

SEASONAL CLIMATE OUTLOOK FOR JUNE TO AUGUST 2016 PERIOD OVER UGANDA

June – August is normally a wet season for this region and the region is currently experiencing occasional outbreaks of light showers punctuated with isolated dry spells. This situation is expected to continue up to late June / early July. Thereafter, occasional outbreak of light intermittent showers is expected to be experienced as continuity of the rain season in the region and continue up to the end of the end of August. Overall, there are high chances of near normal to above normal rainfall over most parts of this region.

2.4 NORTHERN REGION

2.4.1 North Western (Moyo, Yumbe, Adjumani, Arua, Terego, Zombo, Nebbi, Koboko) districts

June – August is normally a wet season for these areas and the region is currently experiencing occasional outbreak of showers and thunderstorms which are expected to continue up to late June/early July when dry conditions are expected to prevail until about early August when intermittent light rains are expected to pick up and continue up to the end of the season. Overall, above normal rains are expected over this region as a continuity of the rainfall season up to the end of August.

2.4.2 Eastern Northern Parts: (Lira, Alebtong, Kitgum, Agago, Otuke, Pader, Kole, Dokolo and Kaberamaido) districts

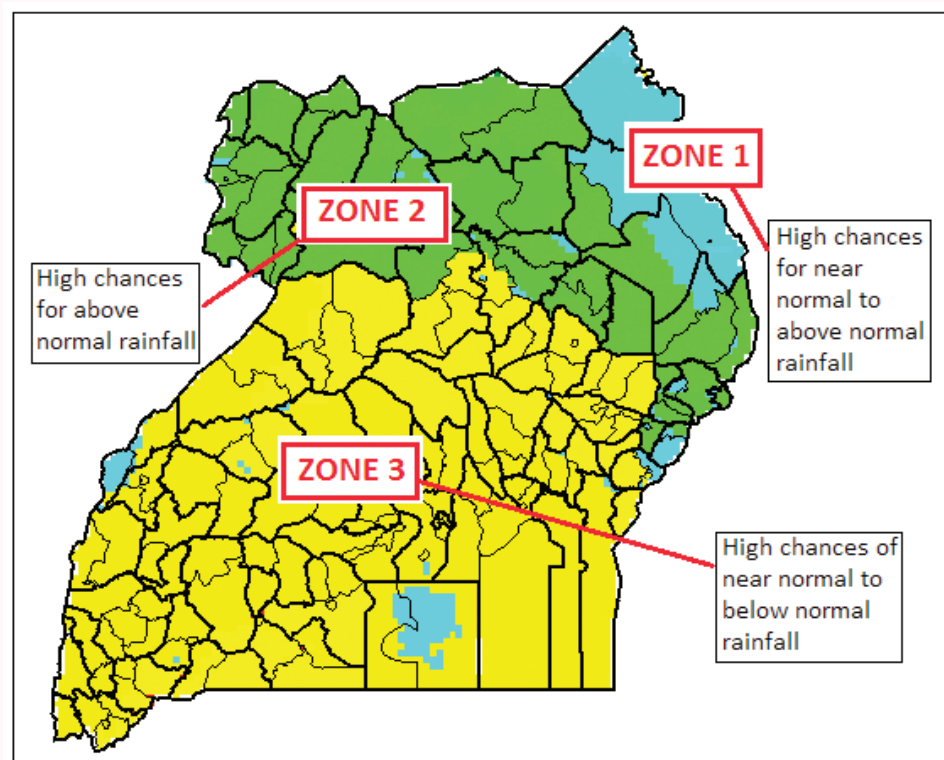
June – August is normally a wet season for this region and currently the region is receiving isolated outbreaks of showers and thunderstorms which are expected to continue up to late June/early July giving way to a slight relaxation. Thereafter, outbreak of seasonal rains and showers is expected to pick up and continue up to the end of the season. Overall, there are high chances for this region receiving above normal rains.

2.4.3 Central Northern Parts: (Gulu, Apac, Pader, Lamwo, Nwoya, Amuru, Oyam Amolatar and Kiryandongo)

June – August is normally a wet season for this region and currently the region is receiving occasional outbreaks of isolated showers and thunderstorms which are expected to continue up to late June/early July giving way to a slight relaxation and thereafter steady rains are expected to pick up and continue up to the end of the season. Overall, there are high chances of this region receiving above normal rains over this season.

3.0 SECTOR ADVISORIES

Implications of the forecast and advisories for each sector are given in the subsequent sections grouped according to the zones given in figure 2.



3.1 Implications of the forecast (Near normal) and advisories for districts in ZONE1

3.1.1 Implications of the forecast in zone1

Overall, there are high chances for near normal to above normal rainfall over most areas in Zone1. Implications of the seasonal climate forecast indicate that the total rainfall in zone 1 is expected to be within the normal range of 75% to 125% of the long term mean (LTM) of the base period of 1981-2010. This range of rainfall is expected to adequately support the normal socio-economic activities for the various areas in zone 1.

3.1.2 Specific advisories to different sectors in zone1

- Timely planting is encouraged;
- Construct drainage and diversion channels on crop plots and parcels in preparation for cases of heavy rains;
- Put in place soil conservation structures to prevent soil erosion for those on slopes and highlands;
- Use food stocks sparingly and ensure appropriate food storage practices;
- Pasture preservation (making hay and silage) and use available water sparingly;

- Water harvesting for home consumption, and ground water harvesting into gardens, dams and valley tanks for livestock and sustaining crop production is encouraged;
- In general, farmers are advised to make use of the seasonal rains by optimizing crop yield through appropriate land-use management. Farmers are also encouraged to plant enough food.
- It should be noted that local and month-to-month variations might occur as the season progresses. For example, disasters may arise from strong and gusty winds and lightning among others. Therefore, appropriate measures should be taken to avoid loss of life and destruction of property.

3.2 Implications of the forecast (Above Normal) and advisories for 3.3 districts in ZONE2

3.2.1 Implications of the forecast in Zone2

Overall, above normal rains are expected over this region implying that expected total rainfall amounts will be above 125% of the long term mean (LTM) of the base period of 1981-2010. This means that Impact on socio-economic activities is mostly boosted especially in the modest degrees of above average for several areas. Due to the expected high chances of zone 2 receiving above normal rainfall conditions, epidemics of diseases such as malaria, cholera, bilharzia and typhoid as well as increase of lower respiratory diseases such as asthma due to humid conditions are expected. Other expected potential impacts include flash floods/ water logging, Infrastructure damage, and enhanced food production.

3.2.2 Specific advisories to different sectors in zone2

Crops

- Planting of long maturing crops like cassava and sweet potatoes at the beginning of the rainy season and quick maturing crops later on (beans, tomatoes, vegetables) as rain progress is encouraged;
- Pruning of crops like fruit trees (avocado, apples, mangoes, oranges) and bananas and practice other crop husbandry activities should be encouraged;
- Construct drainage and diversion channels on crop plots and parcels to avoid/minimize water logging in case of heavy rains;
- Manage crop pests and diseases attacking the crops, vegetables;
- Harvest root tube crops like cassava and sweet potatoes and convert them to chips or other dry forms to preserve it in the event that water logging is likely to damage the crops;
- Harvesting of mature crops and good postharvest handling practices to prevent pest infestation and spoilage are encouraged;
- Avoid agricultural activities along river banks;
- Encourage planting of improved high yielding varieties i.e. cereals, soya, sorghum;
- Avoid planting in areas prone to water logging.

Livestock

- Livestock diseases and vectors like tsetse flies, liverflucks, foot and mouth
- Plant pastures and other fodder crops and improve existing pasture for livestock production

- Watch and treat livestock against tick-borne diseases, worms and fungal diseases.
- De-silt and clear water ways to harvest enough water for livestock;
- Arrange for tsetse fly control (traps) for districts neighboring Lake Kyoga.

Water and Fisheries

- Water contamination is expected;
- Practice proper maintenance of fish ponds;
- De-silting of dams, valley tanks, fishponds should be advised;
- Clear water pathways to avoid silting.

Disaster

- Update district contingency plans according to the implication of the seasonal climate forecast given;
- Tracking the progress and performance of the seasonal climate forecast is encouraged;
- Construct drainage and diversion channels around homesteads and gardens;
- Construct shelters with raised foundations;
- Proper post harvest handling is encouraged.

Health and Public Safety

- Increase disease surveillance;
- Contingency planning is encouraged;
- Health education and awareness campaigns emphasizing use of mosquito nets, bush clearing and disposal of open containers should be encouraged;
- Draining of stagnant water around homes;
- Intensify disease surveillance;
- Health centers are encouraged to stock drugs.

Works and Infrastructure

- Regular road inspections and maintenance by opening and construction of wide water channels and filling of potholes should be encouraged;
- Regular repair of roofs;
- Strengthening of bridges;
- Precautions against lightning should be taken;
- Local leaders should mobilize communities to clear the possible water drainage areas.

3.3 Implications of the forecast and advisories for districts in ZONE3

3.3.1 Implications

Overall, near normal to below normal rains are expected over this region implying that the total rainfall amount in three months of the season is expected to be below 75% of the long term mean (LTM) of the base period of 1981-2010. This means that under this range, there are high chances for socio-economic activities being stressed, the level of stress increasing with increasing rainfall deficiency. Other impacts expected include prolonged dry spells punctuated with isolated occasional light rains in some few places, shortage of pasture and water for livestock, reduced performance of planted crops, water stress for some crops like bananas and tea, drying of streams and other water sources (boreholes, wells) leading to decline in water tables.

3.3.2 Specific advisories to different sectors

Crops

- Practice mulching especially of perennial crops like bananas, coffee to conserve the available moisture in the soil;
- Plant drought resistant crops like Sorghum,