Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

SWALIM
Somali Water and Land Information Management

SOMALIA WEEKLY WEATHER FORECAST

Valid From 8th to 14th November 2023

Heavy rainfall expected over the coastal parts of Galmudug; moderate to heavy rainfall likely over Gedo, parts of Bakool, Hiran, Lower Juba, and Middle Juba regions; dry conditions with chances of isolated light rainfall expected in Somaliland and Puntland.

Review of the Weather for the Period 1st to 7th November 2023

Thirty-two (32) stations observed cumulative rainfall equal to or greater than 30 mm with rainfall of at least 1 mm being recorded in fifty-one (51) stations spread across the country (Graph 1) in the last one week. The following twenty-one (21) stations received substantial rainfall amounting to 60 mm and above: Bardaale (253 mm), Baidoa (251 mm), Dinsor (222.7 mm), Qansahdere (174.6 mm), Buur Hakaba (161.2 mm) in Bay region; Hudur (219 mm) and El Barde (185.8 mm) in Bakool region; Luuq (156 mm), and Dollow (83.8 mm) in Gedo region; Galkayo (134 mm), and Galdogob (75.6 mm) in Mudug region; BeletWeyne (124.1 mm), Mataban (106.1 mm), Mahas (82.3 mm), and Bulo Burte (62.5 mm) in Hiraan region; Caynabo (79 mm), Sheikh (67.5 mm) and Balli Dhiig (60 mm) in Togdheer region; Gumburaha (78 mm) and Laas Dawaco (74 mm) in Woqooyi Galbeed region; and Yagori (66 mm) in Sool region.

Rainfall was observed every single day during the review week over BeletWeyne (124.1 mm in 7 days) and on six (6) days at Bardaale (253 mm), Baidoa (251 mm), Hudur (219 mm) Qansahdere (174.6 mmq), and Dollow (83.8 mm). The other most rainy days were observed at Luuq (156 mm in 5 days). The most intense rains were received at Yagori (66 mm in a day) and Mataban (106 mm in 2 days).

As a proportion of the stations' LTM, the rains received in Bay-Bakool region in the last week alone represent 124 % at Bardaale (253 mm), 109 % at Baidoa (251 mm), 123 % at Dinsor (222.7 mm), 183 % at Hudur (219 mm), and 223 % at El Barde (185.8 mm). The more than 100 % statistics mean that the observed rainfall represent more than the total Deyr season rains for that station. In El Barde particularly, the observed rains for the past one week signify more than double the seasons total rains.

The heavy and intense rains received over the Juba River catchment particularly in the Gedo region led to rise in water level to bankful heights at Dollow, Luuq, and Bardheere. These massive riverbank overflows and the resultant extensive floods have damaged crop lands, damaged road infrastructure rendering them impassable and cutting off access in to and out of towns and other human settlements. The flood wave has since been transmited downstream, causing floods at Buaale, Saakow, Salagle, Jilib and the human settlements in between.

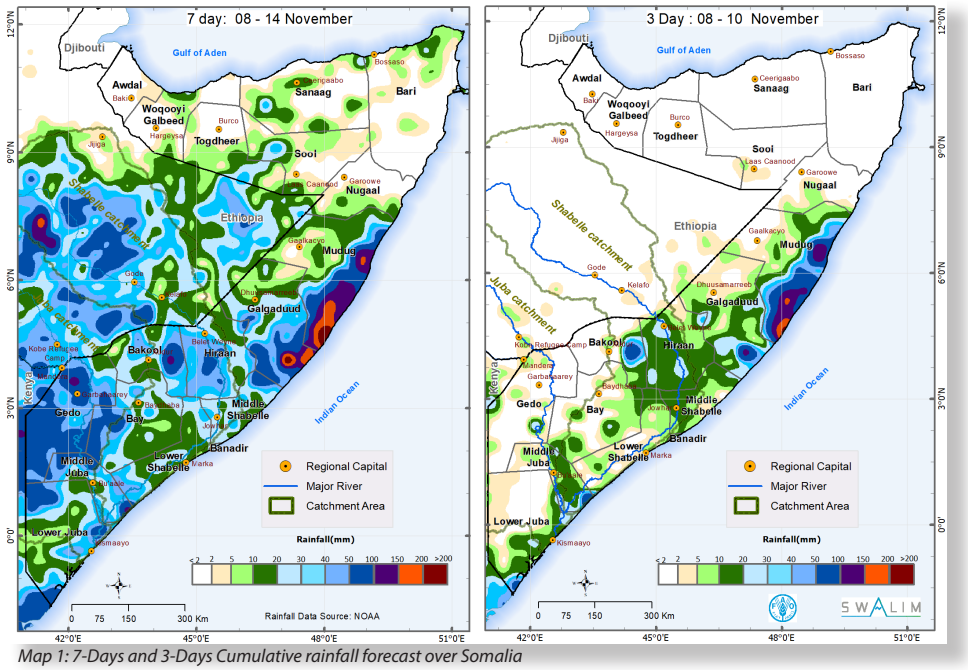
Water levels have also been on a steady rise along the Shabelle River. According to observations made today (8th November 2023), BeketWeyn is only 78 cm to bankful. The water levels downstream at Bulo Burte and Jowhar are 145 cm and 120 cm below bankful level, respectively.

Forecast of the Weather for the Period 8th to 14th November 2023

In the next one-week, heavy rainfall is expected over the coastal parts of Galmudug; moderate to heavy rainfall is likely over Gedo, parts of Bakool, Hiran, Lower Juba, and Middle Juba regions, and dry conditions with chances of isolated light rainfall in anticipated over Somaliland and Puntland (Map 1). The three -days forecast (Map 1) shows that much of the forecast rains over Mudug region are likely to be received between 8th and 10th November 2023. The spatio-temperal variation of the forecast rainfall (Map 1) is described below:

Heavy rainfall of between 100 mm and 150 mm is expected over several areas in the coastal parts of Galmudug state and in isolated areas in Jilib district in Middle Juba region, Garbaharey and Belet Xaawo districts in Gedo region, and Hudur and Tayeeglow districts in Bakool. The rains over the coastal parts of Galmudug are likely to be intense (more than 150 mm) with the localized storms over Ceel Dheer and Xarardheere districts cumulating to over 200 mm.

Moderate rainfall of between 50 mm and 100 mm is forecast over several areas in Gedo region, Ceel Dheer and Ceel Buur districts in Galgadudd region, Xarardheere, Hobyo and Jaribaan districts in Mudug region, Bulo Burte district in Hiraan region, and Hudur and Tayeeglow districts in Bakool region. Towards the south, rainfall of similar amount is expected over several areas in Qansax Dheere and Dinsoor districts in Bay region, Jilib and Saakow districts in Middle Juba region, Jamaame district, southern parts of Badhaadhe district, western parts of Afmadow district in Lower Juba 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 Shabelle and Middle Shabelle regions, Kismaayo district and central and eastern parts of Afmadow districts in Lower Juba region, central parts of Middle Juba region including Bualle district. Similar rains are also likely over Bur Hakaba abd Baydhaba districts in Bay region, Rab Dhuure, Waajid and Ceel Barde districts in Bakool region, BeletWeyne and Jalalaqsi districts in Hiraan region. In the central parts of country, the areas that are expected to receive rains if similar intensities include: Cabudwaaq, Dhuusamareeb and Cadaado districts in Galgaduud region and Galdogob district in Mudug region.

Dry conditions are expected over expansive areas in Somaliland and Puntland, except Gaalkacyo district in Mudug region where isolated light rainfall is expected. .

High temperatures of between 35°C and 45°C are likely over Kismaayo and Jamaame districts and eastern parts of Afmadow district in Lower Juba region, Jilib district in Middle Juba region and Baraawe and Sablaale districts in Lower Shabelle region.

Milder temperatures of between 20°C and 25°Care likely over the highlands in central parts of Sanaag region, northern parts of Bari region particularly Qandala district, and northwestern parts of Togdheer region particularly Burco district. The rest of the areas in country is expected to observe moderate temperatures between 25°Cand 35°C.

Current River Levels

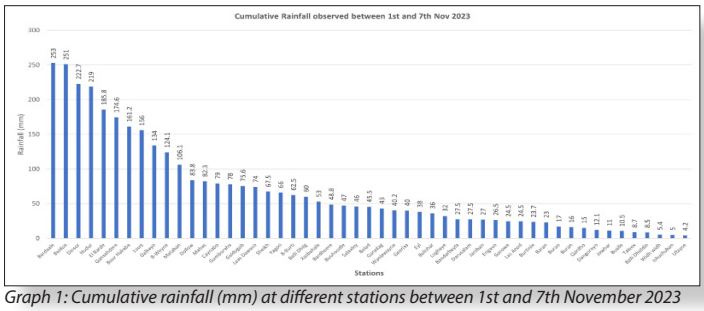
Following heavy rains received over Juba River catchment, significant fluctuations in water levels were observed along its entire stretch. For four straight days, the resultant runoff has led to riverbank overflows along the stretch from Dollow to Bardheere with devastating floods. Downstream, at Buaale, Saakow, Salagle and Jilib, the water level has risen to high flood risk level, with reported floods affecting farmlands and settlements.

Water levels have also been on a steady rise along the Shabelle River. According to observations made today (8th November 2023), only 78 cm of water rise is remaining before the river reaches bankful at Belet Weyne. This would result into riverbank overflows and flooding in the town and surrounding areas. The water levels downstream at Bulo Burte and Jowhar are 145 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.

Impacts Associated with the Weekly Weather Forecast

The runoff from both ongoing and forecast moderate to heavy rains over the Juba River catchment within the country will sustain the riverbank overflows along the entire stretch from Dollow to Bualle. Additionally, the runoff from the very intense rains received at Bardheere and Bualle will likely result to voluminous riverbank overflows today. These forecast conditions will sustain **the flooding along Juba River** in between Dollow, Luuq, Bardheere, and Bualle with particularly increasing scale downstream beyond Bualle due to flood water convergence. **The activated evacuation plans should therefore be sustained along the entire stretch.**



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

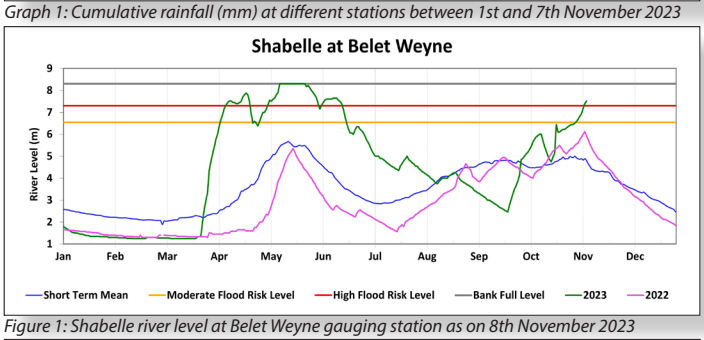


Figure 1: Shabelle river level at Belet Weyne gauging station as on 8th November 2023

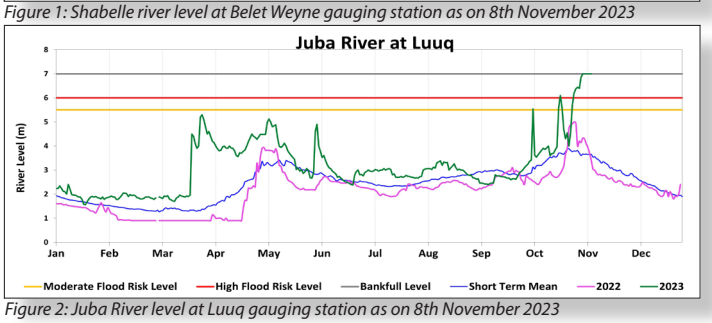


Figure 2: Juba River level at Luuq gauging station as on 8th November 2023

The runoff from the ongoing and forecast light to moderate rains over the Shabelle River catchment within and outside the country will sustain gradual rise in water levels. The flow of the voluminous water from the earlier reported flood wave at Kelafo in Ethiopia seems to have slowed down and is not easily visible on the currently available satellite imagery due to heavy cloud cover, but it is expected to be within the Somali-Ethiopia border and may result in significant river level rise 2 to 4 days. These forecast conditions will sustain the **high risk of flooding along the Shabelle River at Beletweyne** and the adjacent areas. **The activated evacuation plans should therefore be sustained at Beletweyne town and the surrounding areas.**

There is a potential **high risk of flash flooding** in susceptible built-up areas in Galmudug State particularly Ceel Dheer, Xarardheere, Hobyo and Jariiban Districts and coastal areas where heavy localized rains are anticipated within the next 3 days. Residents living along seasonal rivers or low-lying vulnerable areas are strongly advised to remain vigilant and take necessary precautions.

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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