Flash floods in Gudele II, Juba, Central Equatoria 27 May 2020 (FAO/Kerekumba B.)

South Sudan Seasonal Update 2020

FSL Cluster Meeting
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Seasonal progress
Background

- Flooding incidents in 2019 brought to the fore the need for continuous monitoring for early warning purposes
- Based on weather / climate information products from multiple sources e.g. FAO South Sudan network of rain gauges, satellite-based data from FAO GIEWS and IGAD/ICPAC
- Monitoring bulletin to focus 10-day periods (Dekads)
- Product offering to evolve as the season progresses e.g. flood map etc.
2020 Seasonal Progression (Monthly Rainfall & Rainfall Anomaly)

January 2020

February 2020

March 2020

April 2020

Rainfall Estimates (mm)

Rainfall Anomaly (%)

Difference to LTA

Rainfall Anomaly (%)

< -50%
-50% - -40%
-40% - -30%
-30% - -20%
-20% - -10%
< 10%
< 20%
< 30%
< 40%
< 50%
< 60%
< 70%
LT A0
desert
Rainfall experienced across most areas in the country in the last 20 days, with the eastern parts of Kapoeta East recording below-average to no rainfall (this is in contrast to the start of the season in March and April when the area experienced near-normal to above-average rainfall – with the exception of the 1st Dekad of April when drier conditions were experienced)
Seasonal progression (Countrywide)

- High amounts of rainfall have been experienced in Western Equatoria, Central Equatoria, Eastern Equatoria and Lakes States e.g. since the 3rd Dekad of March, WES has experienced decadal rainfall that is above last year’s and the long-term average (LTA).

\[\text{Annual cumulative rainfall progression (Jan - May 2020, Dekad 2)}\]

- \(\text{CES}\) – Little rainfall; < last year & < LTA
- \(\text{UNS}\) – Low rainfall, but > last year & > LTA
Seasonal forecast (ICPAC) – June 2020

**Rainfall**: above normal over most of the country between June and September, with eastern part of Eastern Equatoria likely to experience way more rainfall than the rest of the country.

**Temperature**: normal over most parts of the country except for localized regions in eastern South Sudan that are likely to be warmer than normal.
Seasonal forecast (GHACOF 55) – June to September 2020

Rainfall: probabilities for above normal rainfall over much of south eastern South Sudan, with slightly enhanced chances of average and below normal rainfall for small areas of western South Sudan (particularly in Western Bahr el Ghazal State).

Temperature: majority of the country will experience normal temperatures, with the southwestern parts likely to be warmer than normal as some central and eastern parts are likely to be cooler than normal (attributed to the predicted wetter than normal season).
Season Implications
Risk of flooding: *Flood-prone & Flood-risk areas*

Flood-prone areas of South Sudan (*blue strips*)
*Source: WFP’s South Sudan Integrated Context Analysis (December, 2018)*

Flood-risk areas of South Sudan (*high risk: dark blue*)
*Source: WFP’s South Sudan Integrated Context Analysis (December, 2018)*
Desert locusts multiplication, invasion and migration

Eastern Equatoria State is providing conducive conditions for desert locust reproduction and multiplication. Area likely to be in the path of migratory swarms (on their way to Sudan), including Jonglei, Upper Nile, Unity.
Some of the most-at-risk counties are also considered flood-prone.

The increased likelihood of seasonal, water-borne diseases will increase the risk of excess mortality related to COVID-19 because of comorbidities.

The deterioration of road networks and landing strips during the rainy season will constrain medivac operations, further risking the loss of lives to COVID-19.

Poor road and air infrastructure during the rainy season will also affect delivery of life-saving supplies to remote locations should COVID-19 spread that far.
Other seasonal implications

- The deterioration of road infrastructure during the rainy season will see many areas cut-off from Juba and other major towns, significantly affecting humanitarian access and supply of traded commodities to markets across the country.

- There is increased risk of livestock diseases such as Rift Valley Fever (RVF) during this rainy season, even as access to deliver veterinary services (treatment and vaccination) becomes constrained.
The good ...

- The normal to above normal rainfall is favourable to farming communities who will see their crops start the season under conducive conditions.

- For livestock keepers, the above normal rainfall will provide pasture and water, limiting migration and reducing resource-based conflict. The proximity of livestock to homesteads will also provide access to milk and income.

- For fisherfolk, the rainy season signals the commencement of replenishment of fishing grounds, increasing the availability of alternative sources of protein.
Recommendations

• Pre-position humanitarian ‘inputs’ & supplies for emergency response

• Timely distribution of seasonally-sensitive humanitarian assistance e.g. seeds, fishing kits etc. for immediate- and mid-term food production

• Downscale the weather and flood-related early warning information and disseminate it to at-risk communities

• Farmers to be taught how to create structures to drain their farms of flood waters
Recommendations

• Continue to monitor and control desert locusts to avert massive loss of crops and pasture

• MOH, WHO, UNICEF etc. to scale-up their health response

• FAO & MLF to increase livestock disease surveillance as well as treatment and livestock campaigns by ensuring CAHWs are well equipped for the rainy season
THANK YOU

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