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PUNTLAND GU RAINFALL PERFORMANCE OF 2025

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Normal to below normal rainfall received during GU season of 2025 over Puntland.

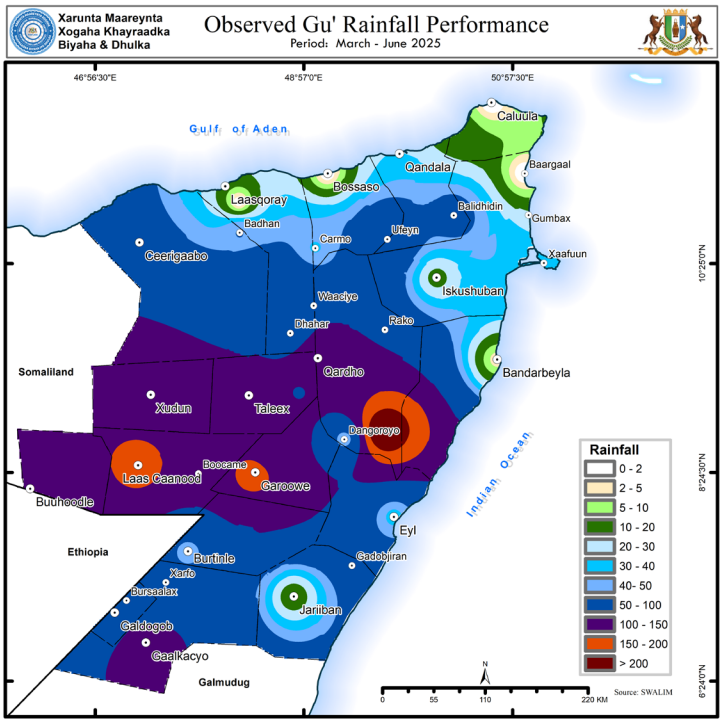
Overview

The GU 2025 season began in the second dekad of April and lasted until the second dekad of June, shown notable spatial heterogeneity in rainfall distribution across Puntland. Of the **30** rain gauge stations, **16** stations recorded normal rainfall, while **14** stations received below-normal rainfall.

Cumulative rainfall amounts exceeding **100 mm** were observed at the following stations.

Uusgure (271.2) mm, Garowe (172.6) mm, Las 'Anod (171) mm, Qardho (150) mm, Galkaio (137.5) mm, Xudun (124) mm, Xasbahale (118) mm, Buuhodle (117.4) mm, Taleex (108.9) mm.

Moderate rainfall ranges from (50-100) mm were recorded by the fallowing eight rain gauge stations: Shaxda, Widh-Widh, Darusalaam, Buran, Dhahar, Galdogob, Balidhidin, and Badhan.



Map 1: Observed GU rainfall performance 2025

GU OBSERVED RAINFALL 2025

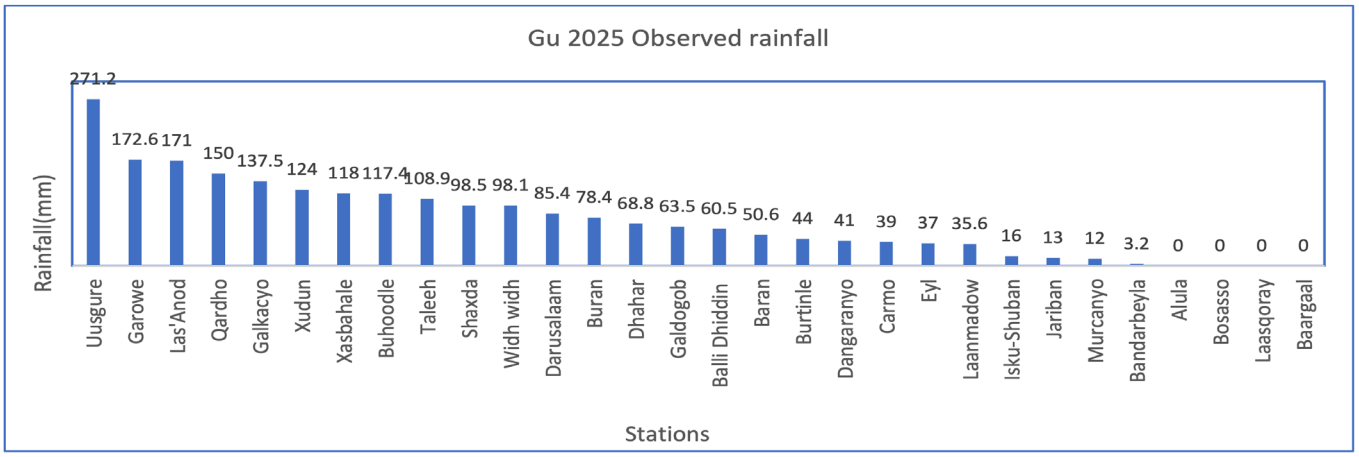


Figure 1: GU 2025 Observed rainfall

Coastal districts including Jariiban, Banderbayla, Iskushuban, Baargaal, Caluula, Bossaso, and Laasqoray reported little to no rainfall, as demonstrated in the observed rainfall **(Figure 1)**. This intensifies the earlier drought situation, as the previous Deyr 2024 season also recorded below-average rainfall and widespread deficits, marking two consecutive failed rainy seasons. These cumulative shortfalls exacerbate existing vulnerabilities and highlight the urgent need for enhanced drought preparedness and anticipatory action.

GU ANOMALY OF 2025

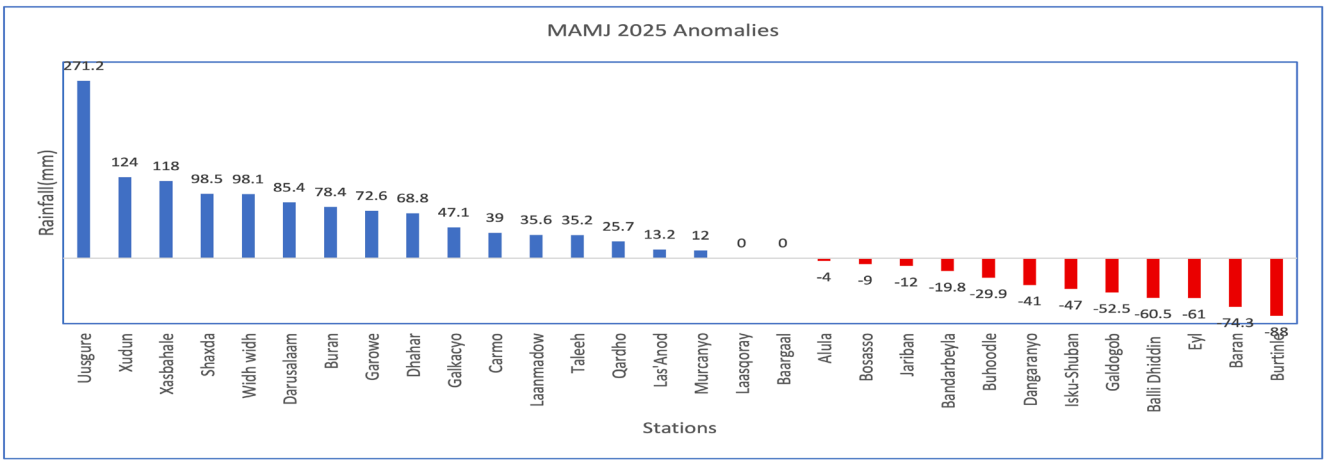


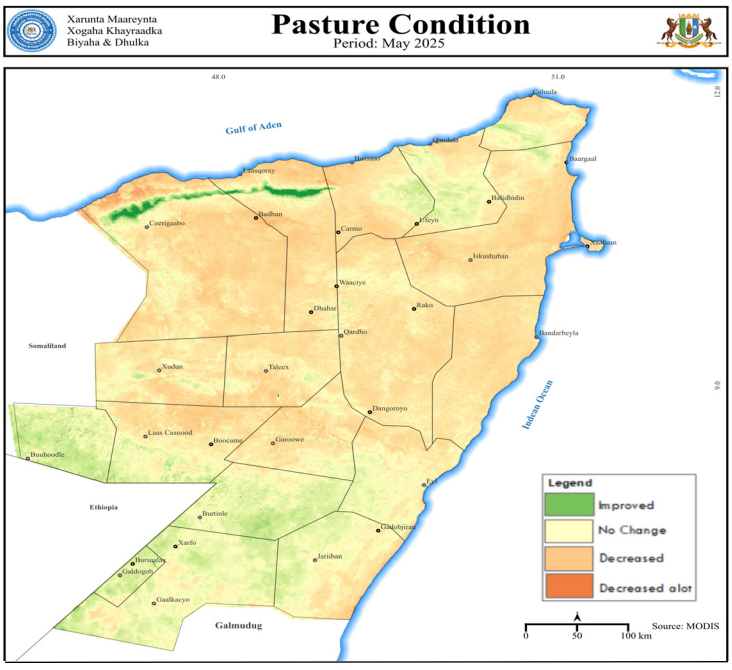
Figure 2: MAMJ Anomaly over Puntland

Figure 2: displays the rainfall anomaly for the March–June (MAMJ) period, comparing GU season rainfall to a 15-year Long-Term Average (LTA). Anomalies were computed as deviations from climatological means, the positive anomalies (bars above zero) denote stations receiving above-average rainfall, while the negative anomalies reflect deficits in rainfall relative to historical averages.

The abnormality of the rainfall received are further exacerbating vulnerabilities and expected to result in:

- Food insecurity: Crop failure and reduced agricultural productivity due to insufficient rainfall received, and poor soil moisture condition.
- Water scarcity: Decline in surface and groundwater recharge, leading to reduced water availability.
- Pasture deficit: Limited pasture regeneration due to the below rainfall received, adversely affecting livestock grazing conditions.

VEGETATION AND PASTURE CONDITION



Map 2: Pasture conditions May 2025

Based on **(Map 2)**, which illustrates pasture conditions derived from MODIS data using Google Earth Engine (GEE) for the month of May 2025, there was an improvement in pasture in some livelihood zones, attributed to below to Normal GU rainfall performance.

- In the Northern Inland Pastoral (NIP) areas, particularly districts of Las'anod, Xudun, parts of Taleex, Garowe, Qardho, as well as the Eastern Golis zones of Qandala and Balli-dhidin pasture and browse conditions showed improvement.
- Similarly, the Hawd Pastoral zone, encompassing Buuhoodle, Burtinle, Galdogob, Xarfo, and Bursaalax, also experienced enhanced vegetation cover due to favorable rainfall during the GU season.
- In the Addun Pastoral areas of Godobjiraan and Galkacyo, vegetation cover was enhanced.

However, the map also indicates a decline in pasture marked in decreased, and decreased alot especially across the coastal Deex zones, including Xaafuun, Benderbeyla, parts of Eyl, and Jerriban, where rainfall was significantly below normal. Likewise, reduced pasture and biomass were observed in Laasqoray, Bargaal, Badhan, Bossaso, and Caluula in the eastern Golis, and in much of the NIP zones such as Dangorayo, Iskushuban, and Rako-Raaxo, due to below GU rainfall.

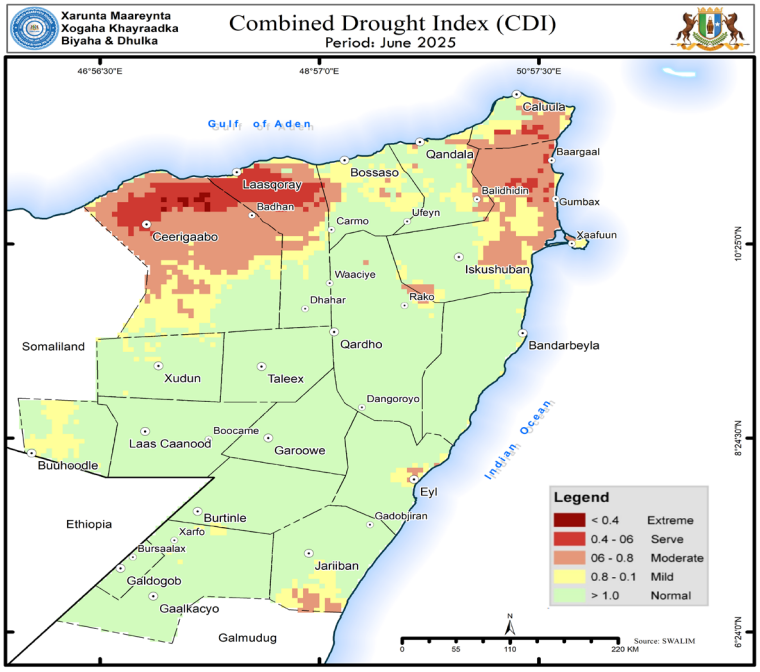
According to ground observations, pastoral migration has already begun, with herding communities moving from areas experiencing poor pasture conditions to zones showing improvement.

Notably, communities from low pasture areas of Addun have started to migrate towards Buuhoodle , Ayah area where pasture conditions have improved following the GU rains.

This movement reflects the adaptive strategies of pastoralists in response to locational disparities in pasture and water availability.

COMBINED DROUGHT INDEX (CDI)

The Combined Drought Index (CDI) for June 2025, provides a spatial representation of drought severity across the Puntland districts, categorized into five classes ranging from Normal to Extreme conditions. The CDI is a composite index integrating multiple drought-related indicators to assess and monitor drought severity.



Map 3: Combined drought index (CDI)

Extreme Drought Conditions (< 0.4)

The most severe drought-affected areas are observed in Sanaag, and Raas-Casayr regions, particularly across Laasqoray, Ceerigaabo, and Caluula districts. These areas are marked in deep red, likely resulting deficit for pasture condition, poor agricultural productivity and water scarcity.

Severe Drought Conditions (0.4–0.6)

Surrounding the extreme zones, severe drought is evident in parts of Bossaso, Badhan, Qandala, Iskushuban, and Bargaal, as well as localized areas in Waaciye and Rako and require targeted drought mitigation and response interventions.

Moderate to Mild Drought (0.6–1.0)

Moderate to mild drought conditions extends districts, including Qardho, Taleex, Xudun, Jariiban, Eyl, and parts of Garoowe and Buhoodle, indicating a gradual transition from stressed to relatively stable zones.

Normal Conditions (> 1.0)

The most of livelihood zones are in normal drought condition especially NIP, Hawd, and Addun, and reflecting minimal drought stress.

Consequences:
This spatial drought assessment underscores the urgent need for drought response planning in Sanaag, Bari, and Raas-Casayr regions, where extreme and severe droughts are predominant. The map also emphasizes the importance of monitoring transitional zones where moderate to mild droughts may escalate if adverse climatic conditions persist.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- The ministries of Humanitarian and Disaster management, Water, Livestock, and Agriculture are advising to take proactive actions, including expanding services like water trucking, vaccination programs, and fodder distribution to support vulnerable communities.
- The government and humanitarian agencies are advised to intensify aid efforts and bolster proactive measures to mitigate the effects of the upcoming dry spells.
- Puntland IMC is committed to produce monthly drought updates.