

SOMALIA WEEKLY WEATHER FORECAST

Valid From 10th to 17th May 2023

Moderate to heavy rainfall is expected over northeastern parts of Somalia, light rains over central and southern parts and dry conditions in the southwestern parts.

Weather Review for 2nd to 8th May 2023

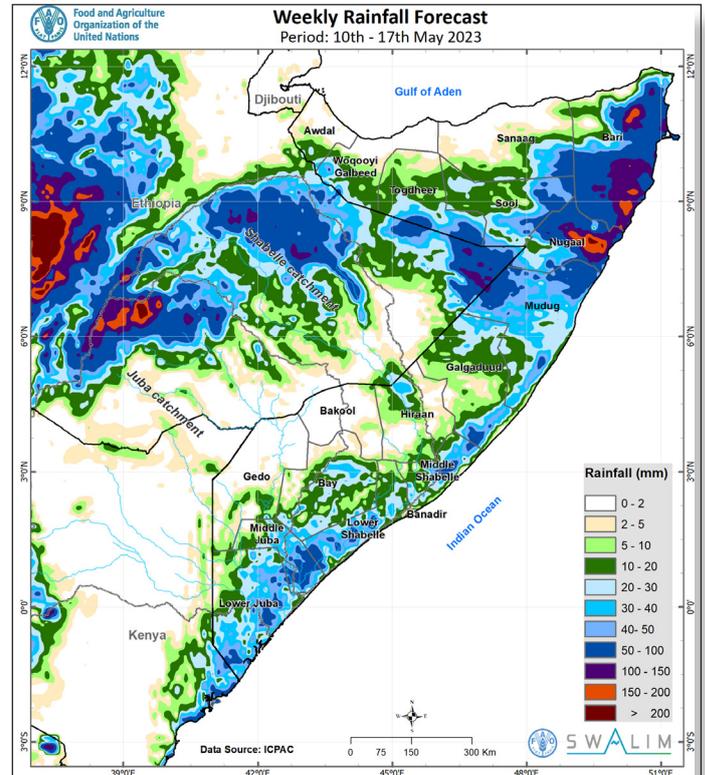
Wet conditions were observed over most areas in Somalia over the last week with up to sixty (60) stations recording at least 1 mm of rainfall (Figure 1). The stations that received at least 50 mm of cumulative rainfall were Dhahar (132 mm) in Sanaag region; Xaaji Saalax (109.5 mm), Odweyne (64 mm), Burao (60 mm) and Sheikh (55 mm) in Togdheer region; Gumburaha (98 mm), Tysa (83 mm), Hargeisa (70 mm), Baligubadle (59 mm) and Dhubato (50 mm) in Woqooyi Galbeed region; Dangoroyo (72.6 mm) and Qardho (72 mm) in Bari region; Xasbahale (72 mm), Garowe (57.5 mm) and Burtinle (50 mm) in Nugaal region; Yagori (82.5 mm), Las_Anod (70 mm) and Widh widh (55 mm) in Sool region; and Boon (61 mm) in Awdal region. The stations that received intense rains of more than 30 mm per day include Tysa (83 mm/day), Salaxley (45 mm/day), and Gebiley (43 mm/day) in Woqooyi Galbeed region, Dangoroyo (72.6 mm/day) in Bari region, Boon (61 mm/day) in Awdal region, Widh widh (55 mm/day) in Sool region and Balli Dhiddin (35.3 mm/day) in Bari region and Waridaad (33 mm/day) in Sool region. The best temporal distribution of cumulative rains was observed at Qardho (72 mm/5 days) in Bari region.

The levels along Shabelle River reaching its bankfull level at Belet Weyne on 9th May 2023. The river burst its banks on the night of 9th April leading to flooding that submerged Belet Weyne town including the main marketplace, general hospital complex, town hall, headquarters of the Somali police force and other landmarks within the surrounding areas. This led to destruction of houses, crops and roads, and displacement of many families. FAO-SWALIM's timely flood advisory, digniin early warning messages and use of prepositioned sand bags along the vulnerable sites by the Hirshabelle State's Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, the evacuation by local authorities mitigated the flood effects. Hirshabelle state and humanitarian partners, are working together to assess the damages and offer assistance to those affected.

Weather Forecast for 10th to 17th May 2023

According to the weekly forecast, moderate to heavy rainfall is expected over several areas in northeastern parts of the country, with light rains over central and southern parts during the forecast period (Map 1). The spatial variation of the cumulative rainfall amounts is as follows:

Very heavy rainfall of more than 150 mm is likely to be observed over some areas in Nugal and Bari regions in the northeastern parts of the country. In Bari region, these very



Map 1: Cumulative rainfall forecast over Somalia between 10th and 17th May 2023

heavy rains are likely over the border areas of eastern Qandala and Iskushuban districts and over Bandarbeyla district. In Nugaal region, such very heavy rains are expected over Eyl district and southeastern parts of Garowe district. Over Eyl district, the rains could actually exceed 200mm in areas like Dihlil and Bacad Weyne.

Heavy rainfall of between 100 mm and 150 mm is expected over some areas in Nugal and Bari regions in the northeastern parts of the country. Several areas in Bandarbeyla and some areas in eastern parts of Qandala district and northern and eastern parts of Iskushuban, and southern parts of Caluula district in Bari region will observe such heavy rainfall. Similarly heavy rainfall is likely over several areas in Eyl district and eastern parts of Garowe district in Nugaal region.

Moderate rainfall of between 50 mm and 100 mm is likely over all other areas in Bari region except Bossaso district and over all areas in Nugaal region except Burtinle district. Moderate rainfall is also expected over Buhoodle district and southern parts of Burco district in Togdheer region, south most parts of Laasqoray district in Sanaag region, eastern parts of Laas Canood and Taleex districts in Sool region, Galdogob district and western parts of Garowe district, and northern

parts of Jariiban district in Mudug region. In the central parts of the country, moderate rains are expected in the southern parts of Ceel Dheer district in Galgaduud region and Cadale district in Middle Shabelle region.

Rainfall of similar amount is expected over isolated areas in Qoryooley district, Kurtunwaarey district, and southwestern parts of Sablaale district in Lower Sheballe. Similarly moderate rains are likely over northern parts of Jilib district and southern parts of Buáale district, northeastern parts of Kismaayo district and southern parts of Badhaadhe district in Lower Juba region.

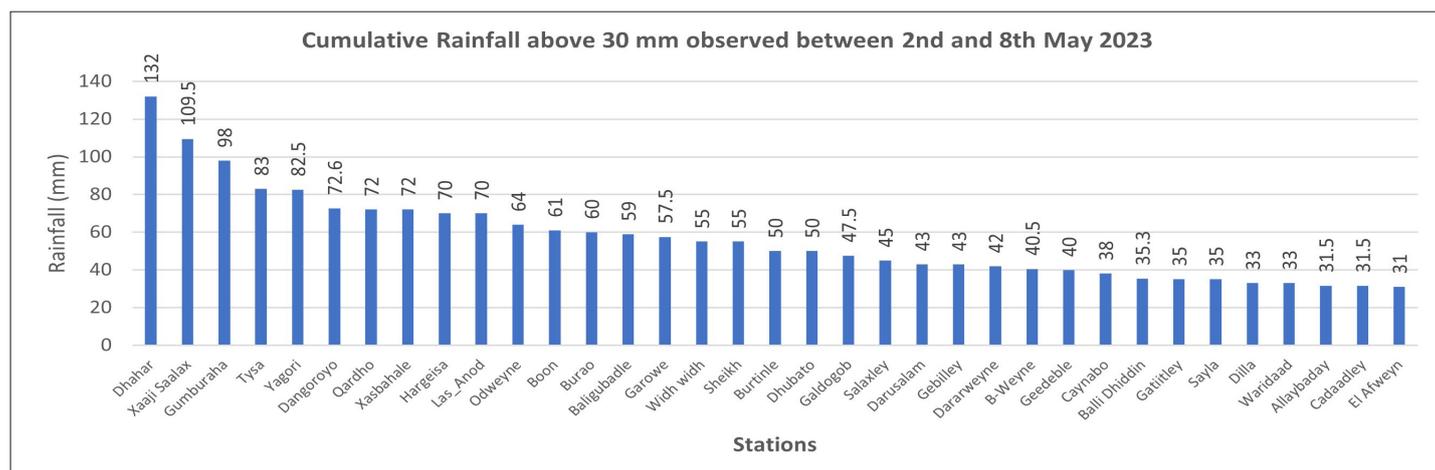
Light rains of less than 50 mm is expected over several areas in the following regions: Lower Juba, Lower Shabelle, Middle Shabelle, Galgaduud, Mudug, Sool and Togdheer. Light rainfall is also anticipated over Saakow district and northern parts of Buáale district in Middle Juba region, northeastern parts of Baardheere district in Gedo region, south, central and eastern parts of Bay region, and Belet Weyne and Jalalaqsi districts in Hiraa region.

In the northern parts of the country, similarly light rainfall is expected over southern and southeastern parts of Sanaag region, northern parts of Bossaso, Qandala and Caluula

districts in Bari region, southern parts of Hargeisa and Gebiley districts in Woqooyi Galbeed region, and southern parts of Baki and Borama districts in Awdal region.

Dry conditions are expected in the southwestern parts of the country including Bakool region and several areas in Gedo and Hiraa regions, and Ceel Buur district in Galgaduud region. Dry conditions are also likely in the north most parts of the country particularly over Zeylac and Lughaye districts and northern parts of Baki district in Awdal region, Berbera district in Woqooyi Galbeed region, and Sheikh district in Togdheer region. Several areas in the western and northern parts of Sanaag region, as well as the northern coastal strip in Bari region, are also likely to remain dry.

Moderate temperatures of between 24°C and 28°C are expected over several areas in the southern and northeastern parts of the country. Temperatures as low as 20°C are likely over some areas in the southern parts of Awdal and Woqooyi Galbeed regions, Sheikh district in northern Togdheer region and Ceerigaabo in Sanaag region and northern parts of Qandala. High temperatures of between 28°C and 32°C are expected in the central regions and northwestern parts of the country.



Graph 1: Cumulative rainfall (mm) observed at different stations between 2nd and 8th May 2023 across Somalia

Current River Levels

The level along Shabelle River at Belet Weyne has been on steady rise over the last two weeks. The level crossed the high flood risk (7.30 m) on 2nd May, and reached bankful (8.30 m) on the night of 9th May 2023. At Bulu Burti, the river level steadily rose from 5.74 m on 4th May to 6.33 m today (10th May). This level is just 17 cm below its moderate flood risk level (6.50 m). At 3.75 m today (10th May), the river level at Jowhar has generally been stable and below the moderate flood risk level (5.0 m). In both locations the levels are expected to steadily rise in the coming week, with anticipated risk of flooding.

The general dry conditions observed in the last week over Juba River catchment within and outside Somalia led to a general decrease in the Juba River levels. Compared to observations made on 4th May, river levels recorded today (10th May) represent a decrease from 5.04 m to 3.88 m at Dollow, from 5.12 m to 4.36 m at Luuq, and from 7.70 m to 7.60 m at Bualle.

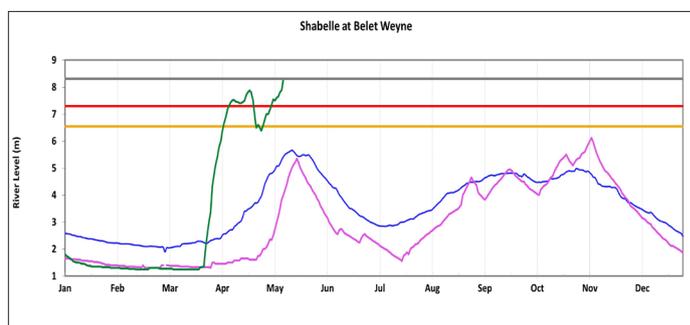


Figure 1: Shabelle river level at Belet Weyne gauging station as at 10th May 2023

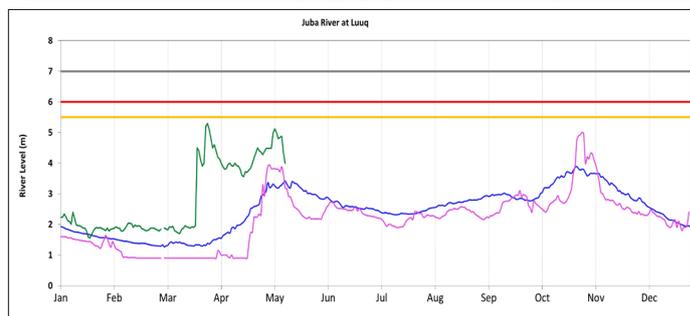


Figure 2: Juba river level at Luuq gauging station as at 10th May 2023

Although river level at Bardheere has remained generally stable, the 7.58 m reading today (10th May) is 18 cm above moderate flood risk level (7.40 m).

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

Impacts Associated with the Weekly Weather Forecast

The rains are progressing north-eastwards into Nugaal and Bari regions with dry conditions expected over the south-western and the north and north western parts of the country (Map 1).

There is a persistent high risk of flooding along the Shabelle River at Belet Weyne and moderate risk of flooding along Juba River at Bardheere currently. Although moderate rainfall conditions are forecast over the catchments in Ethiopian Highlands, the light rains and dry conditions over their catchment within the country will lead to a stabilization of river levels within moderate flood risk levels in the coming days. Downstream of Shabelle river, there is high risk of flooding in the coming week, as the flood wave currently experienced in Belet Weyne is transmitted downstream.

The expected moderate to heavy rains over Nugaal and Bari regions will fall over almost bare lands, with very little time of concentration, and large dry river beds that can be filled up very quickly leading to overtopping especially when they pass through towns. There is a potential risk of flash flooding in towns downstream of the river catchments. Therefore there is need for continuous monitoring of rainfall-run off situation in towns such as Qardho, Garowe, Galkayo, Eyl, and Bandarbeyla.

The expected moderate to heavy rainfall will lead to substantial recharge of surface water sources and sustenance of the regenerated vegetation which is important for human and livestock survival. Even with the forecast of moderately high temperatures (28°C to 32°C), the forecast of heavy rains, together with the previous rains, are likely to exceed the actual evaporation thereby sustaining the soil water and supporting vegetation regeneration in the central parts of the country. Over the north-eastern, the conditions are favourable for planting. However, the heavy rainfall may lead to disturbance of the topsoil thereby reducing its productivity. The dry conditions over south-western parts may lead to excess evaporation depleting the soil moisture needed by the recent weeded crops.

El Niño Update and Possible Impacts over Somalia

The El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is currently in a neutral state. According to the IRI/CPC forecast, there is a 62% chance of El Niño during the transition from Gu to May-June-July with increasing chances afterwards until a 86% chance during October-November-December. El Niño events tend to enhance rainfall in eastern East Africa including southern Somalia. Drier-than average conditions tend to occur northern East Africa including northern Somalia. Additionally, positive Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) conditions may also develop during June to September, according to the Australian Bureau of Meteorology forecast, leading to enhanced El Niño-related wetting influences during the East Africa short rains. A more conclusive seasonal prediction will be available in June.

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