SOMALIA DROUGHT UPDATE

Issued on 22 December 2021

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

SWALIM

Drought Severity			
DROUGHT CONDITION	**IMPROVING**	**STABLE**	**WORSENING**
NORMAL *Normal conditions*			Awdal and Woqooyi Galbeed and parts of Togdheer
MILD *Going into drought,. Also coming out of a drought – water deficits, partial loss of crops and pasture*			Pockets of Togdheer and Bari regions and north western coastline
MODERATE *Damage to early planted crops, reduced land cultivation, and shortage of pastures and water*			Sool, Sanaag, coastal of Shabelle and Juba and parts of Bari and Nugaal regions
SEVERE *Crop or pasture losses is likely; water shortages common and water trucking imminent*			Parts of Lower Juba, Bay, Bakool, Hiraan, Mudug, Galgadud, southern parts of Bari and Nuugal regions
EXTREME *Major crop/pasture and livestock losses; widespread water shortages and water trucking*			Gedo, Middle Juba, and parts of Lower Juba and Bay

Key messages

- Drought severity in Somalia has continued to worsen following prolonged dry period characterized by high temperatures.
- The drought conditions in Jubaland in southern parts of the country have deteriorated from severe to extreme. Other areas that were experiencing mild drought conditions in the north are now facing moderate levels of drought with the situation expected to get worse.
- Wells are drying up rapidly while the river levels along the Juba and Shabelle continue to decrease at an alarming rate.
- Currently, more than 90 percent of the country is experiencing drought conditions at different severity magnitudes with the southern and central parts being worst affected.
- Pasture and water came to a complete depletion in many areas leaving about 169,000 in displacement as of today (OCHA—2022 Drought Response Plan Report).
- Drought conditions are expected to worsen during the first quarter of 2022 with possibility of extending to the second quarter due to extended impacts.

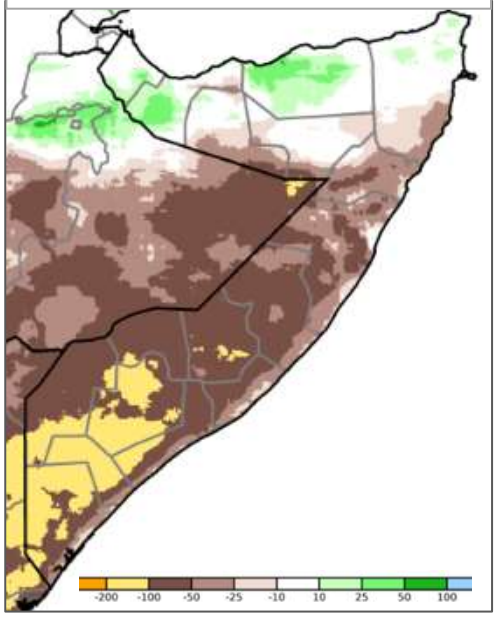
Rainfall Performance and Drought Severity Analysis

Hot and dry weather conditions persisted in most parts of Somalia in November and half of December 2021. However, the last week of November saw two days of rainfall along the coastal areas of Central and Puntland, leading to flash floods in Eyl. These rains were not effective to alleviate the drought conditions in the area. In general, the 2021 Deyr seasonal rains have been cumulatively low with poor spatial and temporal distribution in most parts of the country. Some areas in the central areas and parts of Puntland did not receive any rains throughout the season. Map 1 shows the rainfall anomaly for the period between 01 October and 15 December including a forecast up to 25 December 2021. Cumulatively, most areas recorded 50 mm of rainfall and below during the same period which is significantly below normal. Parts of Somaliland however recorded good rains. The Ethiopian highlands whose rainfall contributes to the river flow along the Juba and Shabelle Rivers inside Somalia recorded up to 75 mm of rainfall which is also below normal.

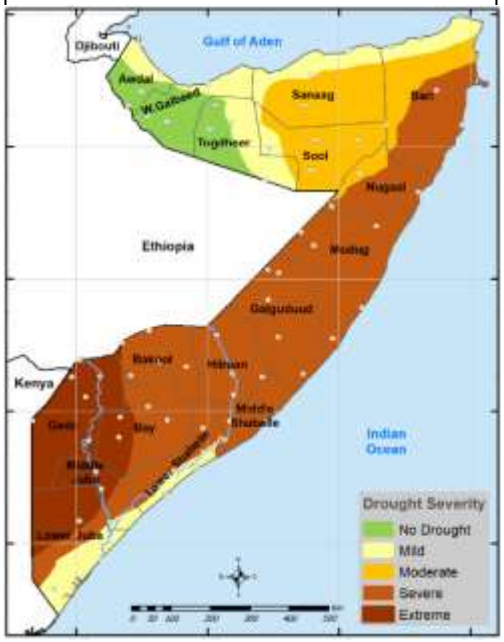
The drought severity map shows drought magnitude in Mid-December 2021. Rainfall data analysis from more than 100 rainfall monitoring stations[1], reports from the ground and the SWALIM drought monitoring tool [2] have been used to generate the map.

Since the last update in November 2021, drought conditions got worse in some areas. For instance in Gedo and Middle Juba, which was previously in severe drought conditions, is now experiencing extreme conditions with the situation expected to get even worse in the coming months. Currently, about 90 percent of the country's landmass is experiencing mild to extreme drought conditions leading to competition of the limited resources among the different users.

Map 1: Rainfall Anomaly for 01 Oct to 15 Dec and forecast for 16 – 31 Dec 2021



Map 2: Drought severity map for December 2021



[1] https://climseries.faoswalim.org/
[2] https://cdi.faoswalim.org/

This update is co- produced by the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management of the FGS (MoHADM) and FAO - Somalia Water and Land Information Management—SWALIM Project. For more information regarding this product please contact communications@mohadm.gov.so or swalim@fao.org

Primary data sources are; Ministry of Agriculture & Irrigation and Ministry of Energy & Water Resources of the Federal Government of Somalia, SWALIM, ECMWF, TAMSAT and NOAA/USGS. Tables, Maps and graphs on this bulletin are produced from these sources.

River levels

Observed river levels along the Juba and Shabelle have been dropping over the last couple of weeks. The levels along the two rivers both in Somalia and Ethiopia are currently extremely below normal and this trend is expected to continue until the start of the next rainy season in April 2022.

Anecdotal reports indicate a significant decrease in the water levels in the Melka Wakena Hydroelectric Power Station in Ethiopia located in the upper parts of the Shabelle river. Also, there are reported cases of water diversion from the river for irrigation purposes in Gode and Khellafo areas in Ethiopia (about 50 kilometers from the Somali border). Given current situation and the extended dry period over the next several months, water availability for human and animal use will continue to deteriorate. The reduced river flow currently cannot support irrigated agriculture in both quantity and quality If current trends continue, Shabelle river level in the lower riches of the river in Jowhar may dry up (revealing the dry river bed) by January/February 2022.

The graphs below show comparison of current and long term average levels for both the Shabelle and Juba Rivers at Jowhar and Luuq stations, respectively. The river levels are updated on a daily basis and can be found in this link: http://systems.faoso.net/frrims/