



FLOODS AND RAINS UPDATE

The Deyr (October-December) rains, which started early in many parts of Somalia, continued in the fourth week of October. Moderate to heavy rains were recorded across the country, apart from parts of Bari and Nugal Regions where the rains were light and in some areas no rains at all. The Ethiopian highlands, where the Juba and Shabelle Rivers originate, equally received moderate to heavy rains over the last couple of weeks. River levels along the entire reaches of Juba and Shabelle have been high over the last few weeks, owing to the heavy rainfall both in Ethiopia and Somalia.

Shabelle River: The river level at Belet Weyne reached bankfull level (8.3m) over the last 24 hours. This has led to overbank spillage into Belet Weyne town, and consequently inundating many settlements. The overbank flow is continuing with flood waters expanding fast across the town. Currently the worst affected sections of Belet Weyne town are Kooshin and Xaawo Taako. Destruction of property by floods has also been reported in other parts of Hiraan Region. The local authority and partners have started to evacuate vulnerable communities to higher grounds in the most affected areas.

In Middle Shabelle, floods damaging large areas under cropland have been reported in Jowhar and Mahaday Weyne following high river levels and open river breakages. In Jowhar, the river level reached the threshold for high flood risk since late August, and has since been fluctuating within this level to date. Today's river level at Jowhar is 5.30m, and the level is expected to rise in the coming few days when the current flood wave in Belet Weyne is transmitted downstream. Existence of river breakages (39 points identified and reported by SWALIM in September 2019) is likely to escalate the flooding situation unless urgent mitigation measures are taken.

Juba River: Along Juba River the levels drastically increased over the last two weeks, surpassing the threshold for moderate flood risk at the upper reaches of the river. Bardheere town is worst affected, with parts of the town inundated. Flooding was also reported in Dollow, Luuq and Buale districts in Gedo and Middle Juba Regions. Currently the levels are high along the entire reach, and any slight increase is likely to cause further flooding.

In Bay and Bakool regions: Heavy rains resulted in flash floods destroying cropland (sorghum, maize and cowpeas). Huddur and Qansadheere districts were the most affected. Low lying areas of Gedo experienced flash floods as well over the last one week.

The rainfall forecast for the coming week (October 25-31, Map 2) shows a reduction of rainfall activities in Somalia, especially in the northern parts of the country where light or no rains are expected. In the central and southern parts of the country as well as the eastern Ethiopian highlands moderate rains are expected within the same period. As a result, the current high river levels, and ongoing riverine flooding, along the Juba and Shabelle rivers are expected to continue in the coming week. Flash floods may also be experienced in low-lying areas where moderate rains are expected.

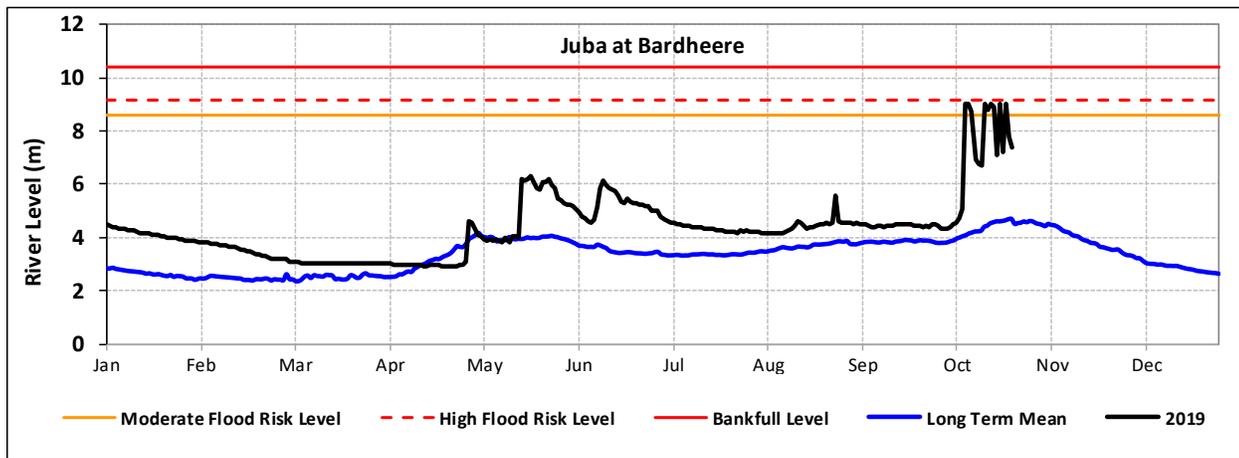
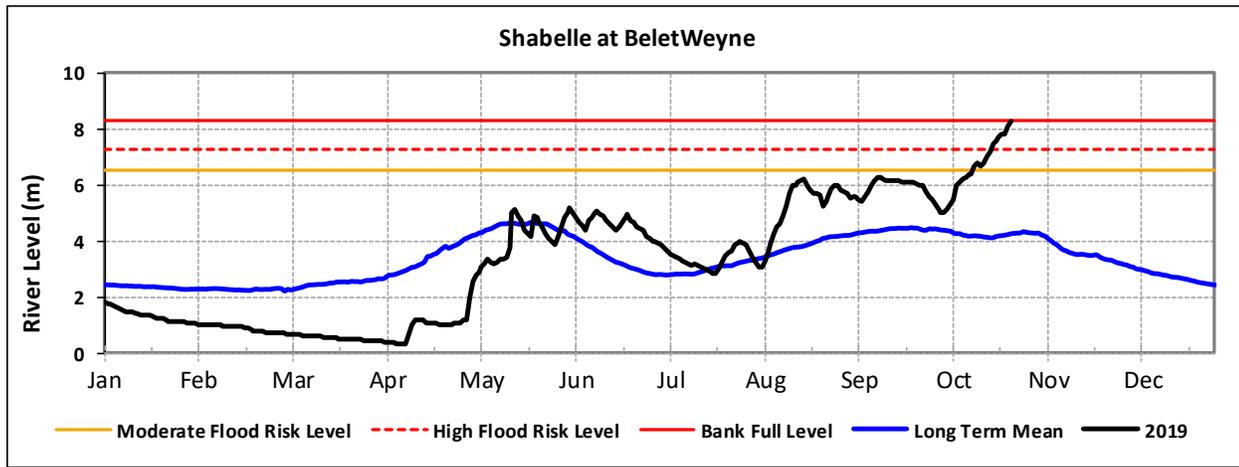
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 Hotspots	Week in review (19 - 25 Oct)	Week ahead (25 Oct – 31)	
Juba			
Upper <i>(From Dollow to Baardheere)</i>	<p>Moderate to heavy rains recorded.</p> <p>River level fluctuated during the week in review reaching bank full in Bardheere</p> <p>River flooding Luuq and Bardheere</p>	 	<p>Moderate rainfall forecast in the coming week</p> <p>Sustained high river levels, following the foreseen moderate rains in the Ethiopian highlands and inside Somalia</p> <p>River flooding in Bardheere and the surroundings to continue</p>
Mid and Lower <i>(from Saakow to Kismayo)</i>	<p>Moderate to heavy rains in many areas.</p> <p>River level very high</p> <p>River flooding in parts of Bualle</p>	 	<p>Moderate rainfall forecast in the coming week</p> <p>Sustained high river levels, following moderate rains forecast in Ethiopian highlands an in Somalia.</p> <p>River flooding in Bualle and downstream is likely to occur given the forecast and high river levels</p>
Shabelle			
Upper <i>(from Belad Weyne to Jalaqsi)</i>	<p>Moderate to heavy rains recorded in some places during the week in review</p> <p>Flooding in many parts of Belet Weyne town over the last 24 hours due to river overflow</p> <p>River level reached bankful level at Belet Weyne.</p>	 	<p>Moderate rains forecast in the coming week</p> <p>Sustained high river levels, following moderate rains forecast in Ethiopian highlands and in Somalia.</p> <p>River flooding in Belet Weyne and surroundings to expected to worsen</p>
Mid and Lower <i>(from Jowhar to Sablale)</i>	<p>Light to Moderate rains recorded over the last one week.</p> <p>River level near bankfull at Jowhar.</p> <p>2 major breakages at Maandheere and Dhamasame (Jowhar) causing flooding.</p>	 	<p>Moderate rains forecast in the coming week.</p> <p>Flooding expected to worsen following the increased river levels at Belet Weyne which will be transmitted downstream in the next few days, the moderate rainfall forecast and existing river breakages</p>
Bay & Bakool			
Bay	<p>Moderate to heavy rains over many areas.</p> <p>Flash floods reported in Qansadheere district</p>	 	<p>Moderate to heavy rains forecast.</p> <p>Flash floods foreseen due to expected heavy rains in the region</p>
Bakool	<p>Moderate to heavy rains over many areas.</p> <p>Flash floods reported in Huddur district</p>	 	<p>Moderate to heavy rains forecast.</p> <p>Flash floods foreseen due to expected heavy rains in the region</p>

  Deterioration,   improvement, or   no change anticipated in flood conditions.

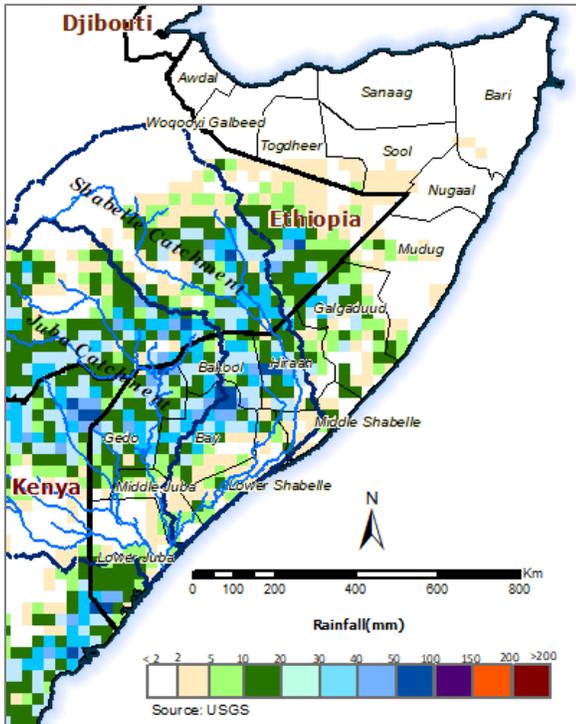
 Heavy,  moderate,  low, or  no rainfall.

CURRENT RIVER LEVELS



RAINFALL FORECAST

Map 1: 3 day cumulated rainfall forecast (25 - 27 Oct 2019)



Map 2: 7 day cumulated rainfall forecast (25 - 31 Oct 2019)

