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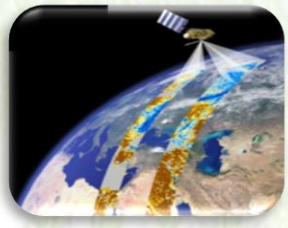

Ethiopia Meteorological Institute P.O.BOX 1090, ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

Website: http:// www.ethiomet.gov.etE-mail nmsa@ethionet.etFax 251-1-517066, Tel. 251-1-512299

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FORE WARD

This Agro met Bulletin is prepared and disseminated by the Ethiopian Meteorology Institute (EMI). The aim is to provide those sectors of the community involved in Agriculture and related disciplines with the current weather situation in relation to known agricultural practices.

The information contained in the bulletin, if judiciously utilized, are believed to assist planners, decision makers and the farmers at large, through an appropriate media, in minimizing risks, increase efficiency, maximize yield. On the other hand, it is vital tool in monitoring crop/ weather conditions during the growing seasons, to be able to make more realistic assessment of the annual crop production before harvest.

The Agency disseminates ten daily, monthly and seasonal weather reports in which all the necessary current information's relevant to agriculture are compiled.

We are of the opinion that careful and continuous use of this bulletin can benefit to raise ones agro climate consciousness for improving agriculture-oriented practices. Meanwhile, your comments and constructive suggestions are highly appreciated to make the objective of this bulletin a success.

Director General
EMI
P.O. Box 1090
Tel: 011661-57-79
FAX 00251-11-6625292
E-mail nmsa@ethionet.et
Addis Ababa

SUMMARY

During the first dekad of march 2026, the moisture conditions in most of the Belg-benefiting areas are better distribution. Especially in the south, southwest and central, as well as in some pastoral and semi-pastoral areas of the country in the southeast, there was a better distribution. This situation created favourable conditions for Belg agricultural activities, such as field preparation and sowing, the growth of early-sown crops, as well as the provision of drinking water and fodder for animals. It also had a positive impact on field preparation in areas where long-term crops are sown early. On the other hand, it created a good opportunity for areas experiencing moisture shortages to carry out occasional moisture conservation works on their fields and to collect and rainwater harvesting.

During the Second dekad of march 2026, especially in the south, southwest and central regions of the country, as well as in some parts of the north and northeast, showed light to moderate moisture status observed, according to agricultural meteorological data collected and analyzed from various parts of the country. This moisture contributed significantly to the preparation of fields for Belg agricultural activities and the sowing of Belg crops, and also played a positive role in meeting the water needs of permanent crops, providing pasture and drinking water for pastoral and semi-pastoral areas. It also created favourable conditions for the preparation of fields for sowing long-term crops in Meher crop-growing areas. On the other hand, the frequent moisture in the south and southwest regions of the country, especially in some places, has had a negative impact on Belg agricultural activities.

1. WEATHER ASSESSMENT

1.1. Rainfall amount (11 – 20 March 2026)

During second Dekad of March 2026, the rainfall distribution was Borena, Amaro, Konso, Drashe, south Omo, Basketo, Gedeo, Sidama and Gurage zones are received 50-100 mm rainfall. Over GamoGofa, Bench Maji, Kefa, Sheka, Illubabur, Wolayita, Hadiya, Alaba, Selti, south west Shewa, west Shewa, east Wellega, west Wellega, north Shewa, Jijiga and Wagihimra Zones are received 25 – 50 mm rainfall. Over Liben, Afder, Bale, Guji, Gode, Fik, Deghabur, Harer, Shinile, Afar zone 3 & 4, south Wollo, Dawuro, Jimma, Arsi, East Shewa, west Harergie, Godere, Gambela zone 2 & 3, Tongo, Assosa, Agew, east Gojjam,

south & north Wollo, north Gonder and east Tigray zones are received 5-25 mm rainfall. On the other hand, the rest part of the country was received <5 mm rainfall.

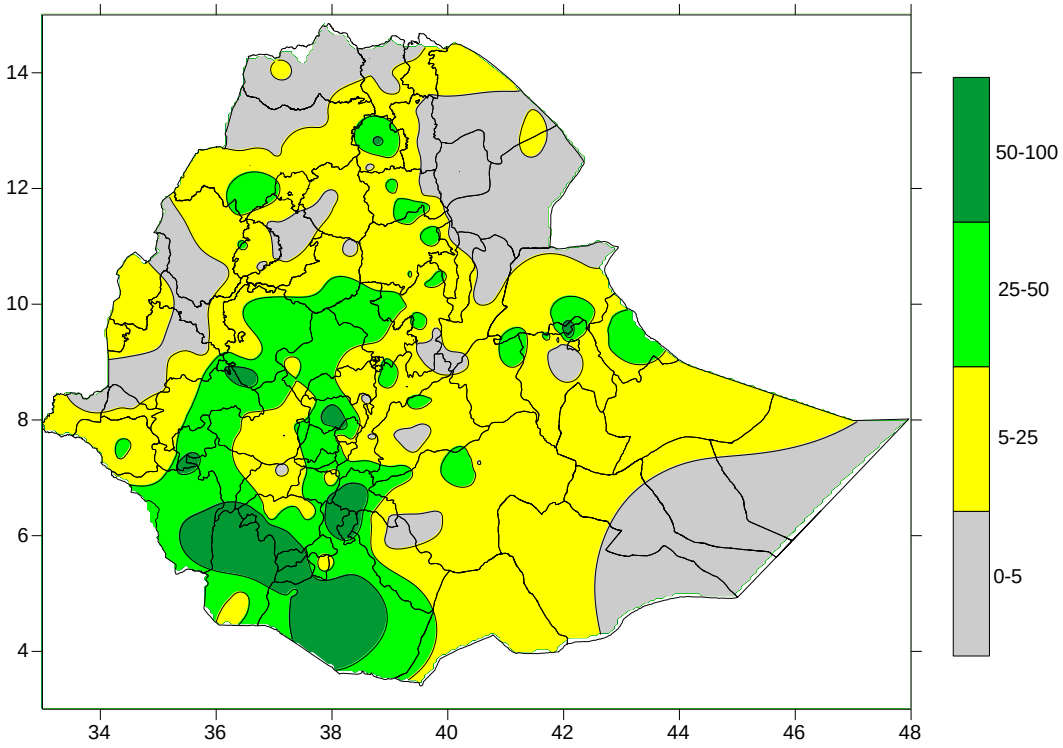


Fig 1. Rainfall distribution in mm (11 – 20) March 2026

1.2. Rainfall Anomaly (11 – 20 March, 2026)

During Second dekade of March 2026 percent of Normal rainfall was Borena, Liben, Amaro, Konso, Derashe, south Omo, Basketo, Gedeo, Gamogofa, Guji, Sidama, Wolayita, Hadiya, Alaba, Bench Maji, Godere, Gambela zone 2 & 3, Sheka, Illubabur, Yem, Selti, Gurage, south west Shewa, west Shewa, north Wellega, east Wellega, west Wellega, Tongo, Assosa, Agew (Awi), north Gondar, north Wollo, Afar zone 1, Shinile, Jijiga, Degehabur, Fik, Arsi and Bale zones was exhibited Normal to Above Normal rainfall. On the other hand, the rest part of the country was exhibited Much Below Normal to below Normal rain fall.

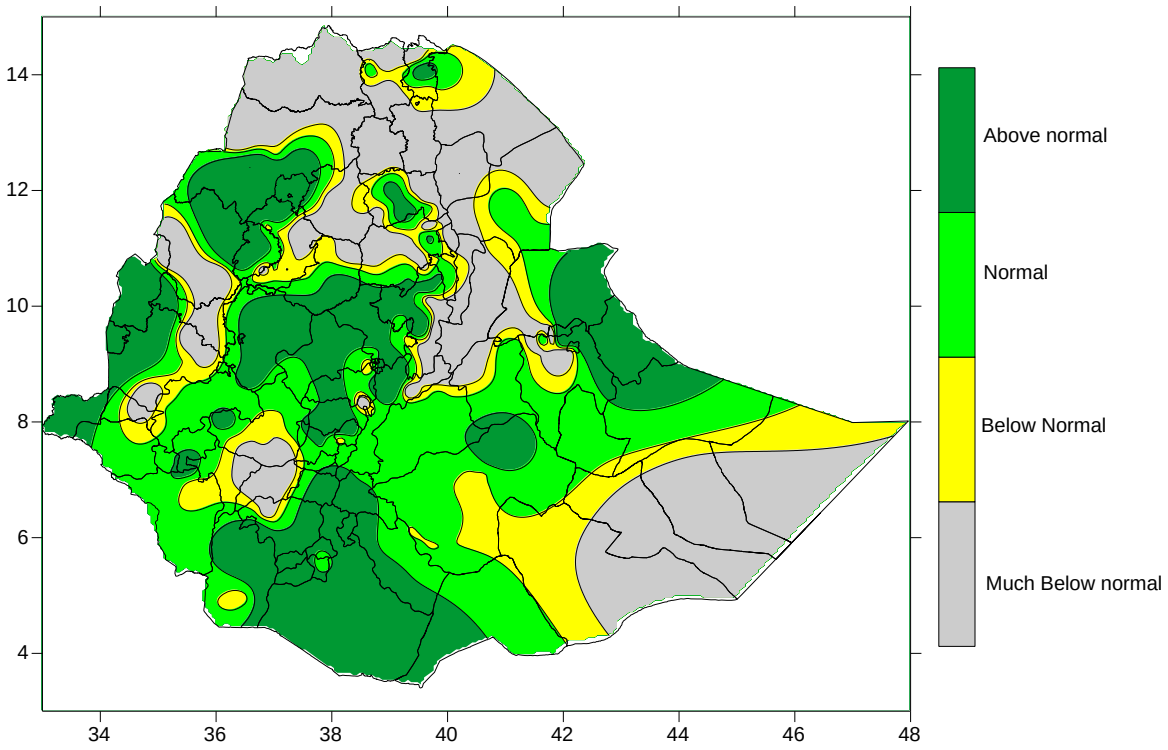


Fig.2 Percent of normal rainfall distribution (11 – 20 March, 2026)

Explanatory notes for the Legend

< 50-Much below normal
50-75%-Below normal
75-125%- Normal
> 125% - Above normal

1.3. Moisture Condition (11 – 20 March 2026)

As indicated on the moisture status map below during the second dekad of march 2025, over Borena, Amaro, Konso, Drashe, south Omo, Basketo, Gedeo, Sidama, Gurage, GamoGofa, Bench Maji, Keffa, Sheka, Illubabur, Wolayita, Hadiya, Alaba, Selti, south west Shewa, west Shewa, east Wellega, west Wellega, north Shewa, Jijiga and Wagihimra Zones are exhibited Moist to Humid moisture condition. The other parts of the countries exhibited moderately dry to very dry.

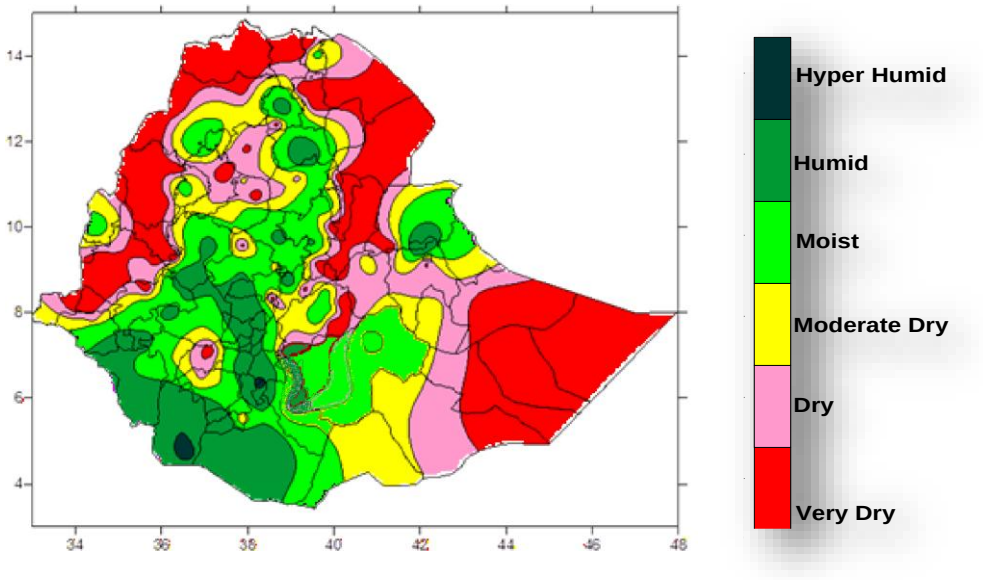


Fig. 3 moisture status for (11 – 20 March, 2026)

2. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

2.1. OBSERVED WEATHER IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE DURING THE SECOND DEKAD OF March 2026

During the second dekad of March, due to the relative strengthening of rain bearing weather systems better moisture has been improving particularly southern, southern-western, central, north-eastern and eastern parts of the country experienced moist to humid moisture conditions. The vegetation condition across the country increases (Fig.4. NDVI and Rangeland WRSI in %). This condition might have positive contribution to perform water requirements of Belg season crops. In addition, the condition had been favourable toward improving the availability of pasture and drinking water.

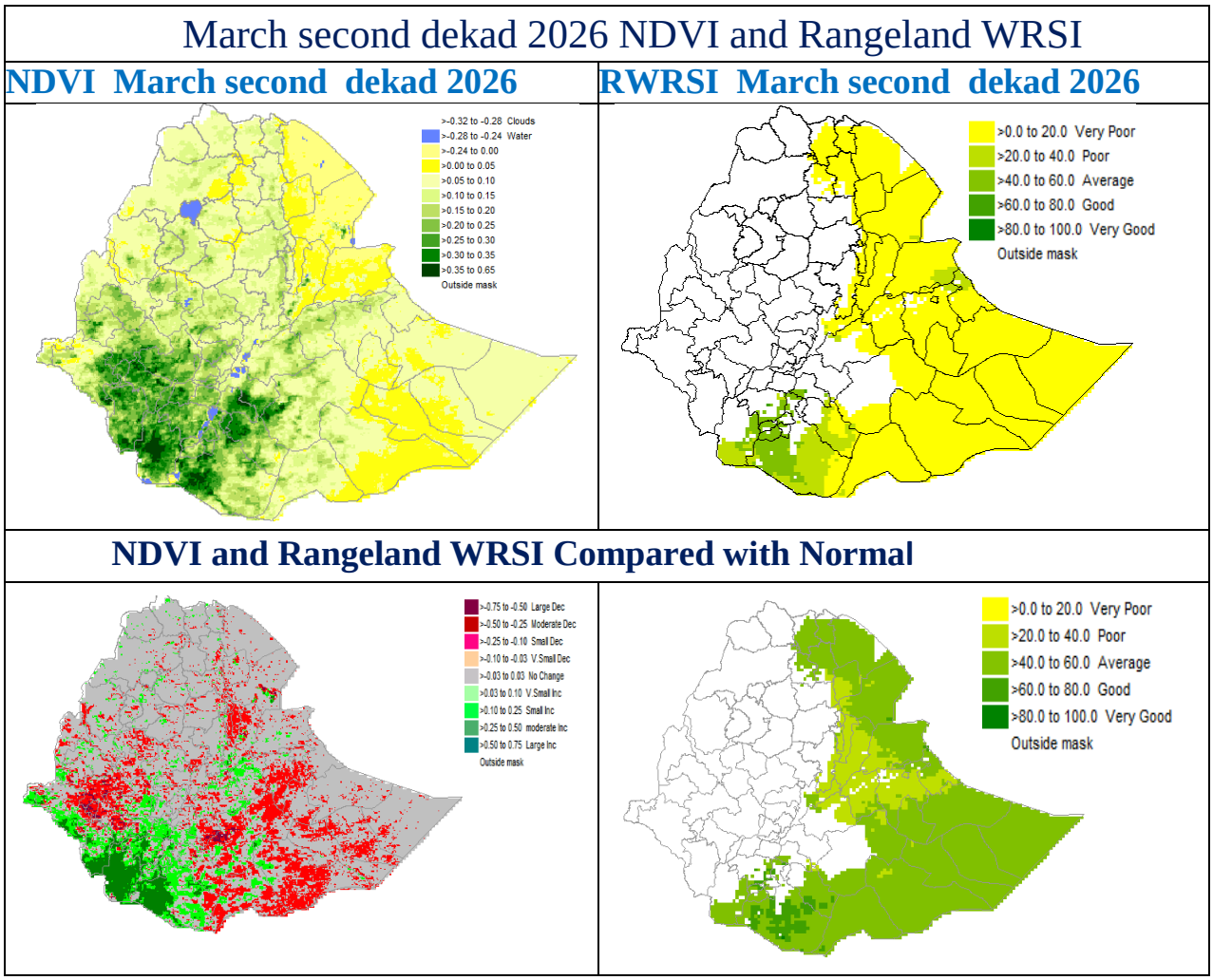


Fig.4. NDVI and Rangeland WRSI in % and Compared to Normal - March 11-20, 2026

2.2. EXPECTED WEATHER IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE DURING THE COMING THIRD DEKAD OF March 2026

In normal condition, the last dekad of March is characterized by a gradual improvement in moisture both in time and space over the north eastern, eastern, south and south eastern of the country and this enables farmers to perform land preparation sowing of Belg season crops as well as improve the availability of pasture and drinking water over southern pastoral and agro pastoral community.

According to the weather forecasts during the coming third dekad of March the moisture conditions are expected to enhance over Belg season crop growing and rain benefiting areas including the western and south-western Meher producing areas expected slight to heavy rainfall. This situation will improve moisture availability for seasonal agricultural activities, particularly water requirement of early sown Belg crops found at emergency stage, perennial plants, land preparation of long cycle crops which normally sown after the mid of March and pasture and drinking water availability over south and south eastern pastoral and agro pastoral areas of the country. Therefore, concerned bodies and farmers are advised to use the expected moisture wisely and efficiently. However, the expected heavy fall over some areas particularly, over south-western and western parts would have cause flash flood and water logging on crops field in low lying areas. Thus, proper attention should be undertaken to minimize the risk in areas where there is no proper drainage system and low-lying areas making channel in order to reduce the effect of excess water. On the contrary the expected improvement in moisture may also give good opportunity for collecting and storing of excessive rain water particularly for moisture stress areas and this may provide them a good chance to utilize it where that can be used in time of deficit. Thus, farmers and the concerned body's proper attention should be given proper moisture conservation and water harvesting.

3. DEFNITION OF TERMS

ABOVE NORMAL RAINFALL: - Rainfall in excess of 125% of the long termmean

BELOW NORMAL RAINFALL: - Rainfall below 75 % of the long term mean.

NORMAL RAINFALL: - Rainfall amount between 75 % and 125 % of the long term mean.

BEGA: - It is characterized with sunny and dry weather situation with occasional falls. It extends from October to January. On the other hand, it is a small rainy season for the southern and south eastern lowlands under normal condition. During the season, morning and night times are colder and daytime is warmer.

BELG: - Small Rainy season that extends from February to May and cover s southern, central, eastern and north-eastern parts of the country.

CROP WATER REQUIREMENTS: - the amount of water needed to meet the water loss through evapotranspiration of a disease free crop, growing under non-restricting soil conditions including soil water and fertility.

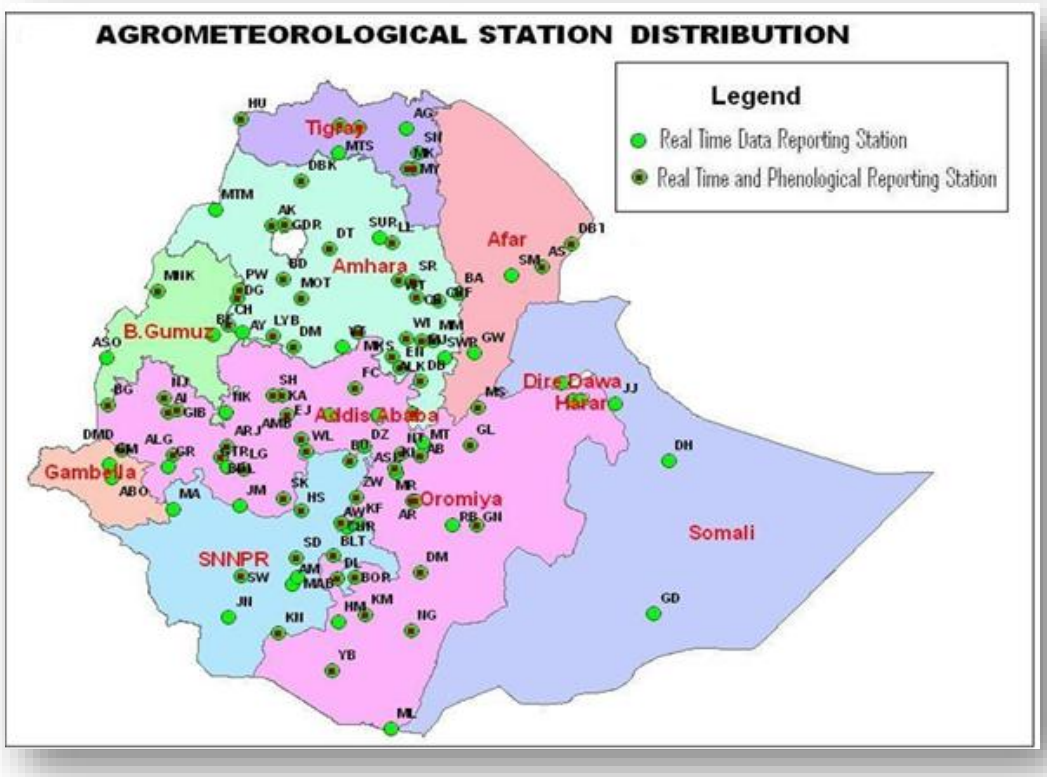
DEKAD: - First or second ten days or the remaining days of a month.

EXTREME TEMPERATURE: - The highest or the lowest temperature among the recorded maximum or minimum temperatures respectively.

ITCZ: - Inter-tropical convergence zone (narrow zone where trade winds of the two hemispheres meet.

KIREMT: - Main rainy season that extends from June to September for most parts of the country with the exception of the south-eastern lowlands of the country.

RAINY DAY: - A day with 1 or more mm of rainfall amount



Station	Code	Station	Code	Station	Code	Station	Code
A. Robe	AR	D. Zeit	DZ	Humera	HU	Nazereth	NT
A.A. Bole	AA	D/Dawa	DD	Jijiga	JJ	Nedjo	NJ
Adigrat	AG	D/Mena	DOM	Jimma	JM	Negelle	NG
Adwa	AD	D/Odo	DO	Jinka	JN	Nekemte	NK
Aira	AI	D/Tabor	DT	K.Dehar	KD	Pawe	PW
Alemaya	AL	Dangla	DG	K/Mingist	KM	Robe	RB
AlemKetema	ALK	Dilla	DL	Kachise	KA	Sawla	SW
Alge	ALG	Dm.Dolo	DMD	Koffele	KF	Sekoru	SK
Ambo	AMB	Dubti	DBT	Konso	KN	Senkata	SN
Arba Minch	AM	Ejaji	EJ	Kulumsa	KL	Shambu	SH
Asaita	AS	Enwary	EN	Lalibela	LL	Shire	SHR
Asela	ASL	Fiche	FC	M.Meda	MM	Shola Gebeya	SG
Assosa	ASO	Filtu	FL	M/Abaya	MAB	Sirinka	SR
Awassa	AW	Gambela	GM	Maichew	MY	Sodo	SD
Aykel	AK	Gelemso	GL	Majete	MJ	WegelTena	WT
B. Dar	BD	Ginir	GN	Masha	MA	Woliso	WL
Bati	BA	Gode	GD	Mekele	MK	Woreilu	WI
Bedelle	BDL	Gonder	GDR	Merraro	MR	Yabello	YB
BUI	BU	Gore	GR	Metehara	MT	Ziway	ZW
Combolcha	CB	H/Mariam	HM	Metema	MTM		
D. Berehan	DB	Harer	HR	Mieso	MS		
D. Habour	DH	Holleta	HL	Moyale	ML		
D. Markos	DM	Hossaina	HS	M/Selam	MSL		