

SOMALIA WEEKLY WEATHER FORECAST

Valid From 8 to 14 November 2024

Light to moderate rainfall expected over several areas in southern and central parts of Somalia with dry conditions likely over Somaliland and Puntland

Weather Review for the Week Between 30 October and 5 November 2024

The beginning of November was marked by moderate rainfall in the central parts of Somaliland and light rainfall in the central parts of the country with 35 stations (*Figure 1*) receiving more than 1 mm of rain between 30 October and 5 November 2024. The heaviest amount of rainfall (105.0 mm) was observed in Hargeisa in Woqooyi Galbeed region. Moderate rainfall was recorded in the following stations: Malawle (83.0 mm), Gumburaha (74.0 mm) and Aburiin (64.0 mm) in Woqooyi Galbeed region and Dila in Awdal region (51.0 mm). Light rainfall of above 30 mm was received at Dhubato (47.5 mm), and Gacan Libah (41.5 mm) in Woqooyi Galbeed region, Buhoodle (41.0 mm) and Gatiley in Togdheer region (40 mm), Xudun in Sool region (38.0 mm), and Taysa in Woqooyi Galbeed region (31.0 mm).

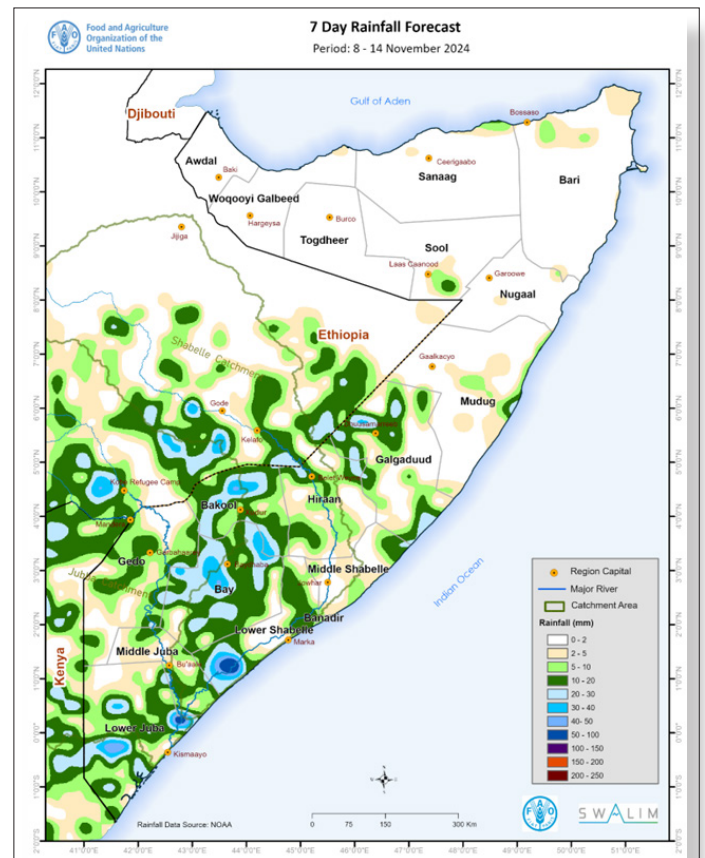
The levels along both Juba and Shabelle Rivers have demonstrated notable variations when compared to the long-term mean (LTM) and last year's El Niño-influenced behaviour. The Juba River level at Dollow is 38 cm above high flood risk level (5.00 m) today (8 November 2024) having rose sharply from 4.08 m on 4 November to 5.38 m today. This increase is occasioned by moderate rainfall in the upper catchment areas of the Ethiopian highlands. After a slight drop, the Shabelle River level at Belet Weyne today (6.72 m) is 22 cm above moderate flood risk level (6.50 m). This suggests wet and dry spells within its catchment in the Ethiopian highlands.

Rainfall Forecast for the Week Between 8 and 14 November 2024

According to NOAA-NCEP GFS, rainfall is expected to migrate further south with light to moderate rainfall expected over several areas in southern and central parts of Somalia. Light rains are likely over the northern parts of the country, with dry conditions likely over Somaliland and Puntland. The reported delay in the southward distribution of the rains is expected to end with the arrival of Madden Julian Oscillation Index in Phase 2 in this second week of November which is likely to favor some moderate rains over Lower Juba, Middle Juba and Gedo regions. However, the eastward shift from Somaliland to Puntland was short-lived with observed light rains likely to favor continued development of drought conditions.

The temporal and spatial distribution of the forecast rainfall (*Map 1*) are as follows:

Moderate cumulative rainfall of between 50 mm and 100 mm is expected over southern parts of Lower Shabelle region particularly Sablaale and Baraawe districts, and the northern coastal parts of Lower Juba region particularly Jamaame district. In some of these southern coastal parts the rains may cumulate to above 100 mm.



Map 1: Cumulative rainfall forecast over Somalia between 8 – 14 November 2024

Light cumulative rainfall of less than 50 mm is likely over most of the areas in Bay, Bakool and Banadir regions, Badhaadhe and Kismaayo districts in Lower Juba region, Jilib district in Middle Juba region, Afgoye and Wanla Weyne in Lower Shabelle region, Garbaharey and Ceel Waaq districts in Gedo region, Belet Weyne district in Hiraan region, Dhuusamarreeb, Cabudwaaq and Ceel Dheer districts in Galgaduud region. Light rains may also be observed in very isolated areas in the following places: Laas Canood district in Sool region, coastal parts of Mudug region at Hobyo district, elevated areas in the northern parts of Laasqoray district in Sanaag region, and Bossaso district in Bari region. It is important to point such light rainfall is also expected to fall over most parts of the Juba and Shabelle River catchments within Somali and in Ethiopia.

Dry conditions are likely to prevail over vast areas in the north including Awdal, Woqooyi Galbeed, Togdheer, Sool and Sanaag regions in Somaliland, and Bari, Nugaal and Mudug regions in Puntland. Dry conditions are also likely over Middle Shabelle region, Galgaduud region particularly in Cadaado and Ceel Buur districts, Bullo Burte and Jalalaqsi districts in Hiraan region, Qoryooley and Kurtunwaaq districts in Lower Shabelle region, Dollow, Luuq and Baardheere districts in Gedo region, Saakow and Bualle districts in Middle Juba region, and Afmadow district in Lower Juba region.

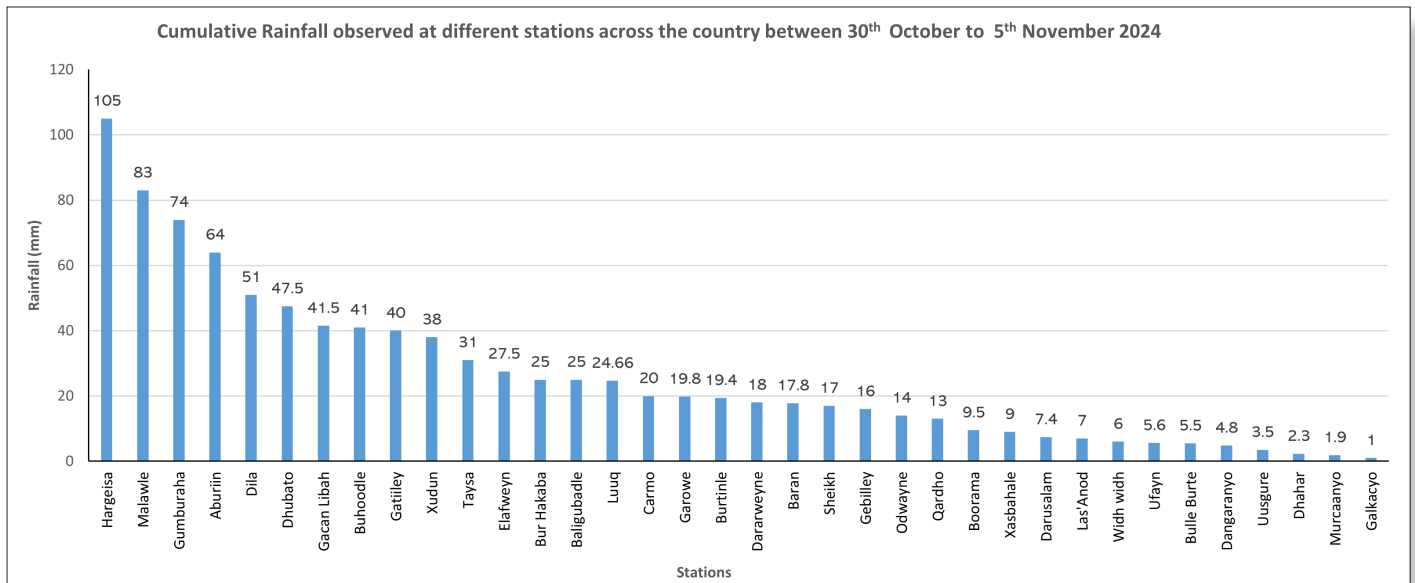
Temperature Forecast

Elevated temperatures of between 35 °C and 40 °C are expected in the southern parts of the country particularly over Lower Juba and Middle Juba regions, Sablaale district in Lower Shabelle region, Bardheere, Garbahaarey, Luuq and Dollow districts in Gedo region, and Dinsoor district in Bay region. The temperatures over inland areas in Afmadow district in Lower Juba region may rise above 40 °C.

Moderately high temperatures of between 30 °C and 35°C are likely over most parts of Lower Shabelle, Bay, Bakool, Hiraan, Middle Shabelle, Galgaduud, Mudug, Nugaal, Sool and Bari regions. Similar temperatures are also likely over Ceel Waaq and Belet Xaawo districts in Gedo region, Lughaye and Zeylac

districts and northern half of Baki and Zeylac districts in Awdal region, Berbera district in Woqooyi Galbeed region, Ceel Afweyn district in Sanaag region, and the coastal areas of Lower Juba and Middle Juba regions.

Moderate temperatures of between 25 °C and 30°C are expected over most areas in Sanaag and Togdheer regions, Borama and southern half of Baki district in Awdal region, Gebiley and Hargeisa districts in Woqooyi Galbeed region, Qandala district, and the narrow coastal strip of the in Bari region. The areas around Ceerigaaabo district in Sanaag region, Sheikh in Togdheer region and Gebiley and Wajaale districts in Woqooyi Galbeed region are likely to observe temperatures below 25 °C.



Graph 1: Cumulative rainfall observed at different stations across Somalia between 30th October to 05 November 2024

Current River Levels

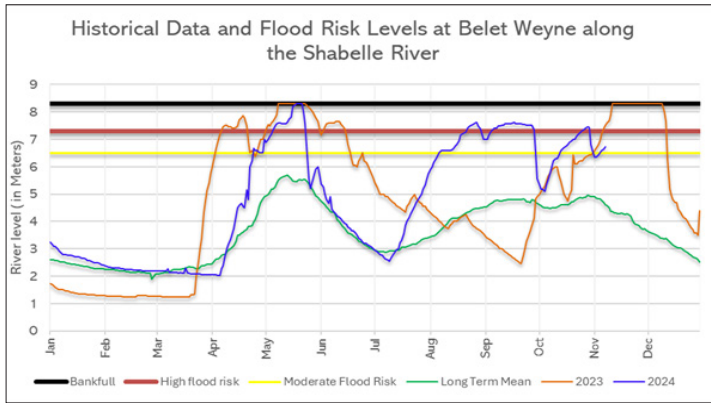
The levels along the Juba River have demonstrated notable variations over recent week when compared to the long-term mean (LTM) and last year's El Niño-influenced behaviour. During the week of October 30 to November 5, 2024, the river levels showed an upward trend, with values reaching above the LTM by approximately 1.0 to 1.5 meters. The Juba River level at Dollow is 38 cm above high flood risk level (5.00 m) today (8 November 2024) having rose sharply from 4.08 m on 4 November to 5.38 m today. The same upward trend has been reported at Luuq where the level today (5.28) is only 22 cm below moderate flood risk level (5.50 m). This increase is occasioned by moderate rainfall in the upper catchment areas of the Ethiopian highlands.

Notable fluctuations have also been observed along the Shabelle River in recent weeks compared to the LTM, last year's conditions influenced by El Niño, and even last week.

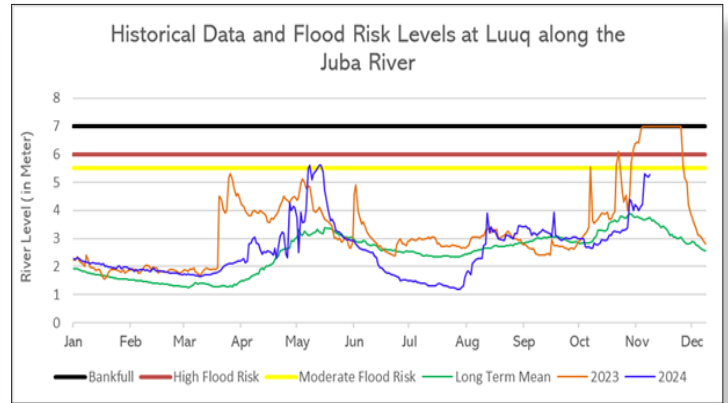
As of early November 2024, the Shabelle River's water level remains elevated, reaching approximately 1.0 to 1.3 meters above the LTM. Compared to last week, the river level has shown a slight increase of around 0.2 to 0.3 meters, indicating ongoing higher flow. After a slight drop, the Shabelle River level at Belet Weyne today (6.72 m) is 22 cm above moderate flood risk level (6.50 m). The levels today at Bulo Burte (5.48 m) and Jowhar (4.47 m) are still well below flood risk levels. This suggests wet and dry spells within its catchment in the Ethiopian highlands.

SWALIM is a multi-donor project managed by FAO and currently funded by The European Union, SDC, FCDO, AICS, Government of France and USAID





Graph 1: Shabelle River level at Belet Weyne Gauging Station as of 08 November 2024



Graph 2: Juba River level at Luuq Gauging Station as of 08 November 2024

Impacts Associated with the Weekly Weather Forecast

The light to moderate rains forecast over both the Juba and Shabelle River catchments within Somalia and across in Ethiopia may produce sufficient runoff to keep the river level in Dollow and Belet Weyne above flood risk levels, with expected rise in the river levels downstream. With the current high river levels (above the high flood risk level in Dollow) there is a high risk of riverine flooding in Dollow and Luuq in the coming week. The MJO driven rains in the second week of November may pose some flash flooding risk over very isolated areas in the southern parts of the country. Continued monitoring of rainfall in the Juba and Shabelle River catchment and river levels, especially in flood-prone areas, is crucial to mitigate impacts on nearby communities.

The predicted moderate temperatures (25°C to 35°C) will likely favour retention of soil moisture from previous rains in Somaliland thus favourable for agropastoral activities. In contrast, the elevated temperatures above 35°C are likely to lead to enhanced evapotranspiration over the southern parts of the country.

The delayed Deyr rains in Puntland and most southern regions, along with the onset of typically hot and dry Jilaal conditions in the latter half of December, means the rains received in November will determine the likelihood and severity of drought by December. A full recovery from such drought would only be possible by April or beyond, even if significant rains arrive in March 2025.

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