

SOMALIA WEEKLY WEATHER FORECAST

Valid From 15th to 21st November 2023

Heavy rainfall expected over parts of Gedo, Bay, and Galgaduud regions; moderate to heavy rainfall likely over most parts of the country with chances of isolated light rainfall in Bari region.

Review of the Weather for the Period 7th to 13th November 2023

Twenty-two (22) stations observed cumulative rainfall greater than 30 mm with rainfall of at least 1 mm being recorded in forty-three (43) stations spread across the country (Graph 1) in the last one week. The following twelve (12) stations received substantial rainfall amounting to 60 mm and above over the last one week: Bardheere 222, Luuq 98.6 mm in Gedo region, Bur Hakabar 127 mm, Qansax Dheere 74.3 mm, Bardaale 65 mm in Bay region, Wanle-Wayne 110.9 mm in Lower Shabelle region, Belet Weyne 102.5 mm in Hiraan region, Bualle 91.5 mm in Middle Juba, Bulohar 90 mm in Woqooyi Galbeed, Sheikh 73 mm in Togdheer, El Barde 65 mm in Bakool region and Mogadishu 60.7 mm in Banadir region.

The heavy and intense rains received over the Juba catchment particularly in the Gedo region caused the water levels along the entire Juba River to rise to bankful level. The resulting overbank flow has caused devastating floods which have led to damage to crop lands and road infrastructure rendering them impassable, and cutting off access in to and out of towns and other human settlements.

Forecast of the Weather for the Period 15th to 21st November 2023

In the next week heavy rainfall is expected over parts of Gedo, Bay, and Galgaduud regions, and moderate to heavy rainfall over most other parts of the country. Dry conditions with chances of isolated light rainfall are however expected in Bari region. Much of the forecast rains over Galgaduud and Bay regions are likely to be received between 15th and 17th November 2023. The spatio-temporal variation of the forecast rainfall (Map 1) is described below:

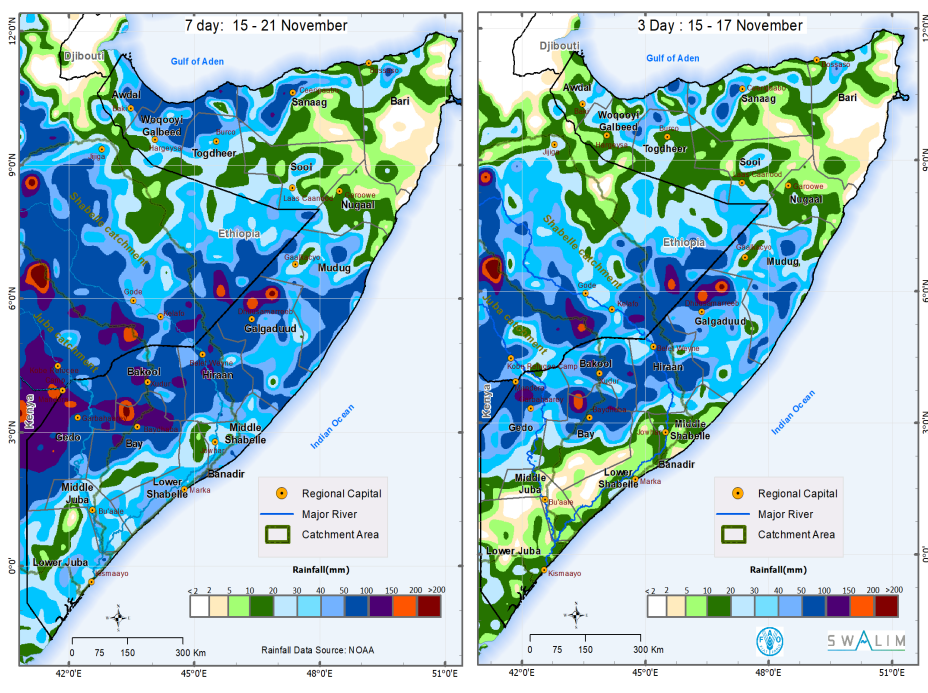
Heavy rainfall of between 100 mm and 150 mm is expected over the western areas of Gedo Specifically in Ceel Waaq, Belet Xaawo, isolated parts of Luuq, Dollow, and Garbahaarey. Likewise, Baydhaba in Bay, along with parts of Xuddur, Tayeeglow, and Waajid bordering Bay in the Bakool region, are expected to experience similar intense rainfall. In Galgaduud, comparable weather conditions are expected, particularly over Cabudwaaq and Cadaado. Additionally, isolated areas in Hiraan and Sanaag are also likely to encounter heavy rainfall during this period. The Ethiopian highlands is also expected to receive high to moderate rainfall over the forecast period.

Moderate rainfall of between 50 mm and 100 mm is forecast over extensive areas

The rains over Bardheere have been particularly intense with up to 123 mm having been observed in two days. The 46-year-old steel bridge in the town collapsed as a result of the very high flows.

Water levels have also been on a steady rise along the Shabelle River over the past week. Since 11th November Belet Weyne town and the surrounding areas have suffered from massive floods from overbank flow after the river reached maximum carrying capacity (bankful level). Four casualties have been reported, and hundreds of people have been displaced by the Belet Weyne floods. In Bulo Burti the river level is steadily rising, and currently (15th November) only 104 cm to bankful. As the current flood wave is transmitted downstream of Belet Weyne the river level is expected to rise to bankful within this week. The Hundreds of people have also been affected following the reported floods in Indhaceel, Xaji Buube, Bog-Abeso and Wadajin. The water levels downstream Jowhar are 120 cm below bankful level.

in Gedo, Bay, Bakool, Hiraan, Galgaduud, and Mudug regions. Similar conditions are also anticipated in the northwestern regions of the country, particularly over Lughaye and Baki in Awdal, the northern areas of Gebilley, Sheikh in Togdheer, extensive parts of Woqooyi Galbeed, as well as Ceel Afweyn and Ceerigavo in the Sanaag region.



Map 1: 7-Days and 3-Days Cumulative rainfall forecast over Somalia.

Light to rainfall of below 50 mm is expected over several areas in Lower Juba, Middle Juba, Lower Shabelle, Middle Shabelle regions, parts of Dinsor and Burhakabar in Bay region, Jalalaqsi in Hiraan region, Ceel Buur, Ceel Dheere and parts of Dhuusamarreeb in Galgaduud, extensive part of Mudug, Nuugal, Bari, Sool, Sanaag regions, Zeylac and Borama in Awdal region, Hargeisa and Southern parts of Gebilley in Woqooyi Galbeed, Burco, Buuhodle and most parts of Odweyne in Togheer, most parts of Bosasso, Qandala, Coastal parts of Callula, Isolated parts of Iskushuban and Qardho in Bari region.

Dry conditions are expected over isolated areas in Sanaag, Taleex, Qardo, Iskushuban, Callula, extensive parts of Bandarbeyla, northern parts of Eyl and Isolated parts of Lower Juba.

Temperature Forecast: The current forecast indicates the likelihood of high temperatures ranging from 35°C to 45°C in parts of the country. These elevated temperatures are expected in Kismaayo and Jamaame districts, as well as the eastern parts of Afmadow district in the Lower Juba region. In addition, Jilib district in the Middle Juba region, and Baraawe and Sablaale districts in the Lower Shabelle region are forecasted to experience similarly high temperatures.

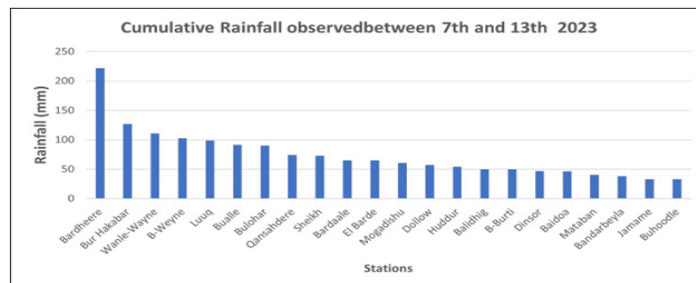
Milder temperatures ranging between 20°C and 25°C are anticipated in the highlands of the central parts of the Sanaag region, the northern parts of the Bari region, particularly in Qandala district, and the northwestern parts of the Togdheer region, specifically in Burco district. For the rest of the country, moderate temperatures ranging between 25°C and 35°C are expected.

Current River Levels

Due to the substantial rainfall experienced in the Juba River catchment, the entirety of the area spanning from Dollow to Bualle has sustained bankful water levels. This persistent condition has resulted in severe and destructive flooding.

Water levels have also been on a steady rise along the Shabelle River. According to observations made on 15th November 2023, river levels at Belet Weyne are at bankful. This has resulted into riverbank overflows and flooding in the town and surrounding areas. The water levels downstream, at Bulu Burti and Jowhar, are 104 cm and 120 cm below bankful level, respectively.

Figures 1 and 2 show the current river levels against the Short Term Mean and 2022 levels for Belet Weyne and Luuq stations respectively.



Graph 1: Cumulative rainfall (mm) at different stations between 7th and 13th November 2023

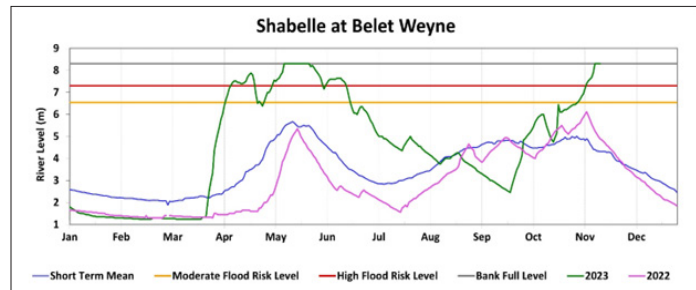


Figure 1: Shabelle river level at Belet Weyne gauging station as on 15th November 2023

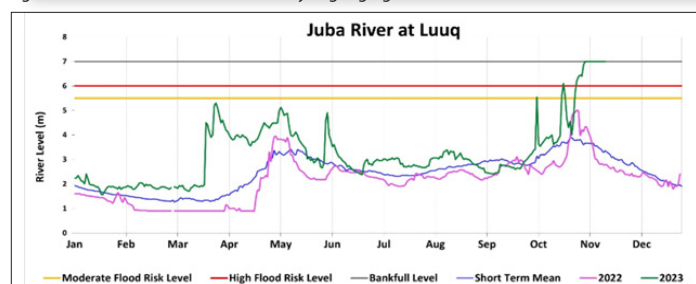


Figure 2: Juba River level at Luuq gauging station as on 15th November 2023

Impacts Associated with the Weekly Weather Forecast

Given the rainfall forecast in the Ethiopian catchment and within Somalia especially in Gedo region, the Juba River levels are likely to be sustained at bankful levels, with the ongoing floods disrupting the livelihood activities and causing huge losses to the communities. More farms and rangeland are at risk of being submerged hence leading to destruction of crops and loss of livelihoods. The persistence of floodwaters are likely to lead to spread waterborne diseases.

The moderate to heavy rainfall expected in the Shabelle catchment in Ethiopia and Somalia will also sustain the bankful river level at Belet Weyne, and the high risk of flooding downstream in Bulu Burti, Jalalaqsi, Jowhar and Balad.

The observed and forecast wet and warm soil conditions associated with the Deyr seasonal rainfall is very favorable for crop, pasture, and fodder production in the agropastoral livelihoods in the southern and central parts of the country. Dry and warm conditions are likely over several areas in Somaliland and Puntland with significant evapotranspiration except over the highlands in the central parts of Sanaag region and western parts of Togdheer region.

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