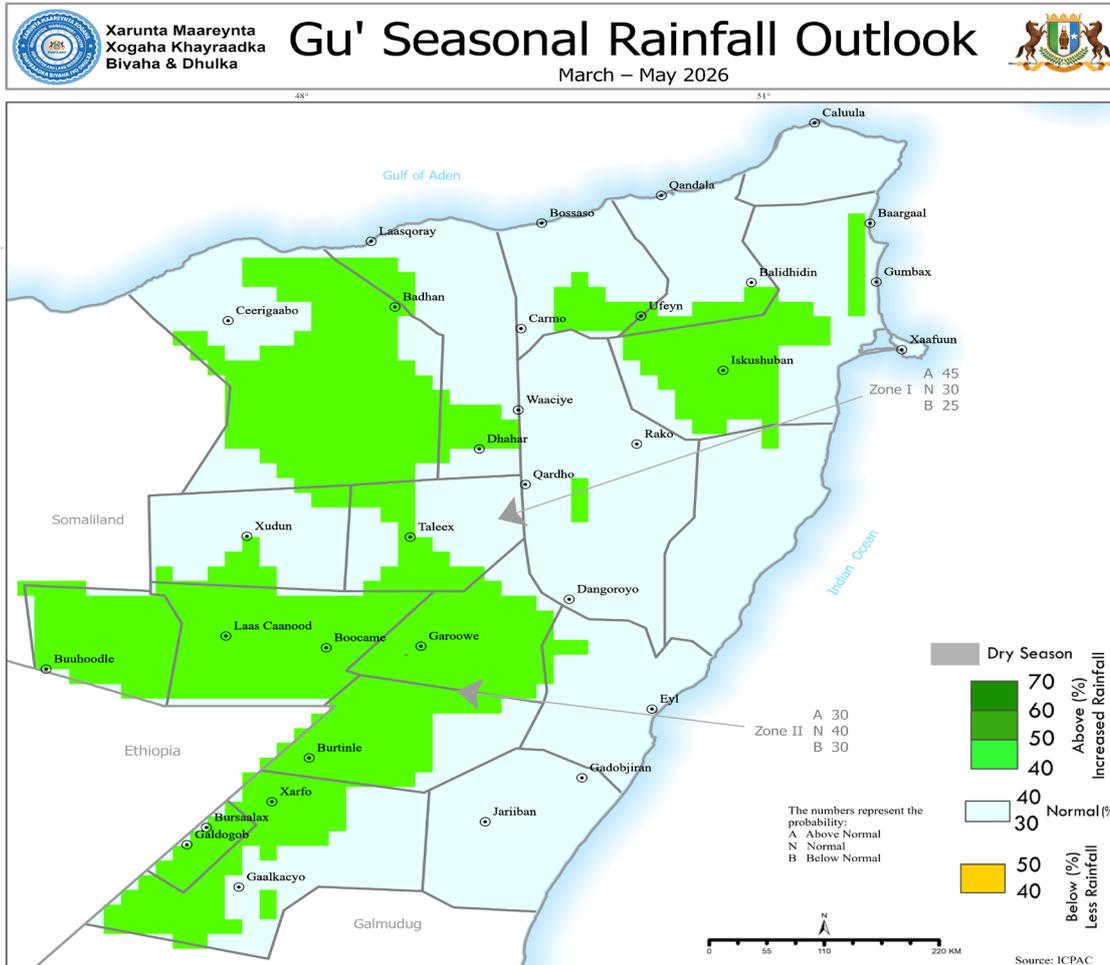


PUNTLAND GU' SEASONAL RAINFALL OUTLOOK 2026

Issued: 21 Feb 2026



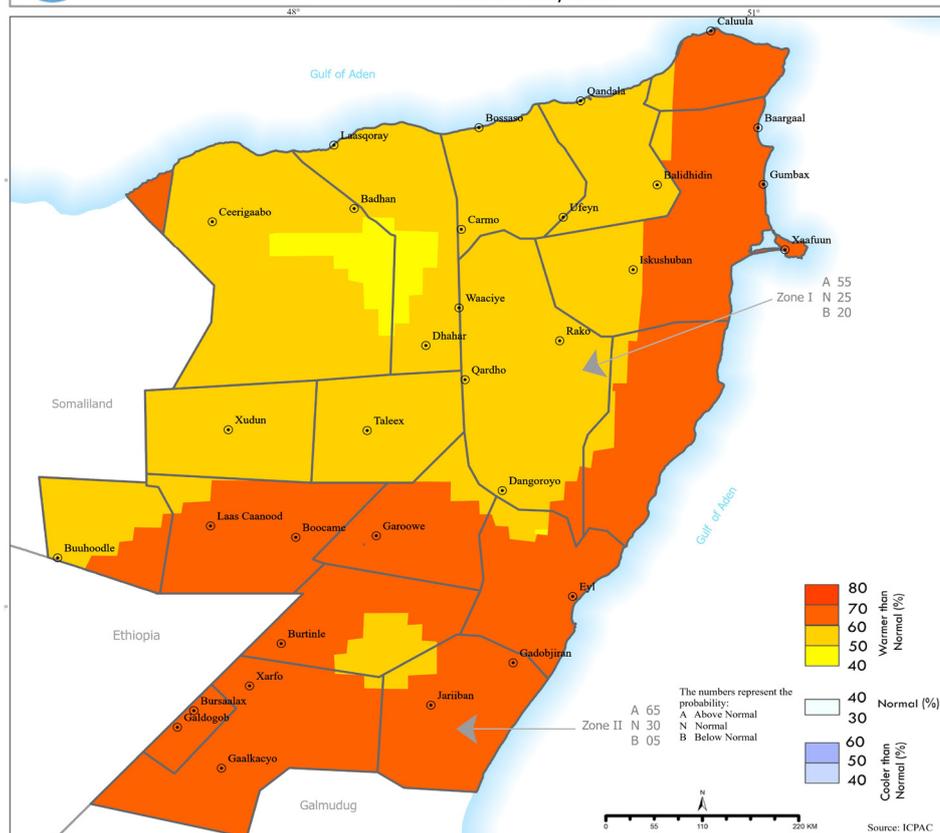
Map 1: March - May 2026 rainfall outlook

According to the Puntland GU seasonal outlook from March to May 2026, issued by IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC) during the 72nd Greater Horn of Africa Climate Outlook Forum (GHACOF72), indicates an enhanced likelihood of above normal to near normal rainfall across the regions of Puntland.

Although the GU season is an important rainy season, the rainfall onset is expected to be delayed in most parts of Puntland, while still there may be a possibility of early onset.

Based on the probabilistic rainfall forecast map, parts of Puntland are expected to have a 40% higher probability of receiving above-normal rainfall, particularly in the districts of **Buuhoodle, Garowe, Las'anod, Burtinle, Xudun, Dhahar, Galdogob, Galkacyo, Ceerigaabo, and Iskushuban**. Meanwhile, the rest of Puntland are expected to have a 30% probability of receiving near-normal rainfall. These areas also have an equal chance of receiving either below-normal or above-normal rainfall amounts.

However, a La Niña condition is currently present, with an estimated 75% probability of transitioning to ENSO-neutral conditions during the Jiilaal period (January - March), and this neutral condition is expected to continue through the GU season (March - May).



Map 2: Gu Temperature Outlook

Temperature Outlook

Temperature forecasts indicate higher probability of Exceeding 60% warmer than normal temperatures across most parts of Puntland.

As shown in Figure 2 the following impacts are expected:

- Declining water availability in surface water sources and shallow wells due to the Increased evaporation.
- Increased plant evapotranspiration, leading to greater crop water requirements.
- Soil moisture loss despite near-normal rainfall patterns.
- Increased heat stress on livestock and rising risks to human health
- Reduced pasture growth and deterioration of rangeland conditions.

Since the MAM period marks a crucial rainy season for Puntland, all relevant stakeholders, including government institutions and international partners, are advised to undertake early preparedness measures to mitigate potential impacts associated with the GU season.

Recommendations

- Populations living in areas expected to receive above-normal rainfall are encouraged to utilize the favourable seasonal conditions by expanding agricultural activities and improving water harvesting and storage practices.
- Communities in areas likely to experience below-normal rainfall are advised to adopt preparedness measures including conserving livestock feed, improving water management practices, rehabilitating existing water sources, and identifying appropriate grazing areas.
- Farmers are encouraged to adopt water-efficient irrigation methods, plant drought-tolerant crop varieties, and adjust planting calendars based on moisture availability for below normal rainfall expected areas.
- Puntland farmers are advised to implement soil moisture conservation measures such as mulching and rainwater harvesting techniques
- Stakeholders are encouraged to regularly follow climate information and updates issued by the Puntland Information Management Center for water and Land resources (IMC).