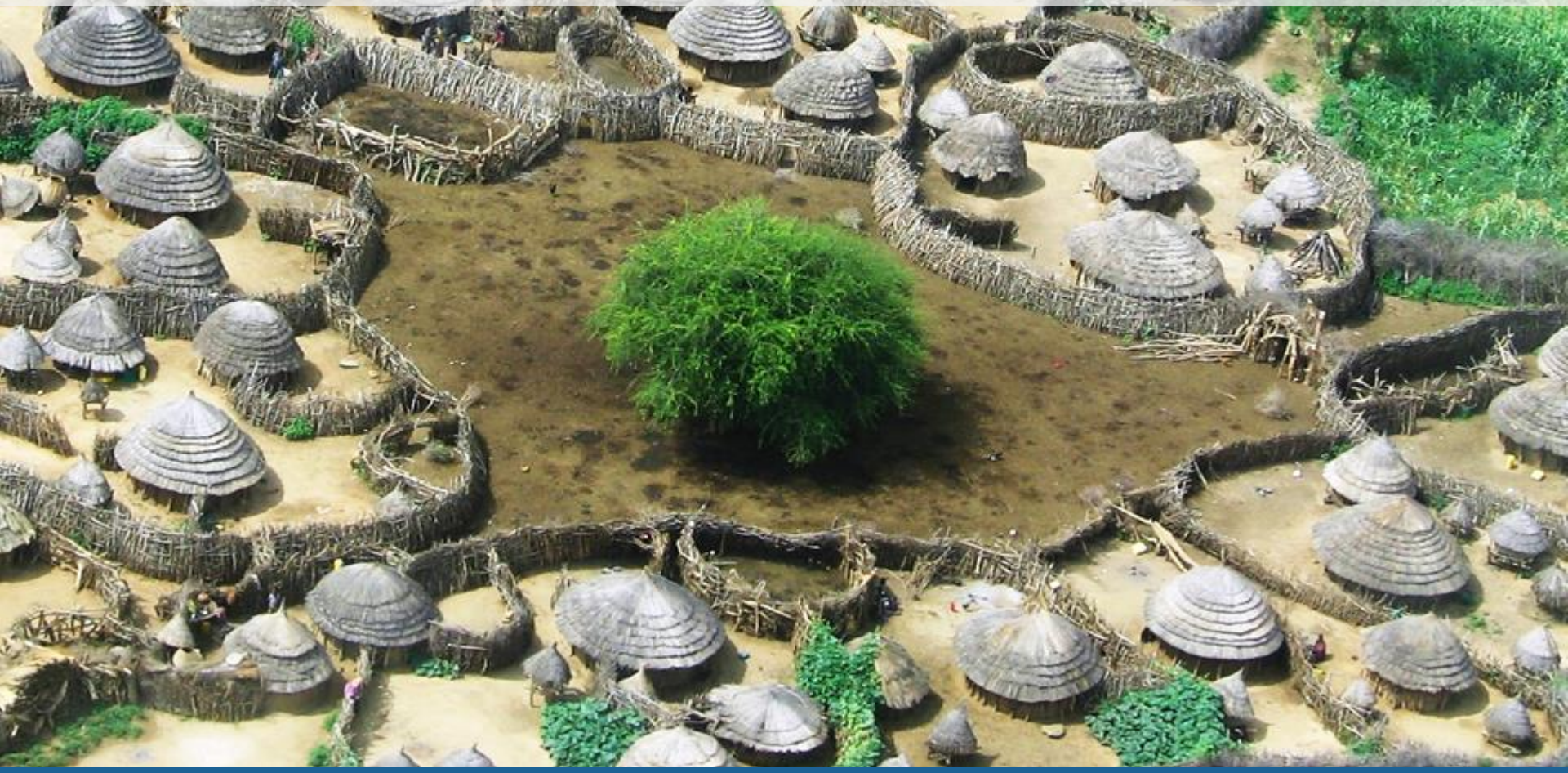
East Africa Season 2019



25 July 2019

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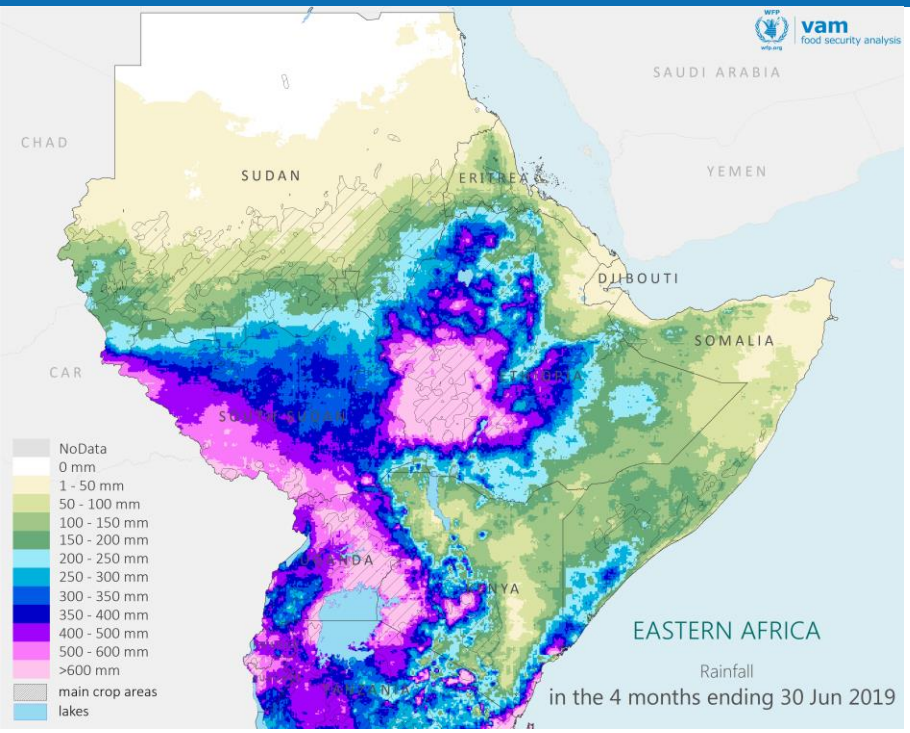
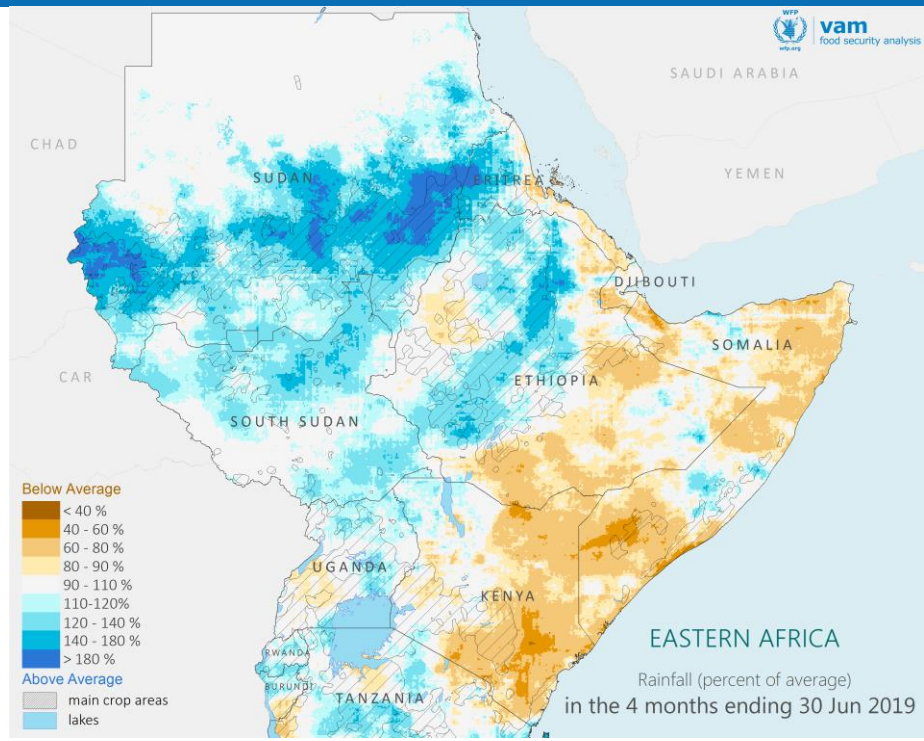
HIGHLIGHTS

- The March-May season performed sub-optimally in many areas given the delayed start of the rains though the situation started improving from late April and May when the rains intensified. This continued into the month of June in parts of the region, while in eastern and southern Kenya, Somalia and southeast Ethiopia the rains declined/ ceased by end of May/early June.
- This caused delay in crop planting while those planted early were affected by high temperatures and prevailing dry conditions. Rangeland resources on the other hand deteriorated following a long dry season affecting livestock production. The worst hit areas were Somalia, pastoral and marginal agricultural areas of Kenya, southern Ethiopia, and Karamoja in Uganda.
- The rains in May and June allowed for planted crops to recover in several areas including Karamoja. However, in parts of agricultural areas in western and southwest Uganda, the rains came too late and were below-average for meaningful recovery. Similarly, in marginal agricultural areas of Kenya and agricultural areas of Somalia, rainfall declined or ended by May hindering crop recovery. Significantly below-average production is anticipated in these areas, while in Togdheer agropastoral and localized areas of Bay and Hiran regions in Somalia FSNAU/FEWS Net have already indicated crop failure.
- In most pastoral areas in Kenya, Somalia and southeast Ethiopia, the below-average seasonal rainfall did not allow for full recovery of the rangelands. Both water and pasture resources are inadequate to support the livestock sector until the next short rains, expected to start in October. There is high likelihood that the grazing resources will decline earlier than normal leading to livestock outmigration, declining body condition and possible resource-based conflicts.
- In Somalia, the negative impacts of erratic and abnormally performing 2019 Gu' season followed a poor October-December 2018 Deyr season, and unusually dry conditions during the January-March 2019 Jilaal season. This heavily impacted on communities that are still recovering from the effects of severe 2016/17 drought. The fact that Somalia has experienced below-average seasons since 2015 – with the exception of 2018 Gu – has increased vulnerability and decreased coping ability among the affected populations.
- In the northern sector (Ethiopia, South Sudan, Eritrea, Djibouti, northern Somalia) where the season started in June, there was favourable performance in most areas by June. While above-average rains supported growing conditions, it also resulted in flooding incidences in parts of South Sudan (Ayod & Aweil) with possible impacts on crop development through destruction of farmlands and planted crops; hindering physical accessibility through roads affecting humanitarian operations.
- In the first two Dekads of July the rains were below-average in some areas. However, there are prospects that the rains will continue in the northern countries in next two weeks (up to 10th August). Close monitoring will be necessary to see how the season progresses and its implications on agricultural activities, human displacements and physical access.

March to June 2019: Overall rainfall performance





Normally, the long rains season ends in May in most equatorial areas (Kenya, Uganda, Burundi, Rwanda, southern Ethiopia, Djibouti) with the exception of Somalia and parts of Equatorial South Sudan where the season extends into June.

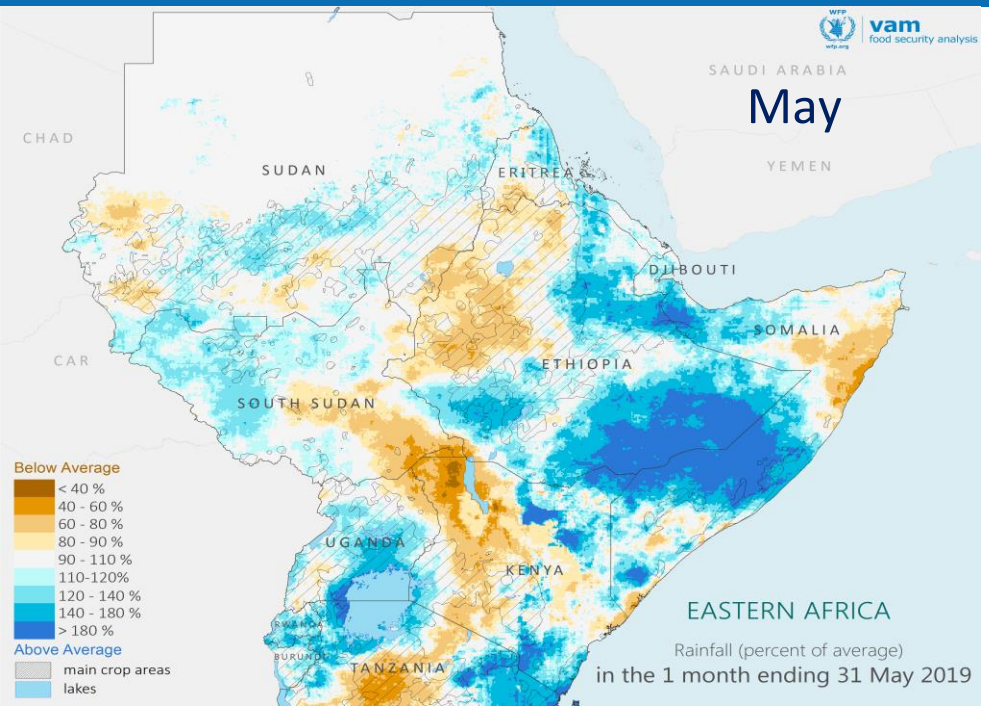
In 2019, the season started late (April), peaking in May and continued in June in some areas.

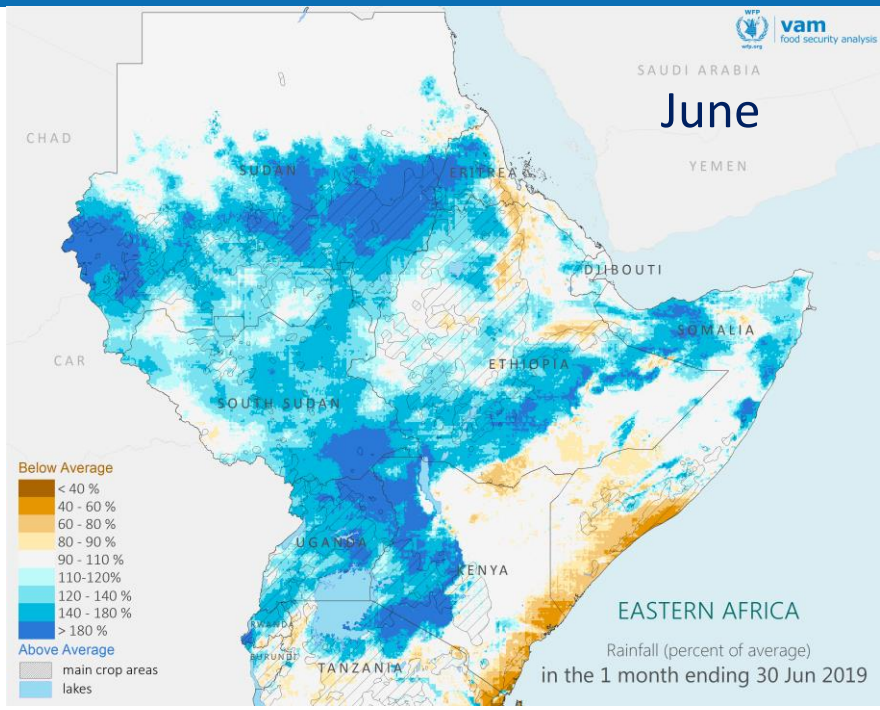
Cumulatively, areas in western and central Ethiopia, South Sudan, Uganda, Burundi, Rwanda, western, central and coastal Kenya, and small areas in southern Somalia received over 300mm while northeast Somalia and Djibouti received less than 50mm (Map on left).

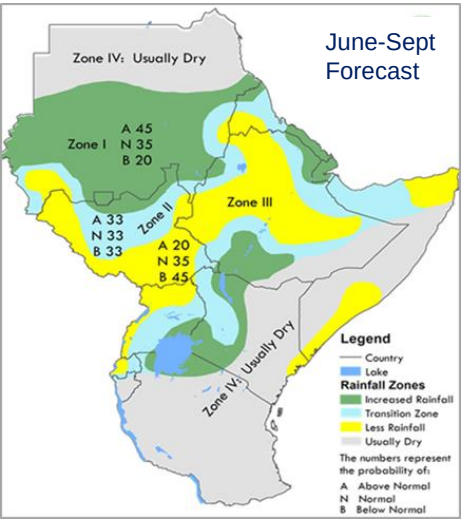
Compared to long-term average, eastern and southern Kenya, Somalia, southern and southeast Ethiopia, western and southwest Uganda, southern Burundi, and Djibouti received below-average rains while the rest of the region had near-normal to above-average rains (Map on right).

The performance had mixed influences on the season's production activities (crop and livestock) and the availability of ecosystem services (water and pastures), with implications on the food security situation now and in coming months.

June 2019: Rainfall performance







June marks the start of the main growing season in northern sector countries (northern South Sudan, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Djibouti) as well as the cessation month for Gu rains in Somalia.

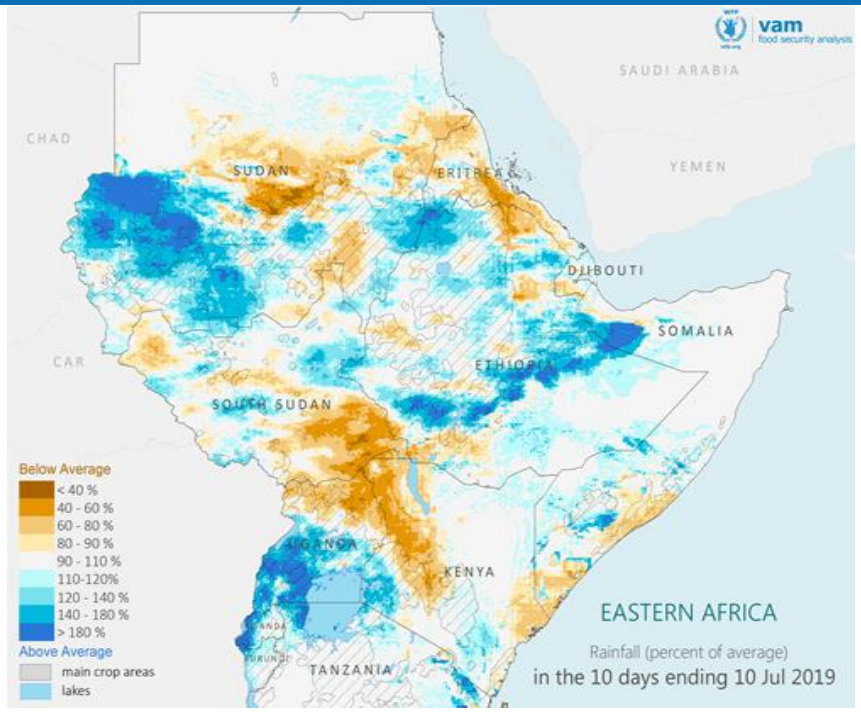
For the northern sector regions, near-normal to below-average seasonal rains had been forecasted by ICPAC (map on lower left).

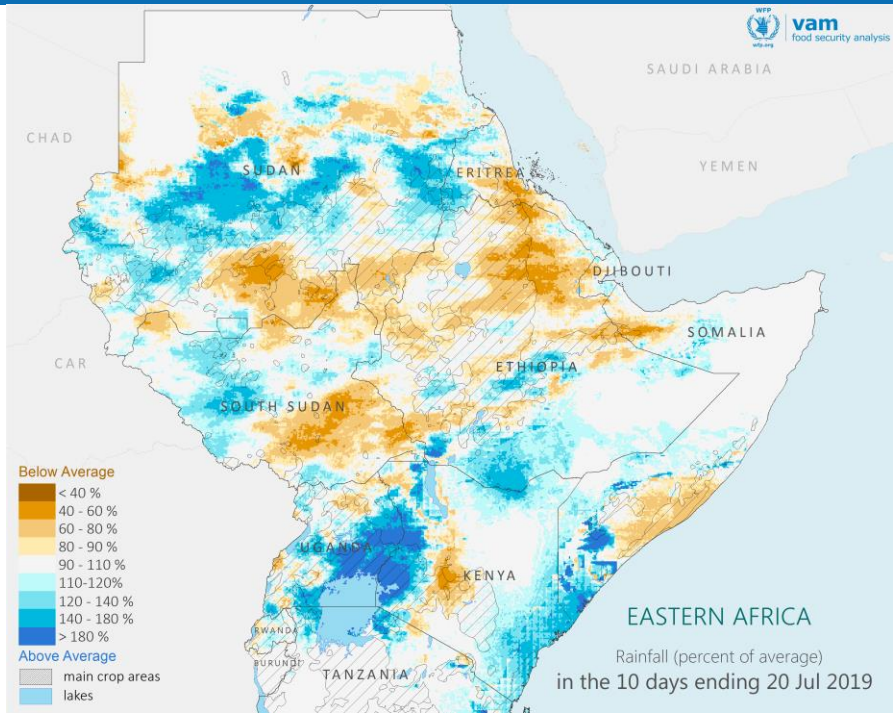
During the month, rainfall improved in South Sudan, Sudan, Uganda, western & northwest Kenya and parts of Ethiopia compared to May (Maps above). This allowed for the start of cropping season in northern countries while supporting growing crops in equatorial areas.

In the pastoral areas (Kenya, Somalia & SE Ethiopia), rainfall declined in line with the season to climatological normal. Given that some of these areas did not fully recover during the March-May/June season, it is expected that they will deteriorate earlier than normal during the June-September season, limiting availability of livestock feeding resources.

In the marginal agricultural areas (Kenya) and agropastoral areas of Somalia, declining/rainfall cessation reduced the opportunity for late planted crops to recover. Reduced production is expected in these areas.

July 2019: Performance in Dekads 1 and 2

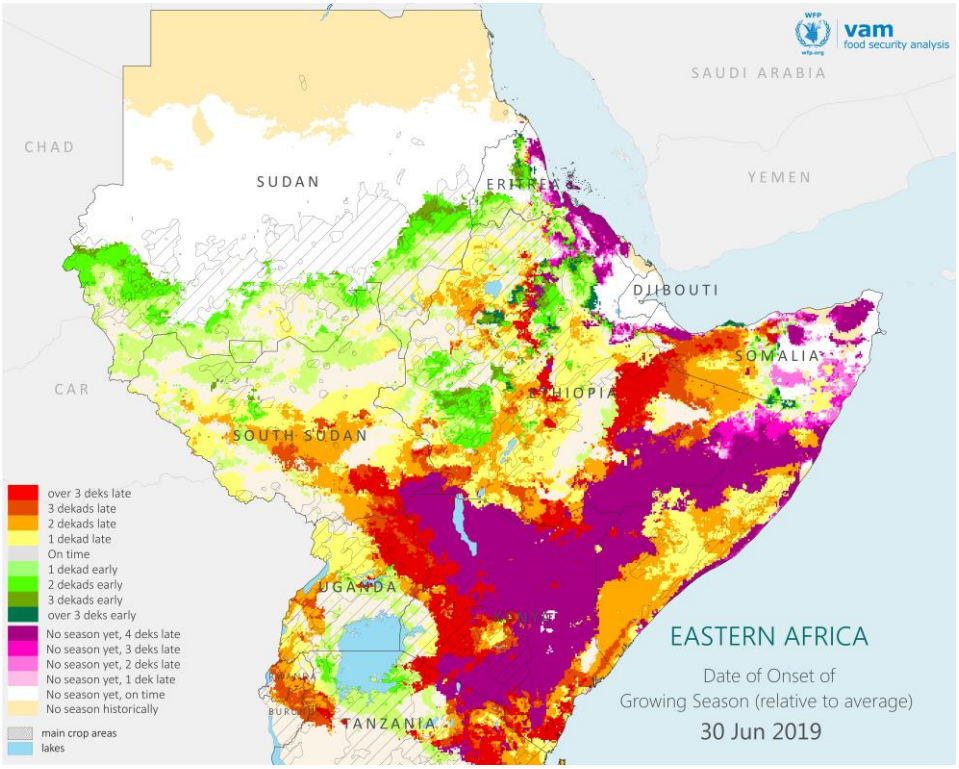




In the first Dekad of July (1st-10th), below-average rains were experienced in coastal areas of southern Somalia, northwest Kenya, northern Uganda, isolated areas of Ethiopia, South Sudan, Eritrea and Djibouti while dry conditions persisted in northeast Kenya, Somalia and southeast Ethiopia.

In the 2nd Dekad (11-20th) above-average rainfall was received in localised areas of South Sudan, coastal Kenya, southern and central Somalia, and Uganda while below-average rains were experienced in parts of Ethiopia, South Sudan and Eritrea. Below-average performance could negatively impact on the June-September crop development. However, the overall performance for the month of July will be understood once the entire monthly data are available.

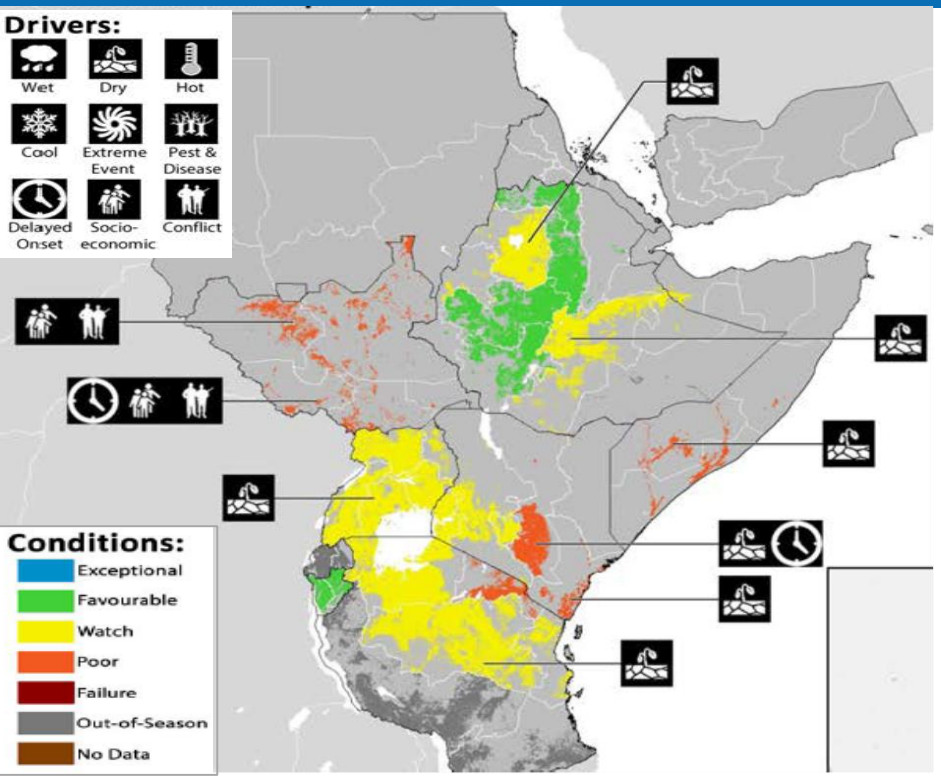
June to September 2019: Start of season



With the favourable rains in June in northern areas, the season started on time or earlier in parts of northern South Sudan, western Ethiopia and Sudan. However, by end of June the season was yet to kick off in Djibouti, parts of Eritrea and northern Somalia where minimal/no rains had been received. In parts of South Sudan and northeast Uganda the season started late due to delayed start of rains.

The pink shades denote areas where the season has not started such as northeast Ethiopia and Eritrea or where it has ended or failed (no start was detected and it won't be detected since the rains are over).

March to June 2019: Agricultural performance**



By June, the growing conditions varied across and within the countries given the seasonal performance. The July Seasonal Crop Monitor indicate 'favourable' crop condition in parts of western and northern Ethiopia; 'watch' condition in Uganda, western Kenya, Tanzania and parts of Ethiopia; and 'poor' in Somalia, southeast and coastal Kenya (map above).

In ***Somalia,*** it reflects the effects of delayed start of season, below-average rainfall performance, and lack of crop recovery even after the rains increased in late April and May. The "Gu" harvests are expected to be delayed and below-average (50 percent or normal) except in Togdheer agropastoral and localized areas of Bay and Hiran where crop failure is likely as reported by FSNAU/FEWs Net.

In ***Uganda*** bimodal areas, although the start of season was affected by delayed rains, crops recovered following improved rains in April to June. Production is expected at 30-50 percent below-average given the effects of delayed start of the season, localised flooding and other climate associated risks. In Karamoja, the short cycle crops improved following improved rains in May and June but the condition of maize and sorghum varies across the region given that some areas were affected by flooding /waterlogging.

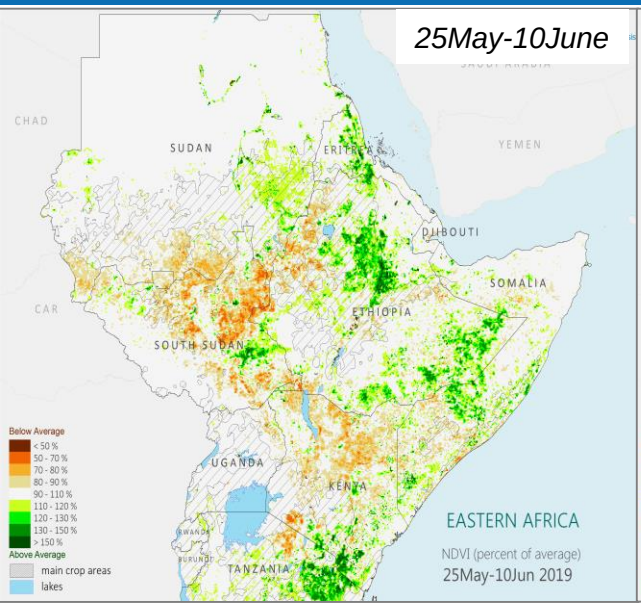
In ***Ethiopia,*** the situation is favourable except in areas such as eastern Oromia region where February-May rains were 30-60 percent below-average and significant crop production shortfalls may be realised.

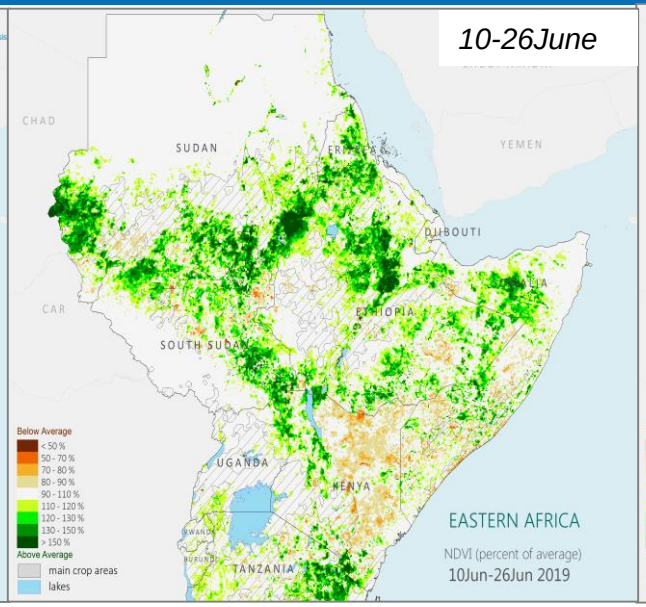
In ***Kenya,*** production in southwest, southeast and coastal areas was affected by delayed and poor rainfall performance. However, there could be chances of recovery in southwest growing areas if July to September rains are above-average as forecasted. In southeastern and coastal marginal agriculture areas where seasonal rains normally end in early June, damage to crops is irreversible and the seasonal harvests will be delayed and below-average.

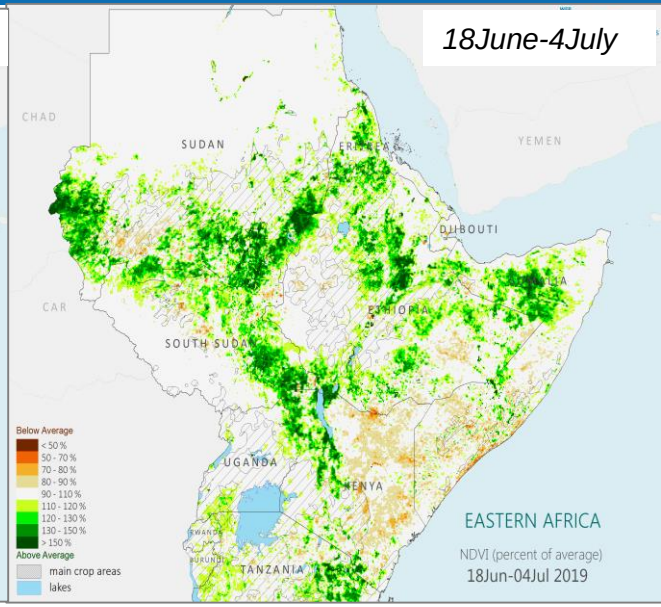
In ***South Sudan***, although delayed rains led to late start of crop planting until April, climate has been favourable to support production. However, effects of conflicts and other socio-economic factors will influence the level of production to be realised.

***Information from GeoClam as part of NASA Harvest Initiative*

May to June 2019: Vegetation performance







By late May to early June the vegetation condition (NDVI) had improved in southeast Ethiopia, parts of central Somalia and southern Kenya following the April-May rains. Nevertheless, the situation remained below-average in parts of pastoral Kenya, Karamoja, southern and northern Somalia.

In early June, there was improvement in northwest Kenya, northern and central Somalia, southern Ethiopia, Karamoja, and eastern South Sudan following seasonal rains (Map on right).

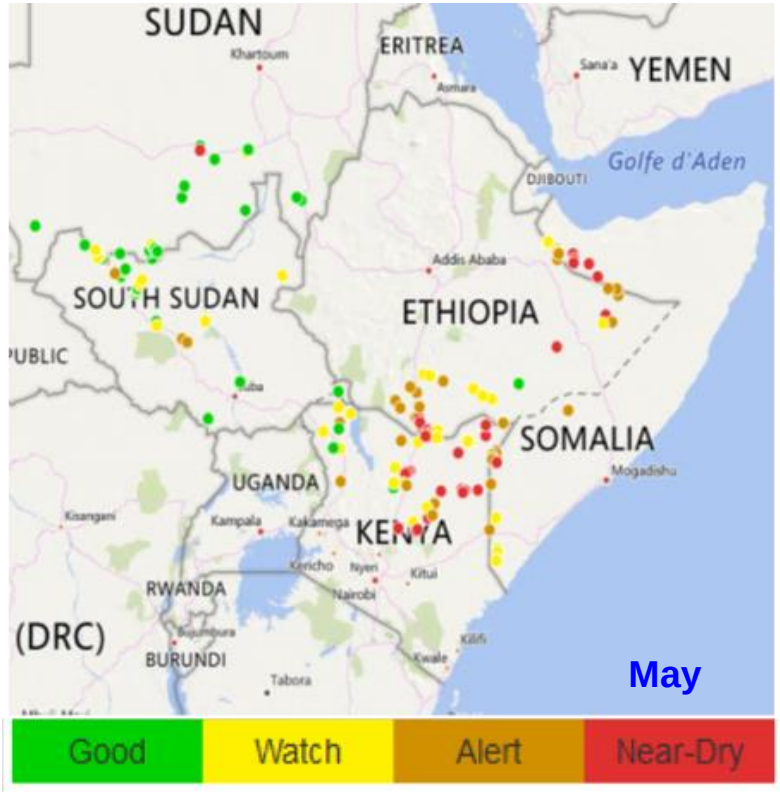
By late June and early July, the vegetation performance started declining in central and south Somalia to below-average situation.

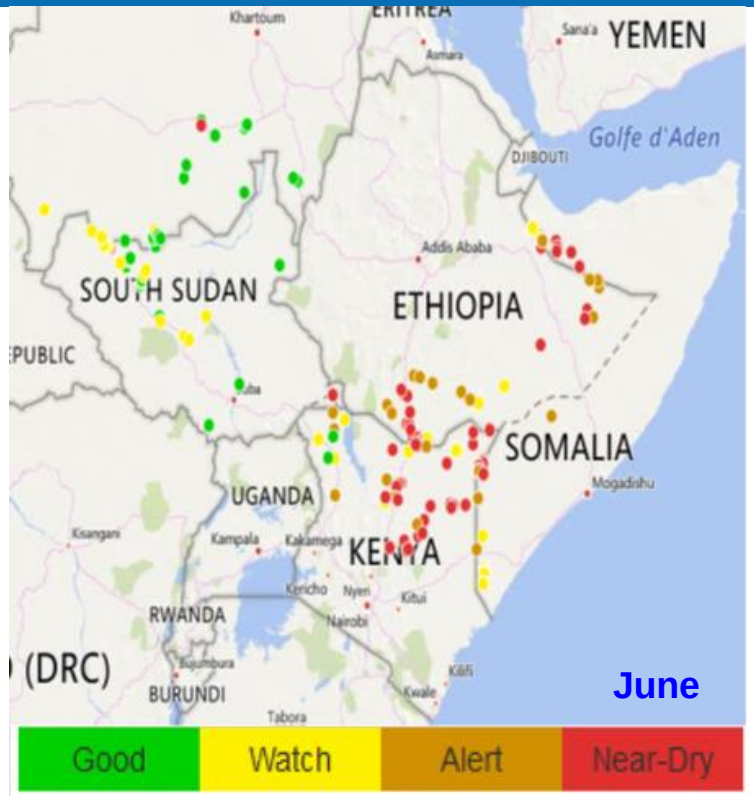
It is clear that parts of northeast and southeast Kenya, and several areas of Somalia did not attain full recovery, which mirrors the effects of continued poor seasonal performance since October-December 2018.

In most of these affected areas, earlier than normal deterioration of rangeland resources (pasture and water) is expected, which could lead to livestock outmigration, deteriorating livestock body conditions, need for water-trucking and possible conflicts over available resources.

The above calls for close monitoring of the situation and strengthening preparedness for action.

May to June 2019: water resources





The FEWS Net water points monitoring system indicates deteriorating/severely depleted water resources in northeast Kenya, Somalia and parts of southern Ethiopia. Although the situation could slightly improve in northwest Somalia due to June-September rains, it will continue worsening in other areas during the current dry season until October when short-rains are expected to start. This will place severe stress on pastoralist communities leading to livestock outmigration or increasing the need for water-trucking to meet livestock and human consumption needs.

Somalia Focus

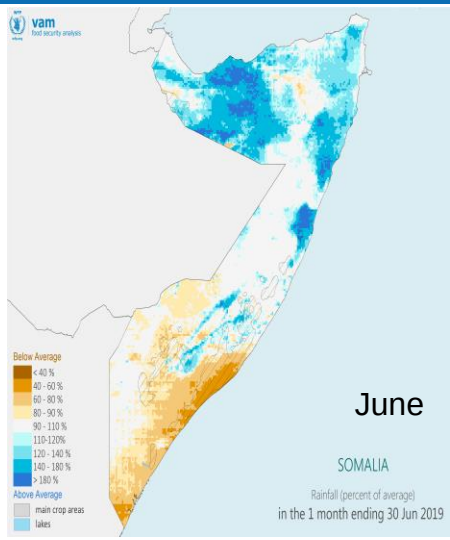
The Gu season normally runs from April through June. In 2019, the season was delayed with most parts of the country receiving rainfall from late April (see graphs below).

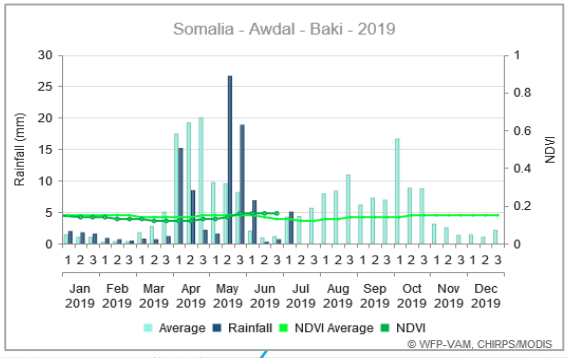
From mid-May through June moderate to heavy rainfall was received in parts of the north and central regions leading to near-normal/above-normal conditions over that period (June - Map on upper right).

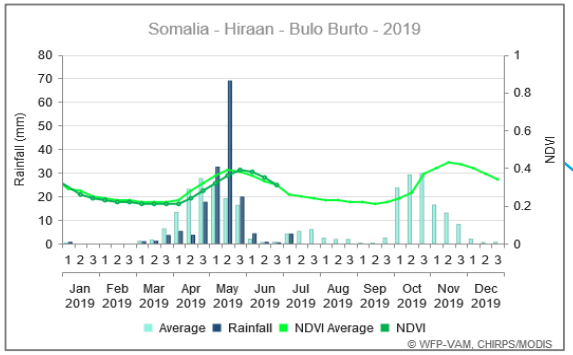
However, the cumulative seasonal performance (April-June) remained largely below-average in most of the country (Map below), which largely affected crop production. Updates from FSNAU/FEWs Net point to crop failure in Togdheer agropastoral and localized areas of Bay and Hiran regions.

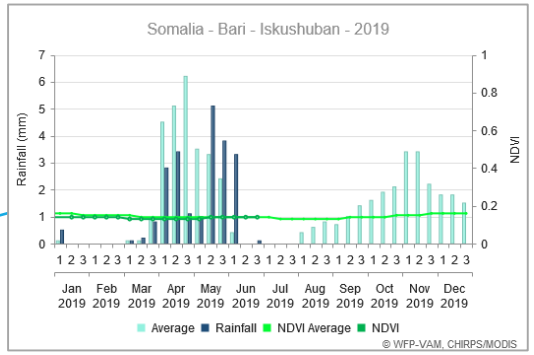
The vegetation condition slightly improved from April following the rains though largely below-average. The condition started declining in June in south and central regions (graphs below), and is expected to seasonally continue until the next short rains in October. In the north, it may be maintained by the June-September rains.

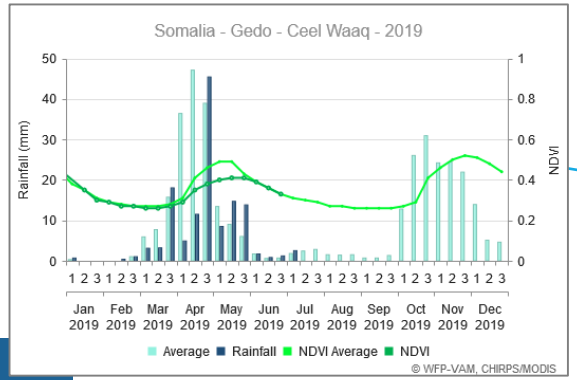
It is worth noting that the negative impacts of erratic and abnormally performing Gu' rains followed a poor 2018 Deyr season (Oct-Dec), and unusually dry conditions during the 2019 Jilaal season (Jan-March), impacting communities that are still recovering from the severe drought of 2016/17. Somalia has experienced below-average seasons since 2015, with the exception of 2018 Gu', which has led to increased vulnerability and decreased coping ability.

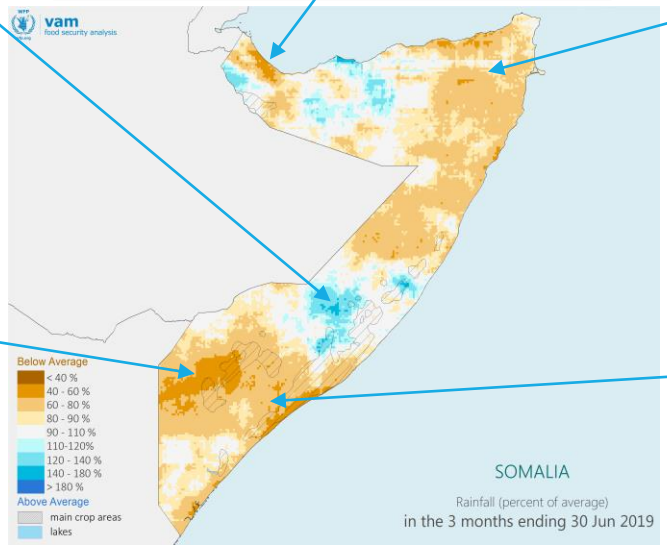


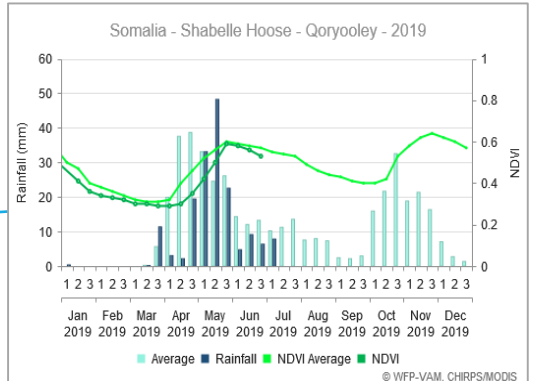












Kenya Focus

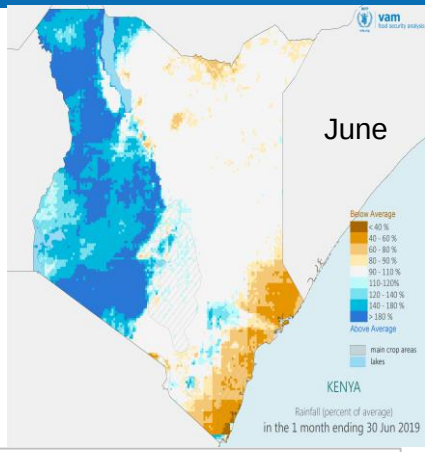
The 2019 long rains started late (3-4 weeks), with high variation over space and time. In most of pastoral and marginal agricultural areas, the season was short-lived given that the rains declined by end of May. Only in northwest, western and parts of coast did the rains continue in June (map on upper right).

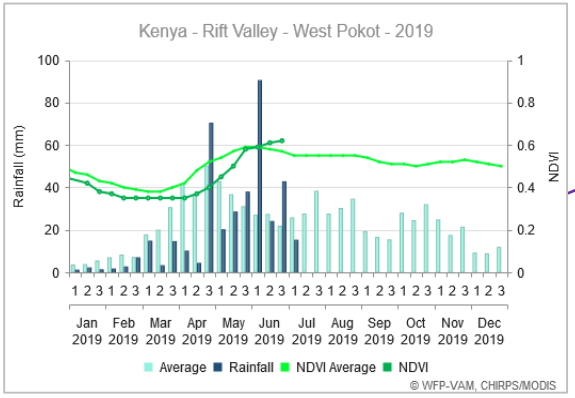
Overall, the rainfall performance has largely been below-average (Map below) except in northwest, western and parts of central where rains continued in June.

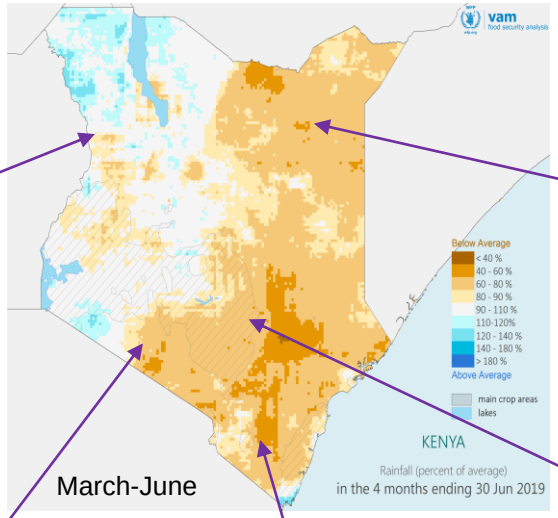
The poor seasonal performance largely affected crop production in marginal agricultural areas (southeast and coastal areas). Rainfall decline by end of May reduced the opportunity for late planted crops to recover and poor harvests are expected.

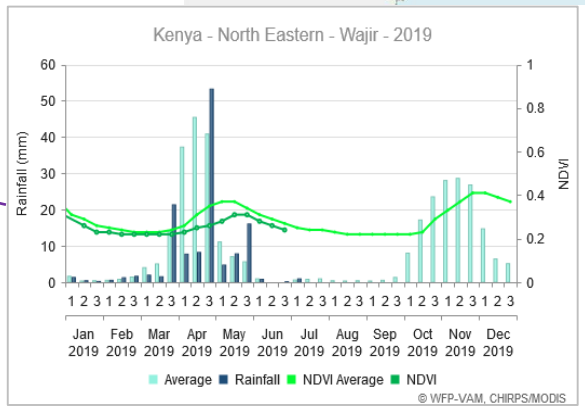
Rangelands on the other hand did not fully recover and remain below-average in most of northeast and eastern areas. By end of June, the vegetation condition had started declining except in northwest pastoral areas. This is expected to continue given the effects of dry weather and higher than normal temperatures leading to earlier than normal deterioration.

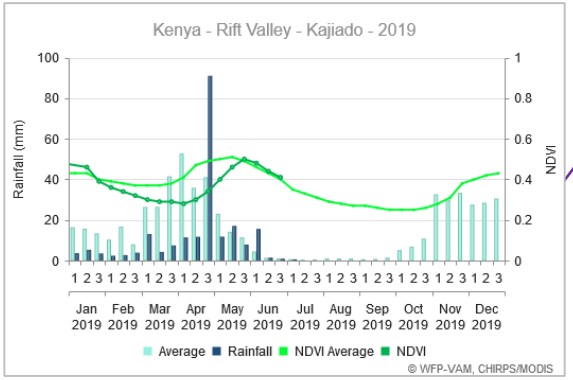
While the seasonal rains recharged water sources to an extent, current water resources are low or depleted and will impact on livestock production in affected areas until the short rains in October.

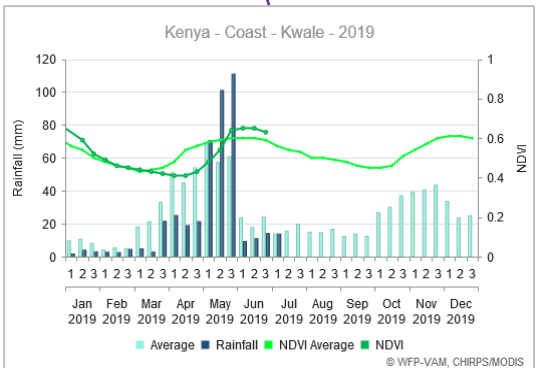


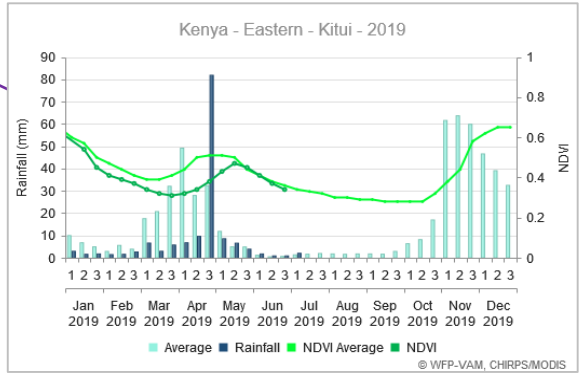










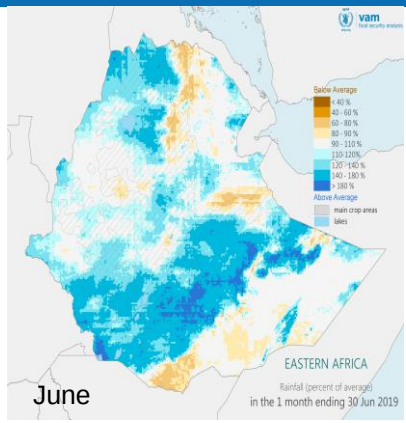


Ethiopia Focus

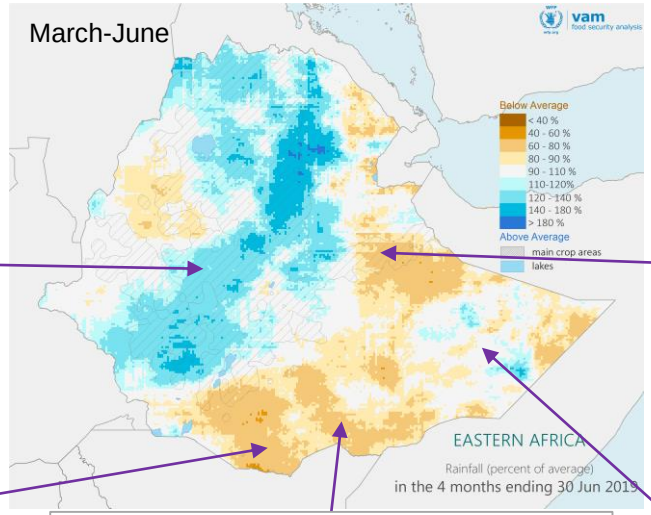
The pastoral areas in south and southeast that benefit from March-May rains experienced similar problems like other countries in the horn of Africa, characterised by delayed start of season, high temperatures and uneven distribution over space and time. Although the rains improved in May, the situation largely remained below-average except in isolated areas.

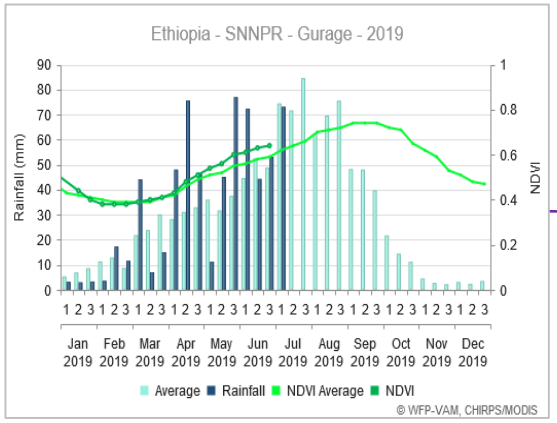
Because of rainfall deficits, vegetation development remained below-average until end of May. The graphs below show that although the vegetation condition was near-normal in June, it is on the decline following the cessation of the long rains in May. Water resources are also low/depleted, both of which will impact on the livestock sector in coming months.

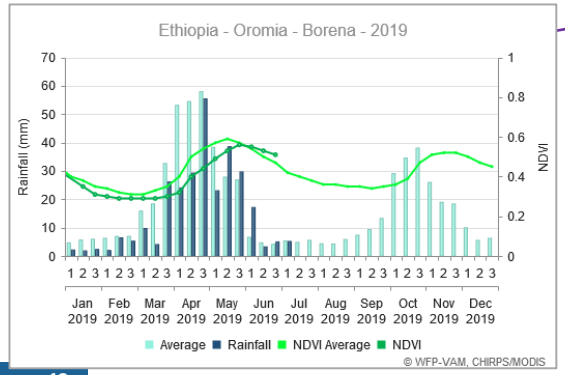
For the western, northern and central regions, in addition to the rains received during the March-May period, there was intensified rainfall in June leading to near-normal/above-average situation necessary for supporting Meher crop production. However, in early July rainfall declined in some locations that could negatively impact on crop development. Monitoring the progress of season is required.

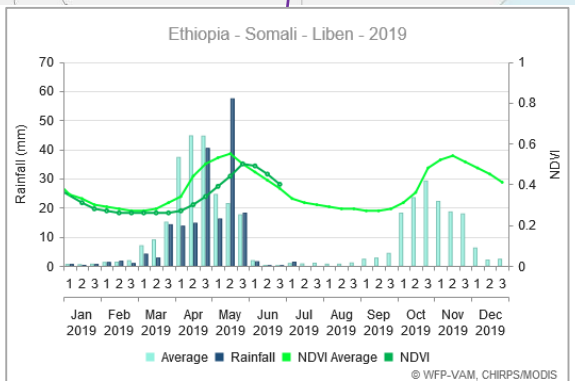


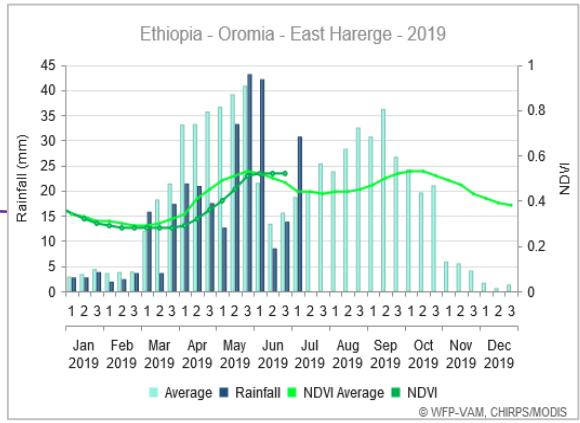
June

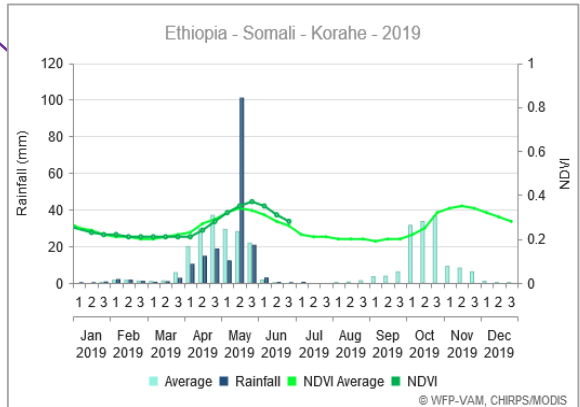












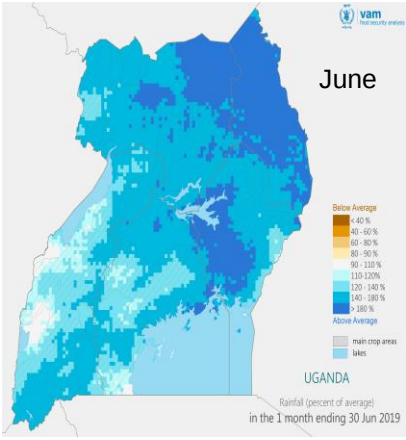
Uganda Focus

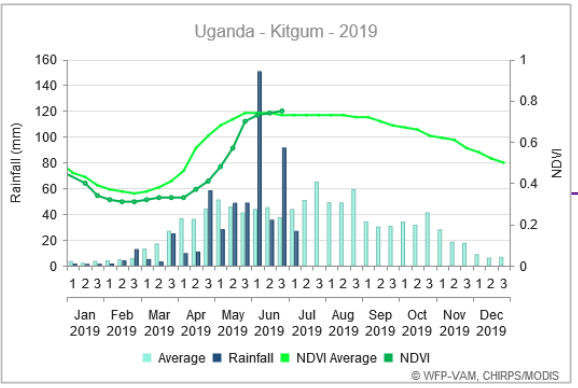
Rainfall started late delaying crop planting in bimodal areas while affecting early planted ones. The rains intensified in April and May and continued in June thereby providing favourable conditions for crop development.

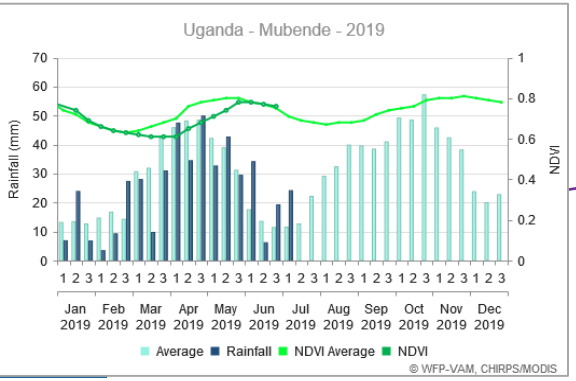
The cumulative performance over March-June period has been normal to above-normal except in parts of west and southwest. In these areas the first season crops development may have been affected as illustrated by below-average NDVI performance during March-May. Although the situation recovered by June, there is likelihood of reduced production in affected areas.

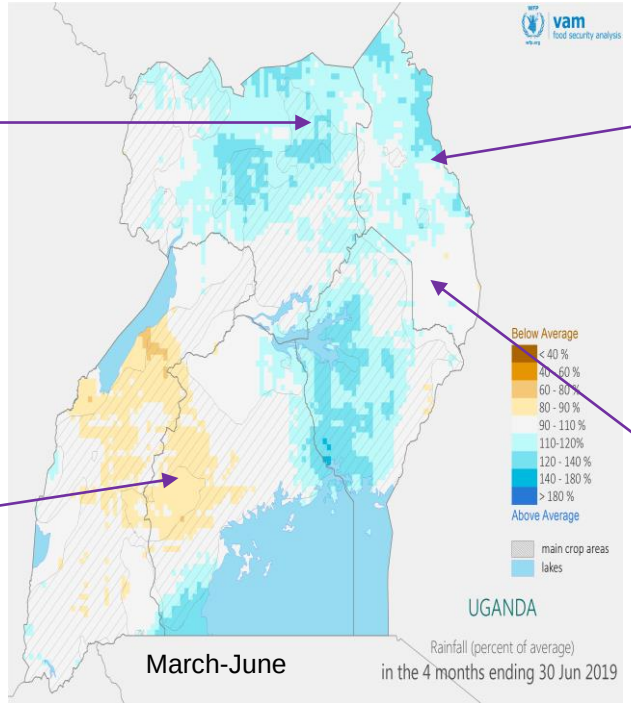
In Acholi (north) and Karamoja, where the season and crop planting started, improved rains in May and June have allowed for crop and pasture development. Production may however be affected by flooding and waterlogging incidences resulting from above-average rains.

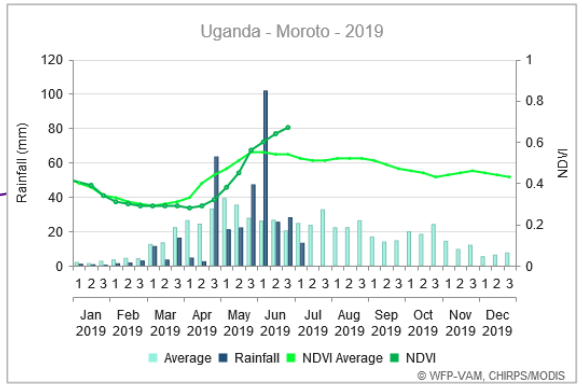
By June, the vegetation had improved to normal or above-normal in most locations. In Karamoja, this will enhance the availability of pastures for livestock.

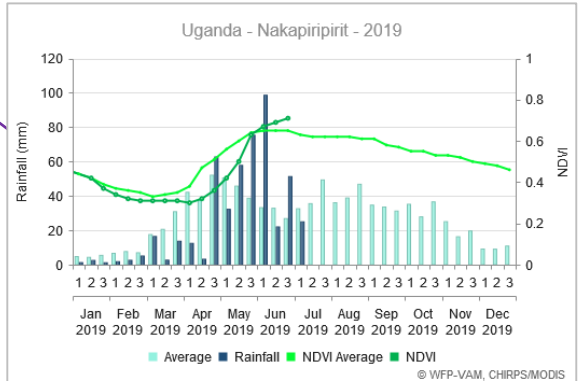










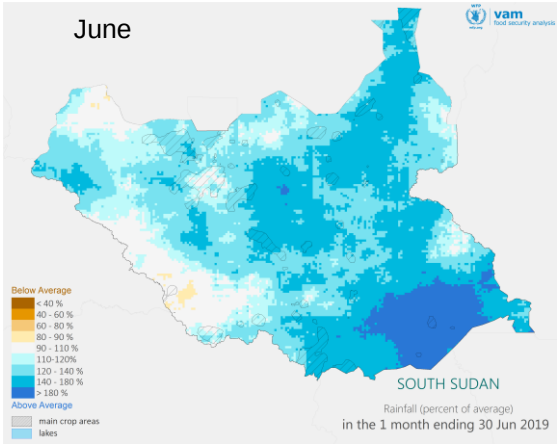


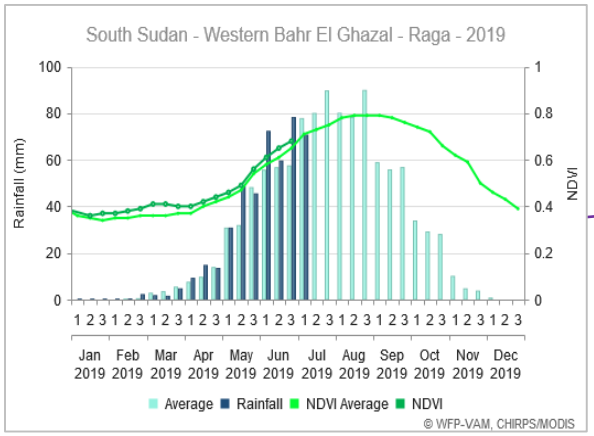
South Sudan Focus

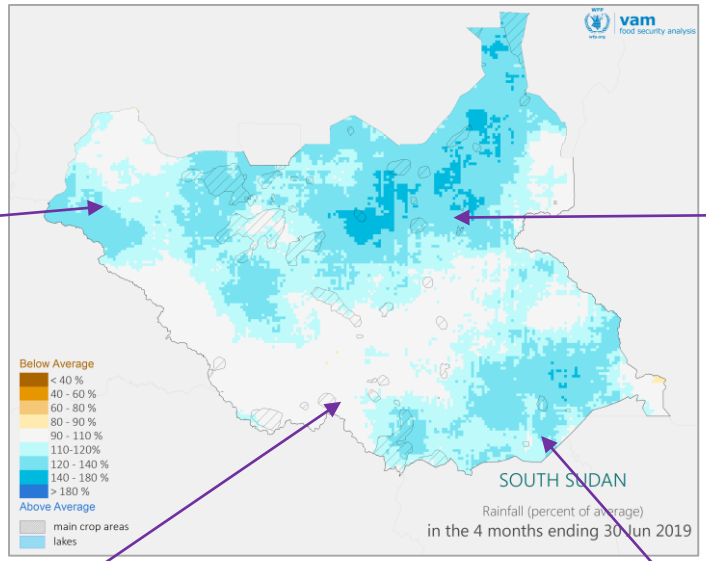
South Sudan was not much affected by drought conditions as other countries in the Horn of Africa. Nevertheless, the March-May season which supports first crop season in Equatorial areas, the bread-basket of the country, was delayed leading to late crop planting in some locations. This could delay the seasonal harvests, extending the critical lean season. The rains intensified from May through June resulting in above-average conditions in many areas of the country (Map on upper right).

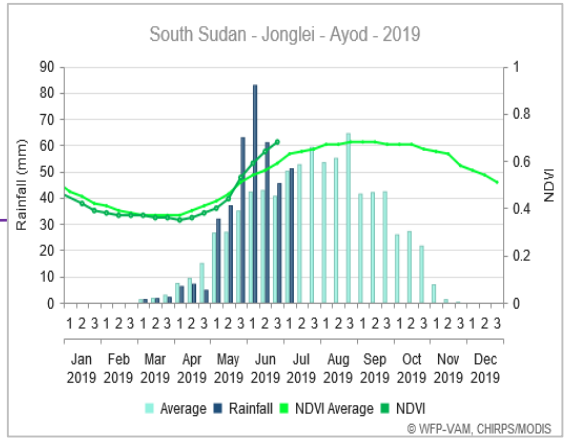
While improved rains supported growing conditions to normal or above-normal status (see the graphs), it also resulted in flooding incidences in parts of Jonglei (Ayod) and Northern Bahr el ghazal (Aweil) that may negatively impact on crop development by destroying farmlands and planted crops in the most affected areas. Flooding will also hinder physical accessibility for humanitarian operations but will increase fishing opportunities for food.

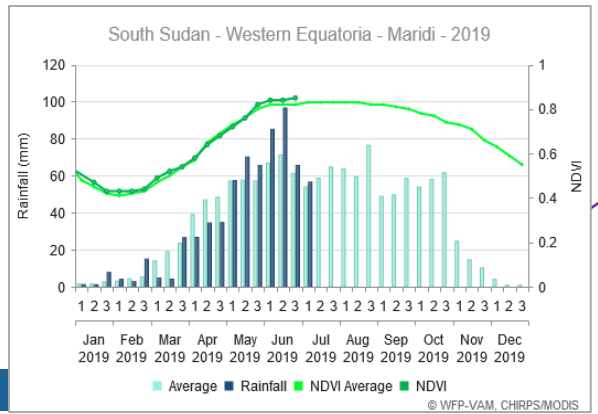
Flooding in proximity to Nile River and northern states normally takes place from August given insitu precipitation and runoff accumulations from upper catchments in East Africa and Ethiopia. Although there were indications of declining precipitation in early July (slide 5), there is need for continued monitoring of the situation for response as need arise.

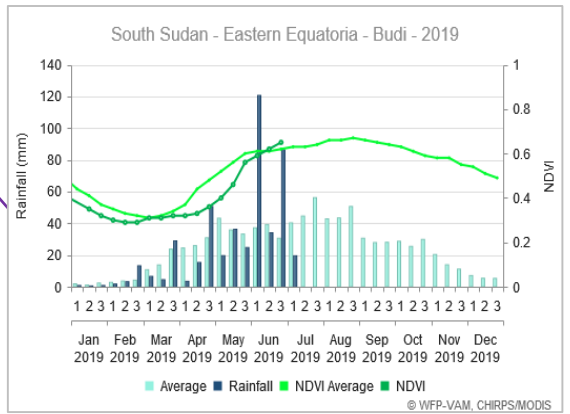




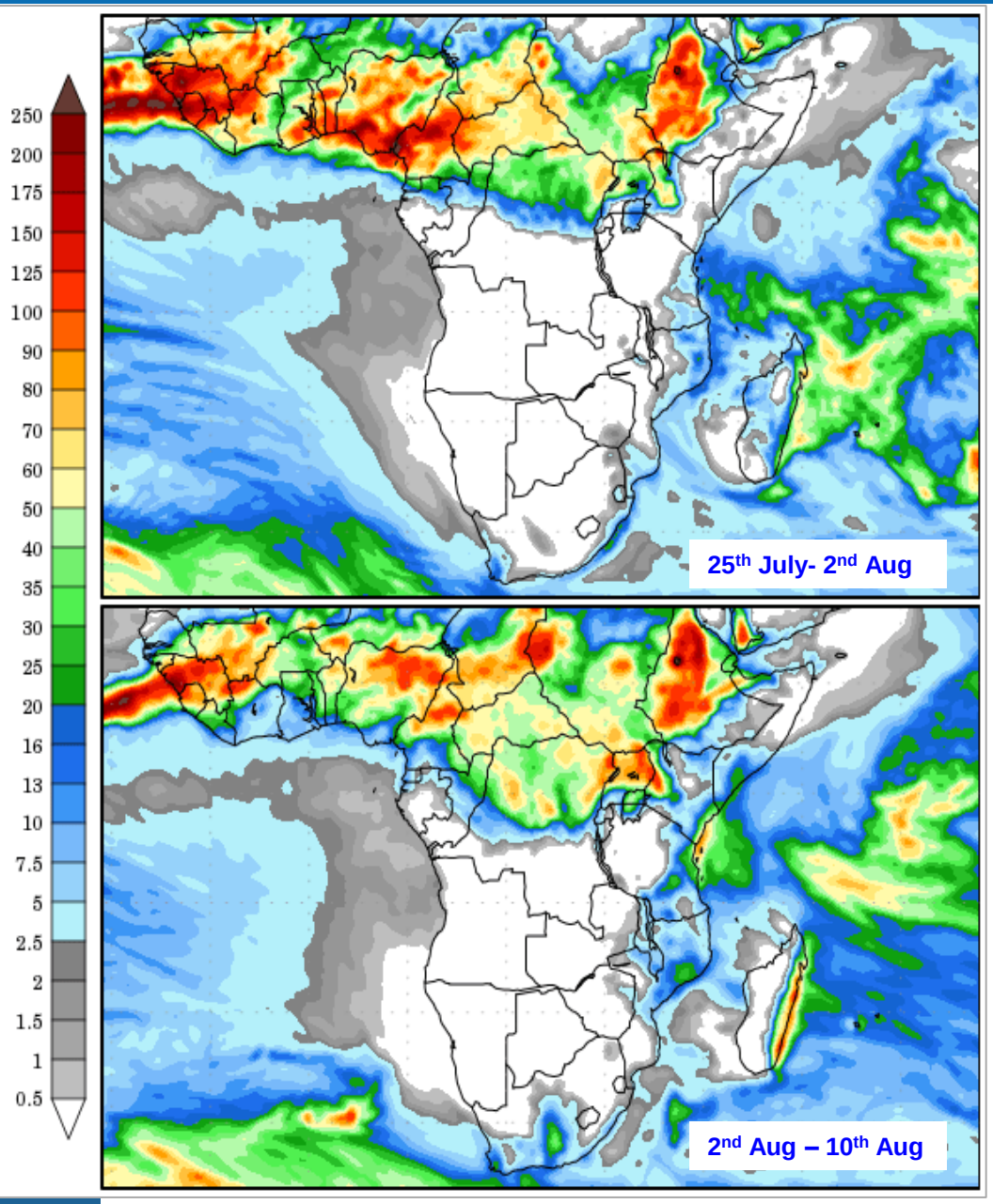








Rainfall forecast: up to 10th Aug 2019



The forecast by the North Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP) predict the rains to continue in Ethiopia, South Sudan, Uganda, Djibouti, Eritrea, northwest Somalia and northwest Kenya over the period 25th July – 10th August 2019. Other areas of the region will remain generally dry over this period.

Source: http://wxmaps.org/outlooks.php

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

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