



ICPAC

Summary for Decision Makers

SEASONAL FORECAST

October to December 2026

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 total annual rainfall in parts of Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia. Analysis of predictions from seven Global Producing Centres (GPCs), tailored for the GHA, indicates an elevated likelihood of above-normal rainfall in OND 2026 across most parts of the region, with only isolated areas in cross-border areas of southeastern Sudan and north-eastern South Sudan expected to receive depressed rainfall (Figure 1a). The strongest signal for wetter-than-average conditions is forecast over southern Ethiopia, central to southern Somalia, and north-eastern Kenya. The analysis of rainfall probabilities for the October–December 2026 season shows a high likelihood (>90%) of exceeding 400 mm in parts of central to southern Somalia, central parts of Kenya, the Lake Victoria Basin region, Burundi, western Rwanda and western Tanzania. Central parts of Tanzania, parts of southeastern Ethiopia and a few regions in southern South Sudan have probabilities of up to 30% of exceeding 400 mm. Relative to historical climatology, the likelihood of receiving 400 mm is higher over most parts of the region, with the probability of up to 50% in parts of Somalia, eastern Kenya, Lake Victoria Region and western Tanzania (Figure 2a).

The predicted start dates of the October to December 2026 season based on six Global Climate Models forecasts that provide daily rainfall outputs are provided in Figure 3a. The analysis indicates higher chances of early to normal onset dates over much of the eastern parts of the region, including Somalia, central to eastern Kenya, and most parts of Tanzania. In contrast, the western parts of the region are forecast to have delayed onset, consistent with El Niño conditions that not only reduce September rainfall but also delay the onset of the seasonal rains in areas that would have onset in September before its regional impact transitions from drier to wetter than usual conditions (Figure 3b). Rainfall performance during OND in 1997 and OND 2023 shows wetter-than-normal conditions in most parts of the region, consistent with the OND 2026 objective consolidated forecast. The above-normal rainfall observed in the identified analogue years over the region (both of which had El Niño active in OND) supports the likely influence of a strong El Niño and developing positive IOD in the objective forecast for OND 2026; however, the analogue-year rainfalls should not be considered replacements or alternatives to the objective forecast.

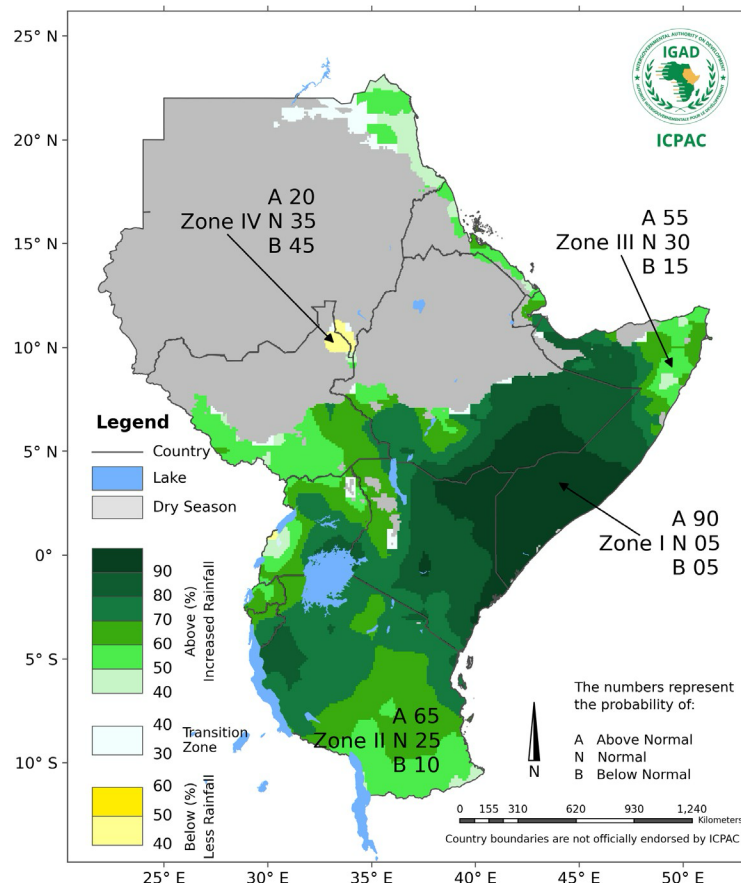
The consolidated objective temperature forecast (Figure 1b) from seven Global Producing Centres (GPCs) indicates an increased likelihood of warmer-than-average surface temperatures across the GHA. Probabilities of warmer-than-average temperatures are highest over the eastern side of the GHA, with peak probabilities over eastern parts of Kenya, Ethiopia, Eritrea, as well as for Djibouti and much of Somalia. Near-normal conditions are expected over northwestern Sudan. The outlook is relevant for seasonal timescales and for relatively large geographical areas. Local and month-to-month variations might occur as the season progresses.

While wetter than usual seasonal-average conditions are most probable over much of the GHA regions that usually receive rain in the OND season, dry spells may occur in areas with an increased likelihood of above-normal to near-normal rainfall and vice versa.

ICPAC will provide regional updates on a regular basis while the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) will provide detailed national and sub-national climate updates.

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 October - December 2026



Rainfall

Figure 1 (a): Probability forecast of rainfall for various zones within the GHA region for October - December 2026. Grey shading indicates regions where OND is climatologically a dry season.

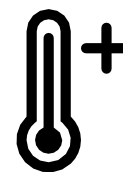
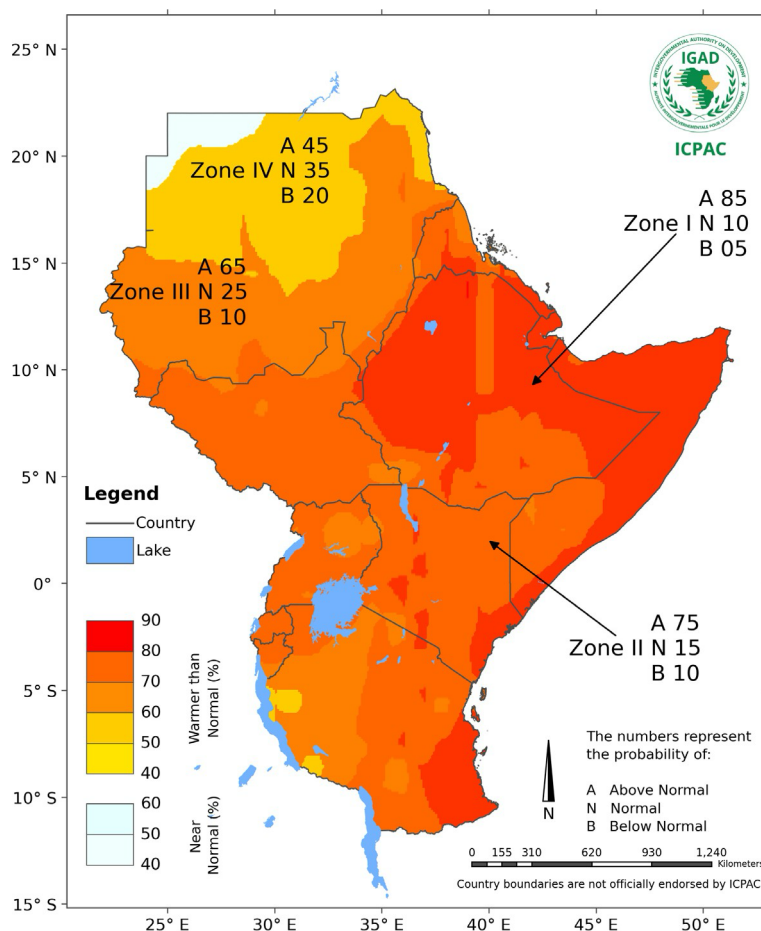
Zone I: In this zone (dark green), the probability for the above-normal category is the highest (90%). Probabilities for the normal and below normal categories are 5% and 5%, respectively.

Zone II: In this zone (green), the above-normal rainfall (wetter) category also has the highest probability. For the most widespread green shade, the probability for above-normal category is 65%; the probabilities for the normal and below-normal categories are 25% and 10%, respectively.

Zone III: In this zone (light green), the above-normal rainfall (wetter) category has the highest probability (55%). The probabilities for the normal and below normal categories are 30% and 15%, respectively.

Zone IV: In this zone (yellow), the below normal rainfall (drier) category has the highest probability (45%). The probabilities of the near-normal and above-normal categories are 35% and 20%, respectively.

Temperature Probabilistic Forecast October - December 2026



Temperature

Figure 1 (b): Probability forecast of mean surface temperatures for the October - December 2026 season.

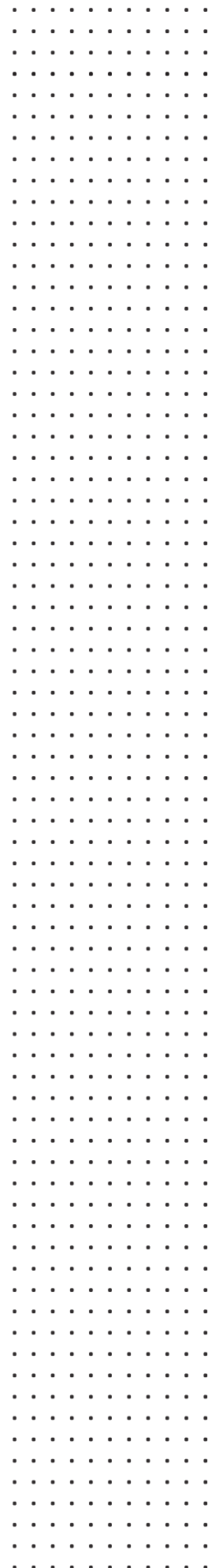
Zone I: In this Zone (red), the above-average temperature (i.e., warmer) category is most likely at 85%. The probabilities for the near-average and below-average categories are 10% and 5%, respectively.

Zone II: In this Zone (dark orange), the above-average temperature category also has the highest probability (at 75%). The probabilities of the near-average and below-average categories are 15% and 10%, respectively.

Zone III: In this Zone (orange), the above-average temperature category also has the highest probability (at 65%). The probabilities of the near-average and below-average categories are 25% and 10%, respectively.

Zone IV: In this Zone (yellow), the above-average temperature category has the highest probability (at 45%). The probabilities of the near-average and below-average categories are 35% and 20%, respectively.

Wetter-than- normal October – December (OND) 2026 season as El Niño strengthens



OND 2026 Probability of Exceeding 400mm

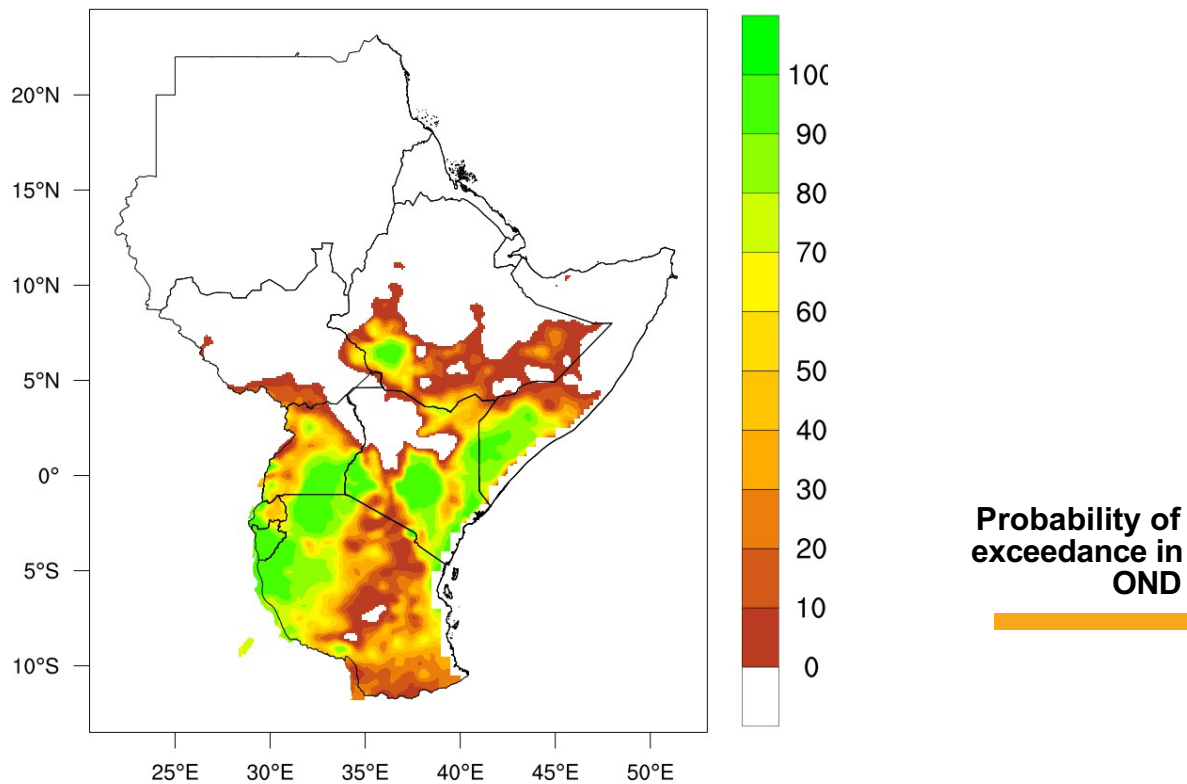


Figure 2: October - December 2026 probability of exceeding 400 mm.

October - December 2026 onset

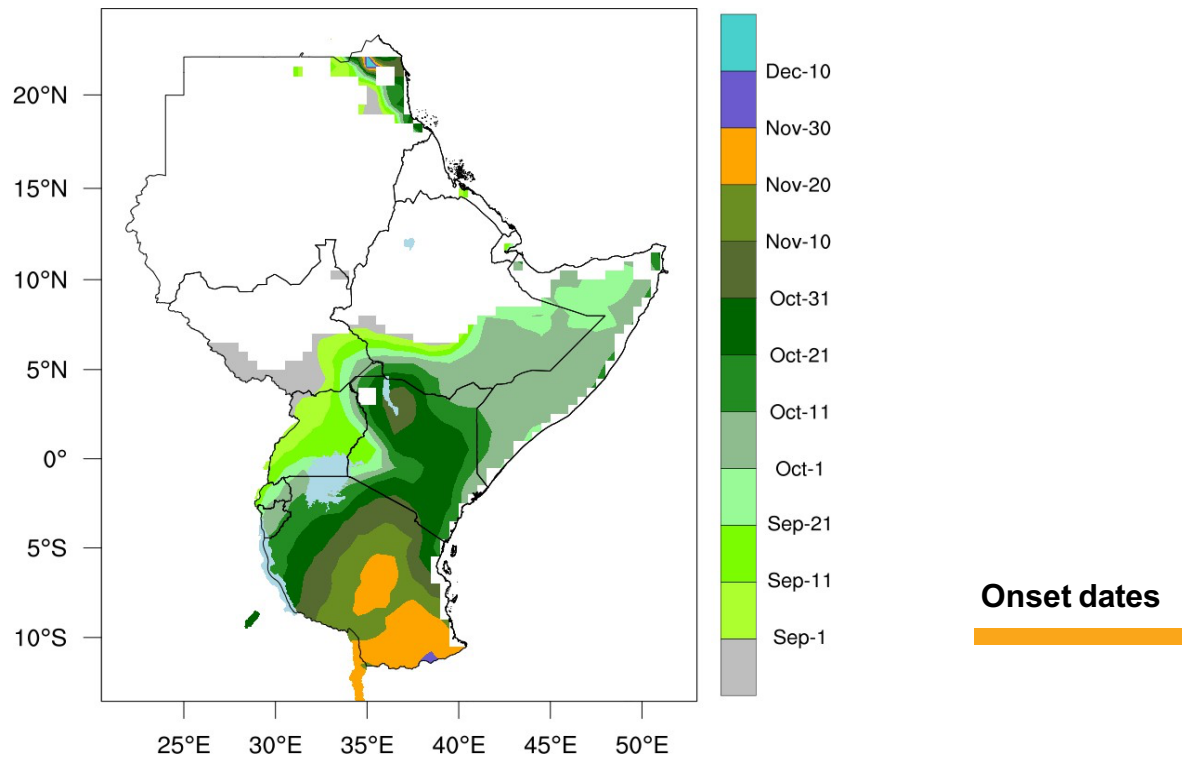


Figure 3 (a): October - December 2026 onset dates.

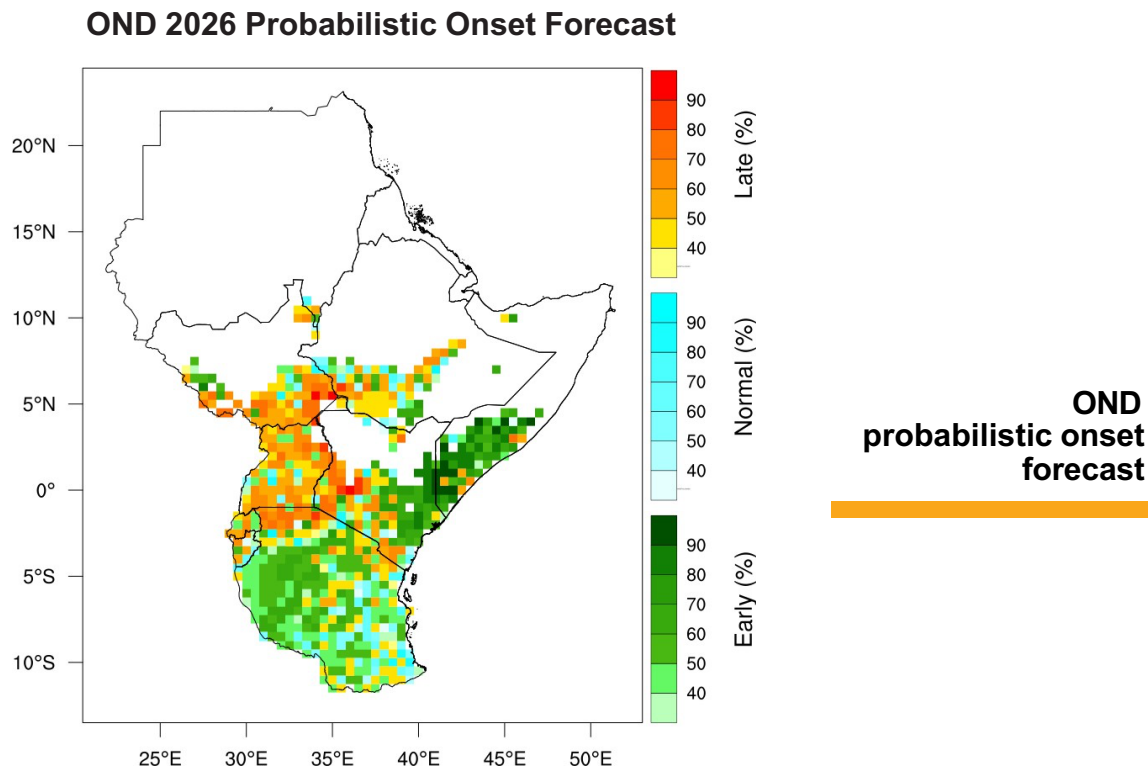


Figure 3 (b): October - December Probabilistic Onset Forecast

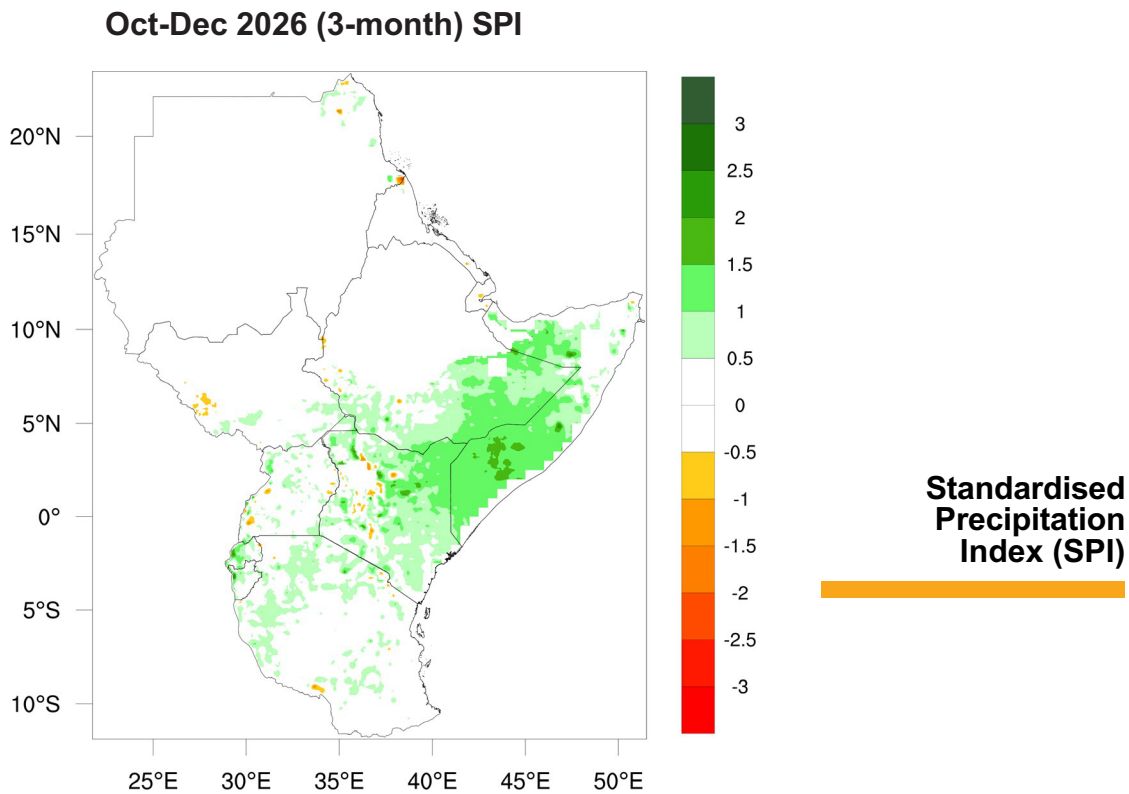


Figure 4: October - December 2026 Standardised Precipitation Index (SPI)

— Moderately wet to extremely wet conditions are expected for the eastern parts of the region.

Advisories

Agriculture



Impacts

- Improved soil moisture and favourable conditions for crop establishment: above-normal with proper distribution is likely to support germination, crop establishment and early crop growth.
- Opportunities for expanded planting: favourable soil-moisture conditions could enable planting in areas where moisture availability had previously constrained agricultural activities, and may support second/short-cycle crops where the local cropping calendar permits.
- Better food availability, if rainfall and flood losses stay manageable.
- Flooding and waterlogging: heavy, persistent rain may damage crops and disrupt farming in low-lying, marshland, riverine and irrigated areas.
- Soil erosion and nutrient loss from heavy runoff may reduce fertiliser efficiency.
- Increased crop pests and disease: humidity and prolonged wet conditions favour fungal/bacterial disease, weeds and insects.
- Disrupted farm operations: saturated soils delay land prep, weeding, spraying and harvesting.
- Harvest and post-harvest losses: persistent rain during harvest damages crops and hinders drying, storage and transport.
- Damage to farm roads, bridges, canals, storage and markets, plus higher landslide risk.
- Heat and moisture stress in September (ongoing JJAS) may reduce crop growth, cause flower abortion, and shorten grain-filling, lowering yields.

Advisories

- Disseminate this early warning information (EWI) immediately; use seasonal, 10-day and short-range forecasts to guide farm decisions.
- Pre-position certified seeds, fertilisers and inputs; expand subsidies; advise farmers on locally adapted seeds.
- Clean and rehabilitate drainage, canals and waterways before peak rainfall.
- Strengthen soil and water conservation: terraces, contour farming, mulching, agroforestry.
- Avoid cultivation in flood-prone lowlands during heavy rain.
- Harvest promptly ahead of wet spells; ensure adequate drying and storage.
- Intensify pest and disease surveillance and control access.
- Inspect and reinforce roads, bridges, irrigation and storage before peak rainfall.
- Strengthen rainwater harvesting for later agricultural use.
- Strengthen early warning and rapid reporting for floods, pests and disease.
- Support multisectoral planning, coordination and monitoring to enhance implementation efficiency and accountability.
- Support peace efforts in Sudan to protect food security (SDN); continue humanitarian support elsewhere and track FSNWG updates.

Disaster Risk Management



Impacts

- Population displacement; damage to properties, farmland, pastureland and irrigation infrastructure; livestock loss, crop pest and disease outbreaks.
- Disrupted services, schools and transport; destroyed roads and settlements; dam bursts; injuries and loss of life.
- Water contamination, waterborne disease and vector-borne disease outbreaks.
- Deterioration of pasture; severe water scarcity; deterioration of livestock body condition; livestock mortality and human displacement.
- Human and animal disease outbreaks, including meningitis; dehydration; crop wilting; high evapotranspiration and soil moisture loss.
- Possible loss of life; destruction of homes, property and agricultural land; displacement of people.
- Possible loss of life (human and cattle); damage to infrastructure.
- Deaths and loss of livelihoods; sickness and mental health impacts.

Advisories

- Disseminate early warnings; activate the DRM task force and DRR platforms.
- Pre-position sandbags, relief supplies and evacuation sites; evacuate at-risk communities; vaccinate humans and livestock.
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- Rehabilitate/chlorinate water points and boreholes; scale up trucking; strengthen local monitoring.
- Activate district and national drought contingency plans; protect livestock through vaccination, feed support and destocking, and rehabilitate rangelands.
- Disseminate early warning information and heat alerts with public risk communication; promote access to air conditioning and shaded areas; adjust working hours; consider temporary school closures during extreme heat.
- Mobilise earth-moving machines; issue alerts and early warning communication; map hotspots and evacuation sites; raise public awareness.
- Map at-risk hotspots; raise awareness of thunderstorm risk; protect exposed electrical infrastructure.
- Strengthen disease surveillance and pre-position medicines; procure and distribute mosquito nets.

Health



Impacts

Positive

- Enhanced rainfall is expected to improve water availability and quality in many areas, reducing reliance on unsafe sources.
- Improved pasture, crop production and milk availability may reduce drivers of acute malnutrition in areas recovering from the dry JJAS 2026 season.
- Reduced dust and improved air quality may lower the incidence of respiratory and eye conditions and meningitis risk in dust-affected belts.
- Replenishment of water sources may reduce congestion at water points, lowering associated risks of disease transmission and gender-based violence during water collection.

Negative

- Above-normal rainfall and flooding may increase water-, food-, vector- and animal-borne diseases, including cholera, typhoid, malaria, dengue, chikungunya and Rift Valley fever.
- Flooding may cause injuries, drowning and snake bites, while displacement may increase measles and other outbreaks in congested settlements.
- Damage to health facilities, roads, cold chains and supply networks may disrupt vaccination and treatment for HIV, TB and other chronic conditions.
- Higher temperatures and humidity may increase heat-related illness and food spoilage, particularly among outdoor workers, pregnant women, older persons and people with chronic conditions.
- Acute malnutrition may worsen disease severity and mortality, especially in areas emerging from the JJAS 2026 dry season and drier parts of southeastern Sudan and northeastern South Sudan.
- Flooding and displacement may increase mental health and psychosocial challenges and the risk of gender-based violence.

Advisories

- Activate health emergency coordination mechanisms and pre-position essential medicines and supplies before peak flooding.
- Strengthen surveillance and cross-border coordination for cholera, malaria, Rift Valley fever, dengue, chikungunya and measles, alongside vector control and livestock vaccination.
- Protect flood-exposed health facilities and maintain essential services through mobile teams and alternative transport.
- Strengthen water treatment, hygiene promotion, immunisation and nutrition surveillance in high-risk areas.
- Implement heat-health measures and targeted risk communication for vulnerable populations.
- Integrate mental health, psychosocial support and protection services into preparedness and response.

Livestock



Impacts

Positive

- Improved pasture, fodder, browse and water availability, except in areas expected to remain dry.
- Improved livestock body condition and productivity, including milk, meat, hides and skins.
- Reduced livestock mobility and grazing pressure, supporting pasture and rangeland recovery.
- Improved livestock marketability, household incomes, food security and pastoral livelihoods.
- Favourable conditions for water harvesting and storage for subsequent dry periods.
- Improved opportunities for livestock vaccination, treatment and other animal health services.
- Reduced resource-based and human–livestock–wildlife conflict where pasture and water availability improves.

Negative

- Flooding and landslides may cause livestock losses, displacement and damage to pasture and infrastructure.
- Increased risk of livestock diseases, including Rift Valley Fever (RVF), Transboundary Animal Diseases (TADs), internal parasites and other vector- and waterborne diseases.
- Increased feed safety risks, including aflatoxin contamination and listeriosis from wet or poorly stored feeds.
- Damage to roads, markets and veterinary infrastructure may disrupt trade, vaccination and animal health services.
- Poorly distributed rainfall may cause localised pasture and water shortages, increasing livestock movement and rangeland degradation.
- Livestock movement and flood-related displacement may increase competition and conflict over pasture, water and land.
- Transport disruptions may reduce market access and increase losses of livestock products, particularly milk.

Advisories

- Strengthen surveillance, vaccination, and early response for RVF, TADs, tick-borne and other vector-borne diseases.
- Promote fodder production, conservation, and safe storage to minimise feed shortages and aflatoxin contamination.
- Rehabilitate rangelands and water infrastructure; promote safe water management.
- Enhance community awareness and anticipatory action, including livestock evacuation, vaccination, parasite control, fodder conservation, and water harvesting.
- Strengthen conflict prevention and coordination around livestock mobility, pasture, and water access.
- Pre-position veterinary supplies; develop contingency plans for floods, disease and market disruption.
- Promote appropriate destocking/restocking and livestock marketing while taking advantage of favourable animal body condition and market opportunities.
- Expand milk processing and storage capacity to reduce losses from the expected milk glut.
- Mobilise resources and strengthen cross-border coordination for preparedness.

Conflict, Peace & Security



Impacts

Positive

- The season's low river levels saw a boost in the Mara-Serengeti tourism as tourists were able to get closer to the wildlife scenery.
- Some communities notably the Toposa of Kapoeta East County were able to uphold peace for the sake of sharing the scarce pasture and water together.

Negative

- The prolonged water scarcity contributed to an increase in human–wildlife conflict, evidenced by a reported rise in hyena attacks and increased cattle thefts, notably in the Mara South region.
- Most affected communities turned to alternative livelihoods such as artisanal gold mining. Mining communities became camped together and congested, leading to negative coping and adaptation mechanisms that exposed vulnerable groups — women to gender-based violence, and children to child labour.
- There was a notable increase in criminality, especially among youth.

Advisories

- Strengthen community peace structures and conflict early warning systems especially in the most affected areas.
- Revisit and strengthen existing resource-sharing agreements, and revitalize existing peace pacts among warring communities.
- Constitute community management structures around artisanal mining areas to better manage mining communities.
- Strengthen coordinated community-based enforcement to curb criminality and support sustainable wildlife protection.

Water



Impacts

Positive Impact

- Increased water availability in rivers, reservoirs and groundwater systems due to above-normal rainfall, with improved groundwater recharge in drought-prone areas.
- Adequate water expected for the OND season, supporting agriculture, livestock and domestic use across many areas (e.g. Juba-Shebele, Ogaden, Tana basins), with lake levels (Victoria, Kyoga, Turkana, Tanganyika) expected to rise to above average.
- More reservoir inflows in key hydropower dams (e.g., Melka Wakene, Genale Dawa-3, Seven Forks Dams, Sondu & Sang'oro) and stable OND conditions in Mtera and Nyumba Ya Mungu (Tanzania) point to potential for increased and reliable hydropower production.

Negative Impact

- High flood risk in low-lying and urban areas, especially Somalia, north-eastern Kenya and south-eastern Ethiopia (Juba-Shebele, Ogaden, Tana, Athi, Ewaso Ngiro basins); may contaminate water sources and raise cholera/typhoid risk.
- Damage to water infrastructure, roads, bridges, canals, drainage, storage.
- Potential irrigation challenges from receding lakes/rivers in northern basins; landslide risk around Lake Victoria/Rwanda shorelines.
- Reduced solar PV generation in some areas (notably Somalia) due to increased cloud cover, and potential reduced hydropower production in basins where OND is not the main rainy season (e.g., Blue Nile, Awash, Tekeze-Atbara, Main Nile) following a below-average JJA season.
- High inflows may require spill management and disrupt construction activities (e.g., Malagarasi Hydropower Plant in Tanzania).

Advisories

- Promote and implement rainwater harvesting and groundwater recharge for dry-season use.
- Optimise reservoir operations, monitor dam/lake levels, and notify downstream communities of high flows.
- Strengthen transboundary data and information sharing on water levels and flows, promote community-based water resource management and regulation enforcement.
- Issue timely early warning information on water availability to guide sector planning.

- Activate flood plans before peak rainfall; strengthen warnings to communities.
- Clear drainages, repair dykes/canals, unblock urban drainage.
- Strengthen WASH interventions, household water treatment, chlorination, protection of wells and latrines, and raise awareness on water quality.
- Inspect and reinforce vulnerable infrastructure; set up rapid response and a flood contingency fund.
- Sensitise riparian communities about rising water levels and landslide risks, map landslide-prone areas, establish early warning systems, and consider relocation of at-risk populations.
- Reschedule construction activities to minimise delays, maintain close monitoring of river flows and works, and communicate early warnings to construction teams.
- Issue drought/flood warnings to irrigators; promote water-efficient irrigation.

Energy



Impacts

- Above-normal rainfall and river inflows in several basins are expected to improve hydropower generation but may increase reservoir, spillway and downstream flood risks.
- Enhanced water availability in major hydropower systems provides an opportunity for increased renewable electricity generation.
- Increased cloud cover associated with above-normal rainfall may reduce solar PV generation in some areas.
- Heavy rainfall and flooding may damage or disrupt transmission lines, substations and generation infrastructure.
- Increased runoff may lead to higher sediment and debris loads in reservoirs and hydropower facilities.

Advisories

- Optimise reservoir and hydropower operations, while maintaining flood-control storage and closely monitoring inflows, dam levels, and spillways.
- Maximise hydropower generation during favourable hydrological conditions and reduce reliance on thermal backup where system conditions permit.
- Integrate seasonal and daily weather/solar forecasts into generation scheduling and maintain adequate backup capacity to manage variability.
- Undertake pre-season inspection, maintenance and reinforcement of vulnerable energy infrastructure and establish rapid-response mechanisms for weather-related outages.

Blue Economy



Impacts

- Increased fish productivity and catches, improved breeding conditions, and nutrient inflow and availability for both inland waters and the marine environment.
- Increased water availability supporting aquaculture and fish farming.
- Increased household incomes, employment opportunities and growth of fisheries-related activities, including participation of women and youth in fishing and processing activities.
- Increased whale shark occurrence, creating opportunities for marine ecotourism and higher tourism revenues.
- Damage to aquaculture, fishing gear and coastal assets from flooding, strong winds and waves, sedimentation, pollution and habitat degradation affecting fishing grounds, wetlands, lakes and coastal ecosystems.

Advisories

- Promote sustainable fishing practices and enforce fisheries regulations, strengthen Monitoring, Control and Surveillance and illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU), fish preservation and processing, fish cold chains.
- Strengthen aquaculture production and protect fish farms from flooding.
- Support value addition, establish fisheries SMEs, improve access to markets and finance, strengthen women's and youth participation.
- Promote sustainable marine tourism while protecting sensitive marine habitats.
- Strengthen fish farm embankments and drainage; secure fishing assets; improve resilient storage facilities; adhere to phytosanitary standards; communicate early warnings.



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