

THE REPUBLIC



OF THE GAMBIA

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

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SEASONAL CLIMATE FORECAST FOR YEAR 2018 OVER THE GAMBIA

The Department of Water Resources is pleased to present the climate forecast for this Wet Season (2018). As in past years, this product is the result of collaboration with the National Meteorological Services within the Sub-region and beyond. To understand the forecast, the following facts must be noted:

- Seasonal forecasting relies on prediction of averages over space and time, and may not reflect all the various factors that influence regional and national climate differences;
- The forecast is relevant only for the entire season and within relatively large areas, since local and month-to-month variations may occur;
- Rainfall results are usually expressed as being either Below Normal, Normal, or Above Normal, with Normal rainfall defined as the average rainfall during a 30-year period; and
- Finally, the forecast is only valid for the combined period of July, August and September (JAS), which constitute approximately 80 per cent of the total seasonal rainfall precipitation in the Sahel Region, including The Gambia.

Consequently, for the rainy season of JAS 2018, the forecast is **Below Normal** to **most likely Normal rainfall**, that is a threshold of at least 580mm of rainfall in The Gambia. As at now, the above forecast is based on the best estimate of the impact of the various factors affecting rainfall in the country, and would be updated on a monthly basis starting from the end of June 2018.

Furthermore it is worthy of note that the 2018 rainfall season is expected to undergo more variability than the 2017 season with events such as **late onset**, occasional flash flooding and wet/dry spells. Accordingly, this department will continue to provide ten-days outlooks and daily weather forecasts to better anticipate impacts of intra-seasonal climate events. This product can be obtained from our website: www.mofwrnam.gov.gm.

The forecast is highly recommended for use in the planning of interventions in several socio-economic sectors.

SEASONAL VARIABILITY

The 2018 rainy season is expected to start **after June 15** in the Eastern Half (**Upper River Region - URR and Central River Region - CRR**) of the country; and **after June 25** in the Western Half (**Greater Banjul Area, North Bank Region and Lower River Region**). The cessation of Rainfall is expected **after 10 October** in the Eastern Half and **after 15 October** in the Western Half.