



SOMALIA WEEKLY WEATHER FORECAST

Valid From 29th Nov to 5th Dec 2023

Light and occasional moderate rains are expected over the coastal parts of Southern Somalia particularly in Middle Shabelle and Lower Juba regions. Dry conditions are likely to prevail over most other parts of the country.

Status of the El Nino Driven Deyr Rainfall

Substantial rainfall has been received across the country during the months of October and November. The rains over Bay, Bakool, Gedo, Hiraan and Middle Juba regions have been exceptionally intense with more than 700 mm specifically at Baidoa (1042.5 mm), Bardheere (1037.8 mm), Qansahdere (877.7 mm), El Barde (729.3 mm), Dinsor (720.6 mm), and Huddur (716 mm) as of 27th November 2023. The highest number of rainy days were reported at Baidoa (37 days), Hudur (34 days), Qansasdheere (33 days), Bardaale (26 days), Dinsoor (25 days), Buale (23 days), Wanlaweyne (23 days), Bardheere (22 days), El Barde (22 days), Dollow and Luuq (21 days) each. These rainfall amounts are multiple times heavier compared to the long-term Oct-Nov-Dec seasonal average: Baidoa (5 times), Bardheere (5 times), El Barde (9 times), Dinsor (4 times), and Huddur (6 times). This heavy rainfall clearly indicates the dominance and combined active role of El Niño and positive Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) conditions. The peak rainfall performance was observed during the second to third week of November.

Although the heavy-rainfall-producing conditions still exists over the southern part of the Country in the coming week, the curve after the peak will not be as prolonged. Predictions show a decrease in rainfall amounts and southward shift to southern coastal parts particularly over Middle Shabelle and Lower Juba regions and a narrow band on the western parts of Gedo region and Lower Juba regions.

Based on the seasonal prediction of SSTs (ENSO), El Niño conditions are expected to persist till early 2024. The projection of above normal rains over Somalia during the January to March Jilal season, which is generally dry, means rains exceeding the Long-Term Mean (LTM), hence posing very low risk of flash and riverine flooding.

Review of the Weather Conditions for the Period 22nd to 28th November 2023

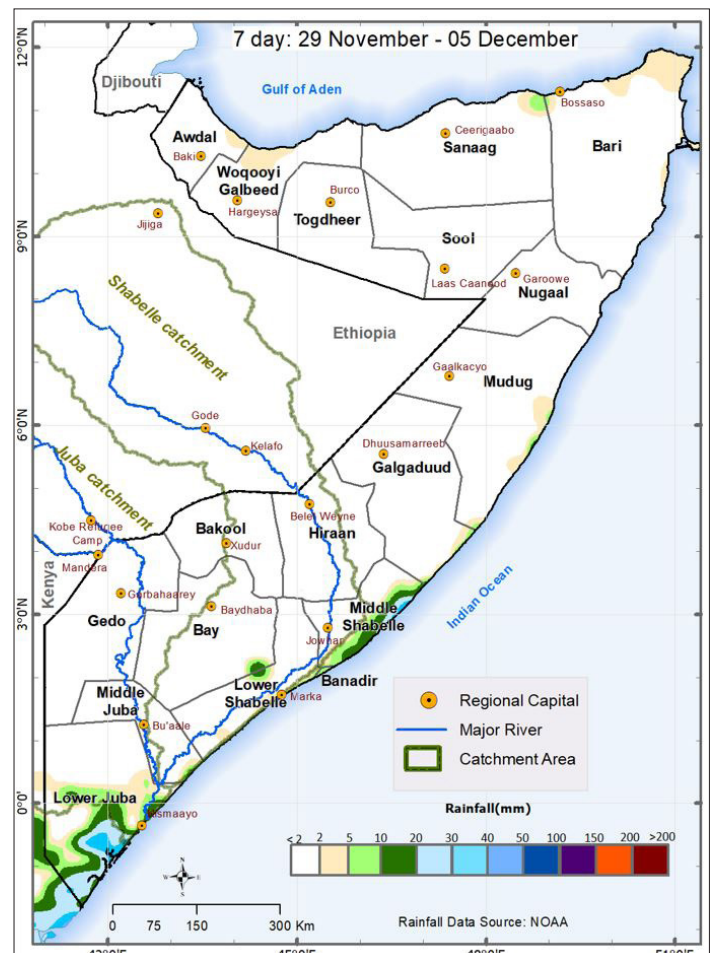
Dry conditions were observed across the country in the past week, with only three stations recording light to moderate rainfall: Luuq 42 mm (1 day), Jowhar 25 mm (1 day) and Wanlaweyne 19.1 mm (2 days) (Graph 1).

Given the generally dry conditions over the Juba River catchment, a steady drop in the river levels has been observed in the upper sections, including Dollow and Luuq. However there is ongoing flooding in the middle and lower sections of the river, from Bardhere to Buale and downstream. Along the Shabelle catchment, continued inflow of flood water from the Ethiopian highlands has sustained flooding at Belet Weyne, Bulo Burti and Jalaqsi, despite reduction of rainfall within the catchment. However, some recession in the flood waters has been reported in Belet Weyne town, while in Bulo Burti and Jalalaqsi the floods have been steadily increasing in magnitude over the last one week.

Rainfall and Temperature Forecast

Light rainfall of below 50 mm is expected over the coastal parts of Adan Yabaal, Cadale, and Balcad districts in Middle Shabelle region, as well as Banadir, coastal parts of Jilib district in Middle Juba region, Jamame, Kismayo, and Badhaadhe districts, and the border areas between Afmadow and Kismayo districts in Lower Juba region. Similarly light rains are also anticipated over areas bordering Bur Hakaba district in Bay region and Qoryooley district in Lower Shabelle region. Dry conditions are expected to prevail over the rest of the country in the upcoming week. Similar dry conditions are also expected over the Ethiopian Highlands (Map 1).

Temperature Forecast: The current forecast indicates the likelihood of high temperatures ranging from 30°C to 35°C over extensive areas in the south, central and northeastern parts of the country. Milder temperatures ranging between 20°C and 25°C are anticipated over some areas in the following regions: Awdal, Woqooyi Galbeed, Togdheer and Sanaag regions and inland parts of Bari region. Moderate temperatures of 25°C to 30 °C will prevail over the rest of the country.



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

Current River Levels

A steady decrease in the river levels along the upper catchment of Juba River has been observed in the last one week. The level has reduced from bankful (6.00 m) to a currently safe level of 4.0 m at Dollow, which is 50 cm below the moderate risk threshold. Similarly, at the Luuq gauge station, the level has dropped from bankful (7.00 m) to 5.16 m, which is 34 cm below moderate risk level. However, at Bardheere, Bualle and downstream sections the river remains at bankful.

The water levels along the Shabelle River are still at bankful at Belet Weyne (8.30 m) and at Bulo Burte (8.00 m). The river level at Jowhar has stagnated at moderate flood risk level in the past one week due to breakages reported upstream leading to loss of flood water between Jalalaqsi and Jowhar.

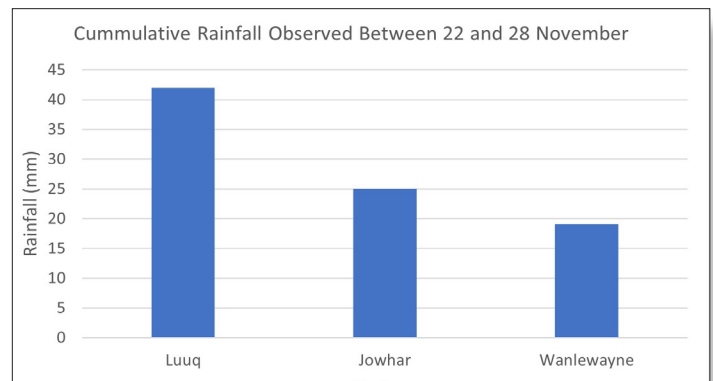
Figures 1 and 2 show the current river levels against the Short Term Mean and 2022 levels for Belet Weyne and Luuq stations respectively.

Impacts Associated with the Weekly Weather Forecast

The prevailing and forecast dry weather conditions over the catchments of both Juba and Shabelle Rivers within the country and in the Ethiopian highlands is expected to lead to reduced run off and a further decrease in the river levels along both rivers lessening the risks associated with flooding.

The ongoing flooding downstream of Bardheere is expected to reduce in magnitude and spatial extent in the coming one week. Similarly, at Belet Weyne the flood is expected to gradually recede in the coming week, due to reducing inflow of water from the upstream catchments in the Ethiopian Highlands. The magnitude of the ongoing floods at Bulo Burti is likely to be sustained and that over Jalalaqsi likely to be slightly increased over the reporting period. The river level at Jowhar may rise above the moderate risk level even as more water is lost through the river breakages upstream of the town. Therefore, there is a potential flood risk at the main river channel at Jowhar as the flood wave flows downstream from Jalalaqsi.

The dry conditions, coupled with elevated temperatures over extensive areas in the south, central and northeastern parts of the country, are expected to accelerate evapotranspiration, extracting soil moisture from previously inundated and waterlogged areas. Additionally, water seepage will contribute to soil drying up thus rendering areas more accessible and favorable for flood recession farming.



Graph 1: Cumulative rainfall observed at different stations between 22nd and 28th November 2023 across Somalia

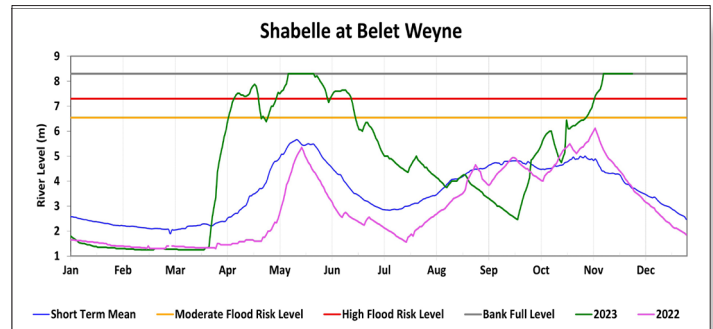


Figure 1: Shabelle river level at Belet Weyne gauging station as on 29th November 2023

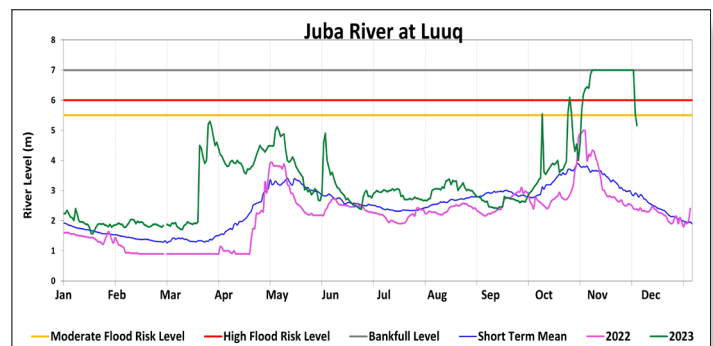


Figure 2: Juba River level at Luuq gauging station as on 29th November 2023

The communities returning to their residences post-evacuation should carefully evaluate the existing ground conditions and the state of structures before habitation.

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