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UGANDA NATIONAL METEOROLOGICAL AUTHORITY

Ref: SCF/SOND/2024

2nd September, 2024

SEPTEMBER TO DECEMBER 2024 SEASONAL RAINFALL OUTLOOK OVER UGANDA

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Uganda generally experiences two major rainfall seasons; March-April-May (MAM), and September-October-November-December (SOND) as the first and second rainy seasons, respectively. However, the northern region and parts of eastern Uganda usually experience a substantial rainfall during June-July-August (JJA) season.

2.0 GENERAL FORECAST

Overall, the SOND 2024 rainfall outlook indicates that several parts of the country are expected to receive **near-average to above-average** rainfall. However, some parts of the cattle corridor areas of southwestern, central and northeastern regions are expected to experience **near-average to below-average** rainfall conditions during the forecast period. The spatial distribution map of the expected seasonal rainfall is shown in Figure 1.

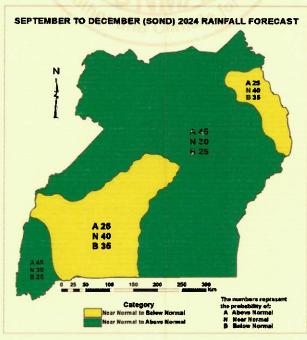


Figure 1: The seasonal rainfall outlook for September to December (SOND), 2024

3.0 THE SOND 2024 CLIMATE DRIVERS

The major climate drivers that are expected to influence the SOND 2024 rainfall outlook over Uganda include: -

- i) The neutral state of the Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) over the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean;
- ii) The neutral phase of the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD);
- iii) The orientation of the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ);
- iv) The intra-seasonal variation of Madden Julian Oscillations (MJO) which is expected to affect the spatial distribution of rainfall at different time scales of the season over most parts of the country;
- v) The influence of the Congo air mass circulation, topographical features, and large inland water bodies.

Based on the above considerations, the detailed seasonal rainfall outlook for the forecast period is provided below.

4.0 DETAILED FORECAST

The expected monthly rainfall distribution indicates that the month of September is expected to experience wetter conditions compared to October and November. The cessation of rainfall is expected in December, 2024. (Refer to figure 2 for more details)

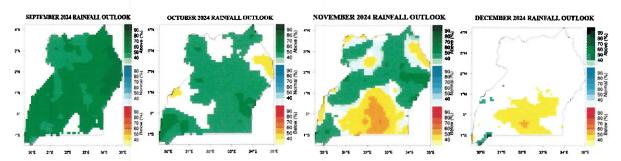


Figure 2: Monthly breakdown of the seasonal rainfall outlook for September to December (SOND), 2024

4.1 WESTERN UGANDA

4.1.1 South Western Highlands (Kabale, Kisoro, Rukungiri, Kanungu, Rukiga, Rubanda, Bushenyi, Rubirizi, Mitooma, Buhweju, Sheema, Rwampara) districts

The dry conditions over this region are expected to continue up to early September when the onset of the seasonal rainfall will get established with the peak around late September to early October. The cessation is around mid to late November. This region is expected to experience **near-normal to above-normal** rainfall is expected over this region.

4.1.2 South Western Lowlands (Ntungamo, Isingiro, Mbarara, Ibanda, Kiruhura and Kazo) districts

The current dry conditions over this region are expected to gradually give way to occasional rains that will indicate the onset of seasonal rainfall around early September and peak around late September to early October. The cessation of the seasonal rainfall in this region is expected around mid to late November. Overall, near-normal to below-normal (average) rainfall is expected to prevail over the region.

4.1.3 Rwenzori sub-region (Kasese, Bundibugyo, Ntoroko, Kabarole and Bunyangabu) districts

This region is currently experiencing isolated rain which is expected to continue and get established around early September. The peak of the seasonal rainfall will get established by late September to early October. The cessation of the seasonal rains is expected around mid-late November. Overall, **near normal with a tendency to below normal rainfall** conditions are expected during the forecast period.

4.1.4 Central parts of Western (Masindi, Buliisa, Hoima, Kikuube, Kakumiro Kyenjojo, Kyegegwa, Kamwenge, Kitagwenda, Kagadi and Kibaale) districts

The current rainfall that is being experienced over most parts of this region indicates the onset of the seasonal rainfall. Peak rains are expected around late September to early October. The cessation of the seasonal rains is expected around late November to early December. Overall, near normal (average) with a tendency to above normal (enhanced) rainfall conditions are expected in this region.

4.2 CENTRAL AND LAKE VICTORIA REGION

4.2.1 Western areas of Central region: (Nakasongola, Luwero, Kyankwanzi, Kakumiro, Kasanda, Nakaseke, Kiboga, Mubende, Sembabule, Lyantonde, and Rakai) districts.

Some parts of this region are currently experiencing occasional isolated thunderstorms signifying the onset of the seasonal rainfall. Wet conditions are expected to set in during September reaching the peak around late September to early October. The cessation of rainfall is expected around mid to late November. Overall, **near-normal with a slight tendency to below-normal** rainfall conditions are expected to prevail over this region during the forecast period.

4.2.2 Central and Western Lake Victoria region: (Kalangala, Kampala, Wakiso, Masaka, Kyotera, Lwengo, Mpigi, Butambala, Kalungu, Bukomansimbi, Gomba, and Mityana) districts

Some areas of this region are experiencing occasional showers and thunderstorms signaling the onset of the seasonal rainfall. Wet conditions are expected to prevail in most parts of the region reaching the peak level in late September to early October. The cessation is expected around mid to late November. Overall, near-normal with a slight tendency to below-normal rainfall is expected to prevail over this region.

4.2.3 Eastern areas of Central region: (Mukono, Buikwe, Kayunga, and Buvuma) districts

The region has been experiencing isolated rainfall indicating the onset of seasonal rainfall. The steady rains are expected to get established around mid to late September reaching peak levels early October. Cessation of the seasonal rainfall is expected around early to mid-November. Overall, near-normal with a tendency to above-normal rainfall conditions are expected to prevail over this region.

4.2.4 Eastern Lake Victoria Basin (Jinja, Bugiri, Busia, Mayuge, Namayingo and Tororo) districts.

Currently, this region is experiencing isolated showers and thunderstorms indicating the onset of the seasonal rainfall. The peak of the seasonal rain is expected around late September to early October. The cessation is likely to occur around mid-November. Overall, **near-normal** to **above-normal** is expected in this region.

4.3 EASTERN REGION

4.3.1 South Eastern (Kamuli, Iganga, Bugweri, Luuka, Namutumba, Buyende, Kaliro, and Butaleja) districts

Most parts of this region are currently experiencing showers and thunderstorms which are expected to stabilize by early September reaching the peak levels around late September to early October. The cessation of the seasonal rains is expected around mid to late November. Overall, **near-normal (average)** to **above-normal (enhanced)** rainfall is expected over the region.

4.3.2 Eastern parts of Kyoga (Pallisa, Butebo, Budaka, Kibuku, Bukedea, Kumi, Kalaki, Kaberamaido, Serere and Soroti) districts.

The rainfall that is being experienced over this region is expected to continue, reaching a peak around late September. The cessation of the seasonal rains is

expected around mid to late November. Overall, near normal (average) with a tendency to above normal (enhanced) rainfall is expected over the region.

4.3.3 Mount Elgon (Mbale, Sironko, Bulambuli, Manafwa, Bududa, Namisindwa, Kapchorwa, Kween and Bukwo) districts

This region has been experiencing rainfall in most parts, which is expected to continue, reaching the peak around late September. The cessation of the seasonal rainfall is expected around mid-November. Overall, there are high chances of **near-normal** to **above-normal** rainfall.

4.3.4 North Eastern (Amuria, Kapelebyong, Katakwi, Moroto, Kotido, Nakapiripirit, Nabilatuk, Abim, Napak, Amudat, Karenga and Kaabong) districts

Most parts of this region have been receiving enhanced rainfall, characterizing the peak which is expected to continue till late September. Thereafter, a gradual rainfall decline is expected leading to the cessation around mid to late October. Overall, **near-normal with a tendency to below-normal** rainfall conditions are expected to prevail over the region.

4.4 NORTHERN REGION

4.4.1 West Nile (Zombo, Nebbi, Pakwach, Madi-Okollo, Arua, Koboko, Terego, Maracha, Moyo, Yumbe, Obongi, and Adjumani) districts

The current rainfall being experienced over this region is expected to continue reaching peak levels around mid-September. The cessation of the seasonal rainfall is expected around early to mid-November. Overall, **near normal to above normal** rainfall is expected to prevail over this region.

4.4.2 Eastern Parts of Northern (Lira, Alebtong, Amolatar, Kitgum, Lamwo, Agago, Otuke, Pader, Kole and Dokolo districts).

The ongoing rainfall currently being experienced over this region is expected to continue reaching peak levels around early to mid-September. The cessation of the rainfall is expected around early to mid-November. Overall, **near normal** with a tendency to above normal rainfall is expected over the region.

4.4.3 Central Parts of Northern: (Gulu, Omoro, Kwania, Apac, Nwoya, Amuru, Oyam and Kiryandongo) districts

The current rainfall being experienced over this region is expected to continue reaching peak levels around mid to late September. The cessation of the seasonal rainfall is expected around early to mid-November. Overall, near

normal with a tendency to above normal rainfall is expected during the forecast period.

5.0 THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE SOND 2024 FORECAST

There is a high likelihood of receiving near-normal to above-normal rainfall over most parts of the country. However, some parts of the central, southwestern and northeastern regions are expected to experience near-normal to below-normal rainfall. This will impact socio-economic activities, such as agricultural production and food security, health, and water resources.

It should be noted that:

- Areas expected to receive near-normal to below-normal rainfall may experience that can adequately support normal socio-economic activities;
- Localized episodic flash flood events may occur in areas expected to receive near-normal to below-normal rainfall as a result of isolated heavy downpours.
- Poor rainfall distribution may occur in some areas expected to receive nearnormal to above-normal rainfall.

6.0 ADVISORIES TO DIFFERENT SECTORS

The following are potential impacts and advisories developed for action for each sector: -

6.1 AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY

6.1.1 Crops sub-sector

Areas expected to receive near-normal to above-normal rainfall Potential negative impact

- Waterlogging/Flooding/Leaching is likely to be high, especially in low-lying areas with poor drainage and compacted soils;
- Increased incidences of pests and diseases especially in mono-cropped zones;
- Destruction of crops by flood water, and high winds during storms;
- High postharvest losses due to damp conditions (moulding, rotting, and high aflatoxins);
- Increased soil erosion and loss of soil fertility in steep sloping lands, overgrazed or depleted soils.

Potential positive impact

- Sufficient water for production;
- Increased crop yields (for crops suited to the climate) boosted by higher rainfall and favourable temperatures;

 Favourable conditions for fruiting in perennial crops like coffee (robusta) and bananas.

Crop Advisories

- Timely planting at the onset of rainfall (start planting by early September);
- Plant improved high-yielding crop varieties. Contact area extension workers for area-specific varieties;
- Stagger/relay planting of short-duration crops;
- Plant longer maturing crops at the start of the season and progress with short-duration crops.;
- Apply good agronomical practices (GAPs) like timely weeding, spacing of crops, thinning, timely harvesting;
- Soil and moisture conservation practices e.g. mulching, drainage channels and erosion barriers on contour slopes (bunds, grass bunds, fanya juu/fanya chini trenches, diversion channels;
- Harvest water for use in drier periods;
- Extension officers should promote community-level crop monitoring and surveillance for pests and diseases and report outbreaks to the nearest extension officer;
- Extension officers should enhance plant health clinics;
- Integrated Pest Management practices like intercropping, trap crops, traps, baits, etc
- Timely control of pests and diseases like bacterial and fungal diseases;
- Plant agro-forestry species e.g. fruit trees, caliandra, grevillea, Ficus spp, Albizzia, Meosopsis, etc;
- In areas prone to water logging, plant crops like rice, yam, sugarcane;
- Put in place structures to reduce post-harvest losses like cribs /silos / hermetic bags to plan for storage facilities of excess produce.

6.1.2 Fisheries sub-sector

Areas expected to receive near-normal to above-normal rainfall Potential Negative Impact

- Increased siltation of ponds, especially for those near unstable shorelines/hillsides (affecting water quality and reducing oxygen levels);
- Excess rainfall may damage infrastructure like pond banks and nets;
- High postharvest losses due to transport disruptions, and storm surges;
- High open water accidents especially at night;
- Loss of fishing equipment due to heavy waves during heavy rainfall/windy events.

Potential Positive Impact

- Increased water flow into the ponds dispersing wastes;
- Increased natural food in the lakes (terrestrial insects, algal blooms);

- Increased production /recruitment of fish in lakes and rivers especially for flood-adaptive species;
- Ambient conditions for breeding for culturable fish.

Advisories

- Protect wetlands for seasonal migratory fish as their breeding places e.g. African catfish, and lungfish;
- Raise pond banks by adding more soil;
- Clear waterways around the fish farms to avoid silting;
- Stock fish in ponds due to availability of water:
- Prepare and build elevated drying racks/roofed platforms for fish drying;
- Have safety gadgets like life jackets for Fishermen or water travellers:
- Conserve wetlands;
- Observe the capacity of the fishing boats;
- Plan fishing trips. Leave early during the day and avoid night travels on the lake to reduce the risks of accidents;
- Repair or rebuild the boats/fishing vessels to ensure seaworthiness;
- Carry enough ice to preserve fish;
- Enhance Monitoring Control Surveillance (MCS) activities on water bodies.

6.1.3 Livestock sub-sector

Areas expected to receive near-normal to above-normal rainfall Potential Negative Impact

- Increased vector and disease incidences and vectors (ticks and east coast fever, foot and mouth disease, tsetse fly and trypanosomiasis, mosquitoes, lice, warble fly;
- Overcrowding and high contact rates in shelters during rains also increase disease incidences;
- Death of animals in flooded areas due to forage access cut off by waterlogging and animals weakened by dampness/coldness;
- Poisoning due to contamination of water from floodwaters carrying toxic industrial/agricultural chemicals;
- Damage to pastures that are less resistant to floods, especially in lowfertility soils;
- Excess rain may wash nutrients from pastures, reducing the quality of stored feeds like hay.

Potential Positive Impact

- Abundant surface and groundwater replenishing troughs and ponds increasing freely accessible drinking points for herds;
- Flourishing hardy grasses providing adequate dry matter for grazing animals.

Advisories

- Vaccination campaigns, timely deworming, and targeted spraying/pourons for vector control;
- Monitoring and surveillance of vectors and disease epidemics;
- Move the animals to less flooded areas:
- Optimum restocking of the farms with animals;
- Proper disposal of dead animals to minimize contamination and disease spread;
- Water harvesting and construction of water dams for permanent access;
- Provide animals with safe/clean water-treatment of water on the farm;
- Restrict grazing near contaminated areas;
- Pre-position and provide animals with adequate quality supplementary feeds and water (ad libitum) to increase production;
- Plant pastures and harvest any surplus forage into hay and silage before the rains;
- Proper storage of animal feeds under dry conditions;
- Construct quality/stable animal structures with waterproof roofs and nonslippery ground;
- Practice rotational grazing;
- Undertake reseeding programs.

6.1.4 Apiculture/beekeeping sub-sector

Areas expected to receive near-normal to below-normal rainfall

Potential Negative Impact

- Flooding may increase incidences of pests and diseases like wax moths and small hive beetles;
- Excessive moisture may weaken bees' immunity encouraging bacterial/fungal infections of stressed colonies;
- Destruction/loss of bees and beehives by heavy rainfall and strong wind (especially those made from non-durable materials like grass and cow dung).

Potential Positive Impact

- Adequate water that provides moisture for optimal floral nectar yields hence maintaining hive humidity;
- Abundance of flowering plants required by bees.

Advisories

- Shelter hives under tree/roof canopies, raised off the ground;
- Secure hives to anchor points with ropes;

- Use of more efficient beehives like traditional log/box hives, Kenyan Top Bar);
- Plant more flowering crops around the apiaries to anticipate peak honey production from December 2024 to February 2025;
- Set more beehives for increased production;
- Intercrop bee-attractive flowers with annual crops;
- Conserve Indigenous trees/shrubs valuable for pollinator habitat;
- Control the use of pesticides i.e. avoid neonicotinoid pesticides like imidacloprid, and thiamethoxam.

6.1.5 Crops sub-sector

Areas expected to receive near-normal to below-normal rainfall

Potential negative impact

 Increased incidences of pests and diseases occur e.g. termites, fall armyworms, maize stalk borers.

Potential positive impact

- Increased crop yields where rainfall may be evenly distributed even when low;
- Conserved soil fertility due to lower leaching and reduced erosions.

Crop Advisories

- · Promote integrated pest management;
- Apply mulch and manure to conserve moisture, and replenish the soil;
- Explore the use of soil and water conservation structures like half-moon pits, and permanent planting basins;
- Minimize tillage to retain organic matter:
- Plant short-duration crops like leafy vegetables;
- Plant drought-tolerant/early-maturing, and high-yielding crop varieties;
- Enhanced water harvesting;
- Plan for irrigation towards the cessation of the season;
- Plant cover crops to conserve moisture and nutrients like mucuna and lablab.

6.1.6 Fisheries sub-sector

Areas expected to receive near-normal to below-normal rainfall

Potential Negative Impact

Slightly lower catches of fish

Advisories

- Harvest water into reservoirs for future use:
- Manage/clear waterways leading to the ponds;

- Monitor the water quality in ponds;
- Construct drying racks for some fish species e.g. silver fish (mukene);
- Provide the right fish feed rations for rapid growth;
- Protect Fish breeding areas.

6.1.7 Livestock sub-sector

Areas expected to receive near-normal to below-normal rainfall

Potential Negative Impact

Incidences of diseases and vectors

Potential Positive Impact

- Water and animal feed may be insufficient in case of prolonged dry spells;
- Conducive weather conditions for pasture and forage growth where rainfall remains reliable and evenly distributed;
- Conducive environment for breeding and increased production.

Advisories

- Vaccinate and treat animals including timely deworming of animals;
- Monitoring and carrying out continuous disease surveillance and reporting any epidemics;
- Control of vectors such as ticks;
- Harvest run-off into farm dams/pans;
- Provide animals with adequate supplementary quality feeds (ad-libitum) and water to increase the production;
- Plant early maturing pastures;
- Preserve pastures (hay and silage making);
- Optimum stocking of animals.

6.1.8 Apiculture/beekeeping sub-sector

Areas expected to receive near-normal to below-normal rainfall

Potential Negative Impact

- Low flowering of plants;
- Low/limited water for honey production.

Potential Positive Impact

- Increased honey production and other bee products;
- Increased bee population;
- Ambient temperatures for breeding of bees.

Advisories

 Plant more flowering crops around the apiaries to anticipate peak honey production from December 2024 to February 2025;

- Provide shades to beehives against the weather;
- Set more beehives for increased production;
- Plan for water sources near beehive settings;
- Controlled application of pesticides i.e. avoid neonicotinoid pesticides like imidacloprid, and thiamethoxam.

7.0 WATER AND ENERGY SECTOR

Potential Positive Impact

- Expect increased availability of water for use (power generation, domestic use, industries, etc);
- Increased groundwater recharge.

Advisories

- Take advantage of the available water to increase hydro-electricity power production;
- Encourage water harvesting by constructing valley dams and underground tanks and using rain harvesting tanks.

Potential Negative Impact

- Expect groundwater contamination from surface runoff leading to disease transmission such as cholera, diarrhea and dysentery;
- High chances of increased surface and groundwater levels, leading to more water in the riverine and flash floods in flood-prone regions and bursting of river banks eg Nyamwamba in Rwenzori, Manafwa and Namatala in Elgon;
- Increased sediment loading into the water bodies and water storage facilities such as valley dams/tanks, reservoirs, ponds and other water passages.

Advisories

- Construction of valley dams, tanks, and dikes should be done early enough before peak rain periods;
- Encourage communities to carry out rainwater harvesting;
- People should vacate flood-prone areas and river banks;
- Demarcation of buffer zones:
- Strengthen river and reservoir banks by use of sandbags and gabions to stabilize them;
- Intensify monitoring of the water resources (Quality and Quantity);
- Soil and water conservation measures to reduce erosion and surface runoff;
- Desilting and opening up of trenches by urban authorities;
- Water source protection measures to protect water quality;
- Preparation/procurement of water treatment kits;
- · Encourage communities to boil water before drinking to kill most of the

germs;

- Plan for treatment kits in case of disease outbreaks;
- NWSC should check their distribution systems for leakages to minimize water contamination;
- Proper waste management to avoid clogging of channels and rivers through inflow into water channels:
- Awareness- creation of proper sanitation;
- Communities should avoid flood plains, riverbanks, lake shores and wetlands;
- Unblock drainage channels most especially in the urban centers;
- De-silting of the water storage facilities;
- Encourage planting of trees and grass (elephant) to reduce erosion;
- Embrace catchment management mechanisms;
- Continuous monitoring of water level.

8.0 HEALTH SECTORS ADVISORIES

Potential Negative Impact

- Increased incidences of water borne (diarrheal) and Vector borne (Malaria) diseases
- Disruption of emergency medical services such as referrals due to flooding;
- Increased respiratory tract infections Asthmatic Attacks

Potential Positive Impact

- Improved hygiene due to the availability of water
- Improved nutrition due to increased food production.

8.1 Advisories

- Intensify health education and awareness campaigns emphasizing the use of mosquito nets, slashing bushes, disposing open containers, filling up open pits, and draining stagnant water around homesteads in order to reduce bleeding places for mosquitoes;
- Districts are advised to intensify their efforts on disease surveillance to detect disease outbreaks early and emergency response to treat the affected populations;
- Increased prevention for air borne diseases and non-communicable illnesses should be improved;
- Districts are advised to stock adequate essential medicines and other health Supplies;
- Use of safe water and improve domestic hygiene and Sanitation around homes and schools to reduce on the contamination of water. E.g. use of latrines.

9.0 DISASTER RISK REDUCTION (DRR) SECTOR

Potential Impacts

- There is a high likelihood of floods in the flood prone areas such as TESO sub-region and flash floods in Kampala
- High likelihood of landslides/Mudslides in mountainous areas of Elgon, Kigezi and Rwenzori
- High chances of Lightning in most parts of the country;
- High likelihood of violent winds

9.1 Advisories

- Update and activate the multi-hazard district contingency plans,
- Conduct community sensitization, monitoring and assessment, including surveillance and reporting.
- Regularly acquire weather and climate updates from the Meteorological Service
- Conduct regular community meetings and preposition stock for emergencies.
- There is need to identify temporary sites for relocation in case of extreme weather related events like landslides and floods, and activate action teams.
- Communities should embark on clean-up activities (de-silting, digging drainage channels, clearing bushes around);
- As rain intensifies, communities need to relocate to safe and high grounds;
- Communities are advised not to take shelter under trees and tall structures that do not have lightning arresters when it's raining to mitigate lightning strikes;
- Communities should be advised to avoid crossing flooded/water-logged sections, as well as driving/riding during heavy downpours;
- The District Disaster Management Committees (DDMC) need to closely monitor disaster incidences and report to relevant authorities;
- Install water harvesting facilities at the household level;
- Water users are advised to avoid using water transport during risky times;
- Communities in flood-prone areas are advised to harvest and store/stock food;
- The Public may report any emergencies to NECOC on 0800 177777.

10.0 CONCLUSION

The predicted rainfall requires action in sufficient time and in an appropriate manner to take advantage of the information. This forecast should be used for decision making and planning in all rain-fed economic activities to improve the livelihoods and welfare for all our communities.

Please note that the current status of seasonal forecasting allows for the prediction of spatial and temporal averages. In order to manage short-term weather variations, users of this outlook are advised to make use of six hourly, daily, ten days' and monthly forecasts, routinely issued by the Meteorological Service. Appropriate updates and advisories will be regularly issued through continuous monitoring of the evolution of the relevant weather systems.

Bob Alex Ogwang, PhD

AG. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

EXPLANATORY NOTES TO TERMINOLOGY

- Above Normal: This is when the total rainfall is above 125% of the long-term
 -mean (LTM). Impact on socio-economic activities is mostly boosted especially
 in the modest degrees of above average.
- Normal: This is when the total rainfall is in the range of 75% to 125% of the LMT. This range of rainfall is expected to adequately support the normal socioeconomic activities for the various areas.
- **Below Normal:** This is when the total rainfall is below 75% of the LTM. Under this range there are high chances for socio-economic activities being stressed, the level of stress increasing with increasing rainfall deficiency.
- Categorical analysis is obtained from a comparison between the actual observation and the Long-Term Mean (Average) which determines the range of rainfall experienced to be above normal (enhanced), near normal (average) or below normal (suppressed) conditions.

Please note that the current status of seasonal forecasting allows for the prediction of spatial and temporal averages. In order to follow short-term weather variations, users of this outlook are advised to make use of six hourly forecasts, daily forecasts, ten days' and monthly forecasts, routinely issued by the Meteorological Service under the Ministry of Water and Environment.

Appropriate updates and advisories will be regularly issued, with continuous monitoring of the evolution of the relevant weather systems.