



June to September 2019 Climate Outlook for South Sudan – FAO Key Messages
Based on the 52nd Greater Horn of Africa Climate Outlook Forum (GHACOF 52)
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June to September constitute an important rainfall season in South Sudan as this is the main crop growing period in the country.

As indicated in the Greater Horn of Africa consensus maps on rainfall and temperature outlooks below, between June and September 2019, there is an increased likelihood of less rainfall over much of South Sudan, particularly the southern and western parts of the country. There is also a likelihood of early cessation of rainfall over South Sudan. At the same time temperature forecast indicates increased likelihood of warmer than normal surface temperatures over the northwestern parts of the country while the southeastern parts are likely to be cooler than normal.

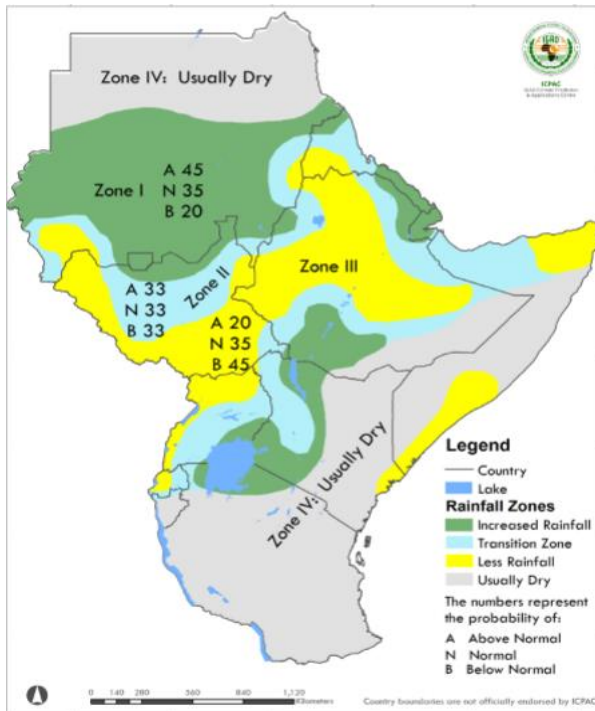


Figure I: Rainfall outlook for June-September 2019

Zone I: Increased likelihood for above normal (i.e., wetter) rainfall
Zone II: A transition zone with equal probability for all three categories.
Zone III: Increased likelihood of below normal (i.e., drier) rainfall

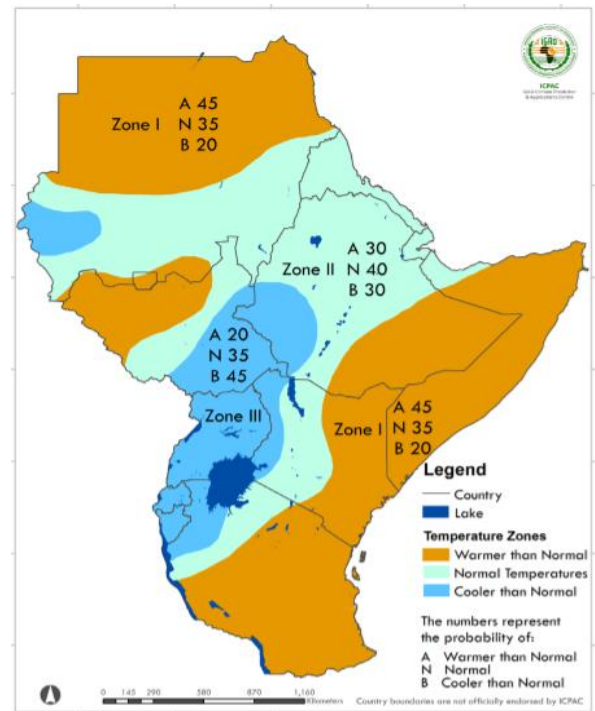


Figure II: Temperature outlook for June-September 2019

Zone I: Increased likelihood for above normal (i.e., warmer) mean temperature
Zone II: Increased likelihood for near normal mean temperature
Zone III: Increased likelihood for below normal (i.e., cooler) mean temperature

RAINFALL OUTLOOK

There is a likelihood of increased rainfall (Zone I) in Renk, Aweil North, Twic, Abiehmnhom, Pariang, Panyikang, part of Fashoda and Lotimor (Kapoeta East). Increased likelihood of below normal rainfall (Zone III) is likely in Budi, Torit, Pibor, Akobo, Pochalla, Bor, majority of Central Equatoria, and Western Equatoria while the rest of the country (Zone II) is a transition zone between below and above average rainfall.

TEMPERATURE OUTLOOK

There is a likelihood of above normal (warmer) mean temperatures (Zone I) over Warrap, Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Western Bahr el Ghazal, northern part of Unity, Kodok in Upper Nile, Canal/Pigi, Fangak and western part of Tambura in Western Equatoria. Eastern Equatoria, Bor, Duk, Twic East, Pochalla, Pibor, and Central Equatoria (Zone III) will likely experience below normal (cooler) mean temperatures while the rest of the country (Zone II) has an increased likelihood of near normal mean temperatures between June and September 2019.

IMPLICATION OF THE RAINFALL OUTLOOK CONSENSUS ON AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK.

Zone I: Increased likelihood for above normal rainfall (wetter conditions)

Increased rainfall will support agricultural activities and main crop establishment as well as availability of water and pasture for livestock in the unimodal areas. It will also reduce the incidence of Fall Armyworm and favour growth of cereals thus ensuring good crop performance. However, there is a high likelihood of flooding in lowland and riverine areas which is likely to cause water logging that can affect crop performance, increase the prevalence of weeds infestation, as well as increase both human and livestock water-borne diseases.

Zone II: A transition zone with equal probability for all three categories

Increased likelihood of normal to above and below normal rainfall conditions (Zone II) is likely to support farming, availability of pasture and water for livestock. This will likely enhance performance of sorghum crops in the unimodal areas. However, undulating rainfall conditions are likely to promote or reduce effect of fall army worm in the area depending on rainfall intensity. Lowlands and the riverine areas are likely to experience floods depending on rainfall intensity thus increasing fish availability in the flooded areas, swamps, streams and rivers.

Zone III: Increased likelihood of below normal rainfall (drier conditions)

The increased likelihood of below normal rainfall will affect crop performance as well as availability of pasture and water for livestock. The drier conditions are also likely to provide favourable conditions for the spread of Fall Armyworm which will affect the second season maize and sorghum crops in the Equatoria Maize and Cassava Livelihood Zones. Additionally, the yields of root crops during this period will likely reduce in the absence of adequate soil moisture.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- As this is the main agricultural season in South Sudan, there is need to scale up farmers training on improved agronomic practices focusing on weed and pest control in areas prone to weed infestations and Fall Armyworm.
- With increasing rainfall, there is a likelihood that incidences of water-borne human diseases such as malaria and acute watery diarrhoea (AWD) will increase. Health and WASH partners should scale up their response capacity to prevent and/or mitigate such outcomes.
- Early warning messages on the possible impacts of flooding in flood-prone areas need to be communicated early so that the people can move to safer areas and take measures to minimize the impacts of the floods.