



**PUNTLAND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT CENTRE
FOR WATER & LAND RESOURCES**

Technical Statement from IMC Puntland Deyr Seasonal Climate Outlook Dissemination Workshop

1st September 2026, Garowe, Puntland , Somalia

1. THE PUNTLAND DEYR SEASONAL CLIMATE OUTLOOK DISSEMINATION WORKSHOP

The Information Management Centre for Water & Land Resources – Puntland (IMC) this week organized a technical workshop to present and disseminate the Deyr (**October–December**) 2026 Seasonal Climate Outlook. Drawing on the forecast issued by the IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (**ICPAC**) and other international climate models during the 74th Greater Horn of Africa Climate Outlook Forum (**GHACOF74**), the dissemination workshop also reviewed and documented the impacts of the previous GU' (**MAMJ**) 2026 season, presenting the effects of the below-normal rains observed through rain gauge data, vegetation and pasture conditions and the combined drought index.

The Workshop brought together government partners, humanitarian organizations , development partners, local Governments , civil society , Climate information users representing different sectors, together with representatives from the media, INGOs, Universities and research organizations , Business community , actively engaged in co-producing mitigation strategies, ensuring that the outlook and advisories are relevant, actionable, and supportive of resilience building across the wider Puntland community.

2. OBJECTIVE OF THE OND 2026 SEASONAL CLIMATE OUTLOOK FOR PUNTLAND

The October to December (**OND**) Deyr season is an important rainfall period for Somalia and contributing up to 70% of total annual rainfall (**ICPAC , 2026**). Analysis of predictions from seven Global Producing Centers (GPCs), tailored for the GHA, indicates an elevated likelihood of above-normal rainfall in OND 2026 throughout most of the Horn of Africa region.

The predicted onset dates for the October–December 2026 rainfall season based on six Global Climate Models (GCMs) providing daily rainfall forecasts. Onset was assessed within the period from 15 August to 31 December. The results indicate a likelihood of early to normal rainfall onset across parts of Puntland.

3. THE ANALOGUE YEARS AND TEMPERATURE OUTLOOK

Comparison of current tropical Sea Surface Temperature (SST) conditions and the projected Niño 3.4 index evolution identifies **1997 and 2023 as analogue years** for the OND 2026 season. Both years experienced **El Niño** conditions and recorded wetter-than-normal rainfall for most of Somalia consistent with the consolidated OND 2026 rainfall forecast.

These historical similarities support the potential influence of a **strong El Niño and developing** positive IOD on OND 2026 rainfall. However, the analogue years provide supporting evidence only and should not be considered a substitute for the objective forecast.

The Puntland Deyr 2026 temperature forecast indicates a **90% probability of above-average temperatures**, suggesting a strong likelihood of warmer-than-normal conditions throughout the season as shown in **Figure 1**.

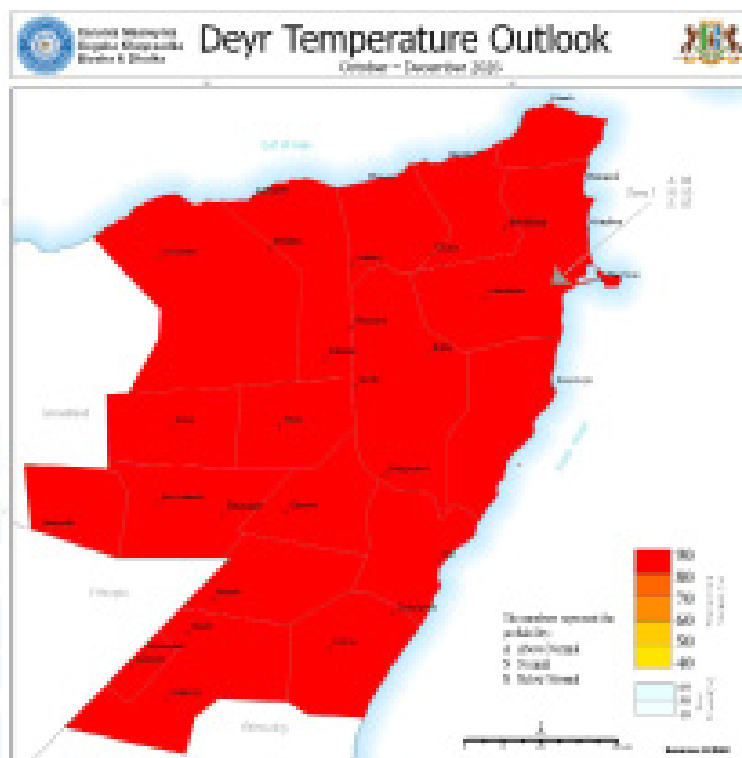


Figure 1: Temperature Forecast Map

4. FORECAST METHODOLOGY

IMC Puntland used the ICPAC GHACOF74 OND 2026 seasonal climate outlook as the basis for assessing Deyr 2026 conditions in Puntland. The outlook was developed using August 2026 initialized forecasts from seven Global Producing Centers (GPCs): CMCC, COLA-RSMAS-CCSM4, DWD, ECMWF, Météo-France, NASA-GEOS2S, and NCEP-CFSv2.

The forecast applied three calibration approaches (**Canonical Correlation Analysis (CCA)**, **Linear Regression**, and **Skill-Based Analysis**) and averaged their outputs to produce the consolidated objective forecast. Rainfall and temperature probabilities were assessed against the 1991 - 2020 climatological baseline, with rainfall classified as above-normal, normal, or below-normal based on the historical distribution.

IMC used these consolidated forecasts to assess the expected rainfall, temperature, and seasonal onset conditions for Puntland during the Deyr (**October–December 2026**) season.

5. KEY CLIMATE DRIVERS - OND 2026

The workshop explained the major oceanic and climate drivers influencing the Deyr (OND 2026) season, focusing on the Pacific and Indian Oceans and their influence on rainfall over the Greater Horn of Africa.

The workshop reviewed observed and forecast Sea Surface Temperature (SST) conditions and their potential influence on the Deyr (OND 2026) season. The analysis highlighted that El Niño is established and strengthening across the tropical Pacific. The **Niño 3.4** SST anomaly has reached **+1.8°C**, while the May - July 2026 Relative Oceanic Nino Index (RONI) stands at **+1.0°C**, confirming significant ocean warming. Forecasts from the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and major Global Producing Centers (GPCs) indicate continued strengthening, with an 81% probability of a very strong El Niño with increased (RONI $\geq 2.0^{\circ}\text{C}$) during OND 2026. There is also a 97% probability that El Niño conditions will persist into March - May 2027.

Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) – OND 2026 , The workshop also highlighted that the IOD is **currently neutral**, but forecasts suggest a possible shift toward positive IOD conditions during OND 2026. While IOD forecasts remain uncertain, **positive IOD** combined with El Niño conditions can increase the likelihood of above-normal OND rainfall parts of the Greater Horn of Africa (GHA) including Somalia.

PUNTLAND PROBABILITY FORECAST OF RAINFALL FOR OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2026

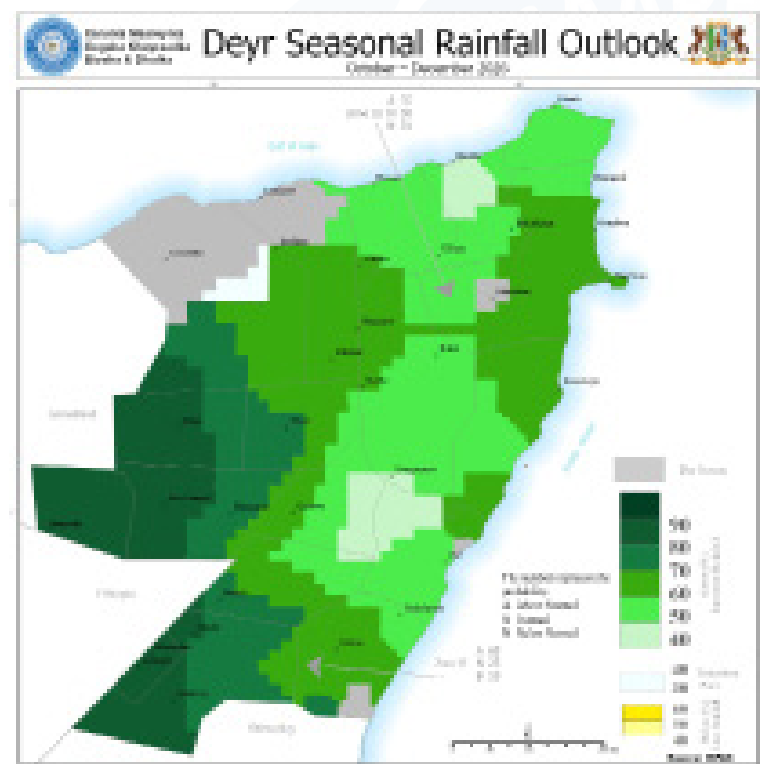


Figure 2: Puntland Probabilistic Rainfall forecast

probability of above-normal rainfall, 30% for normal and 15% for below-normal rainfall.

Parts of Ceerigaabo, Laasqoray and Iskushuban district, are classified as Dry Season areas on the outlook map and are not expected to receive meaningful Deyr rainfall.

The rainfall outlook for Puntland indicates various zones given in **Figure 2** below:

The seasonal outlook divides Puntland into Three each carrying a distinct probability for above-normal, normal and below-normal rainfall over October–December 2026.

Zone II – covering Burtinle, Galdogob, Bursaalax, Gaalkacyo, Xarfo, Jariiban, Garowe, Dhahar, Boocame, Taleex, Xudun, Laascaanod, Qardho, Waaciye, Carmo, Badhan, Xaafuun, Banderbayla and Gumbax - carries a 65% probability of above-normal rainfall, against 25% for normal and 10% for below-normal rainfall.

Zone III – covering a large part of Bossaso, Qandala, Ufayn, Rako, Dangorayo, Godobjiiraan, Caluula, Eyl and Ballidhidin have a 55%

WORKSHOP DISCUSSIONS AND SECTORAL ADVISORIES

The workshop discussed the implications of the OND 2026 climate outlook for Puntland, with particular attention to the expected rainfall and temperature conditions for key livelihood sectors: fisheries, livestock, agriculture, water, health, education, environment, disaster risk management, and media. Participants identified priority preparedness and anticipatory actions across the **key sectors**:

- Strengthen early warning and early action systems, ensuring forecasts and advisories translate into actions at districts and community level.
- Train and activate disaster management committees from district to village level and integrate local and traditional knowledge into preparedness and response planning.
- Priorities protection of high-risk areas - floodplains, valleys, waterways, low-lying areas, coastal settlements and vulnerable communities in Puntland.
- Maintain drought monitoring in areas forecast to receive below-normal rainfall, and update contingency plans as pasture and water indicators decline.
- Strengthen surveillance and response readiness for possible waterborne and water-related disease outbreaks.
- Identify health and education facilities in flood-prone areas and prepare temporary access, evacuation and service-continuity arrangements where flooding may interrupt services.
- Secure water supplies early by repairing and maintaining boreholes, shallow wells and other strategic water sources before availability declines.
- Promote rainwater harvesting and rehabilitate and expand existing water-storage structures, so that surplus rainfall is captured for multi-sectoral use during the drier months.
- Strengthen livestock health preparedness , pre-position vaccines and veterinary supplies, expand disease surveillance and rapid reporting.
- Protect fishing lives and livelihoods through timely marine-weather warnings, safe-navigation measures, and clear advice to suspend fishing when sea conditions are unsafe.
- Actively engage media and other communication networks to rapidly disseminate rainfall, possible hazards and safety advisories to wider communities including farmers, pastoralists and fishing communities.

CONTRIBUTIONS

The workshop was held with the active participation of partner organizations and collaborating government institutions.



Somalia



Save the Children



World Food Programme

