

The season is progressing in the Gulf of Guinea and beginning in the Guinean-Sudanian zone and southern Sahelian band, albeit with delays

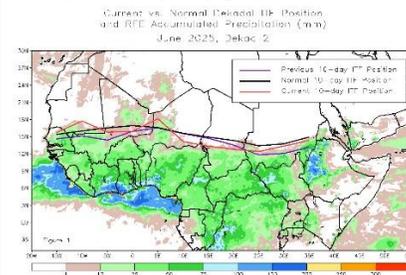
KEY MESSAGES

- From June 11th to June 20th, the Intertropical Front (ITF) continued its northward progression over the western and central Sahel, while it shifted southward over the eastern Sahel compared to its previous position, remaining below its climatological position (**Figure 1**).
- Seasonal rainfall totals have been mostly below average to average, across most of West Africa with localized areas of average to above-average rainfall. These include eastern Senegal, southern Mauritania, southwestern Mali, southern and central Cote d'Ivoire, central and southern Burkina Faso, northwestern Ghana, central Nigeria, central and Far north Cameroon and eastern areas of the Central African Republic (**Figures 2&3**).
- Localized areas in northern Ghana and Benin, central-eastern Mali, northern and eastern Burkina Faso, north-central Nigeria, southern Chad, northern Cameroon and northeastern areas of the Central African Republic experienced a delayed start of the season (**Figure 4**).
- During May, adult groups and scattered adults of desert locusts remained in Niger and Chad, while scattered adults arrived in Mauritania posing a threat to crops and pasture in these regions.
- In the Gulf of Guinea countries with bimodal rainfall seasons, the first rainy season (April-July) is expected to be below average, while in the Sahel, the May-September main rainy season is projected to be average to above average based on seasonal forecast ensemble models.

UPDATE ON SEASONAL PROGRESS

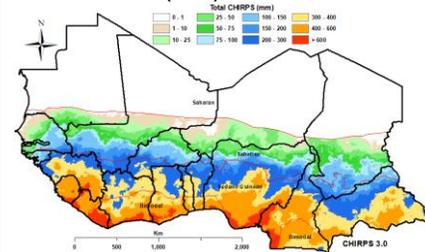
- The ITF northward migration started in early March and between June 11th and June 20th was positioned between 13.2°N and 16.3°N latitude. The ITF moved northward over the western and central Sahel and southward over the eastern Sahel compared to its previous position. It is consistent with the climatological position in the West (10°W-10°E), while falling short of the long-term average position by 0.9° in the East (20°E-35°E) (**Figure 1**).
- Based on CHIRPS3 rainfall data from April 1st to June 20th, the southern portion of the region, extending from southern Guinea to the Central African Republic, recorded cumulative rainfall of up to 300 mm, with coastal areas exceeding 600 mm. In contrast, rainfall totals in the southern Sahelian strip

Figure 1. ITF position and RFE accumulated precipitation (mm), June 2025, Dekad 2



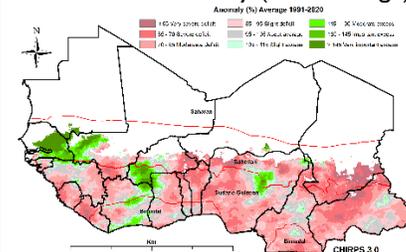
Source: NOAA/CPC

Figure 2. April dekad 1– June dekad 2, 2025 CHIRPS total (mm)



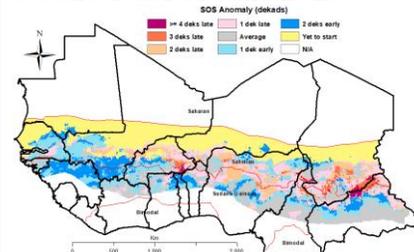
Source: USGS/FEWS NET

Figure 3. May dekad 1– June dekad 2, 2025 CHIRPS total anomaly (% of average)



Source: USGS/FEWS NET

Figure 4. SOS anomaly at the end of the second dekad of June 2025



Source: USGS/FEWS NET

ranged between 75 mm and 100 mm, declining further to less than 75 mm in the northern Sahelian zone (**Figure 2**). Rainfall anomalies from the 1st dekad of May to the 2nd dekad of June, indicate a moderate to severe deficit over western Liberia, northern Togo, northern Benin, western and northern Nigeria, northern Cameroon, central and northern Central African Republic, southern Mali, eastern Burkina Faso, and southern Chad (**Figure 3**). Given favorable rainfall forecasts, these areas are expected to receive sufficient rainfall to support favorable crop growing conditions in the coming weeks.

- The start of the season was mixed across the Guinean-Sudanian zone and the southern Sahelian band. A one-dekad delay was observed in northern Ghana, northern Benin, central-eastern Mali, and central-western Burkina Faso. Delays of one to two dekads occurred in north-central Nigeria, while central-eastern Burkina Faso, southern Chad, northern Cameroon, and the northern part of the Central African Republic experienced delays of two to three dekads (**Figure 4**). Sowing and planting activities are expected to expand into the northern Sahelian band over the next 2–3 weeks.
- Regarding [desert locust outbreaks](#), during May, adult groups and scattered adults remained in Niger and Chad, while scattered adults arrived in Mauritania.

FORECASTS

- According to the [NMME precipitation forecasts](#), below-average rainfall is expected over the Gulf of Guinea, especially Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin, southwestern and Central Nigeria, and Central and Northern Cameroon. While the September–November second rainy season is expected to be below average to average. The May–September main rainy season is expected to be average to above average over the Sahel and the northern areas of Ghana, Benin, and Nigeria.
- According to the [NMME-based streamflow](#) (June–October) and GloFAS streamflow (June–December) forecasts, there is a high likelihood of flooding along the Sokoto River, and upstream Niger River in Mali, but average conditions along the Chari, lower Logone, downstream Niger River in Niger and Nigeria and Komadougou Yobe rivers. There is uncertainty about the timing and severity given the delayed start of the season and long-range nature of the forecast.
- According to the [FAO Locust Watch](#), adult groups and small swarms will continue to form in northern Algeria, northern Libya, and Tunisia, with a gradual south-westward movement. Adult groups and small swarms from central Sahara may migrate towards Chad, Niger, and Mali. Summer breeding may start in southern Algeria, northern Niger and Mauritania.

SEASONAL CALENDAR IN A TYPICAL YEAR

