

MIGRATORY PEST SITUATIONS IN NORTH SOMALIA



JUNE 2016

1.0 GENERAL SUMMARY OF THE SITUATION

During the month of June 2016, Desert Locust and other Migratory Pests situations report continued to remain calm as the previous months.

Although survey operations were not conducted during the month, however various communications that have been made with different stakeholders among the **Community Based Desert Locust Information Network (CBDLIN)** and local residents in the frontline regions indicated the absence of locust activities in their respective regions.

Nevertheless, unconfirmed reports from different sources including local residents, travellers, nomadic herders and higher officials of MoA who toured at the end of the month in coastal areas observed new hatchings of early instar hoppers(1st and 2nd instar, but 2nd instar dominant)¹.

The rainfall performance in Northwestern regions of Somaliland greatly subsided and generally remained dry except localized portions in the plateau and escarpment that received low to moderate precipitation that was poor and erratically distributed.

Hence vegetation status in northwestern regions turned green in large portions along the plateau and escarpment whilst coastal plains that are the epicenter for D.L breeding remained mainly dry except localized green pockets² observed in some localities in the coast as stipulated by local residents and depicted by Satellite-derived rainfall images of IRI³.

The rainfall pattern in Northeastern, Central and Southern regions of Somalia sustained to remain calm and dry during most days of the month.

It is worthwhile to mention, that generic vegetation complexes in northeastern regions of Puntland and central regions of Somalia has showed a mixed green to dry conditions due to temporal and spatial differences of previous rains received by the different regions.

In Southern regions of Somalia, vegetation complexes showed good green conditions in most of those regions owing to previous good rains, flash floods and water runoff.

2.0 WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS

Generally weather conditions in Northwestern regions of Somaliland specifically rainfall progression greatly subsided and disrupted in most of the regions as recorded by Synoptic

¹ This information was originally received from a local resident in **Gerisa** (Potential coastal village) who contacted DLCO-EA Hargeisa office via phone during the second dekad of the month. Subsequently various communications with car drivers and travellers heading to Djibouti and local residents indicated the same information. Eventually, a tour by higher officials of the Ministry in to the coastal plains during the end of June, 2016 including the Minister and D.G Mr. Abdillahi (Caasi) and other ancillary staff from the ministry reported the same information and communicated via public media.

² These localized green pockets observed in the coastal plains were due to scanty showers that have reportedly fallen in confined areas in the coast during the second dekad of the month.

³ International Research Institute

and Automatic Rain gauge Stations Network (SARSN) and depicted by Satellite-derived rainfall images of International Research Institute.

Dramatic temperature increments were characterized in most of the country specifically in potential breeding habitats in the coast that is exceptionally very hot, windy and dry.

However, low to moderate precipitations occurred in some localities particularly localized portions along the plateau and escarpment during the first and the second dekads of the month of June, 2016. On **14th of June**, heavy torrential with storms that occurred in **Hargeisa** claimed **8** people's lives and left **24** others injured and annihilated numerous houses, schools, downed electric poles and blocked most of the roads.

For instance, an average precipitation of the first two dekads of **24mm, 18.5mm, 13.5mm, 12.5mm, 10mm** and **6mm** were recorded in **Xudun, Qulujeed, Togoçalle, Ceel-Afweyn, Boroma** and **Dila** localities in the plateau and escarpment respectively.

The rainfall performance in the potential breeding habitats in the coast remained mainly dry except very poor precipitation⁴ that has reportedly fallen during the second dekad of the month as depicted by the Rainfall and Vegetation Monitoring Maps of (IRI) and reported by local sources. Consequently, vegetation complexes in Northwestern regions of Somaliland turned green in large portions along the plateau and escarpment while potential breeding habitats in the coastal plains remained mainly dry except some localized villages in the coast that appeared green due to recent light showers received.

On Puntland regional state, central and Southern regions of Somalia, the rainfall pattern and distribution greatly exacerbated and received no rain during the month except light precipitations reportedly received in Bari and Shabelle regions during the second dekad of the month as depicted by Satellite-derived rainfall images of International Research Institute and indicated by a series of meteorological stations network across the country.

Thus vegetation complexes in Puntland and central regions of Somalia showed a mixed proportion of green to dry conditions in those regions whilst Southern regions of Somalia mostly remained green and showed good revival and replenishment of annuals, perennials, and good crop cultivation due to previous good rains, runoff and flash floods.

Rainfall (mm) at Hargeisa, Gabiley, G.Libah, Erigavo, Aburiin and Sheikh Synoptic Rain gauge Stations data respectively for June, 2016.

Date	Hargeisa	Gabiley	G.Libah	Erigavo	Aburiin	Sheikh
05/06/2016	-	1.0	-	5.0	-	-
06/06/2016	-	-	-	12.0	-	-
10/06/2016	2.0	-	-	-	-	-
11/06/2016	3.5	4.0	-	-	13.0	-
14/06/2016	87.0	21.0	-	-	6.5	-
17/06/2016	-	4.0	-	7.0	-	-
18/06/2016	27.0	10.0	24.0	-	-	-
19/06/2016	17.0	-	-	-	-	-
20/06/2016	-	-	-	-	-	24.0
Total	136.5 mm	40.0 mm	24.0 mm	24.0 mm	19.5 mm	24.0 mm

⁴ Synoptic rain gauge stations of **Lughaya, Zeila** and others recorded nill (**0.00 mm**) during the entire month. However, numerous communications that has been made by DLCO-EA Hargeisa office from local residents, travellers and car drivers indicated scanty drizzle that occurred in localized areas in the coast.

3.0 DESERT LOCUST SITUATION (*Shistocerca gregaria*)

In June, 2016, Desert Locust and other Migratory Pests situations report sustained to remain calm throughout the different regions of the country.

Though survey operations were not undertaken, however, the situation remained calm in all the regions as reported by members among the **Community Based Desert Locust Information Network (CBDLIN)** and stipulated by local residents in the frontline regions of D.L habitats.

Nonetheless, unconfirmed reports of newly hatched first instar hoppers (**2nd instar dominant**) were reported by local resident in Gerisa⁵ towards the mid of the month and again the same information were reported by travellers and MoA higher officials who toured in coastal areas during the end of the month as reported by local media.

The areas that were reportedly seen are near **Gerisa, X. Hussein, Kalawle, and Ceel-Gal** and among others **Asha-Addo** localities in the coastal plains.

Despite the existence of these newly hatched early instar hoppers, the weather and ecological conditions in the coastal plains are unfavorable for any further breeding and development due to sunny (**extremely high temperatures above 40 degree centigrade**), windy and dry soil conditions and drastic dryness of most of the ecological conditions in the coast except localized green pockets observed in some localities.

Therefore, there is no evident threat for the time being that newly hatched early instar hopper to develop successfully and reach in very favorable ecological conditions in the plateau and escarpment.

4.0 Other Migratory Pests (Red-billed Quella birds and African Army Worm)

Reports and any relevant information of other Migratory Pest infestations were not reported so far.

5.0 Forecast until mid-August 2016

No significant developments are likely during the forecast period as both precipitation performance and vegetation complexes are unfavorable for Desert Locust breeding and development in the coastal plains due to hot summer and typical desiccating windy conditions that resemble for Harmattan that is notorious in some African coasts.

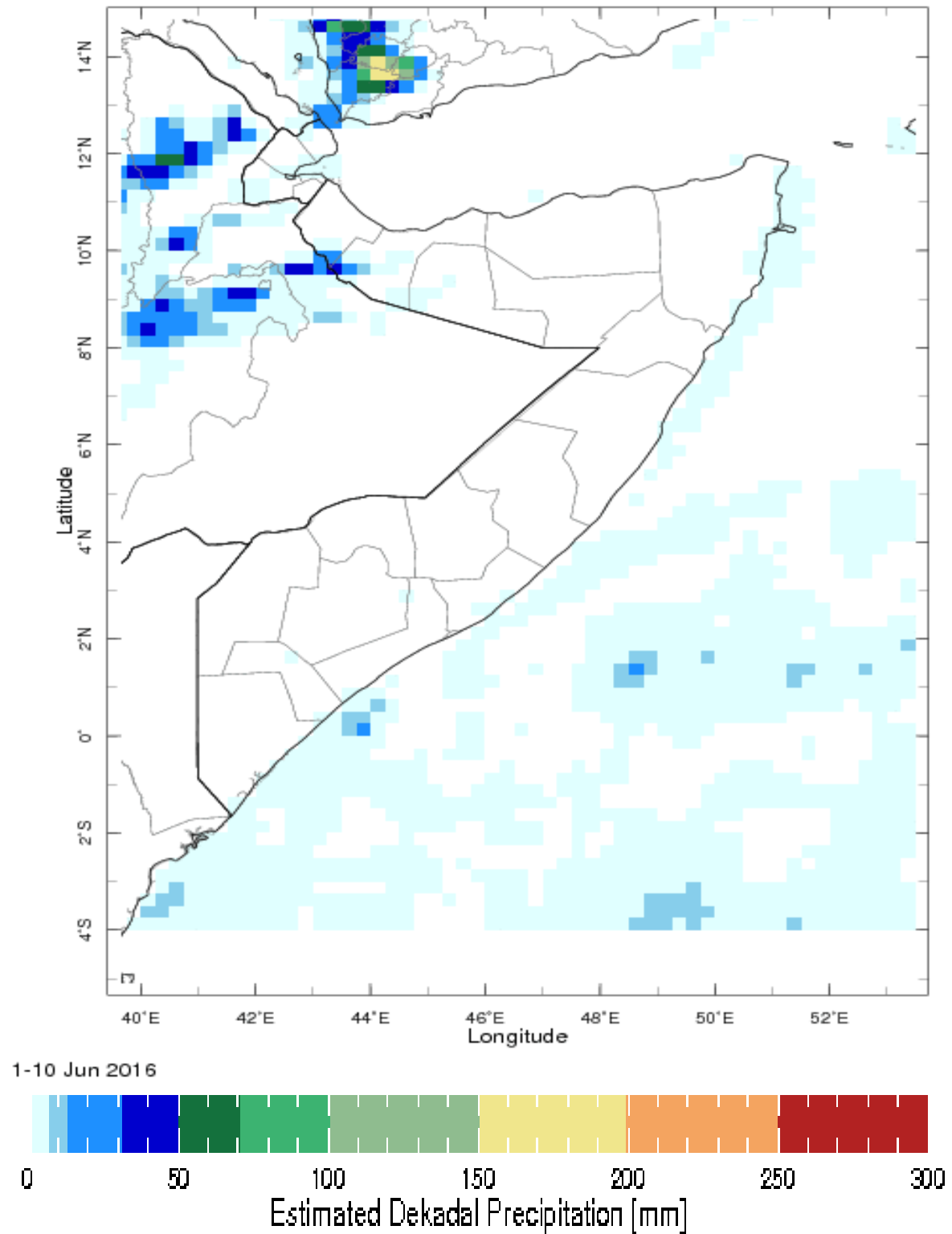
Hence, taking into account the current unfavorable weather and ecological conditions in Desert Locust breeding localities in the coast, it is unlikely to pose a significant threat⁶ unless and other wise good rains fell further in those localities that could moisten the soil deeper and turn the ecological conditions more conducive for D.L breeding and development.

FOR DIRECTOR

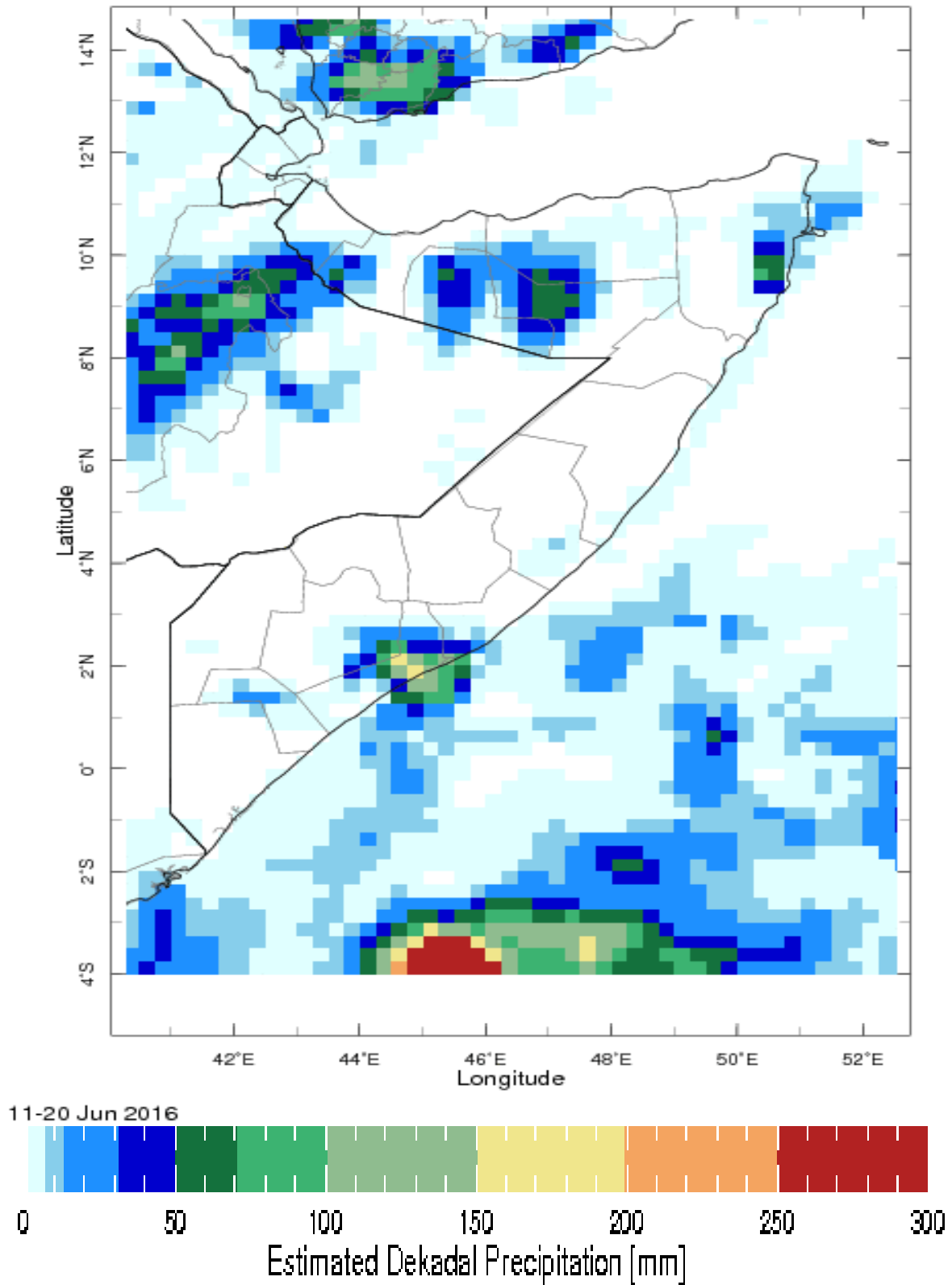
⁵ Three different time were received the same information of newly hatched early instar hoppers(2nd instar dominant) from different sources and all was communicated to DLCO-EA Hargeisa office.

⁶ As the unfavorable weather and ecological conditions in the coast are not supporting the newly hatched early instar hoppers, it is probable that most of the newly hatched hoppers could starve to death due to sunny, hot windy and dry soil and vegetation conditions. No more eclosions are expected during the forecast period. Climatologically during the forthcoming months (dry), no rains are expected as usual.

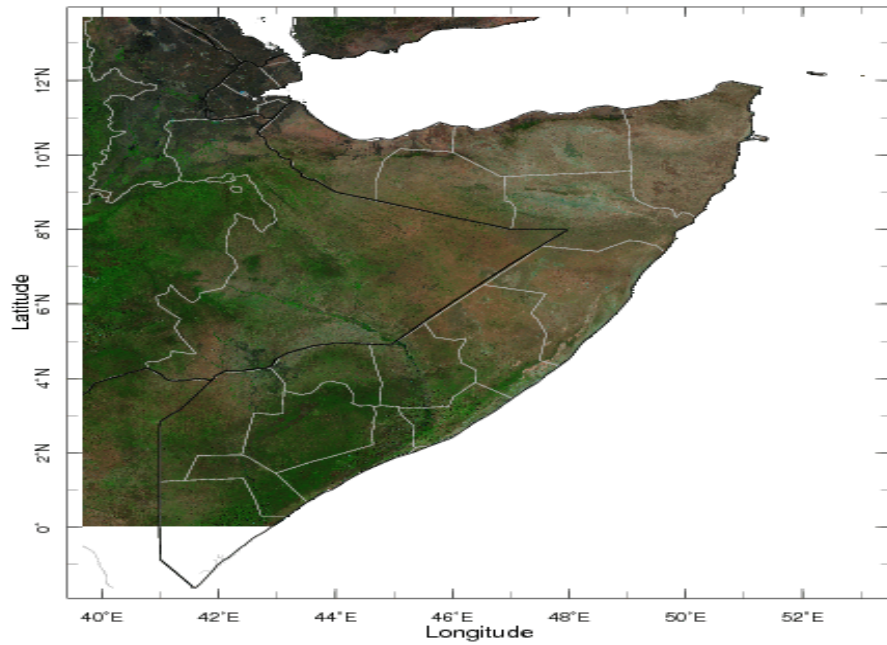
6.0 Rainfall estimates for the first dekad of June, (RFE) 2016



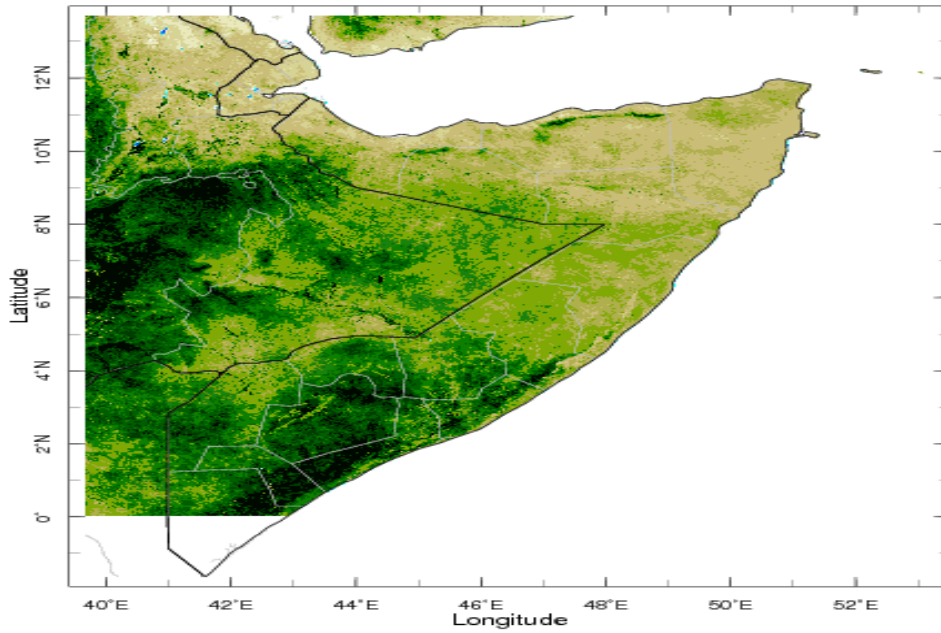
6.1 Rainfall estimates for the second dekad of June (RFE) 2016



6.2 Modis and NDVI images for Northern and Southern Somalia for early of June, 2016

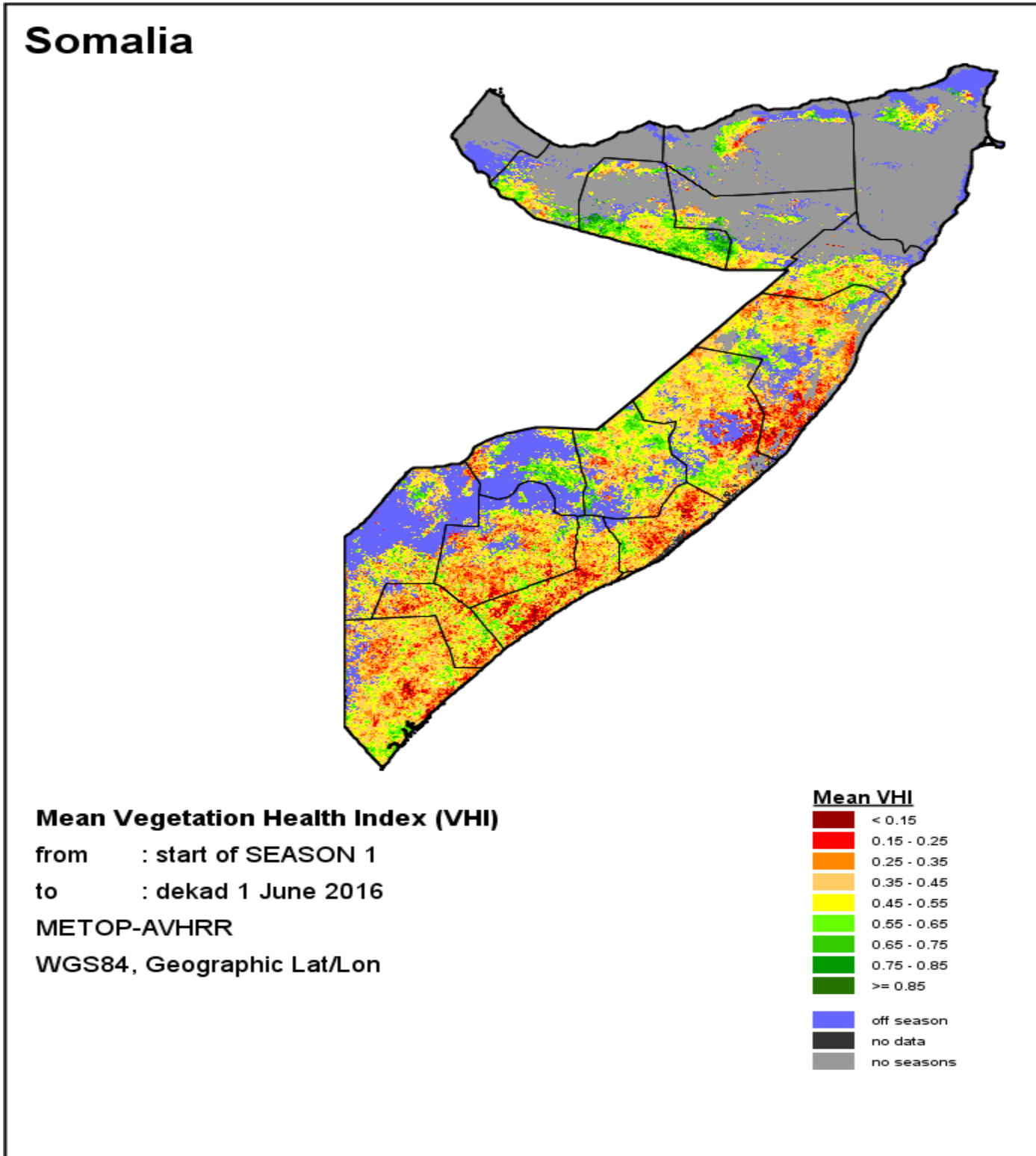


24 May 2016 - 8 Jun 2016

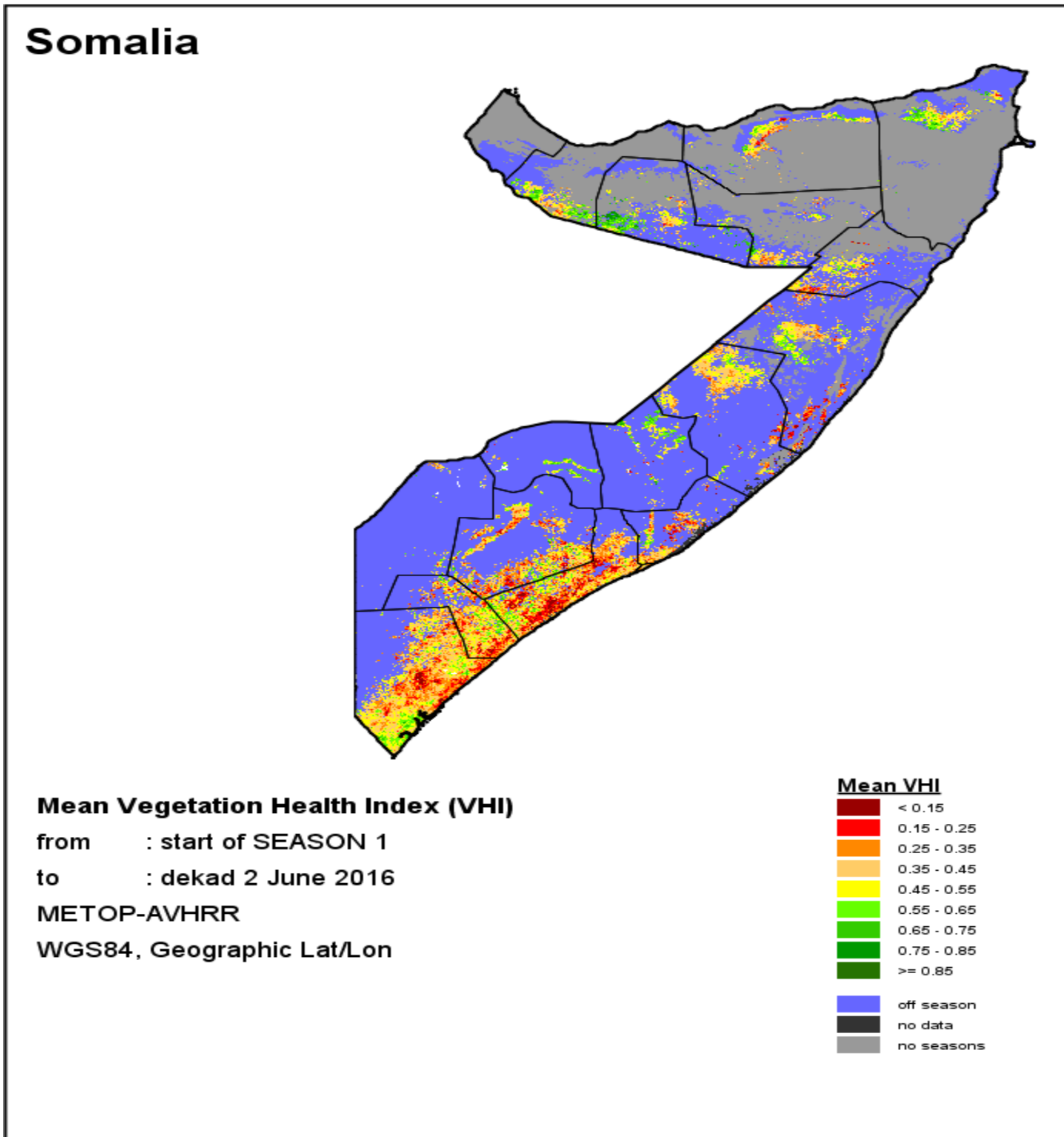


24 May 2016 - 8 Jun 2016

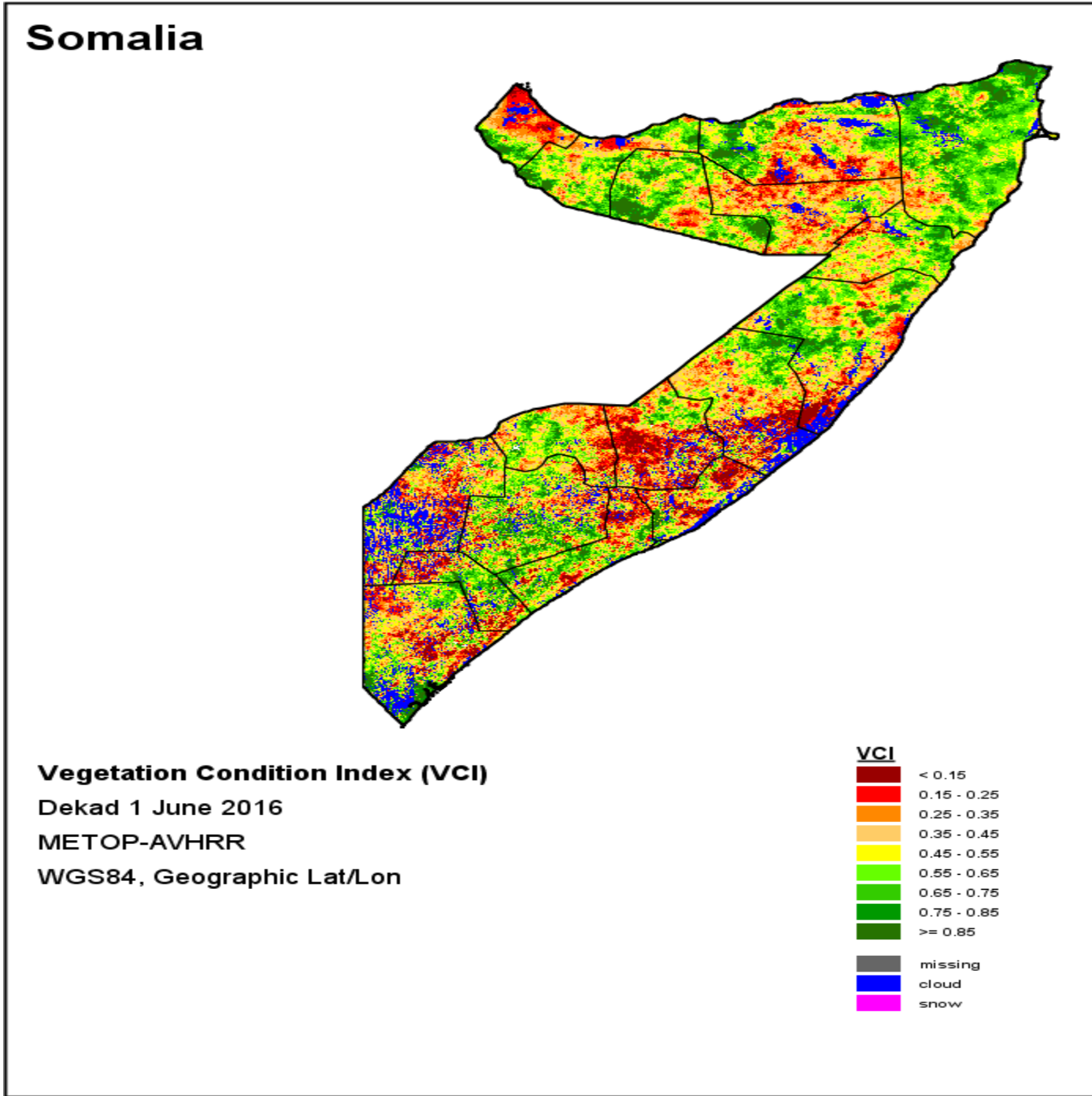
6.3 Vegetation Health Index (VHI) for the 1st dekad of June, 2016 for Northern and Southern Somalia.



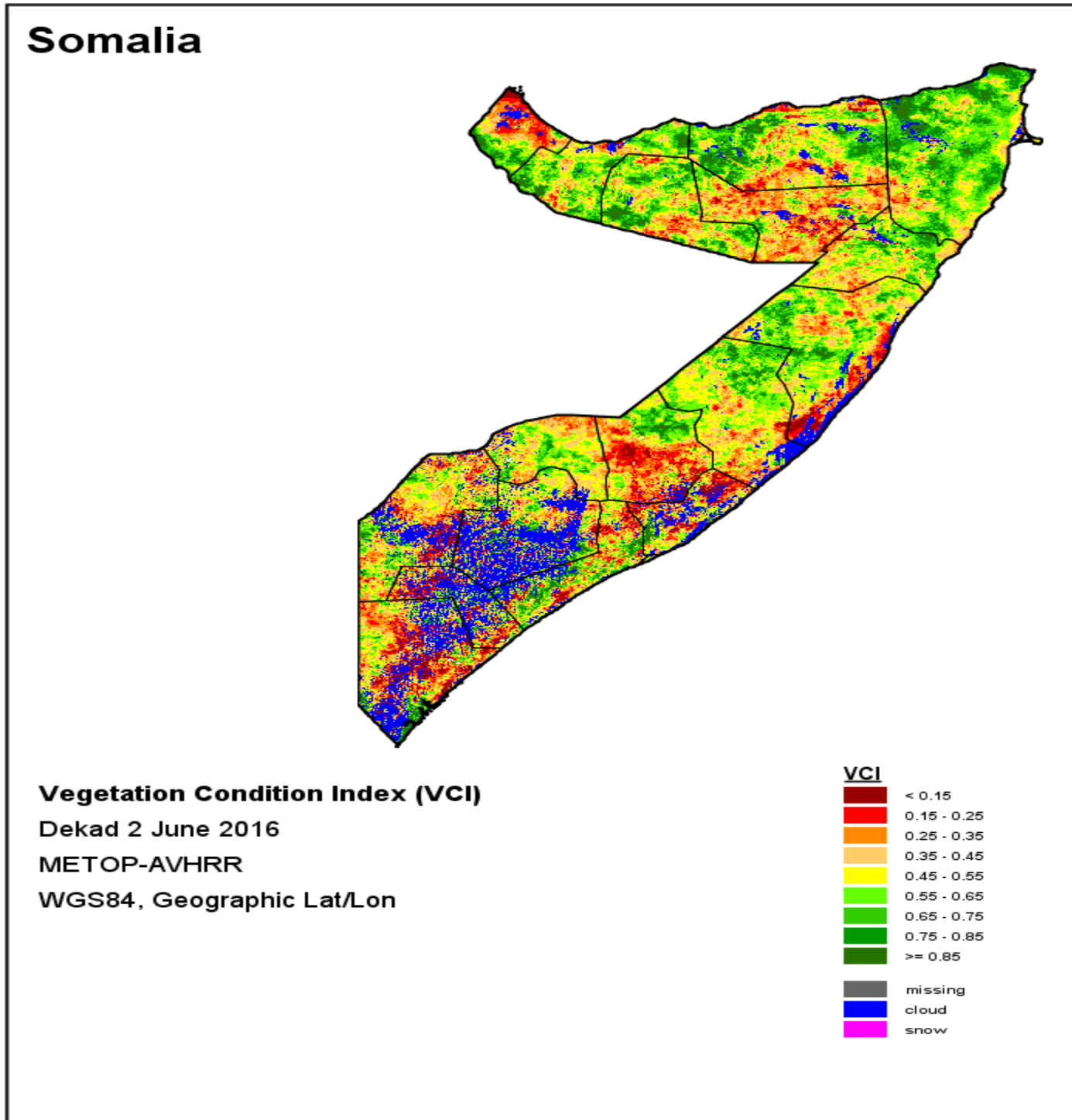
6.4 Vegetation Health Index (VHI) for the 2nd dekad of June, 2016 for Northern and Southern Somalia.



6.5 Vegetation Condition Index (VCI) for the 1st dekad of June, 2016 for Northern and Southern Somalia.



6.6 Vegetation Condition Index (VCI) for the 2nd dekad of June, 2016 for Northern and Southern Somalia.



6.7 Some selected photos of the heavy torrential casualties in Hargeisa (14/06/2016).

