Observed rainfall data from most stations in Somalia during the month of April indicate that the Gu rains (April-June) started to pick up, though with some delays. Light to moderate rainfall was reported in Northwest, Central and South. The highest amount of rainfall of 65mm was recorded in Marere (Middle Juba), although it was still below the long-term mean for April (SWALIM rain gauge readings). However, Bardera received an unusually high amount of precipitation of 49.5mm compared to its Long Term Mean. According to FSNAU field reports, commencement of Gu rains is observed in most parts of the country.

Satellite derived Rainfall Estimates (RFE) is also confirming that the Gu season rainfall is starting to build up, especially in southern and central parts of the country. Satellite-derived Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (Map 6-8) shows that vegetation is starting to improve, especially in Bay, Juba and Shabelle regions. It should also be noted that the index is clearly below average for most of southern and central Somalia, which is a result of prolonged dry conditions in these regions.

According to FSNAU field reports, it is expected that the current rains would improve pasture and browse and eventually provide recovery to animals after an extended dry spell. This will, however, depend on the rainfall intensity and distribution in the successive weeks.

The recent rains helped to replenish water catchments in pastoral and agropastoral areas. Therefore, water trucking has ceased in many areas. Remigration of livestock is reported from Lower Juba riverine and dheshek areas to key pastoral areas.

Further analysis of the selected regions and districts are presented on page 3 and 4 of this update. This report is a compilation of climate data and field reports on Somalia that FSNAU and FEWSNET regularly review for analysis. For more information on data sources, please refer to page 2.
Primary data sources are NOAA/USGS, MARS-JRC, FSNAU and SWALIM. Maps and graphs on this bulletin are produced from four sources.

- Current Rainfall Estimates and NDVI data are derived from NOAA/CPC and DEVCOCAST (www.devcocast.eu) respectively, while the rain gauge data is collected by FAO-SWALIM and FEWSNET.

- The seasonal profiles on pages 3 and 4 are produced in collaboration with JRC-MARS. For more information visit http://mars.jrc.europa.eu/mars/About-us/FOODSEC


For information on FOODSEC Action of JRC, please refer to http://mars.jrc.ec.europa.eu/mars/About-us/FOODSEC
Seasonal rainfall and NDVI trends by region

Map 11: Agricultural Areas
Map 12: Pastoral Areas

Source: FAO-AFRICOVER

Seasonal rainfall and NDVI trends by region

* The NDVI minimum represents the lowest value of NDVI recorded since 1999
Seasonal rainfall and NDVI trends for selected districts

Map 13: Agricultural Areas
Source: SWALIM

Map 14: Pastoral Areas
Source: FAO-AFRICOVER

The NDVI minimum represents the lowest value of NDVI recorded since 1999.