

**vam**  
food security analysis

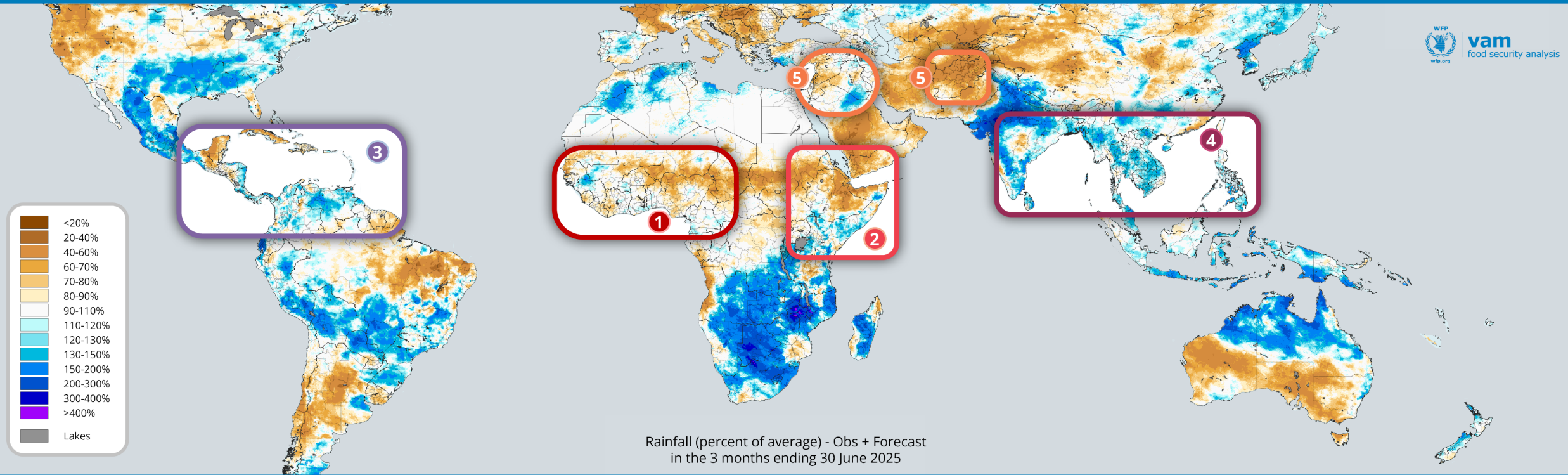
# Global Seasonal Outlook

June 2025



World Food  
Programme

SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES



# KEY HIGHLIGHTS

## ENSO OUTLOOK

ENSO-neutral conditions are expected to persist through the summer, with a possibility of continuing into the winter months.

### 1 WESTERN AFRICA



drought



flood

As the rainy season progresses in the Sahel, eastern areas are experiencing delayed rains while western regions see near-normal conditions. Forecasts offer hope for recovery but also warn of rising flood risks. In contrast, southern and western coastal countries may face below-average rainfall as the season advances.

### 2 EAST AFRICA



flood

April-June rains were uneven in Eastern Africa, with below average rainfall in Ethiopia, Sudan, and South Sudan, though recovery is still possible. Forecasts for July-September point to wetter weather, which could support crops and pastures but also increase flood and post-harvest loss risks.

### 3 C. AMERICA & CARIBBEAN



drought



cyclone

The 2025 Primera season has started under dry conditions in Central America and the Caribbean, especially in the Dry Corridor and Cuba, raising concerns for crop development. While some rainfall recovery occurred in June, forecasts point to continued dryness through September, alongside a heightened risk of storm-related disruptions.

### 4 SOUTH & S. E. ASIA



flood

The 2025 monsoon season has begun with mostly favorable rains supporting planting across South and Southeast Asia, though early flooding in some areas and continued wet forecasts raise concerns for localized impacts.

### 5 SPECIAL FOCUS

SYRIA, IRAQ, AFGHANISTAN



drought

The 2024-2025 poor rainfall season left major reservoirs in the Middle East and Central Asia critically low, threatening irrigation and water supply, challenges further worsened by rising summer temperatures that increase water demand and evaporation.



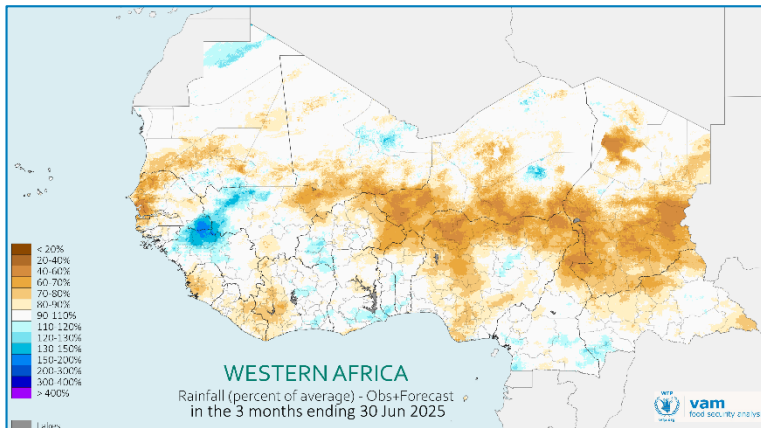


## Rains Progress Toward Sahel, But Uneven Distribution Raises Concerns

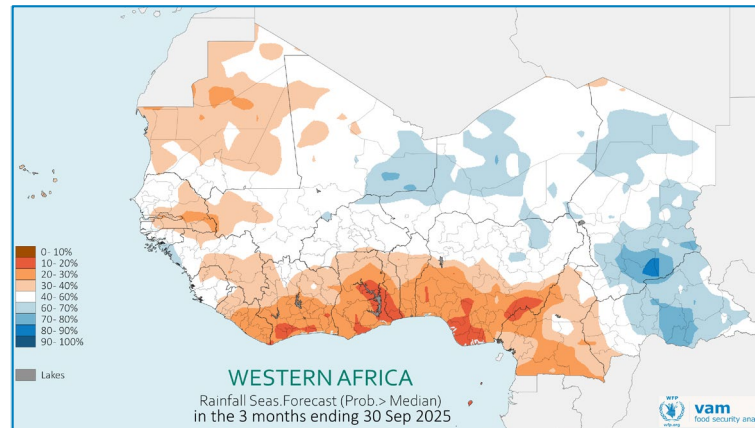
As the rainy season advances toward the Sahelian region, recent data indicate an uneven geographic distribution of rainfall. Eastern areas are experiencing below-average precipitation, while western parts remain more aligned with typical seasonal patterns, except western Senegal. This difference is due to the Inter-Tropical Front (ITF) not advancing far enough north, signalling a delayed onset of the West African Monsoon in eastern zones.

Key agricultural regions in Chad, Niger, northern Nigeria, and northern Cameroon are affected by this delay. Although some setbacks in land preparation and early sowing may have occurred, there remains an opportunity for recovery as the season is still in its early stages. Encouragingly, seasonal forecasts predict a strong likelihood of average to above-average rainfall through the core of the season. This projection offers reassurance of a low risk for prolonged dry conditions, which promises well for crop and pasture development. At the same time, the increased rainfall heightens the risk of localized flooding, particularly in flood-prone areas along major rivers and around Lake Chad.

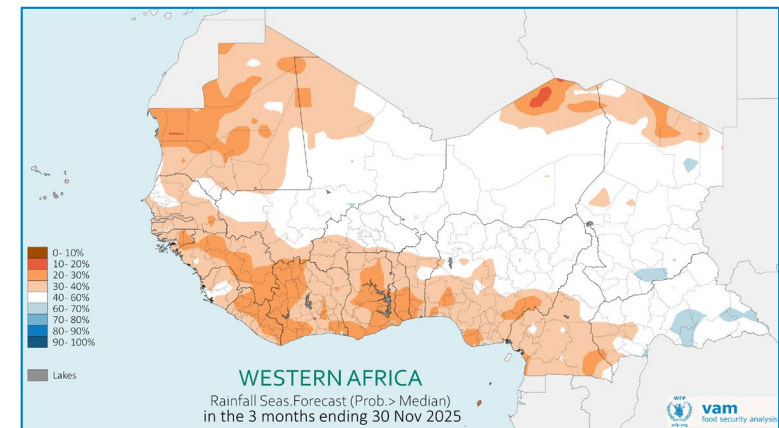
Conversely, countries along the Gulf of Guinea have largely closed recent rainfall deficits, with the exception of parts of Nigeria and Ivory Coast. Despite this progress, medium to long-term forecasts continue to suggest below-average rainfall for southern coastal countries, much of Cameroon, parts of Senegal, and western Mali. This trend warrants close monitoring as it may impact agricultural productivity and water resources in these areas.



Rainfall **Apr 2025** to **June 2025**, as a proportion of the long-term average. Blue and purple (orange and brown) shades correspond to above (below) average rainfall



**Rainfall forecast** for the 3-month period **Jul-Sep 2025** as the likelihood of exceeding the long-term median. Blue (orange) shades for likely wetter (drier) than usual conditions.



**Rainfall forecast** for the 3-month **Sep-Nov 2025** as the likelihood of exceeding the long-term median. Blue (orange) shades for likely wetter (drier) than usual conditions

## Seasonal Rainfall Calendar

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec

Eastern Africa  
Sudans and Ethiopia (Meher)

## Good Rains Ahead, but Watch for Flooding

From April to June, rainfall across Eastern Africa has been highly variable. Deficits were observed in central-eastern Ethiopia, northern South Sudan, and much of Sudan.

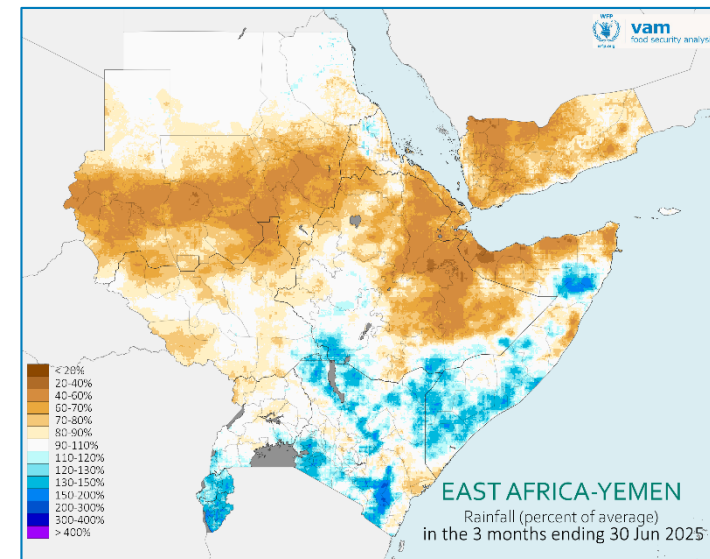
In Ethiopia, the below average rainfall conditions have likely affected Belg crops in central and northern area and may delay or limit planting for the main Meher season. Similarly, in Sudan and northern South Sudan, the dry start may have disrupted early sowing. However, there is still time for recovery if rainfall improves in the coming weeks.

Elsewhere in the region, rainfall has generally been favorable, supporting crop development and growing conditions.

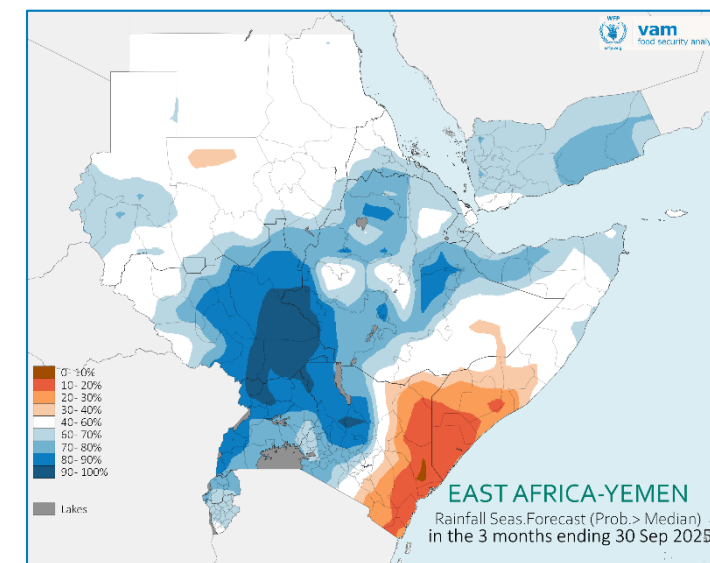
Looking ahead, the July to September seasonal forecast indicates a high likelihood of wetter-than-normal conditions across most of the region. Above-average rainfall is particularly likely in South Sudan, much of Ethiopia, southern and western and south Sudan, Uganda, Yemen. This is expected to support continued crop development, pasture growth, and improved water access.

However, the favorable rains also bring risks, with a rising threat of flooding in flood-prone areas especially along the Nile River and in South Sudan's Sudd wetlands. In the latter, water levels are already unusually high for this time of year, raising concerns that a major flood could develop later in 2025, potentially matching or even exceeding the scale of last year's severe inundations.

Additionally, heavy rains may increase the risk of post-harvest losses in equatorial South Sudan where the first-season harvest begins in July.



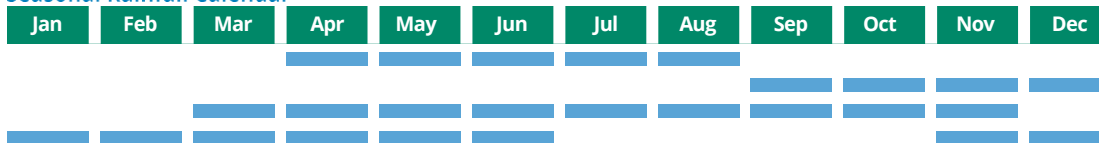
Rainfall **Apr 2025 to June 2025**, as a proportion of the long-term average. Blue and purple (orange and brown) shades correspond to above (below) average rainfall



**Rainfall forecast** for the 3-month periods **Jul-Sep 2025** as the likelihood of exceeding the long-term median. Blue (orange) shades for likely wetter (drier) than usual conditions

## Seasonal Rainfall Calendar

Central America Primera  
Central America Postrera  
South America (Northern)  
South America (Southern)

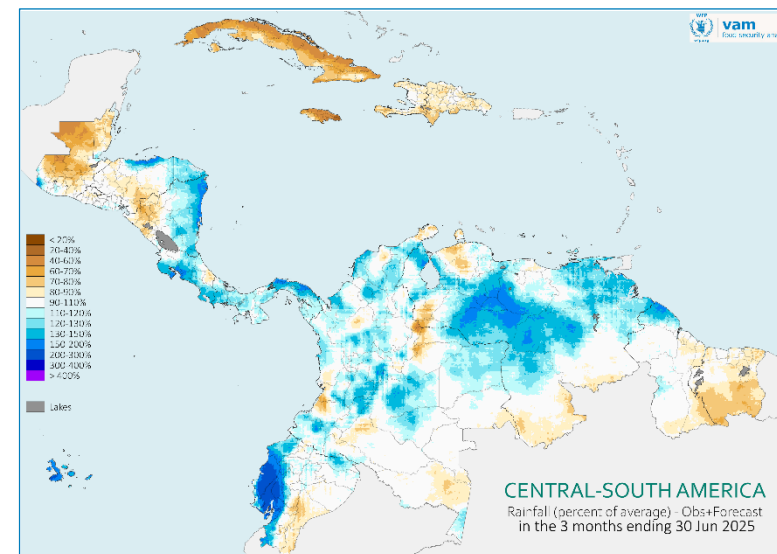


## Outlook Raises Concerns for Agriculture and Storm Impacts

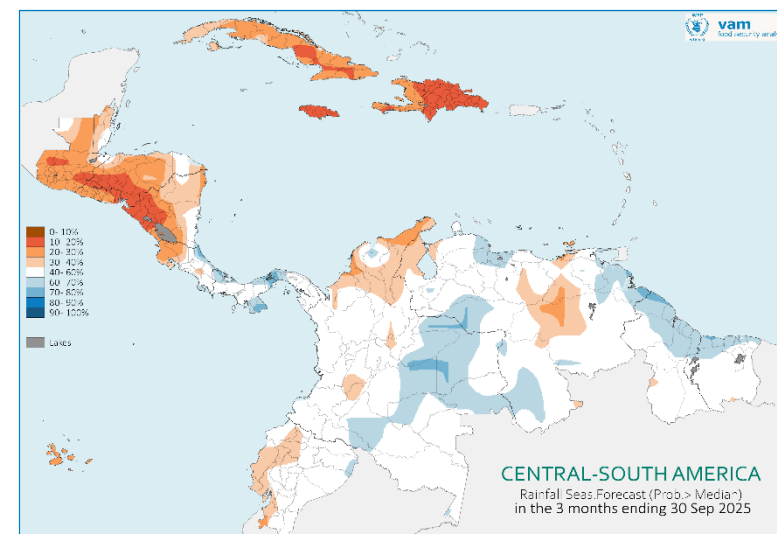
**Central America and the Caribbean:** The 2025 Primera rainy season has begun under predominantly dry conditions, with widespread rainfall deficits impacting much of Central America and the Caribbean. In the Dry Corridor — spanning Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, and Nicaragua — below-average rainfall during April and May has led to dry soils, water shortages, and disruptions in planting activities. June brought some rainfall relief in many areas, but Guatemala is still struggling with irregular rains. In the Caribbean, Cuba has continued to experience dry conditions since the start of the season.

Forecasts through September show that dry conditions are expected to continue in the Caribbean, as well as in Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, and Nicaragua, especially in the Dry Corridor. This raises concerns about the impact on crops and food production. In addition, the Atlantic hurricane season is expected to be more active than usual due to warmer ocean temperatures, increasing the risk of storm-related disruptions across the region.

**Northern South America:** The rainy season began with above-average rainfall in Colombia and Venezuela, helping support early crop growth. Looking ahead to September, forecasts show a mix of wetter and drier conditions across the region, with no clear or consistent trend.



Observed rainfall from **April to June 2025** as a proportion of the long-term average. Blue and purple (orange and brown) shades correspond to above (below) average rainfall



**Rainfall forecast for Jul-Sep 2025** as the likelihood of exceeding the long-term median. Blue (orange) shades for likely wetter (drier) than usual condition

South Asia  
SE Asia

Seasonal Rainfall Calendar

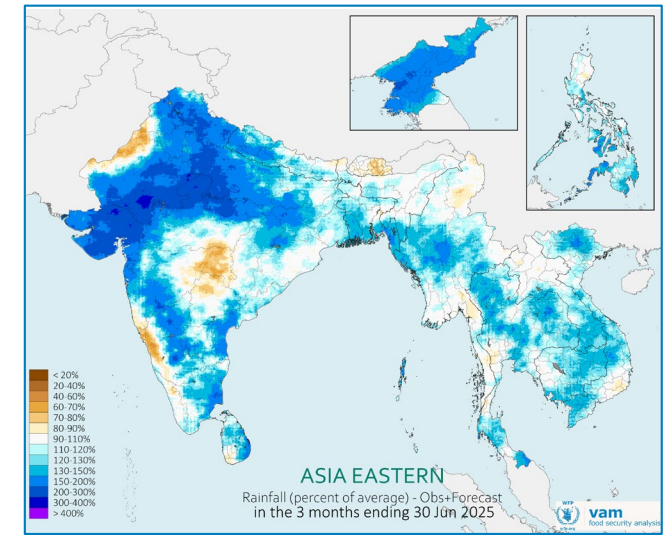


## Good Rains Help Crops Grow but Watch for Floods

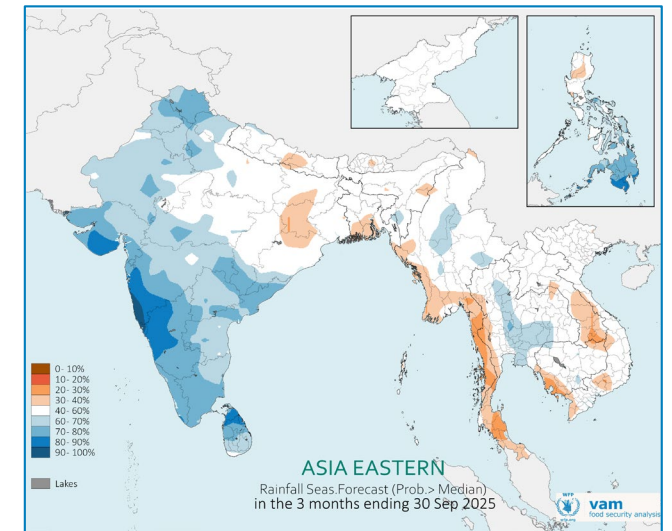
The 2025 monsoon season has begun across South and Southeast Asia, bringing mostly favorable rainfall that is helping farmers prepare land and plant crops. Thanks to good water availability, the wet-season farming campaign is off to a timely start in key areas, including India, Bangladesh, Myanmar, and the Philippines.

However, heavy early rains have already caused localized flooding in parts of Bangladesh, northern and western Myanmar, southern Philippines, and northern India.

Looking ahead to July through September, forecasts suggest rainfall will stay mostly average to above average across the region. Continued wet conditions are likely in much of South Asia and parts of the Philippines. Only the southern tip of Myanmar and parts of Bangladesh are expected to see below-average rainfall.



Rainfall **Apr 2025** to **June 2025**, as a proportion of the long-term average. Blue and purple (orange and brown) shades correspond to above (below) average rainfall



**Rainfall forecast** for the 3-month **July-Sept 2025** as the likelihood of exceeding the long-term median. Blue (orange) shades for likely wetter (drier) than usual conditions



## Poor Rainfall Season Threatens Water Supplies and Agriculture

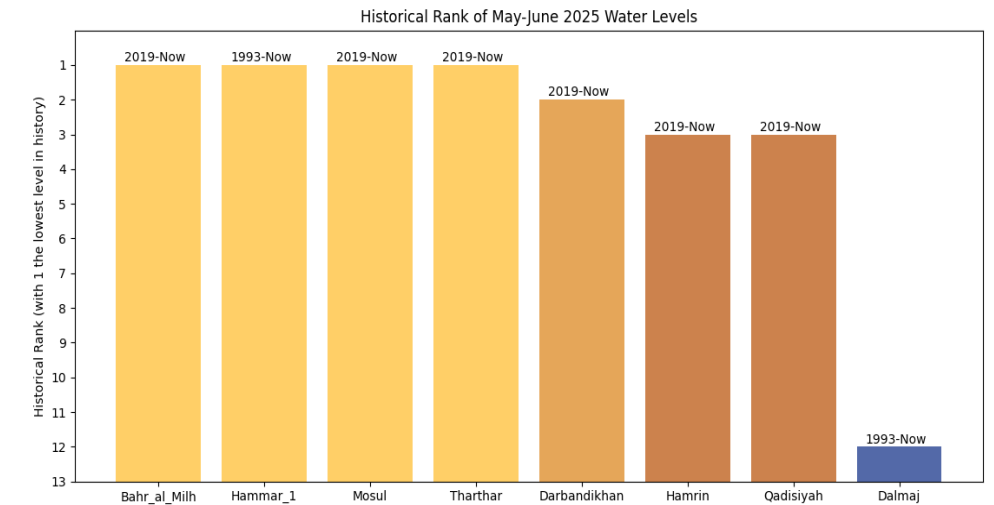
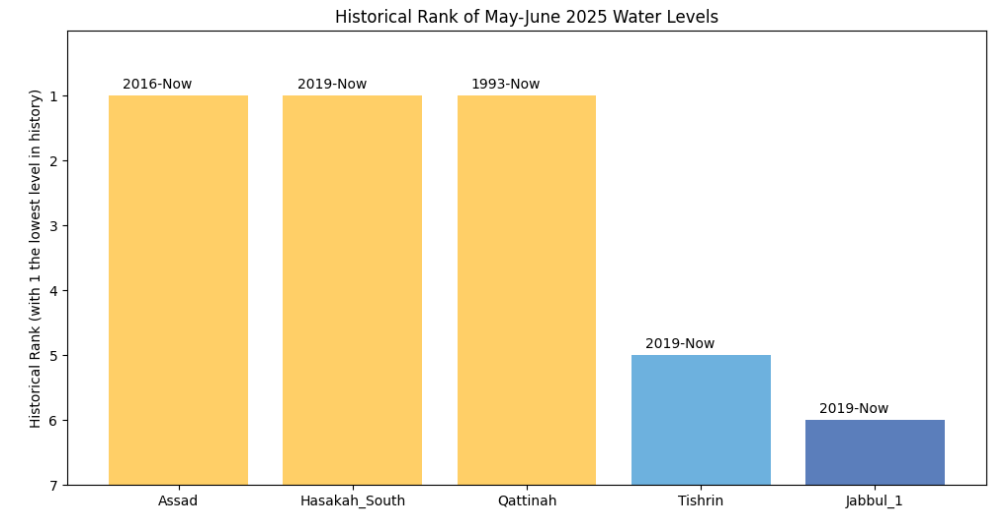
The 2024–2025 rainfall season ended with widespread below-average rainfall, which has not only harmed rainfed crops but also led to low water accumulation in major river basins across the Middle East and Central Asia. The effects of this poor rainfall season are expected to continue in the coming months, as low lake levels reduce the availability of water for irrigation, a key resource for food production in the region.

In Iraq and Syria, sustained dry conditions across the Euphrates–Tigris watershed have pushed key reservoirs to historically low levels by May–June (see bar charts). In some cases, water levels are similar to what is normally seen at the end of the dry summer season in September/October. These reservoirs are essential for drinking water, energy supply and irrigated agriculture, which accounts for an estimated 70–80% of total annual food production in both countries.

The bar charts reflect reservoir water levels for the May–June period, with rank 1 representing the lowest level on record for that timeframe. Many reservoirs in Syria and Iraq reached their lowest or near-lowest historical levels during May–June 2025.

Afghanistan is facing similar challenges. Weak snowfall, limited spring rains, and early snowmelt have reduced river flows and water storage in major systems in the northern regions. This is likely to impact the upcoming spring-summer growing season, particularly for key crops like wheat, rice, and fruit orchards. Irrigated farming also contributes around 70–80% of Afghanistan's annual food production.

Finally, seasonal forecasts indicate likely above-average temperatures this summer. Higher temperatures will increase water demand from crops, accelerate evaporation from lakes and reservoirs, and raise consumption needs for people, putting additional stress on already limited resources.



Relative position of **May-June 2025** water levels for key reservoirs in Syria (above) and Iraq (below) based on historical records (first position is the lowest in the record)

## METHODOLOGY

All satellite data (rainfall, vegetation index and land surface temperature) both current and historical are stored and processed at the WFP-HQ Humanitarian Data Cube AWS cloud system.

**Rainfall:** Primary dekadal data (CHIRPS) from Univ California St Barbara Climate Hazards Centre (<https://www.chc.ucsb.edu/data/chirps>)

Various accumulations are computed on a dekadal basis and anomalies derived relative to a 25 year-long mean (1994-2018). Rainfall charts from WFP Seasonal Explorer ([https://dataviz.vam.wfp.org/seasonal\\_explorer/rainfall\\_vegetation/visualizations](https://dataviz.vam.wfp.org/seasonal_explorer/rainfall_vegetation/visualizations))

**Land Surface Temperature:** Primary data from MODIS-AQUA (NASA), cloud cleared and gap-filled, both daytime and nighttime images. Thermal amplitude derived from difference between the two. Long term averages 2002-2018 used to derive anomalies

**Vegetation Index:** Primary data from MODIS-AQUA and TERRA (NASA), cloud cleared and gap-filled. Long term averages 2002-2018 used to derive anomalies

**Seasonal Forecast:** [ECMWF seasonal forecasts \(SEAS5\)](#) | The forecast anomalies are presented as the probability of exceeding the median, indicating the likelihood that seasonal precipitation will be above the median of the 24-year climatological distribution. These anomalies are derived from a 51-member forecast ensemble and are calculated relative to a 24-year model climatology (based on a 25-member ensemble reforecast) spanning 1993–2016

**Water level in reservoirs:** [G-REALM](#) data from USDA Foreign Agricultural Service.

**Prepared by:** Irene Ferrari, Diego Oliveira De Souza, Michael Manalili, Sirio Modugno Giancarlo Pini



**For further information please contact:**

[hq.geospatial@wfp.org](mailto:hq.geospatial@wfp.org)