



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations



Somalia Water and Land Information Management

An Update on Deyr season, Drought Conditions in Somalia and Observed and Likely Impacts

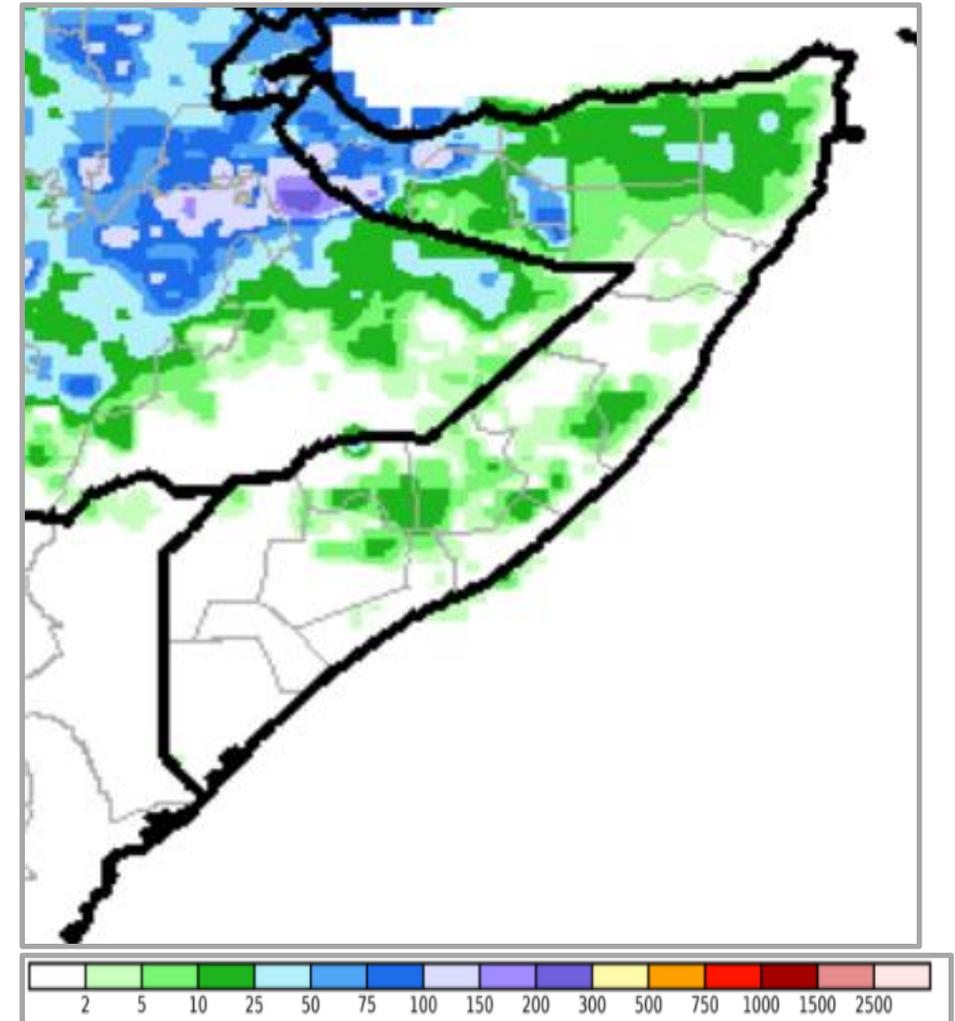
*A Virtual Presentation to the FSC
19 October 2021*

Peris Muchiri– SWALIM

2021 *Deyr* Season Rainfall Performance

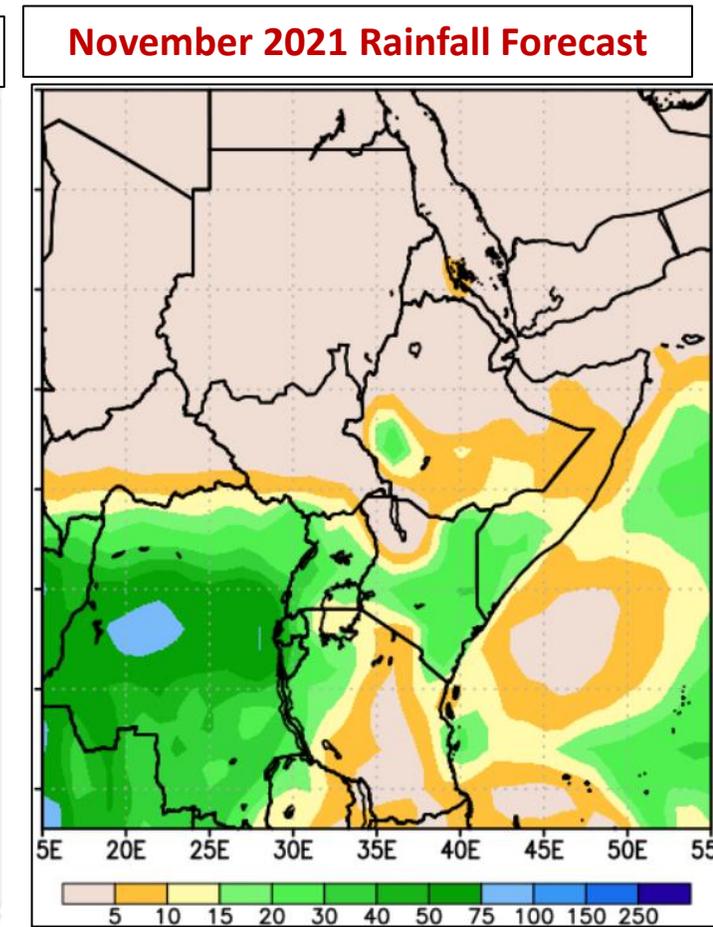
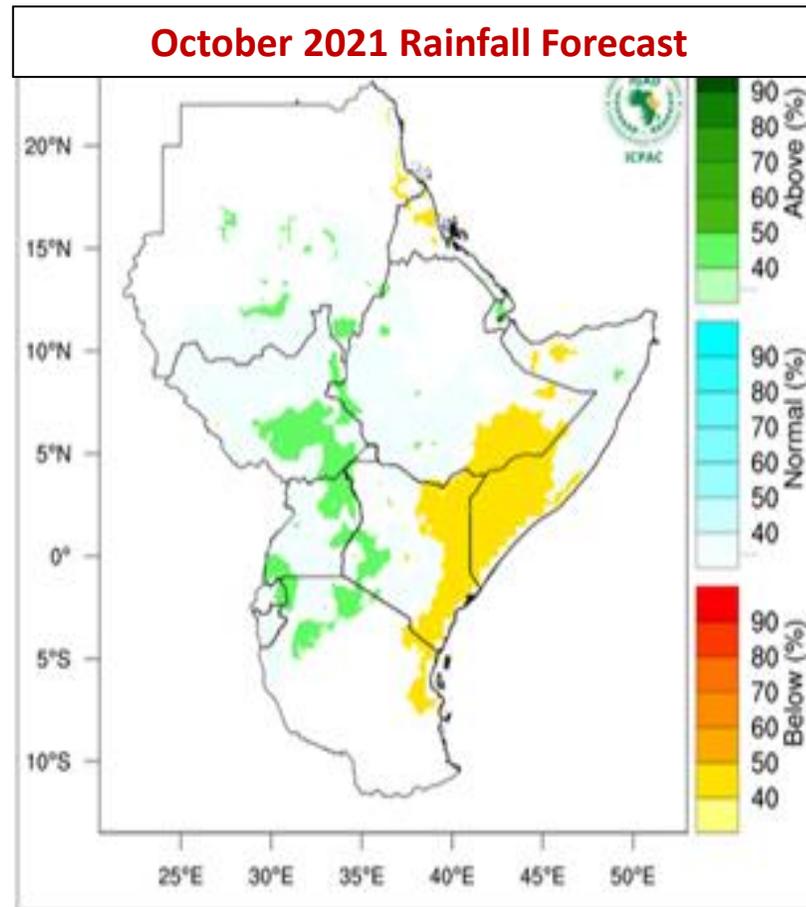
- Deyr rains have started and have continued to spread in space and time. Moderate to heavy rains recorded in Puntland and Somaliland in the first week of October
- Southern parts also continue to record rains but with below normal amounts with many parts having not received any amounts
- More rains are required to meet the deep ground water deficit in many parts across the country
- Available forecasts indicate that rainfall will likely continue through the end of November and will likely cover more parts of the country, including northern and central regions. However, cumulative rainfall amounts through the end of October and November are expected to remain below average in most parts of Somalia.

Rainfall Total (mm): 01 – 17 October 2021



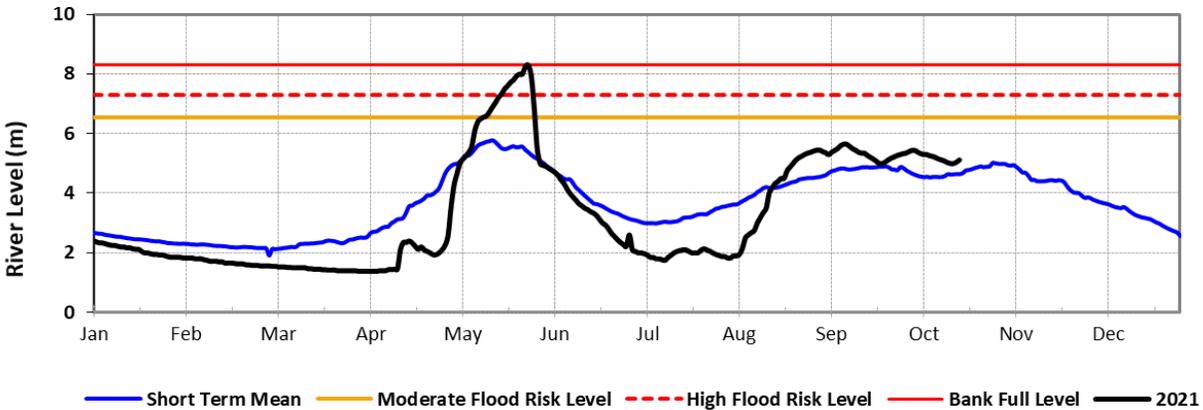
Rainfall Forecast for October and November

- **Drier than usual conditions** are expected over the southern and few areas in the north in the second half of October.
- Light rains are expected in November in the southern areas while the northern areas will record minimal rains
- With only limited rainfall amounts expected in October and November, drought conditions are expected to have a lasting impact on livelihoods and food security outcomes in the coming months.



Juba and Shabelle River Levels

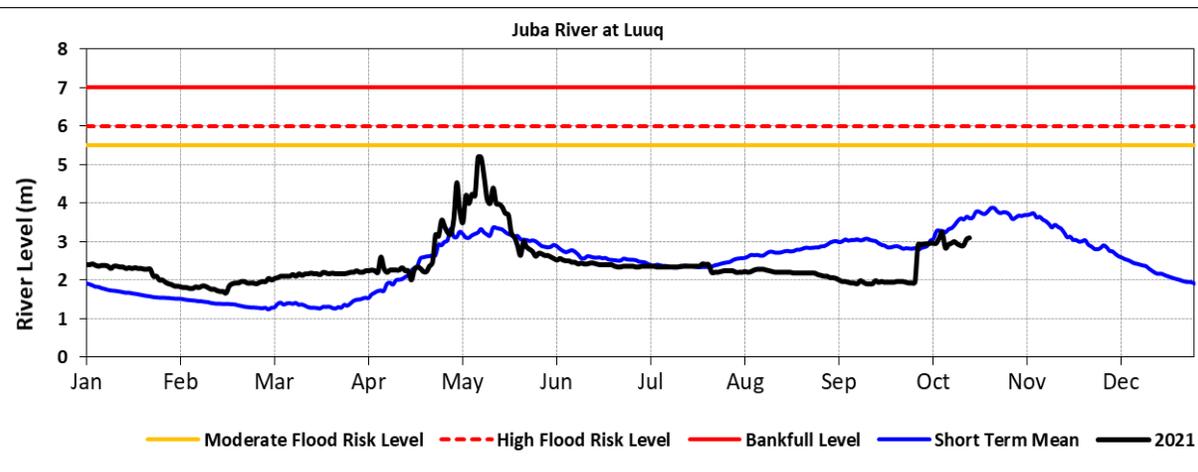
Shabelle at Belet Weyne



Shabelle River

- Shabelle River is currently within normal
- The levels have had a slight increase at Belet Weyne in the last few days and expected to rise in the coming week following some rains in the Ethiopian highlands with no risk of flooding
- Levels are slightly below normal and lower reaches of the river and this may continue until the end of October

Juba River

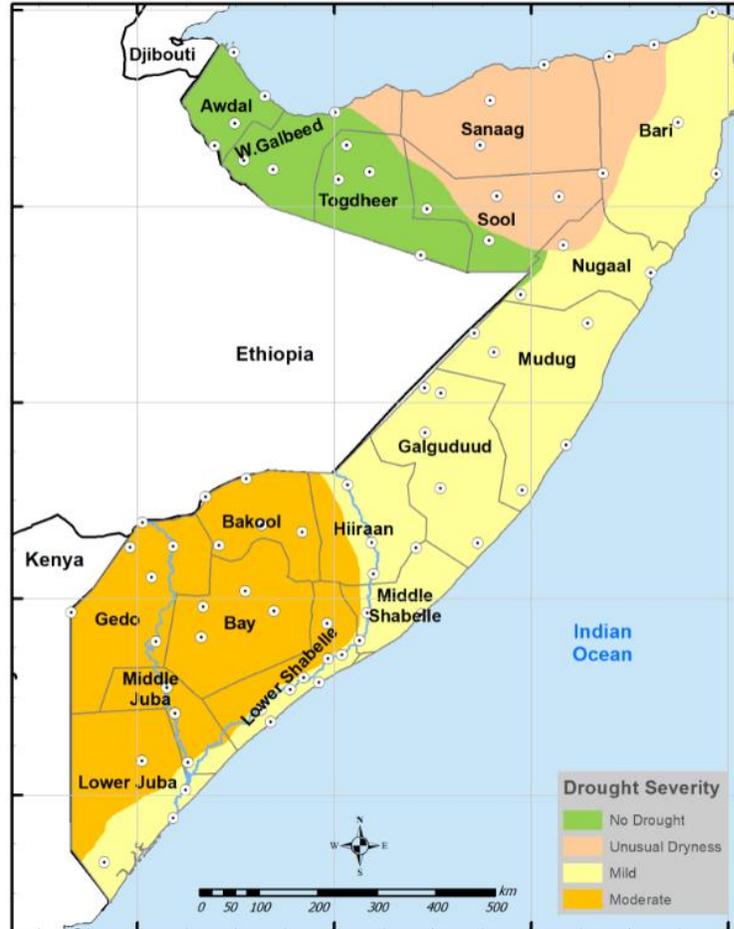


- Juba River levels are slightly below normal
- The levels are expected to rise gradually in the coming days as rains continue both in Somalia and Ethiopia

Drought Conditions in Aug and Sept 2021

- Drought analysis from 2000 to March 2021 shows that Somalia has been experiencing **cyclic droughts every five to six years**: 2000/2001, 2004/2005, 2010/2011, 2016/2017 and currently in 2020/2021.
- The Southern parts of the country that had remained in moderate drought conditions in the previous months are now facing moderate to severe drought due to further depletion of the limited resources in the areas.
- Drought impacts are worse in Jubaland, Southwest state, GalMudug (central regions) and parts of Puntland which have suffered from consecutive seasons of poor rainfall.

Aug 2021 drought condition map



Sept 2021 drought condition map





Observed and Likely Drought Impacts

- Deterioration and depletion of pasture and browse, acute and widespread water shortages, exorbitant water prices, poor livestock body conditions and abnormal livestock migration to distant grazing areas have been observed in northern, central and parts of southern Somalia. Most surface and shallow water sources are reported to have dried across many parts of the country
- Given the rainfall forecast, the depressed rains are not going to be effective in mitigating the drought conditions
- A return to normal rainfall patterns and in good amounts is necessary for drought conditions to be reversed. Short and intensive rains are not effective in mitigating the drought conditions, as they trigger floods (damaging the crops and washing away the upper fertile layer of soil) but does not give enough time for the water to infiltrate in the ground and improve crop germination and development



Thank you

