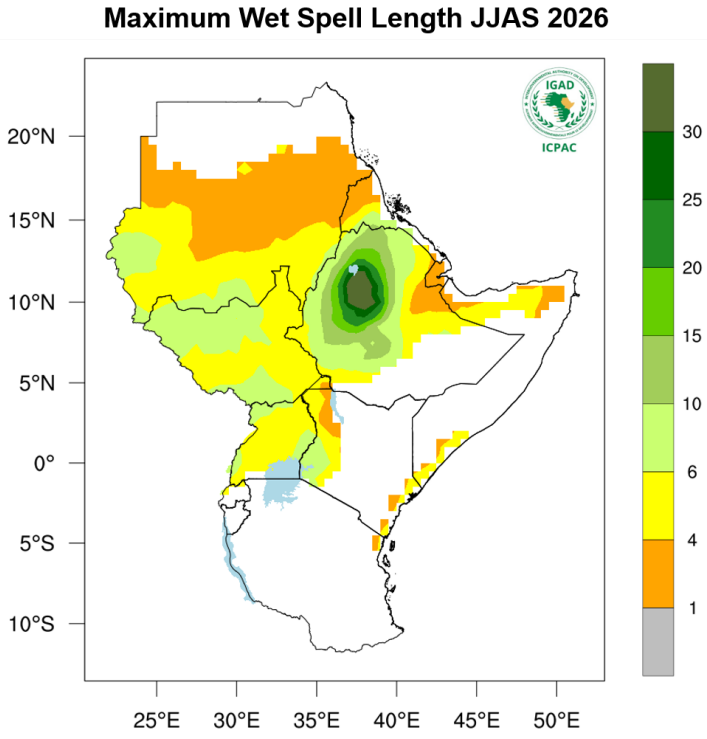
Figure 2 (b): June – September 2026 onset probability.

JJAS 2026 probability onset



Probability of exceedance in JJAS

Figure 3: June - September 2026 probability of exceeding 500 mm



Maximum wet spell Length

Figure 4: June - September 2026 Maximum wet spell length

wet spells may still occur in areas favoured for below-normal rainfall, and dry spells may occur in areas with enhanced chances of near-normal to above-normal rainfall.

Impacts and Advisories

Agriculture

Impacts

- Below-normal rainfall, coupled with conflict and economic challenges, is likely to worsen food insecurity across the region.
- Reduced soil moisture, high evapotranspiration and water stress may lead to crop wilting, poor grain filling, crop failure and below-average harvests.
- Staple food prices are likely to increase, resulting in higher humanitarian and food assistance needs.
- Increased competition over scarce natural resources may heighten resource-based and communal conflicts.
- Dry and warm conditions may favour the occurrence of crop pests and diseases, including Fall Armyworm.
- High agricultural input costs and limited access to finance may reduce agricultural productivity in some areas.
- Favourable conditions for first-season harvests are expected in bimodal areas of Ethiopia and Uganda.
- Reduced flooding and waterlogging may improve road access and lower incidences of fungal diseases and root rot in some areas.

Advisories

- Disseminate climate information and advisories to farmers and decision-makers in a timely manner.
- Promote drought-tolerant and early-maturing crop varieties and ensure timely access to agricultural inputs.
- Strengthen agricultural extension services and farmer advisory support.
- Promote conservation agriculture, water harvesting and supplementary irrigation practices.
- Strengthen monitoring and control of crop pests and diseases.
- Promote proper post-harvest handling, storage and value addition.
- Encourage the use of seasonal and within-season climate updates in agricultural planning.
- Improve access to agricultural finance, subsidies and crop insurance.
- Governments, partners, and humanitarian agencies are encouraged to scale up coordinated humanitarian support, including cash and food assistance, for the most vulnerable populations to avert loss of life.

Disaster Risk Management

Impacts

- Increased drought risk across much of the region due to below normal rainfall predicted.
- Reduced water availability, pasture conditions and crop production.
- Increased displacement of people and livestock.
- Greater likelihood of resource-based conflicts due to water and pasture scarcity.
- Increased risk of disease outbreaks associated with drought and heat stress.
- Localised flash floods may damage infrastructure, settlements and livelihoods.
- Increased food insecurity and humanitarian needs.
- Potential loss of lives, livestock and property.

Advisories

- Strengthen dissemination of early warning information.
- Activate and strengthen DRM task forces and coordination mechanisms at all levels.
- Rehabilitate and maintain water infrastructure, including water points and schemes.
- Scale up livestock vaccination and rangeland rehabilitation programmes.
- Update and activate drought contingency plans.
- Pre-position emergency supplies and identify safe relocation areas where necessary.
- Expand cash assistance and anticipatory action interventions.
- Promote drought financing and index-based insurance mechanisms.

Health

Impacts

Positive

- Reduced malaria transmission in some areas due to fewer mosquito breeding sites.
- Lower likelihood of water-borne disease outbreaks where flooding is limited.
- Improved access to health services due to better road conditions and fewer disruptions.
- Reduced damage to health infrastructure and medical supply chains.

Negative

- Increased risk of acute malnutrition among vulnerable populations in drought-affected areas.
- Increased heat-related illnesses, including dehydration and heat stress.
- Increased respiratory and eye conditions associated linked to dust and poor air quality.
- Increased risk of water- and food-borne diseases where communities rely on unsafe water sources.
- Potential outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases in areas affected by displacement and service disruptions.
- Vector-borne disease outbreaks in localised settings, including dengue and chikungunya in coastal areas of Kenya and Djibouti during this season, and meningitis in dust-affected belts.
- Increased mental health and psychosocial challenges associated with climate-related stress and displacement.
- Increased risks of gender-based violence and resource-related conflict.

Advisories

- Strengthen regional disease surveillance, harmonised case definitions, shared epidemic thresholds, information sharing and cross-border coordination for climate-sensitive diseases.
- Enhance preparedness for outbreaks of malaria, cholera, measles, meningitis, dengue, chikungunya and Rift Valley Fever.
- Pre-position emergency medical supplies, nutrition commodities and WASH materials.
- Strengthen laboratory networks and rapid response capacities.
- Enhance nutrition surveillance and support in drought-affected communities.
- Strengthen immunisation and catch-up vaccination programmes.
- Promote integrated vector control and environmental health measures.
- Integrate mental health, psychosocial support and protection services into emergency response.
- Prioritise women, children, displaced populations and persons with disabilities in preparedness and response efforts.

Livestock

Impacts

Positive

Above-normal rainfall in parts of coastal Somalia and Kenya, northern Sudan, southern Ethiopia, and northern Somalia is likely to:

- Improve pasture and water availability in some areas which may enhance livestock health, productivity and market value.
- Improve animal body condition which may increase milk and meat production.
- Reduce livestock migration which may lower competition over resources and reduce conflict.
- Improve camel productivity in northern Sudan.

Negative

Below normal rainfall in northern GHA, including South Sudan, Ethiopia, parts of Sudan, Eritrea, Djibouti, Uganda, and western Kenya is likely to:

- Reduce pasture and water availability in drought-prone areas which may lead to poor livestock condition and lower productivity.
- Increase temperatures which may contribute to heat stress, dehydration and livestock losses.
- Increase livestock migration which may heighten resource competition and conflict.
- Reduce livestock condition which may result in lower market prices.
- Increase costs of feed, pasture and water.

Above-normal rainfall in parts of the region may also be associated with the below negative impacts:

- Localised flooding which may disrupt access to markets, grazing areas and livestock services.
- Increased risk of livestock diseases in wetter areas, including Rift Valley Fever, Trypanosomiasis and Lumpy Skin Disease.

Advisories

- Strengthen livestock disease surveillance, diagnosis and vaccination programmes.
- Promote coordinated transboundary animal health interventions.
- Rehabilitate and maintain strategic water sources.
- Strengthen rangeland management and governance.
- Promote fodder conservation and utilisation of crop residues.
- Enhance drought preparedness and conflict mitigation measures.
- Promote strategic livestock offtake before deterioration of animal body condition.
- Mobilise resources for anticipatory actions, including feed and water support.

Conflict, Peace & Security

Impacts

- Increased food insecurity and livelihood losses in drought-affected areas.
- Increased displacement and migration in search of water, pasture and economic opportunities.
- Higher risk of resource-based conflicts over water and grazing resources.
- Increased human-wildlife conflicts around protected areas.
- Increased negative coping mechanisms, including child labour, trafficking and unsafe migration.
- Increased risks of gender-based violence and exploitation.
- Rising malnutrition and associated human insecurity concerns.

Advisories

- Strengthen community peace structures and conflict early warning systems.
- Facilitate peace committees to support conflict prevention and response.
- Promote livelihood protection, food reserves and strategic livestock destocking.
- Discourage environmentally harmful coping strategies such as charcoal production and bush burning.
- Pre-position disaster preparedness and response resources.
- Strengthen collaboration between peace committees, wildlife authorities and local governments.

Water & Energy

Impacts

- Despite below normal rainfall predicted, lake and reservoir levels in some basins are expected to remain sufficient to support irrigation, domestic water supply, livestock production and hydropower generation.
- Reduced flood risk is expected in areas forecasted to receive below-normal rainfall.
- Reduced surface and groundwater availability is likely in basins where JJAS is the primary rainfall season.
- Existing low water levels in some basins may worsen under continued rainfall deficits.
- Reduced inflows into major reservoirs such as Gibe 1 & 3, GERD, Roseries, Sinnar, TK5, Kashm ELGirba, Fincha (BN tributary), Merowe & Sondu may lower hydropower production and irrigation potential.
- Water shortages may emerge in drought-prone areas, affecting multiple sectors.

Advisories

- Promote efficient water use and water conservation measures.
- Optimise hydropower generation according to reservoir levels and water availability.
- Monitor river flows, reservoir levels and groundwater resources to support informed decision-making.
- Strengthen transboundary water information sharing among riparian countries.
- Implement drought preparedness and mitigation measures.
- Disseminate drought early warning information to communities.
- Optimise available water resources for hydropower generation.
- Activate alternative energy sources, including solar, wind and thermal power where necessary.

IGAD

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