

# EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR FOOD SECURITY

No. 2018/17

## IN THE GAMBIA

Period: October 11 - 20, 2018



Government of The Gambia

Produced and Published by The Gambia National  
Multidisciplinary Working Group (MWG)

Focal Point: Department of Water Resources  
TEL: (+220) 4227631 / 4224122 / 8905229 - FAX: (+220) 422 50 09  
E-MAIL [imtouray@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:imtouray@yahoo.co.uk) / WEB: [www.ccews.com](http://www.ccews.com)



### 1.0 SYNOPTIC SITUATION:

The mean surface position of the ITD have its western axis oscillating over central Senegal, stretching across central Mali, southern Niamey and sloping on to Chad.

Places to the north of the ITD were dry and stable with dust haze reported over Algeria. Whilst, to the south, isolated to scattered convective activities resulting to rain showers and thunderstorms affected some countries along the Gulf of Guinea viz. Benin, Togo, Ivory Coast, and Ghana.

### 1.1 OUTLOOK FOR THE NEXT DEKAD (21<sup>st</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> October 2018)

The atmosphere will be mainly dry, stable and sunny during day times, becoming cool towards early morning with occurrence of misty conditions, especially over Coastal and vegetative zones.

### 2.0 RAINFALL SITUATION:

Rainfall continued to be recorded across the country in this dekad with daily intensities ranging from 0.6mm to 71.3mm. This resulted to dekadal totals to range between 12.4mm over Fatoto in the Eastern Third to 101.3mm over Sapu in the Middle Third of the country (figure 1a). This rainfall situation indicates that the rainfall was heavier in the Middle Third than the rest of the country especially over Yundum where no rainfall was recorded.

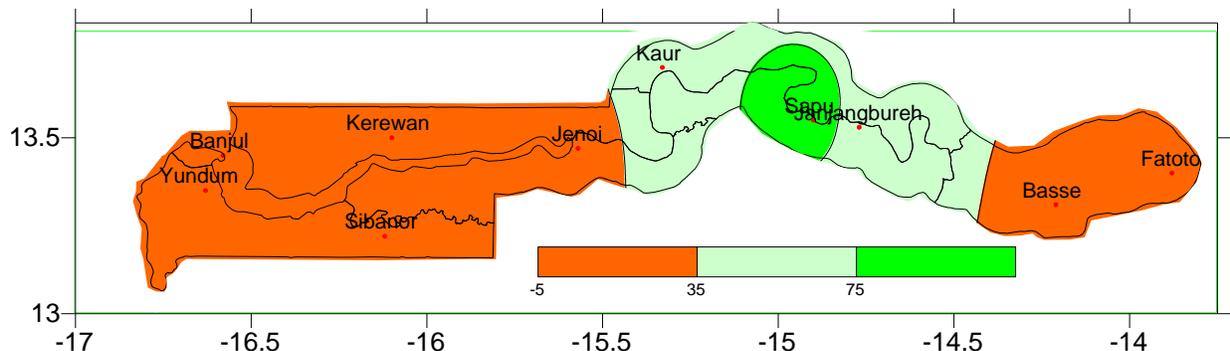
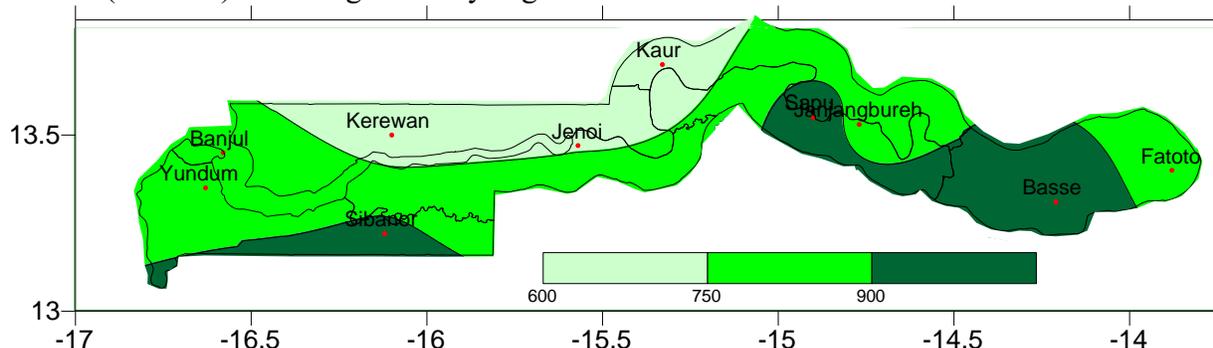


Figure 1a: Dekadal rainfall totals from 11<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> October, 2018.

The seasonal rainfall totals recorded as at this dekad has further increased with the reception of significant amounts of rainfall during the dekad. In the Western Third, seasonal rainfall amounts ranged from 656.3mm to 950.6mm over Kerewan and Sibanor respectively whilst in the Middle Third, it varied between 612.0mm and 996.7mm over Kaur and Sapu respectively. In the Eastern Third, the seasonal cumulative rainfall was at a range of 841.2mm and 985.6mm over Fatoto and Basse. This shown that the northwestern part of the country recorded the lowest seasonal rainfall (figure 1b). This development was as a result of Sapu recording significant amount of rainfall on the 12<sup>th</sup> (71.3mm) and on the 15<sup>th</sup> (24.2mm) which significantly augmented this dekad’s seasonal total.



**Figure 1b: Rainfall Seasonal totals from May 1<sup>st</sup> 2018– October 20<sup>th</sup> 2018.**

The country average as at this dekad stood at **832.4mm** (table 1), which is **18.9mm** below last year’s amount (**851.3mm**). When compared with last year, we observe significant deficits ranging from 278.4mm to 168.6mm over most places. However, surpluses were also recorded in other stations.

**Table 1:** Cumulative rainfall and number of rainy days across the country as at 20<sup>th</sup> October, 2018.

Station	Cumulative Rainfall in mm	Number of rainy days
Yundum	859.0 mm	44
Kerewan	656.3 mm	47
Sibanor	950.6 mm	46
Kaur	612.0 mm	43
Jenoi	741.8 mm	54
Sapu	996.7 mm	46
Janjanbureh	849.1 mm	43
Basse	985.6 mm	55
Fatoto	841.2 mm	53
<b>Average</b>	<b>832.4mm</b>	

### 3.0 AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SITUATIONS :

Average temperatures recorded in this dekad were between 27°C to 29 °C across the country, depicting the same situation as last dekad. Minimum temperature recorded was 16°C over Jenoi in the Middle Third, whereas maximum temperature recorded was 37°C recorded over Yundum in the western Third of the country. This indicates a slight decrease by 3°C and 2°C in the minimum and maximum temperatures respectively.

Average relative humidity (RH) recorded were between 60% and 80% across the country, which shows a 10% decrease compared with the previous dekad.

Winds were generally light to moderate in speed across the country. However, a maximum gust of 36km/hr was recorded over the Middle Third of the country.

#### 4.0 AGRICULTURAL SITUATION:

Generally, most crops have reached maturity and harvesting is ongoing in earnest especially for early millet. Harvesting of the *Philippine pink* groundnuts is also ongoing in few pockets of the country, however, the long cycle groundnuts fields have not yet reach full maturity for harvesting to commence as at this period under review.

Harvesting of water melon has also commenced in some parts of the country and the product of which is seen in various markets across the country. However, in other parts, the crop has not reached maturity and farmers are busy guarding them in the fields. These variations regarding the crop situation is as a result of the different rainfall onset dates.

#### 5.0 LIVESTOCK SITUATION:

**Disease Outbreak:** The Foot and mouth disease outbreak reported few months ago has now subsided in all the regions. However, outbreaks of Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD), Pest des Petite Ruminant (PPR) and Foot rot have been reported in the North Bank Region. In the Upper River Region and Central River Region North, outbreaks of PPR, Pasteurolosis, New Castle Disease and Lumpy Skin Disease were also reported during the period under review. PPR and NCD outbreaks were also reported in the West Coast Region.

**Water and Feed Availability:** Although grasses are abundant in all the regions, quality feed availability is still a constraint. This is because grazing lands are dominated by poor quality grasses. In the Central River Region, inadequate cattle route is a major challenge confronting herders. A lot of herds especially in villages like Madina N'fally, Jahally and Cheddohyel are reported to have migrated outside the country in search of good pasture.

#### Composition of MWG:

Department of Water Resources  
Planning Services - Department of Agriculture (DOA)  
Communication, Extension & Education Services - DOA  
Department of Livestock Services  
Plant Protection Services - DOA  
National Environment Agency

#### Direct your comments and questions to:

The Director  
Department of Water Resources  
7 Marina Parade, Banjul  
The Gambia  
Tel: (+ 220) 4227631 / 4224122 / 8905229  
Email: [dwr@mofwrnam.gov.gm](mailto:dwr@mofwrnam.gov.gm)