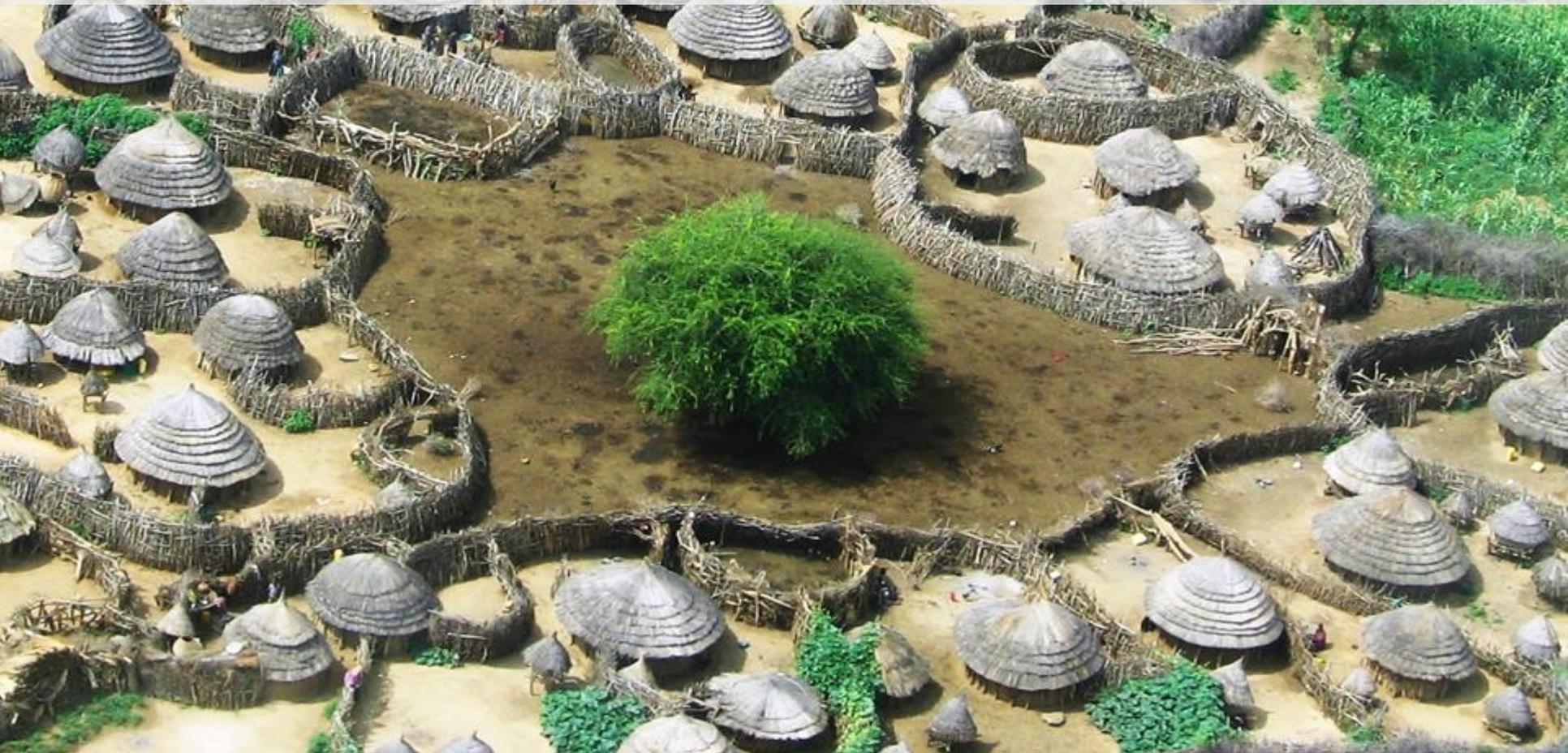


# East Africa Season 2019



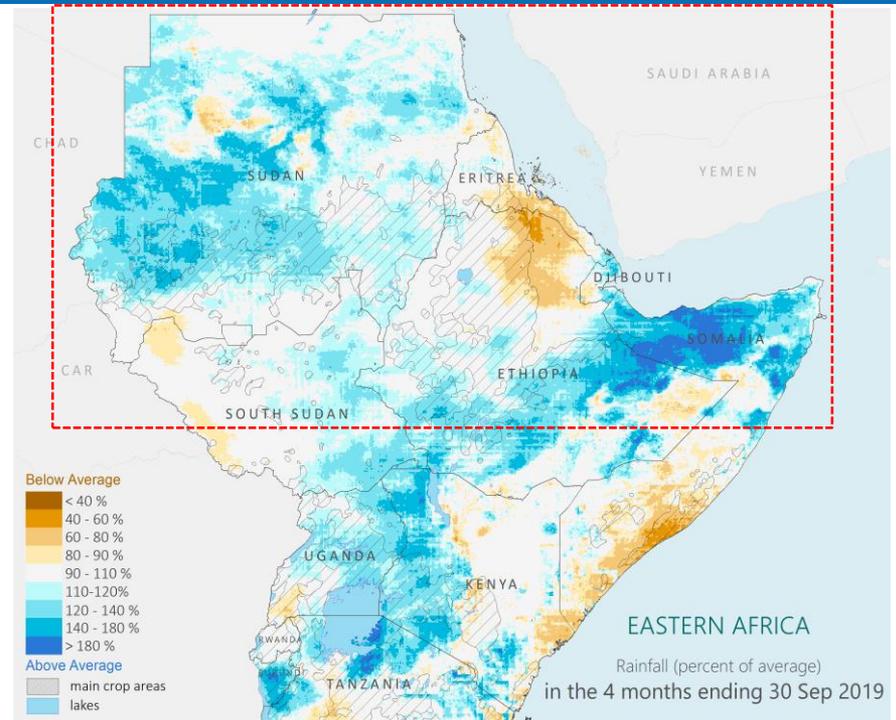
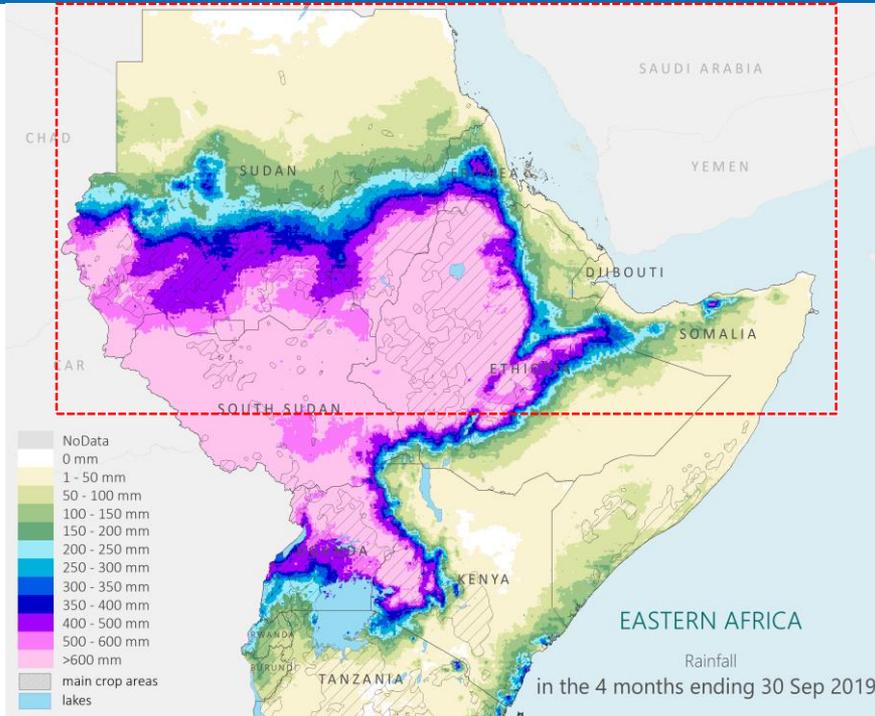
November 2019

# HIGHLIGHTS OF JUNE-SEPT & OCT-NOV PERIODS

This bulletin provides an overview of the June to September season for northern countries and the October to early November short rains for equatorial areas.

- Cumulatively, the June-September seasonal rains in northern areas performed favourably except in northeast Ethiopia, eastern Eritrea and inland Djibouti. There was timely or early start of season in June providing an opportunity for crop cultivation but the distribution across the months however varied, with below-average performance in July and August, which may have impacted on planted crops in some locations. Generally, a favourable seasonal harvest is expected.
- In the equatorial region, the June-September period remained dry following the declined/ cessation of rains by end of May/early June. This limited the recovery of late planted crops in southeastern and coastal Kenya, and southern Somalia, which led to reduced harvests in July-August. The vegetation condition in pastoral areas started deteriorating and by September it significantly impacted on the availability of pastures leading to livestock outmigration and concentration, declining body condition, livestock deaths (Mandera, Kenya) and conflicts over dwindling grazing resources.
- In October, the rains continued in parts of northern sector and started in the equatorial areas (October-December short rains). The above-average performance provided the much-needed relief in pastoral areas except in parts of eastern Kenya, central and northeast Somalia. The rains have however declined in early November but it is still early to conclude on the monthly performance.
- The vegetation condition has improved greatly signalling crop development in agricultural areas and availability of livestock grazing resources. Water resources have also improved except in isolated locations in northwest Kenya and along Somalia-Ethiopia border. Availability of water and pastures minimises livestock outmigration and competition for resources.
- The rains received during June-September caused flooding in South Sudan, Ethiopia, Sudan and parts of Karamoja (Uganda). The intense rains in October heightened the flooding including in Kenya and Somalia affecting many people. Majority are in South Sudan (over 750,000), Ethiopia (570,000 including over 202,000 displaced mainly in Somali region), Somalia (547,000 including over 300,000 displaced), and Kenya (over 100,000). The heavy rains and flooding have also destroyed croplands and crops, killed livestock (northeast Kenya and Ethiopia), damaged infrastructure, and constrained access to social services (health, schools, markets etc.) and hindered logistic/transportation operations among others.
- The forecasts for December (NMME) indicate possibility of rains continuing in many areas of equatorial region that will likely lead to more flash and riverine flooding given that in many areas the soil moisture is saturated. Severe flooding incidences with serious repercussions on humanitarian operations may result, hence, the need for early preparedness and monitoring. Incidences of waterborne related diseases, emergence of livestock diseases due to increased wetness, and post-harvest losses in areas where harvesting is due may also increase. However, November rains will be an opportunity for rangeland regeneration and water replenishment in areas that have not received sufficient rains, such as central and northeast Somalia.

# June to Sept 2019: Overall rainfall performance



The June-September season is critical for production in the northern sector areas of South Sudan, northern Somalia, Sudan, Ethiopia (except southern) Djibouti, Eritrea and northern Uganda.

The season started on time while in some areas it was a continuation due to rains received in May.

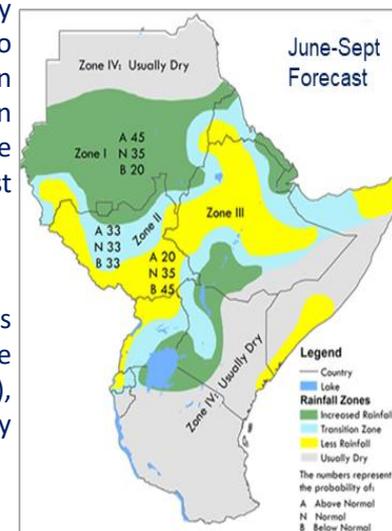
Cumulatively, most areas received over 400mm except northeast Ethiopia (Afar), Djibouti, most of Eritrea and northern Sudan (Map on left). Favourable crop production is expected except in areas affected by floods.

High amount of rainfall received in Uganda and western Kenya was an extension of April-May rains. It allowed for late planted crops to recover. Most pastoral areas in Kenya, Somalia, SE Ethiopia had minimal/no rain in line with the season.

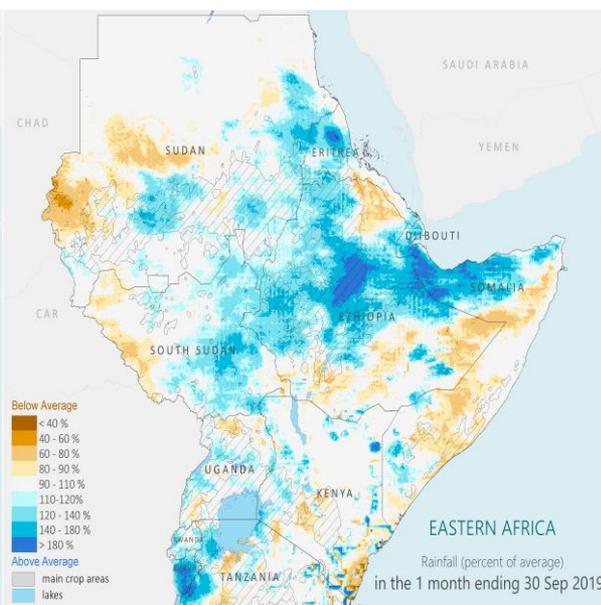
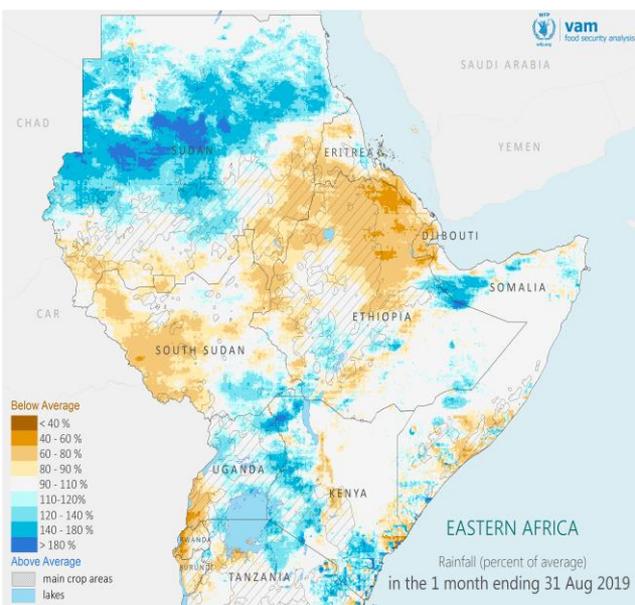
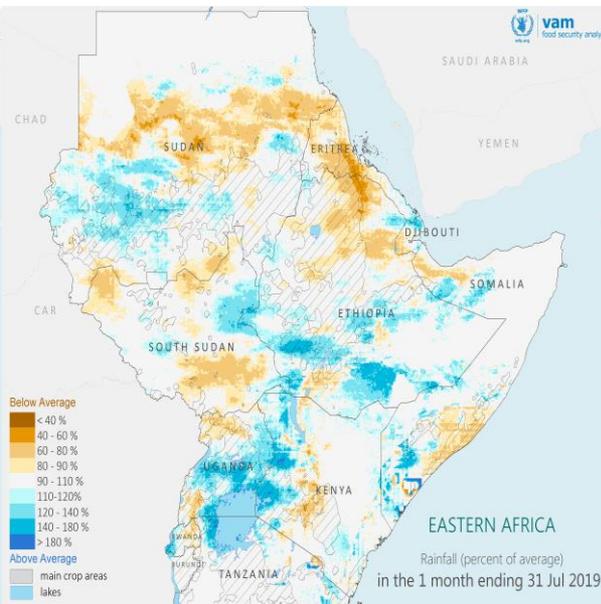
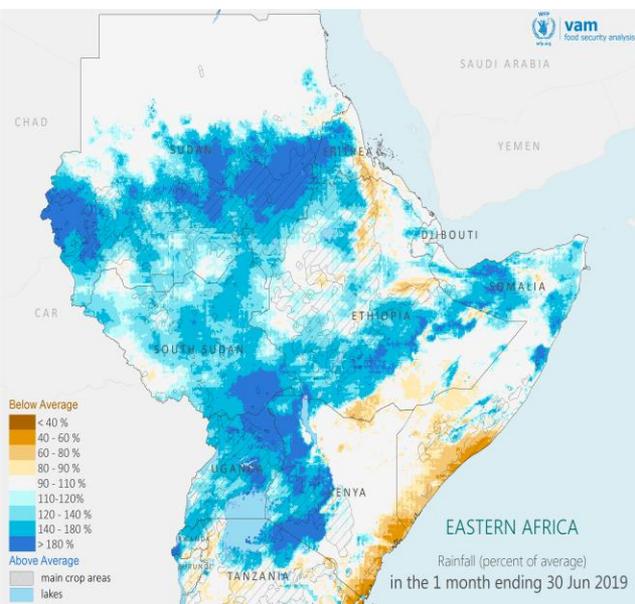
By the end of September when the season normally ends, most northern areas had received near- to above-normal rains except northeast Ethiopia, eastern Eritrea, inland Djibouti, and isolated areas in western South Sudan (Map on right). To some extent, the performance was in line with the IGAD ICPAC forecast for June-September season (map on lower right).

In some places the rains continued in October.

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



# June - Sept 2019: Spatial-Temporal Distribution of Rainfall



While the overall season seemed to have performed relatively well in most northern areas, the distribution across space and time varied.

In June, normal to above-average rains were experienced in most northern sector areas (except parts of Eritrea and northeast Ethiopia), Uganda and western Kenya. This was a continuation of long-rains in equatorial areas that started in late April and peaked in May. As a result, flooding occurred in parts of Ethiopia, South Sudan and Sudan with impacts on crop development and other sectors.

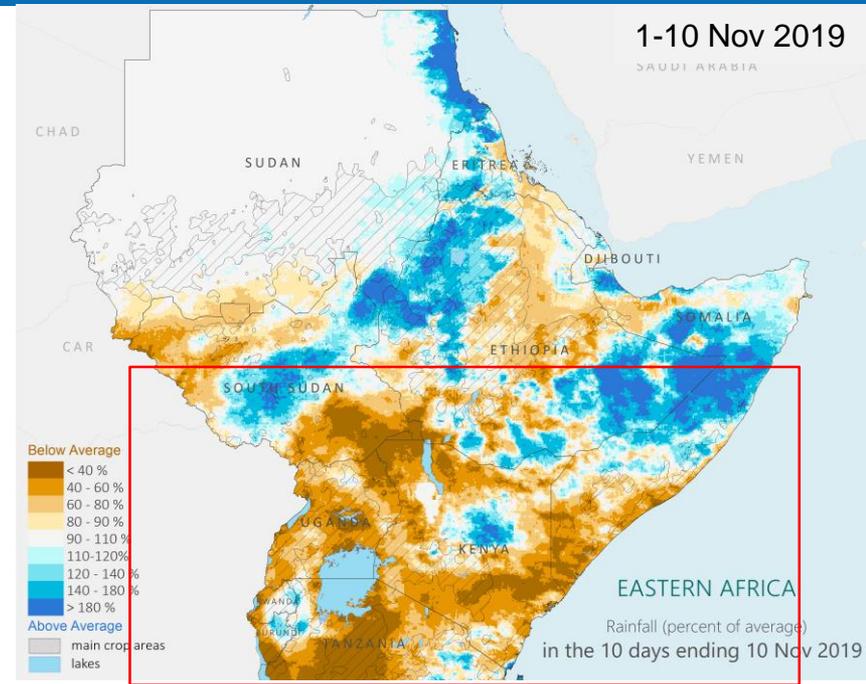
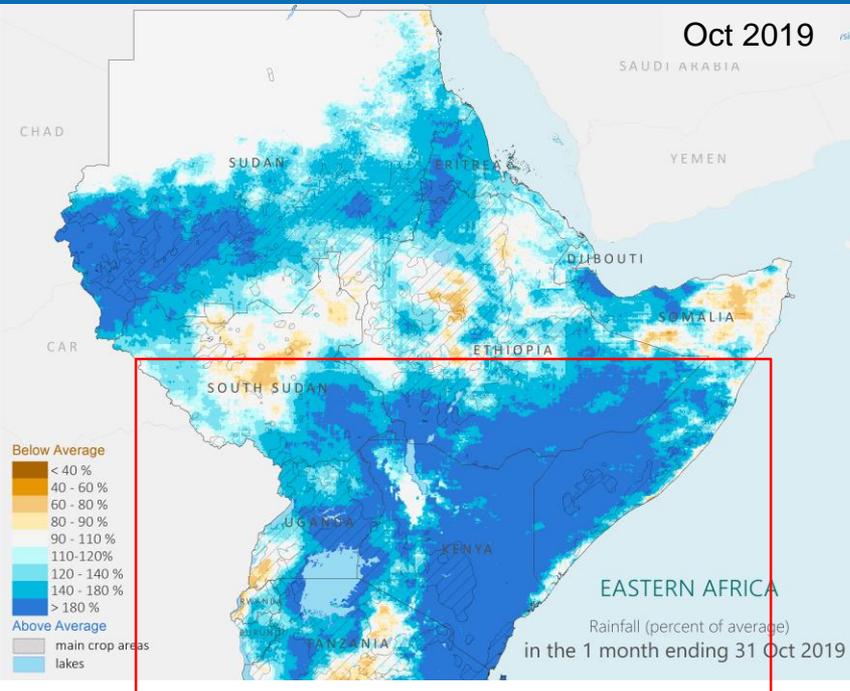
In pastoral and agro-pastoral areas of Kenya, Somalia and SE Ethiopia, the rains declined to climatological normal in line with the season. This impacted on late planted crops in marginal areas of Kenya and Somalia as they were not able to recover leading to reduced production. It also hindered rangeland recovery.

In July and August, rainfall declined in most areas with parts of Ethiopia, South Sudan and Sudan recording below-average rains with possible impacts on crop development.

The rains however improved in September to near-normal and above-normal conditions, especially in Ethiopia and northern Somalia.

The near-normal/enhanced rains in northwest Somalia provided moisture for late planted sorghum, which might lead to an improved harvests in November/December.

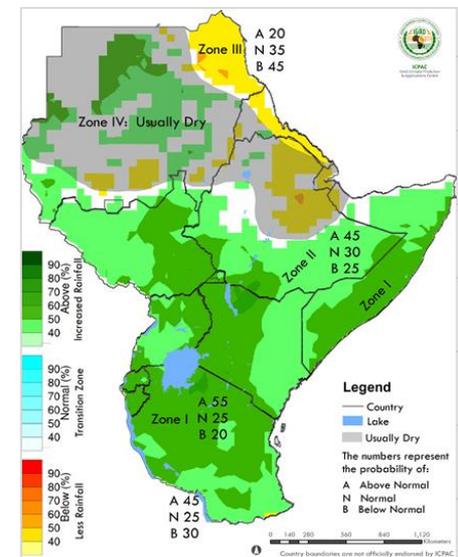
# October-November 2019: Rainfall Performance



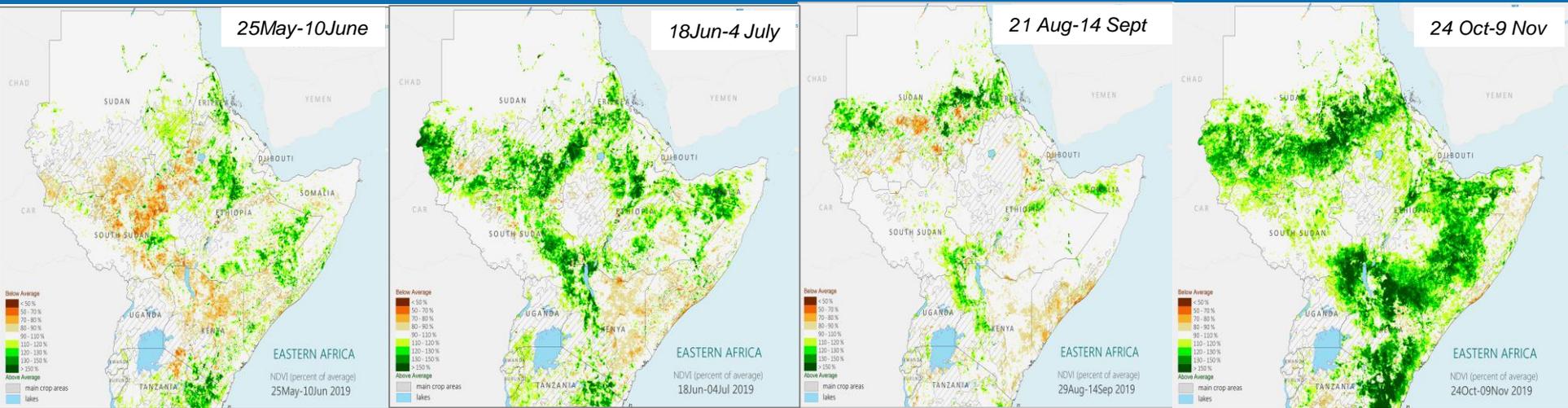
October marks the start of the short-rains in equatorial areas of Kenya, Somalia, Uganda, Burundi, Rwanda, southern Ethiopia. The Greater Horn of Africa Climate Outlook forecasted probability of enhanced wetness in most of these areas over the October-December season (Map on lower right).

In October, most areas received above-average rains especially in the pastoral areas of Kenya, southern Ethiopia and southern Somalia. However, in the first 10 days of November, the rains have declined in most equatorial areas to below-average performance. To some extent this might ease the flooding experienced in some locations following the intense October rains.

However, it is early to conclude on the overall seasonal performance given that the short rains normally peak in November and if they do so as forecasted, they will continue supporting rangelands recovery and crop production in Somalia and marginal agricultural areas of Kenya previously affected by two consecutive poor seasons.



# June to October 2019: Vegetation performance

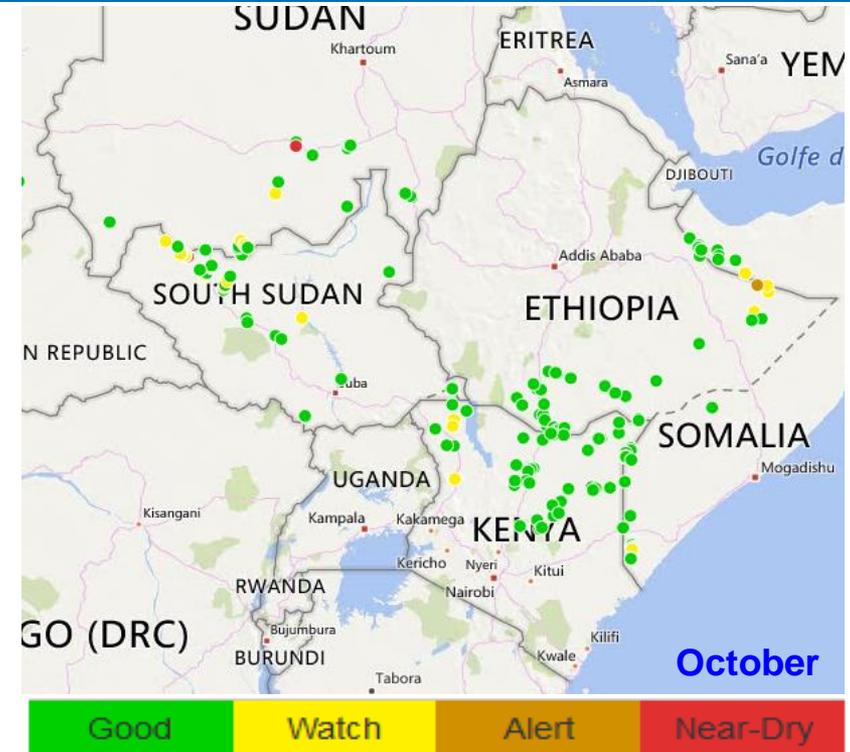
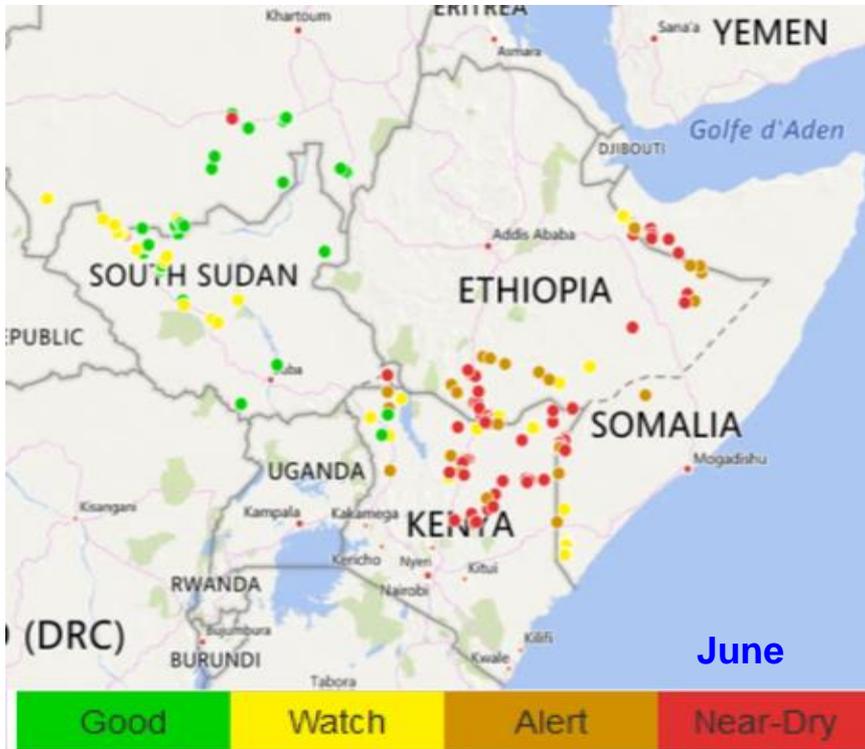


In northern areas, the vegetation condition generally followed the rainfall pattern with improvement in June, a decline in August/September and later improvement in late October. In parts of Sudan, the below-average condition observed in August may have resulted from flooding following above-average rains received over July-August period.

On the other hand, the pastoral areas of Kenya and Somalia that suffered from insufficient moisture during the March-May long-rains remained in below-average condition. Coupled with the effects of consecutive poor season since October-December 2018, earlier than normal deterioration driven by dry weather and high temperatures was observed. For instance, the above-average vegetation in parts of central Somalia, southeast Kenya and southeast Ethiopia evident by end of May had deteriorated by late June. By September, the deteriorating rangeland condition significantly impacted on the availability of pasture for livestock leading to outmigration and concentration, declining body condition, livestock deaths (Mandera, Kenya) and conflicts (including livestock-wildlife conflicts) over dwindling grazing resources.

With the above-average rains in October, vegetation has greatly improved to normal or above-normal except in parts of eastern Kenya, central and northeastern Somalia due to below-average rains. In southern Somalia, below-average vegetation condition is attributed to damage effects by river and flash floods. The improved vegetation condition signals availability of livestock grazing resources as well as crop development in southern Somalia and marginal agriculture areas of Kenya. Improvement in central and northeast Somalia is expected if the seasonal rains progress as forecasted.

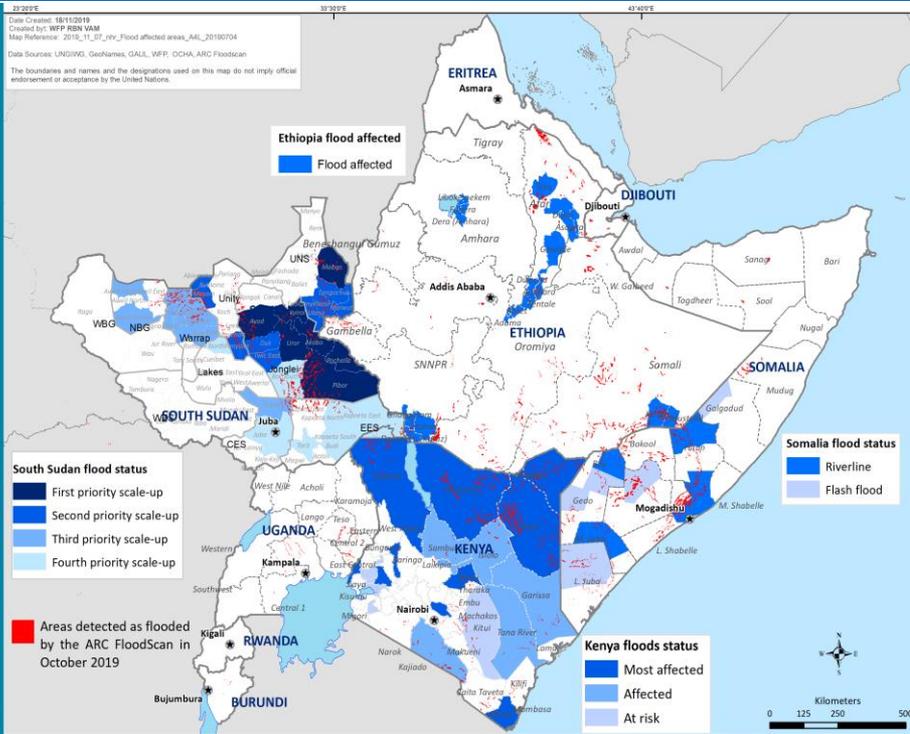
# June - October 2019: Water resources



The FEWSNet water points monitoring system shows very significant improvement in water resources compared to end of the long-rains season in May/June. By then most water points were nearly depleted owing to below-average long-rains placing severe stress on pastoralist communities. This necessitated livestock outmigration or increased the need for water-trucking to meet livestock and human consumption needs.

Currently, water level in most monitored points is good except in northwest Kenya and along the Somalia-Ethiopia border where the situation is under watch or alert. This signals water availability for livestock (and possibly for human consumption) in most areas, which lowers the need for livestock outmigration.

# October 2019: Flooding incidences



Flooding incidences have been reported in parts of South Sudan, Ethiopia, Sudan and Uganda since July. In Kenya and Somalia, flooding started in with the start of October-December rains.

The map shows areas reported as flooded (OCHA) and those detected as flooded in October through remotely sensed data by the Africa Riskview Capacity (ARC). The photos below show some of the areas affected in South Sudan, Ethiopia and Somalia respectively.

By early November, OCHA estimates 2.5 million people have been affected in the Greater Horn of Africa region. Among the affected are South Sudan (over 750,000), Somalia (547,000 and 370,000 of them displaced), Ethiopia 570,000 including over 202,000 who are displaced mainly in Somali region, and 144,000 in Kenya. The number could increase if the rains continue as forecasted.

In addition, the heavy rains and flooding/waterlogging have destroyed croplands and crops, killed livestock in northeast Kenya and Ethiopia, damaged infrastructure, and posed access constraints to services (health, schools, markets etc.) and logistic/transportation operations among others.

Pibor town, South Sudan



Shabelle zone, Ethiopia



Wabi Shabelle IDP camp (Belet weyne town), southern Somalia



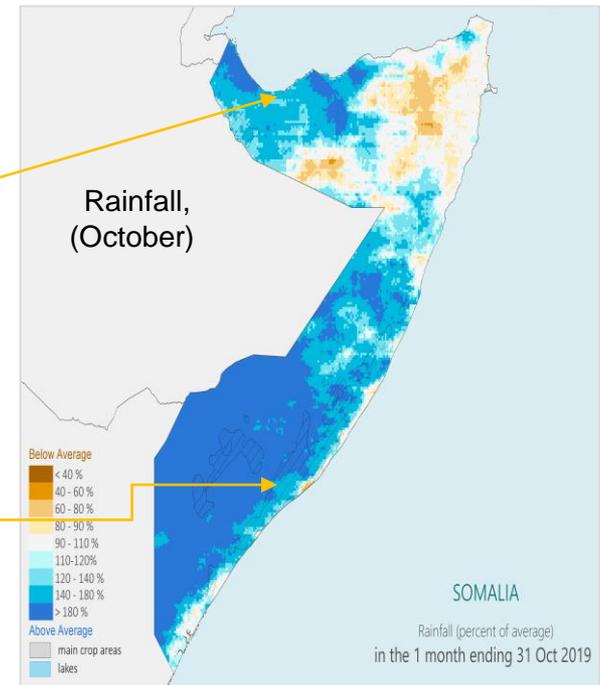
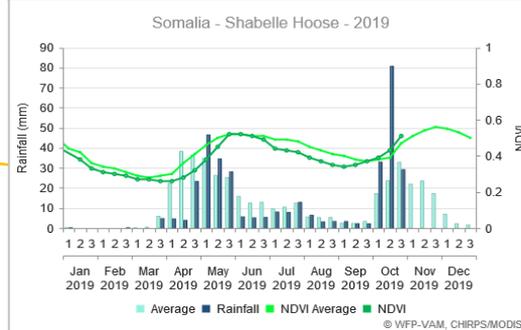
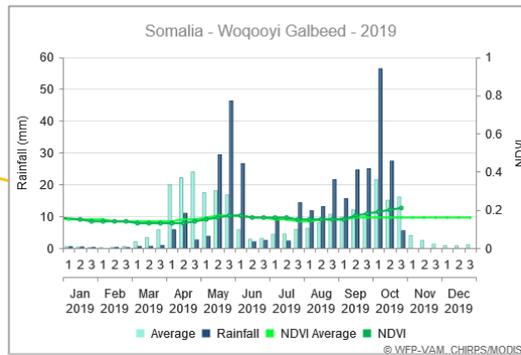
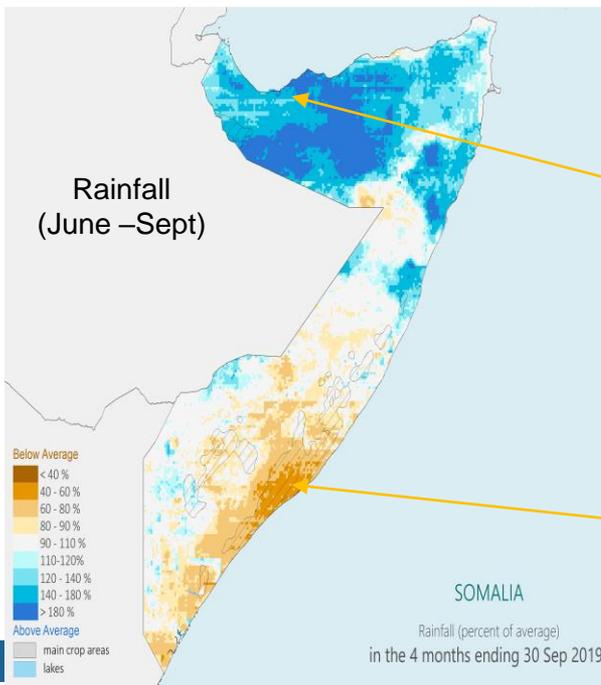
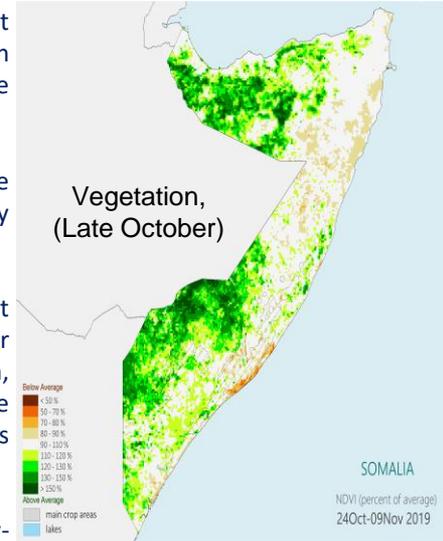
# Somalia Focus

The April-June Gu 2019 rains started late, were short-lived and were generally below-average which led to poor crop development and rangeland regeneration to offset the previous drought effects of consecutive poor seasons. As a result, cereal production in southern agricultural areas in August 2019 was the lowest since 1995 and estimated at 68 percent lower than the long-term average (1995-2018).

The above-average June-September (*Karan*) rains (map on lower left) benefitted late planted sorghum in Northwest and there are prospects for improved harvests in November/December. However, the pastoral areas remained relatively dry and characterised by hot temperatures that affected pasture availability, which triggered livestock outmigration.

With the onset of Deyr rains, above-average rains were received in October in southern and northwest (Map on lower right) that allowed for start of agricultural activities in southern and central areas. However, the intense nature and river flows from upper catchments in Ethiopia led to riverline flooding in Hirshabelle, Jubaland and South West states; and flash floods in Banadir region, Jowhar in Hirshabelle, Ceel Cade and Jamame in Jubaland and in some locations in South West State. About 547,000 people are affected with 370,000 of them being displaced (OCHA). Flooding has also affected agricultural activities in the riverline growing areas in the south.

By late October, vegetation had improved to above-average condition except in central and northeastern Somalia due to below-average rains (Map on upper right) while. Locust invasion in parts of northwest and northeast (Bari region) as well as river and flash floods in southern areas are impacting on vegetation posing challenge to pasture availability for livestock.



# Kenya Focus

The March-May long rains varied significantly across the country. The high and medium production areas benefited from late but adequate rains for an extended period that allowed for sufficient crop recovery.

In marginal agricultural areas, delayed onset of rainfall, poor distribution and insufficient amount compromised crop development such that production was only 20-25 percent of normal. Similarly, rangelands failed to recover fully limiting availability of pastures and water for livestock.

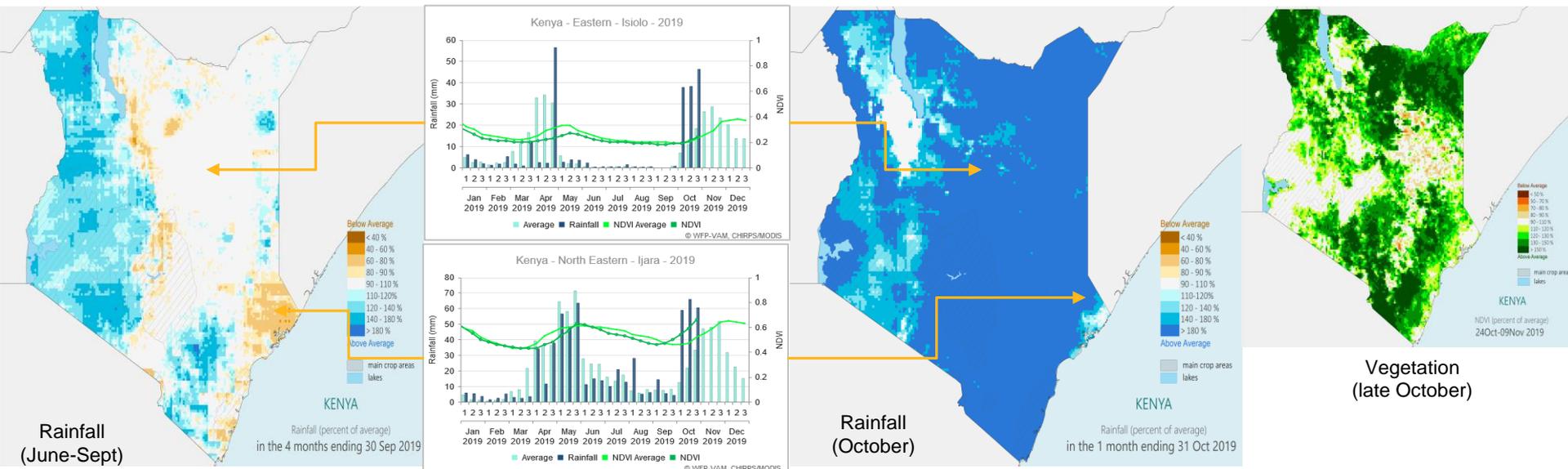
With the exception of northwest where some rains were received between June and September, the rest of Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASAL) experienced dry weather and high temperatures that led to faster deterioration of range resources (pastures and water). This prompted livestock outmigration, conflict over resources, deterioration of livestock body condition, reduced productivity and production, and lowered the consumption of livestock based products. The worst hit counties being in northeast Kenya.

In October, the short-rains intensified and were above-average in nearly the entire country. This has led to improved vegetation condition except in some eastern parts where it is yet to fully recover.

Favourable short-rains will allow for crop planting especially in marginal agricultural areas (southeast and coast) previously affected by droughts, in addition to replenishing water for livestock and human consumption.

Negatively, the intense rains have resulted in riverline and flash floods, landslides and mudslides that have affected several areas in north-eastern, central and coastal regions with Wajir county being among the worst hit. Over 100,000 people are affected (OCHA).

The country experienced a similar situation following the 2018 March-May long rains with varying impacts on population and production sectors. Therefore, there is a need to monitor the likely incidence of waterborne diseases, emergence of livestock diseases due to increased wetness, and support farmers in areas where harvesting is due (e.g. western and Rift Valley) to dry their produce to minimise post-harvest losses.



# Ethiopia Focus

June-September rains support crop production in western areas and Belg producing zones. It also supports rangeland regeneration in northern pastoral areas. Overall, the 2019 rains performed well and were near-normal to above-normal in most of the western areas allowing for Meher crop production. It was only in northeast areas of Afar and Tigray where the seasonal amounts were below-average.

The major drawback in the season was the intense and above-average rains that affected parts of the country through destruction of farmlands (e.g. in Tigray and Amhara), displacement of people, delayed planting (in south and east Tigray), and occurrence of landslides in SNNPR.

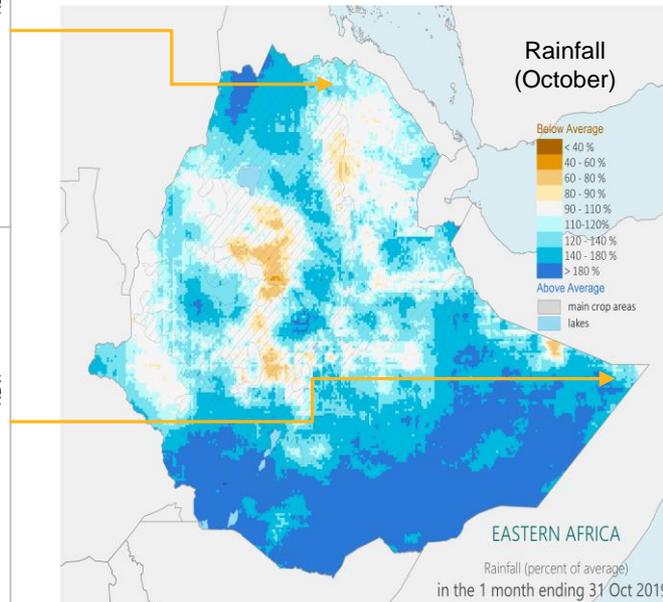
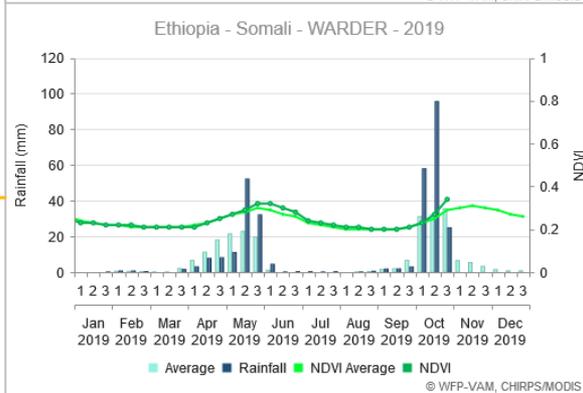
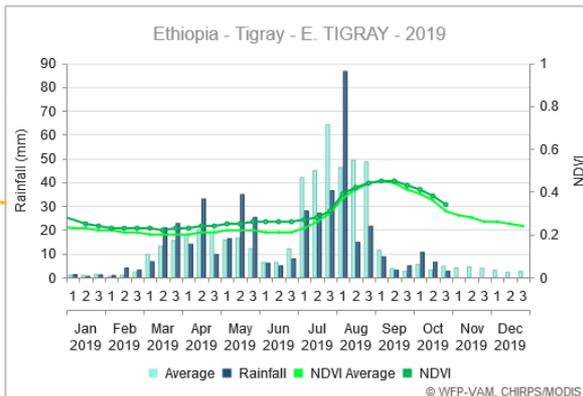
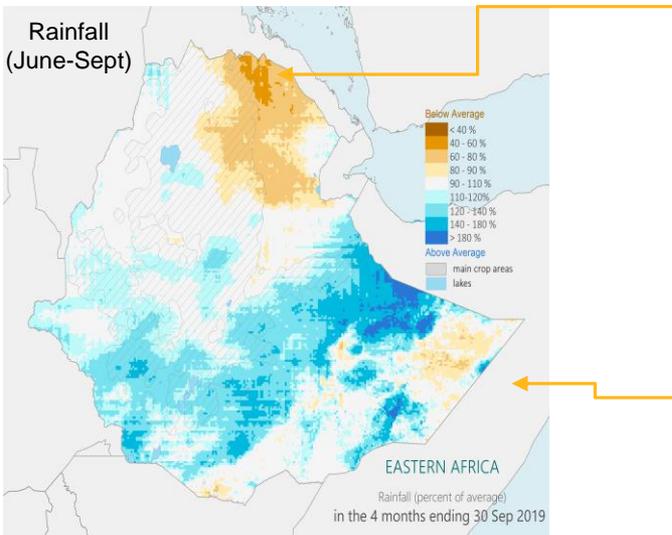
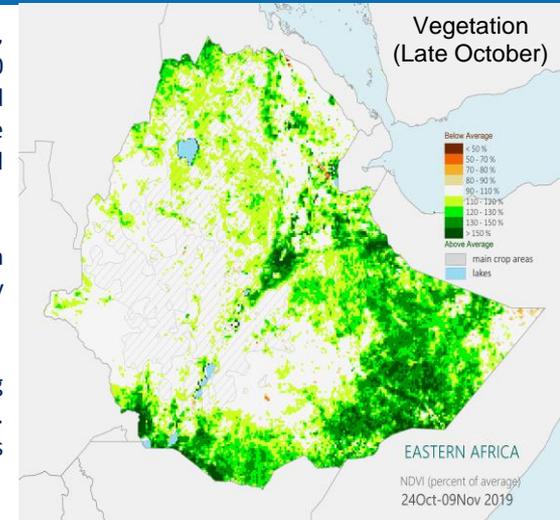
The temporal distribution was also affected in some Belg growing areas whereby dry spells were experienced during the growing period which affected crop performance.

In October, above-average short-rains were experienced with most areas in southern and western regions experiencing over 100mm of rain. This is in addition to previously received rains during June-September period.

Widespread flooding has affected parts of Somali, Afar, Oromiya, Gambella and SNNPR regions with over 500,000 people being affected (over 200,000 of them being displaced including IDPs in Dollo Ado Woreda). This has increased the humanitarian assistance needs despite hindered accessibility.

Increased moisture pose challenge to maturing crops in western and some Belg producing areas as it will likely increase post-harvest losses.

Vegetation has however improved tremendously including in southern pastoral areas previously affected by droughts. However, in some locations, livestock have difficulties accessing the pasture fields due to flooding waters.

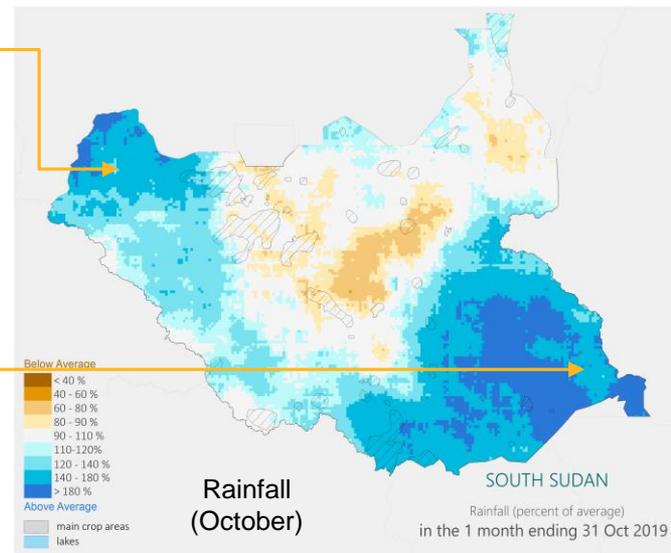
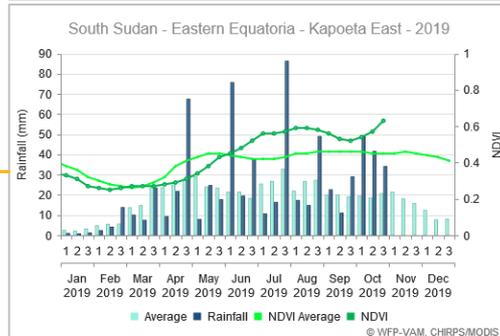
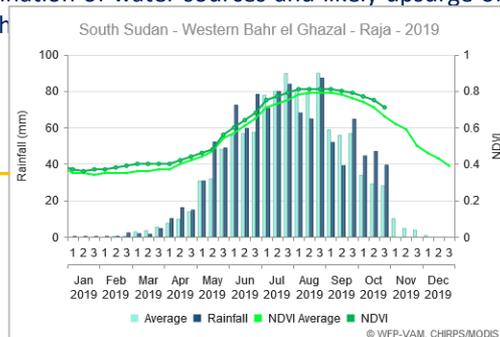
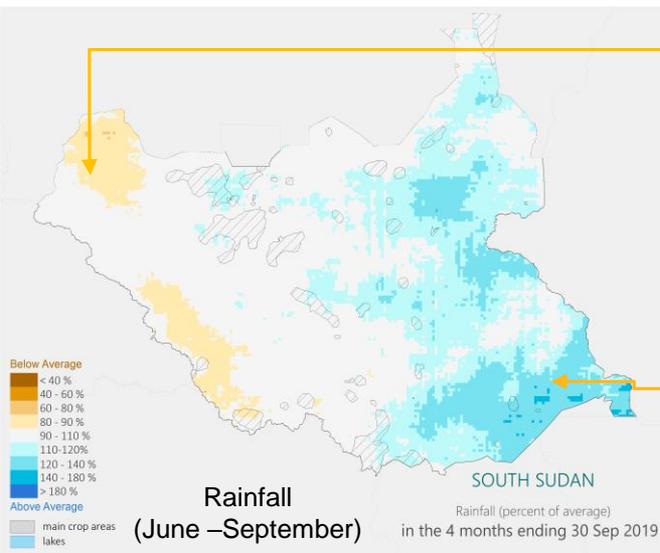
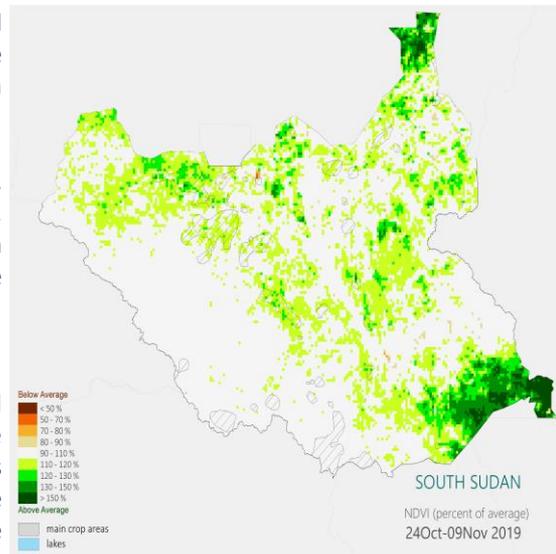


# South Sudan Focus

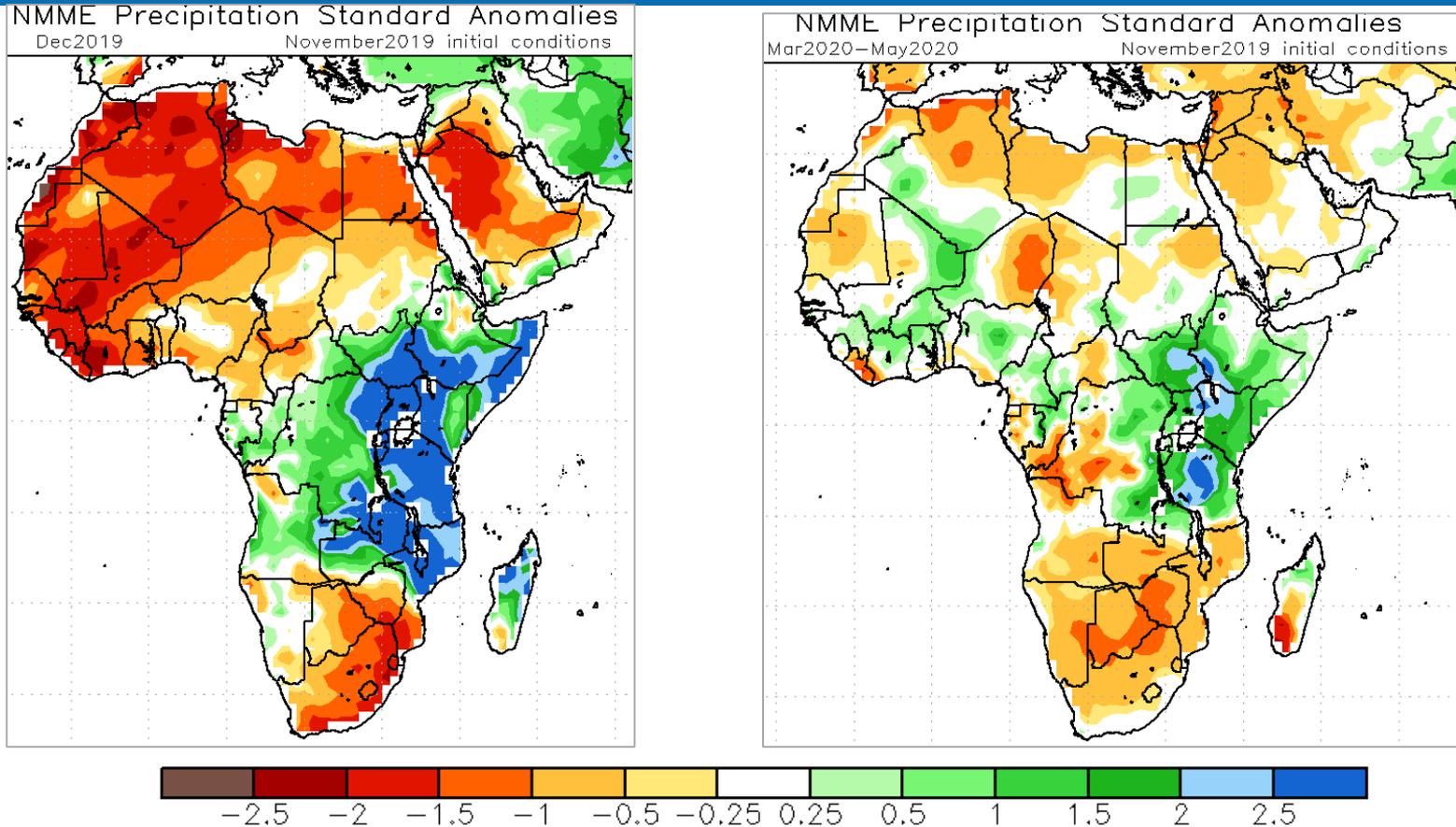
South Sudan has experienced favourable weather conditions in 2019 to support crop production, water replenishment and pasture regeneration for livestock. The March-June rains were near-normal to above-normal despite delayed start, and the June-September season for northern areas had been good except parts of western Bahr el Ghazal and Western Equatoria states with areas having below-average rains.

Unfortunately, since June the heavy rains have caused flooding in over 30 counties and affecting over 750,000 people. Among the worst hit counties are in Jonglei (Pibor, Pochalla, Nyirol, Uror, Ayod, Duk and Twic East), Upper Nile (Maban, Ulang, Luakpiny/Nasir, Maiwut & Longochuk), Unity (Mayendiet, Mayom and Abiemnhom). Other affected counties are in Eastern Equatoria, Central Equatoria, Warrap and Northern Bahr el Ghazal States. Rapid assessments and response to the affected population are on-going.

While flooding will increase access to fish for human consumption, it constrains logistical operations, destruction of planted crops which will lower the next harvests, has induced human displacement that is increasing vulnerability in a country faced by high food insecurity – 420,000 of the affected need urgent humanitarian assistance. Reports indicate that agencies are using resources meant for response during the dry season of 2020 to respond. This will likely increase funding gaps unless urgent funding becomes available. In Maban county where refugees are hosted, UNICEF points that 490,000 children are affected through constrained access to health facilities, contamination of water sources and likely upsurge of water-borne related diseases and malaria, inaccessibility to schools among others.



# Rainfall forecast



The North American Multi-Model Ensemble (NMME) forecasts for December predicts the possibility of above-average rains in several areas including northeast Somalia. The implication of the above is that areas that have not received sufficient rains, such as central and northeast Somalia will have an opportunity for rangeland regeneration and water replenishment. However, continued rains implies likely more flash and riverline flooding given that the soil moisture is saturated in many areas. Severe incidences of flooding with serious repercussions on humanitarian operations are therefore likely. Monitoring of the situation and preparedness for response need to be strengthened.

Similarly, the model predicts possibility of enhanced rains during the March-May 2020 which will further allow the region an opportunity to further recover from the effects of previous poor seasons.



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