

## SOMALIA Rain Watch

May 13, 2014

*FEWS NET will publish a Rain Watch for Somalia every 10 days (dekad) through the end of the current April to June Gu rainy season. The purpose of this document is to provide updated information on the progress of the Gu season to facilitate contingency and response planning. This Somalia Rain Watch is valid through May 20, 2014 and is produced in collaboration with [U.S. Geological Survey \(USGS\)](#), [the Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit \(FSNAU\) Somalia](#), [the Somali Water and Land Information System \(SWALIM\)](#), a number of other agencies, and several Somali non-governmental organizations (NGOs).*

### *Moderate to light rains have resumed in most parts of Somalia*

Moderate *Gu* rains fell across most of southern and northwestern Somalia, some parts of the Northeast, and localized western areas in the central regions from May 1 to 10 (Figure 1). In parts of Bakool, Sool, Nugal Regions, eastern Addun Pastoral livelihood zone, and the cowpea belt in the central regions, localized light to moderate rains were reported. In Bari Region, most parts of Sanaag, northern Gedo, Coastal Deeh Pastoral livelihood zone in the central regions, and Guban Pastoral livelihood zone in the Northwest, little or no rain was recorded.

In the **Northwest**, the Hawd, West Golis Pastoral and Northwest Agropastoral livelihood zones in Awdal, Togdheer, and Woqooyi Galbeed Regions received moderate to heavy rainfall. Parts of the Nugal Valley, Hawd Pastoral livelihood zone in Sool Region, and localized areas of East Golis Pastoral livelihood zone in Sanaag Region received moderate to light rains. The remaining areas of the Northwest remained mostly dry.

In **Northeast**, satellite-derived rainfall estimates (RFE2) showed light showers in most areas, but field information reported little to no rain in Bari Region, Nugal Valley Pastoral livelihood zone, and most parts of Coastal Deeh Pastoral livelihood zone. However, the Hawd and western part of Addun Pastoral livelihood zone in Nugal Region and northern Mudug Region received moderate rains with average distribution. These rains have eased the water stress and halted water trucking. However, impacts on pasture availability are not yet widespread, but they will be more widely observed if near normal to normal rain falls for the rest of the month, promoting normal, opportunistic livestock migration.

In the **central regions**, localized, light to moderate rain fell in some parts of the cowpea belt, the Hawd, and Addun Pastoral livelihood zone in both Galgaduud and southern Mudug as well as most pastoral areas in Hiraan. However, there was far less rainfall in Coastal Deeh Pastoral livelihood zone, adjacent areas of Addun Pastoral, and in Hiraan Riverine livelihood zone. These rains are likely to support the further development of cowpeas and sorghum, and will likely increase water and pasture availability in rainfed areas. In Hiraan Region, rain gauges in Beletweyne, Jalalaqsi, and Halgan in Buloburte District recorded 39 millimeters (mm), 44 mm, and 41 mm, respectively, with two to three rainy days. Rains have already significantly improved pasture conditions and replenished water sources in many areas.

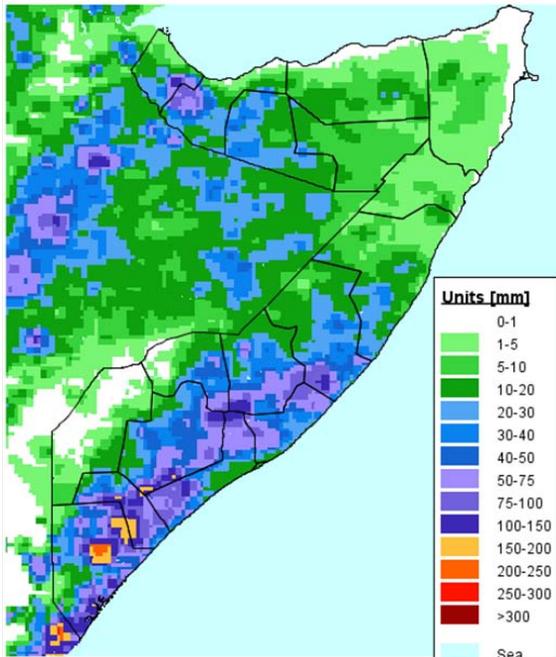
In most crop-growing areas of the **South**, moderate to above average amounts of rain with average coverage have been reported. For example, rain gauges in Baidoa, Bardale, Dinsor, and Qansahdhere recorded 54 mm, 28 mm, 86 mm, and 115 mm of rainfall, respectively, with three to four rainy days in each location. Janaale and Afgoye in Lower Shabelle recorded 25 mm and 35 mm, respectively, with two to five rainy days. However, northern Gedo, Coastal Deeh Pastoral livelihood zone in the South, and adjacent agropastoral areas in Lower Juba remained dry. These rains rejuvenated crops, pasture, and browse and increased water availability in both pastoral and agropastoral areas. As a result, body conditions and production for all livestock species have improved. Torrential rainfall fell in Sabalale district in Lower Shabelle and Bardhere District in Gedo, causing flash floods that damaged both houses and cropped land. However, May 11 to 20 rainfall was below the 1983 to 2011 average (African Rainfall Climatology 2 (ARC2)). Rainfall was below normal in northern Gedo, Rabdurre and Elbarde Districts in Bakool, and Southern Inland Pastoral livelihood zone in Lower Juba (Figure 2).

The **Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI)** for May 1 to 10 shows below average vegetation levels in most parts of the country due to the effects persistent dry weather in April. However, improved vegetation conditions were observed in most parts of Awdal, Bay, the Jubas, Woqooyi Galbeed, southern Gedo, and parts of Lower Shabelle due to the effect of some rain in

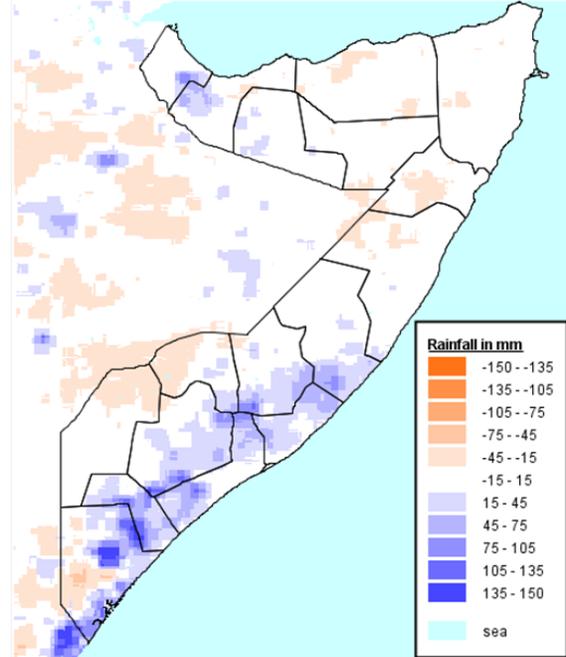
April followed by moderate rains in the first part of May (Figure 3). The **May 14 to 20 forecast** is for dry conditions in most parts of the northern regions of Awdal, Bari, Nugal, Sool, Sanaag, Togdheer, and Woqooyi Galbeed, and most of the central regions of Mudug and northern Galgaduud. However, most of the southern regions of Bay, Bakol, Hiraan, Gedo, Lower and Middle Shabelle, Lower and Middle Juba, and southern Galgaduud have light to moderate rain of between five and 50 mm forecast (Figure 4).

For more rain gauge data please contact [hydro@faoswalim.org](mailto:hydro@faoswalim.org) or visit [www.faoswalim.org](http://www.faoswalim.org).

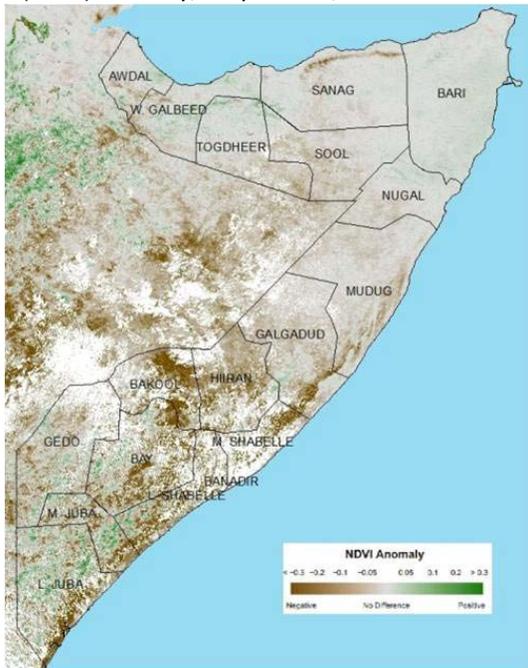
**Figure 1.** Rainfall estimate (RFE2) in millimeters (mm), May 1 to 10, 2014



**Figure 2.** Rainfall anomaly in mm from 1983 to 2011 mean (ARC2), May 1 to 10, 2014



**Figure 3.** eMODIS Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) anomaly, May 1 to 10, 2014



**Figure 4.** Global Forecast System (GFS) precipitation forecast in mm for May 14 to 20, 2014



Sources: [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration \(NOAA\)](http://www.noaa.gov)/Climate Prediction Center (CPC) and [USGS/FEWS NET](http://www.usgs.gov)