Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

SOUTH SUDAN

DEKADAL WEATHER UPDATE

21-30 May 2020 | Issue 03

The rainy season continues across the country, with the eastern parts experiencing above-average rainfall, as parts of Kapoeta East record dry conditions

HIGHLIGHTS

- The entire country experienced heavy rainfall in the 3rd Dekad of May 2020 (*Figure 1*), with the exception of Kapoeta East which recorded dry conditions in parts of the County. However, despite the fact that most areas experienced rainfall estimated at between 30-100mm, normal to above-normal rainfall was larlgey confined to the eastern parts of the country, with the exception of parts of Kapoeta East that experienced drier than normal conditions (*Figure 2*).

- According to *Figure 3* and *Figure 4*, all the states have so far recorded cumulative rainfall estimates that are higher than both last year and the long-term average, with the exception of Northern Bahr el Ghazal State whose estimated cumulative rainfall (169mm) is lower when compared to last year and the long-term average. From the two graphs, while Western Equatoria State has recorded the highest rainfall, the year-on-year increase is greatest in Lakes State (+239%) whereas when compared to the long-term average, the greatest increase is in Jonglei State (+76%) and Eastern Equatoria State (+74%).

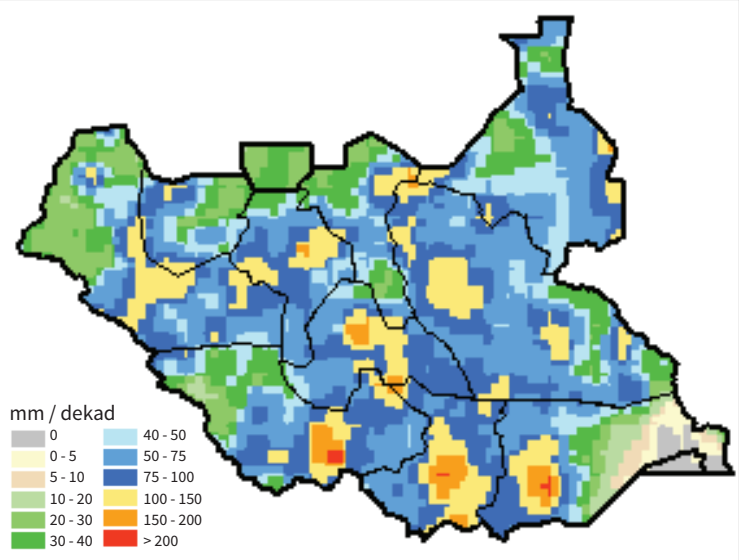


Figure 1 - Estimated rainfall, Dekad 3, May 2020 (Source: FAO GIEWS)

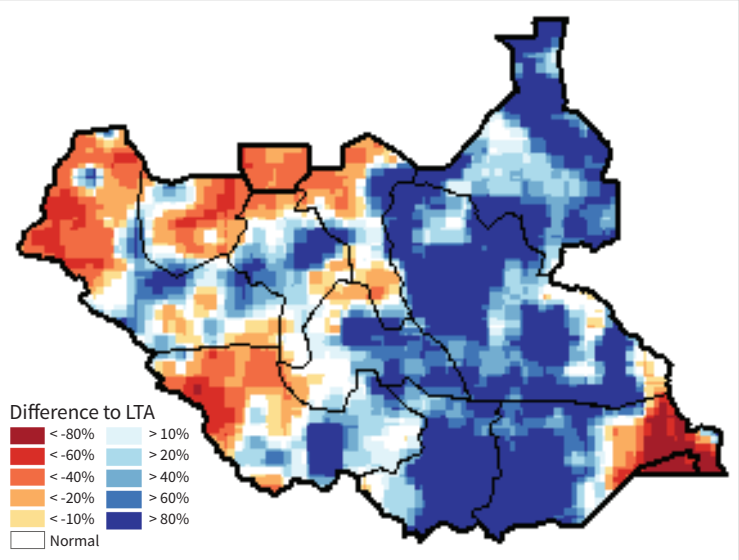


Figure 2 - Estimated rainfall anomaly, Dekad 3, May 2020 (Source: FAO GIEWS)

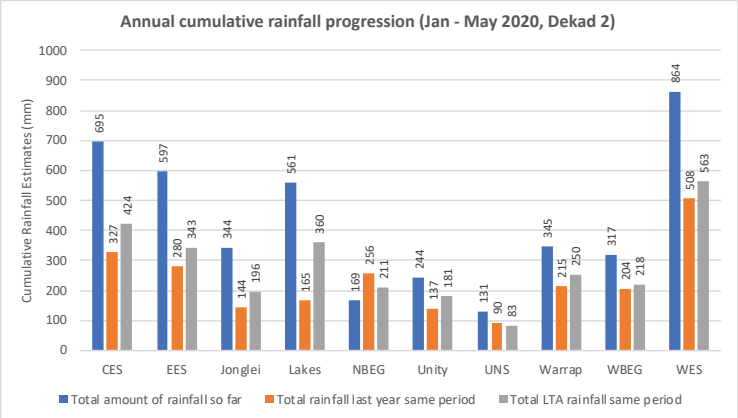


Figure 3 - State-level annual cumulative rainfall estimates (Current Year, Last Year, Long-Term Average) January 2020, Dekad 1 to May 2020, Dekad 3 (Source: FAO GIEWS)

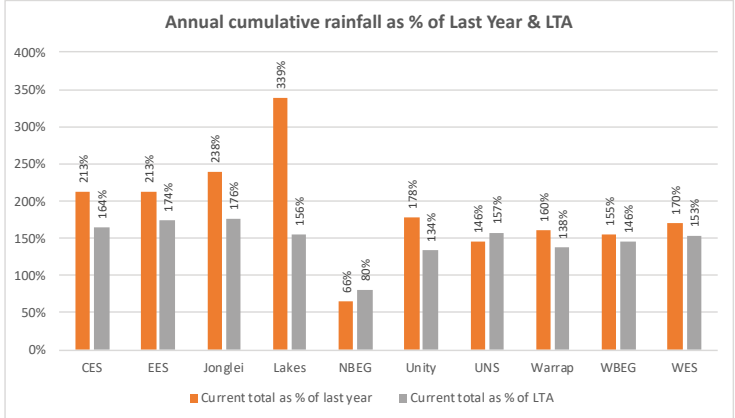


Figure 4 - State-level comparisons of current year cumulative rainfall estimates compared to last year and the long-term average (Source: FAO GIEWS)

SEASONAL FORECAST

- **Rainfall** - according to ICPAC's sub-regional weekly forecast for Eastern Africa for the period 6 June - 3 July 2020, in the 1st week (6-12 June), most of South Sudan will record no more than 50mm (*still considered wetter than usual*). In the subsequent weeks, the rainfall amount is expected to increase gradually, with the country experiencing over 25mm more than the long-term average in the 4th week (27 June - 3 July). The eastern part of the country is still forecasted to be the wettest during this period.

- **Temperature** - according to ICPAC's sub-regional weekly forecast for Eastern Africa for the period 6 June - 3 July 2020, the minimum temperatures and maximum temperatures are forecasted to be warmer than usual during this period. In the 4th week (27 June - 3 July), some locations in the eastern part of the country are likely to experience cooler temperatures (*patricularly the cross-border areas of South Sudan that are considered part of the Karamoja Cluster i.e. Kapoeta region*).

IMPACT ON AGRICULTURAL SEASON

According to the Agricultural Stress Index map in *Figure 5*, crops are doing well and are without any water stress (drought) because of the good rains received thus far. It is worth noting however that there is a likelihood of some crops experiencing waterlogging especially in regions where more than 200 mm of rainfall have been experienced and has been evenly spaced throughout the 3rd Dekad of May 2020, thus not giving enough time for the rainwater to drain away or percolate through the soil.

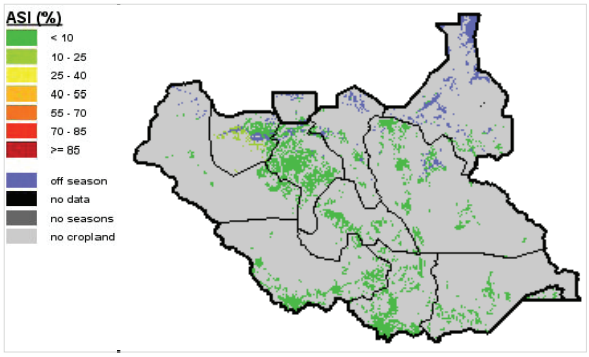
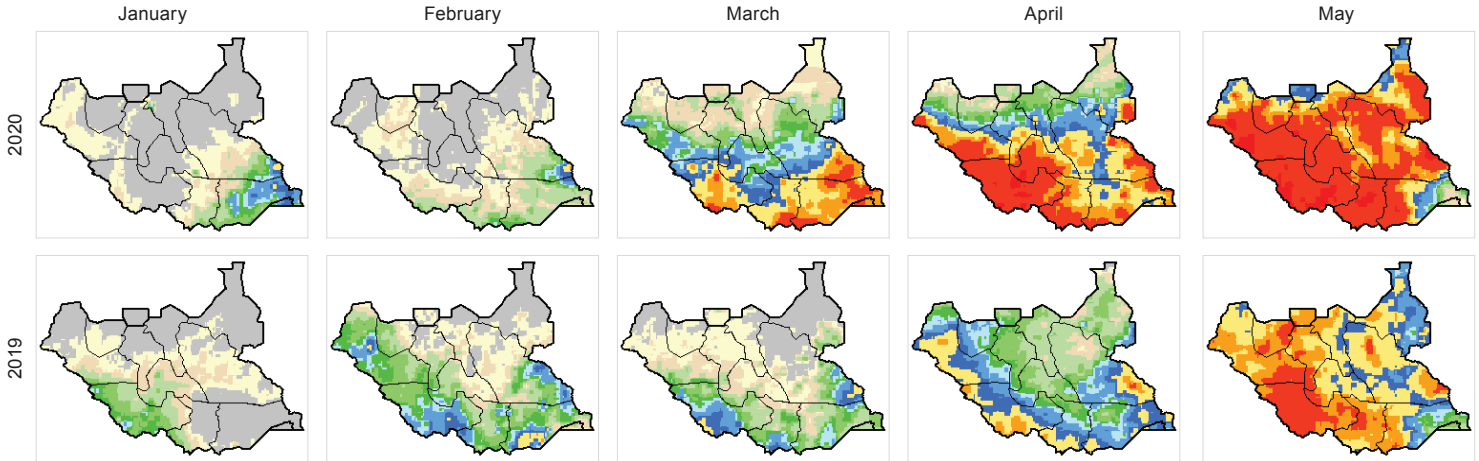
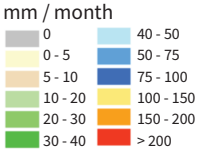


Figure 5 - Agricultural Stress Index, Dekad 3, May 2020 (Source: FAO GIEWS)

2020 SEASONAL PROGRESSION (BY MONTH)





Starting from March 2020 and compared to last year, the country has experienced higher amounts of monthly rainfall, with May 2020 being the wettest month so far. The consequences of this trend is that if it continues as the rainy season intensifies, particulary in the flood-prone States of Jonglei, Upper Nile, Warrap, Northern Bahr el Ghazal (so far it has received below-average rainfall) and parts of Eastern Equatoria, we are likely to experience earlier and heavier flooding than last year.

This report is produced by FAO South Sudan's project (*Strengthening the Livelihoods of Pastoral and Agropastoral Communities in South Sudan's Cross-border Areas with Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda*) which is funded by the European Union.

2020 Dekadal Seasonal Progression Tracker (PDF, 1.4MB)

2020 Rainfall & NDVI Graphs and data (MS Excel, 186KB)

Project Website:

http://www.fao.org/in-action/south-sudan-cross-border-project/en/

CLIMIS Portal:

http://www.climis-southsudan.org

Contacts

Mark Nyeko
Agrometeorologist
Mark.Nyeko@fao.org

Nicholas Kerandi
Food Security Analyst
Nicholas.Kerandi@fao.org

FAO South Sudan
Juba, South Sudan
FAO-South-Sudan@fao.org

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
www.fao.org/south-sudan