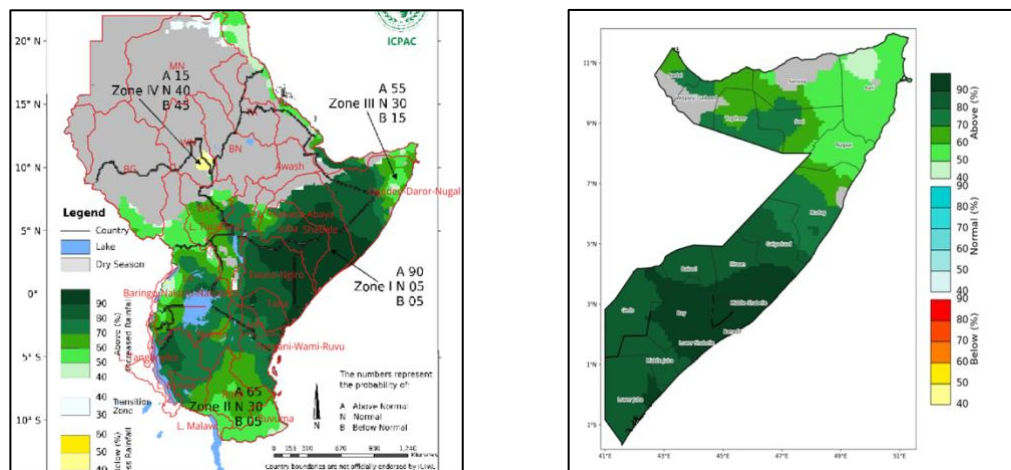




MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND WATER RESOURCES – FGS

Ministry Issues National Water-Sector Advisory for the Wetter and Warmer October–December 2026 Season



Mogadishu, Somalia, 16 September 2026, the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources has issued a national water-sector advisory and is coordinating preparedness for the wetter and warmer conditions forecast during the October–December Deyr season.

The Ministry will lead national water monitoring, risk analysis, technical guidance and coordination. It will work with Federal Member State ministries, district administrations, municipalities, water operators, WASH partners and communities to protect water infrastructure, reduce contamination risks and maintain access to safe water.

The regional and national seasonal forecasts indicate an increased likelihood of wetter-than-normal conditions across Somalia during October–December (Deyr) 2026.

The probability of above-normal rainfall reaches approximately 90 percent over much of central and southern Somalia. Parts of the country could receive seasonal rainfall totals exceeding 400 millimetres. An early or near-normal onset of rainfall is also considered likely.

El Niño conditions have developed and are expected to strengthen, while a positive Indian Ocean Dipole is also anticipated. These climate drivers have historically been associated with enhanced rainfall over parts of the Greater Horn of Africa. Above-normal temperatures are simultaneously forecast across much of Somalia.

What the forecast means for the water sector

The expected rainfall could improve surface-water availability, groundwater recharge and water storage in berkads, earth dams and water pans. These benefits could ease water shortages and support households, livestock and agricultural production.

However, intense or prolonged rainfall could also produce rapid runoff, flash floods, riverbank overtopping, embankment breaches and waterlogging.

Floodwater may contaminate shallow wells, boreholes, berkads and other drinking-water sources, increasing the risk of waterborne disease.

Above-normal temperatures may increase domestic and livestock water demand while accelerating evaporation from open water-storage facilities.

A wetter-than-normal seasonal forecast does not guarantee water security in every location. Some northern and northeastern areas may receive less rainfall than central and southern Somalia and should continue monitoring groundwater levels, borehole performance and salinity.

Water infrastructure exposed to flooding

MoEWR & FAO-SWALIM joint preliminary screening of 7,517 water sources identified 586 sources at high or very high risk of flooding. Approximately 65 percent of these sources are concentrated in ten priority districts:

District	Sources at risk	District	Sources at risk
Jowhar	76	Rab Dhuure	29
Belet Weyne	62	Xudur	26
Afgooye	57	Bu'aale	24
Luuq	47	Bulo Burto	16
Balcad	36	Qoryooley	11

At least one million recorded users depend on water sources currently classified as being at high or very high flood risk. The Ministry will use this screening to guide inspections, preparedness measures and the allocation of available resources.

Actions led by the Ministry

Under this advisory, the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources will:

- Increase monitoring of rainfall, river levels, groundwater conditions and flood risks affecting water infrastructure.
- Issue regular water-sector advisories and share updated information with government authorities, humanitarian partners, water operators and the public.
- Maintain and update the national list of water sources exposed to flooding, contamination, physical damage or loss of access.
- Coordinate joint inspections of high-risk water infrastructure and known weak or breached sections along the Juba and Shabelle rivers.
- Provide technical guidance for embankment repairs, protection of boreholes, drainage works, water treatment and restoration of damaged water services.
- Convene Federal Member State authorities, district administrations and water-sector partners to assign responsibilities, identify available resources and address preparedness gaps.

- Coordinate the positioning of chlorine, water-quality testing equipment, repair materials and technical teams in priority districts.
- Support rapid assessments of flooded or damaged water sources and coordinate their treatment, repair, temporary closure or replacement.
- Track preparedness actions and report progress through national and subnational emergency coordination arrangements.
- Continue updating the advisory using observed rainfall, river levels, groundwater information and short- and medium-range flood forecasts.

Priority Advisories by Basin and Operational Area

Basin Name	Main Water risk	Advisory
Juba and Shabelle rivers	River levels may rise rapidly after heavy rainfall in Somalia or upstream catchments. Overbank flow, embankment failure and waterlogging may contaminate wells and interrupt access to water points.	Monitoring river gauges and forecasts daily. Inspecting embankments and active breaches, clearing drainage, warning exposed settlements and pre-positioning safe-water supplies and treatment materials.
Lag Dera and Lag Badana	Rapid runoff may flood seasonal channels, roads and low-lying settlements. Recharge may improve, while contaminated runoff can enter shallow sources, berkads and water pans.	Monitoring flash-flood products. Desilting storage, repairing spillways, marking unsafe crossings and raising or sealing wellheads before peak rainfall.
Central coastal and urban catchments	Intense rain may overwhelm drainage and cause urban flooding, stagnant water and contamination near sanitation systems.	Clearing drains and culverts, issuing urban alerts, protecting borehole compounds and testing water quality after inundation.
Ogaden Basin	Rainfall and runoff may vary across the basin. Southern drainage lines may flood while drier northern areas continue to face supply stress.	Using sub-basin monitoring. Maintaining flood readiness in active drainage lines and continuing borehole and water-scarcity monitoring in drier areas.
Tug Der and Nugaal, Darror and Gulf of Aden basins	Above-normal rainfall can still produce low seasonal totals where OND is normally dry. Short intense storms may cause dangerous floods in toggas, wadis and urban outlets.	Continuing groundwater, drought and salinity monitoring. Keeping rapid storm warnings active, restrict movement at flooded crossings and protecting springs, boreholes and storage facilities.

Current River Conditions

As of 16 September 2026, the Juba River was reported at low flow, while the Shabelle River was at moderate flow.

These conditions can change quickly once seasonal rainfall begins. The ministry will therefore provide updated information on river status together with observed rainfall, upstream conditions, and short-range flood forecasts.

This advisory marks the start of coordinated water-sector preparedness for the 2026 Deyr season. The Ministry will update its guidance as the season progresses.

Preparedness priorities will also be adjusted using observed rainfall, river levels, groundwater conditions, reported infrastructure damage and information received from Federal Member States and district administrations.

Early action by all responsible institutions can reduce damage to water infrastructure, protect drinking-water quality and limit interruptions to essential water services.

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