

SOMALIA WEEKLY WEATHER FORECAST

Valid: 21 to 28 May 2024

Dry conditions and light rainfall expected in most inland parts of the country with chances of moderate rains over coastal parts in the southern regions.

Review for the week between 14 and 20 May 2024

The third week of May was generally marked by dry conditions and light rains received at twenty (20) stations with moderate rains only being observed at two stations: Xudun (90.6 mm) in Sool region and Gumburaha (68.0 mm) in Woqooyi Galbeed region (Figure 1).

Out of the twenty two (22) individual stations that reported at least 1.0 mm of cumulative rain between 14 and 20 May 2024 (Figure 1), the following five (5) received more than 20.0 mm : Xudun (90.6 mm) in Sool region; Ceerigaabo (24 mm) and Dhahar (25.4 mm) in Sanaag region; Gumburaha (68 mm) in Waqooyi Galbeed region; and Buhoodle (47 mm) in Togdheer region.

Even with the general dry conditions in the third week of May, the continued downflow of water from upstream led to a sustained rise in the levels along the Shabelle river to current bankful (8.30 m) at Belet Weyne with riverine flooding reported. According to a rapid assessment report conducted by the Hirshabelle State, the riverine floods displaced an estimated 7,100 families living in low lying flood prone areas, who were safely evacuated to highland areas. The report mentions that the flooding caused widespread destruction of farms, public infrastructure, and other livelihood assets. The floods worst-affected villages include Kooshin, Haawotaako, Buundoweyne, and Howlwadaag.

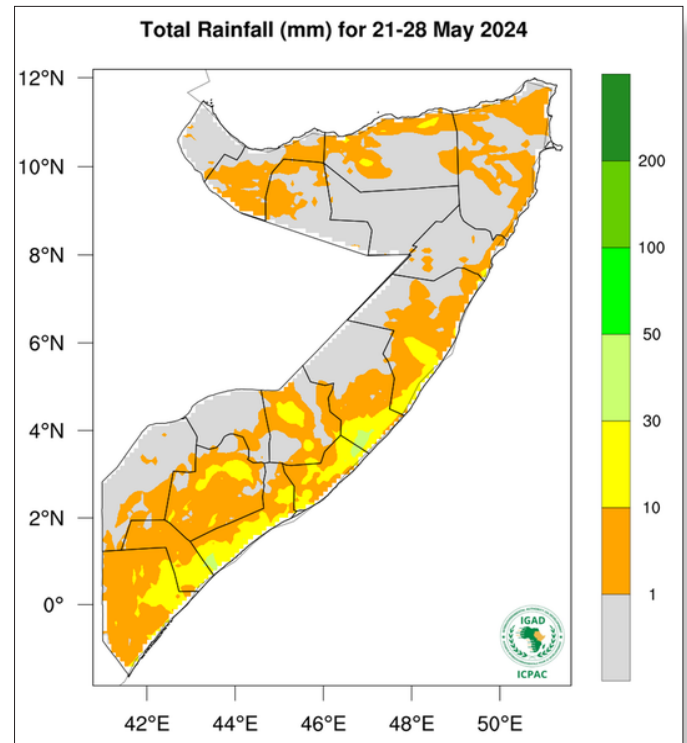
Based on Radio Ergo audience feedback, floods are also reported to have affected some villages in Middle Shabelle region. Rainstorms are also reported to have destroyed houses in some parts of Bari. The affected residents are reported to need humanitarian assistance.

According to reliable reports, including SWALIM field observers and Radio Ergo audience feedback, the rains observed in Gu across most parts of the country were beneficial to agropastoral livelihoods in many aspects including favorable soil moisture conditions for crop and fodder production, and replenishment of surface and ground water sources. The substantial rainfall received over the upper catchment of Garowe watershed generated run-off that led to rapid flow along Majo Maqarshe seasonal river on 19 May 2024 with no casualties reported. Despite the observed rains, thermal discomfort was reported in various parts of Sanaag, Sool, Galgaduud and Mudug regions.

Forecast for the week between 21 and 28 May 2024

According to ICPAC, during the week between 21 and 28 May 2024, dry conditions and light rainfall is expected in most inland parts of the country with chances of moderate rains over coastal parts of the southern regions. These forecast coastal rains seem to be driven by the warming in the Indian Ocean.

As the Inter Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) shifts further north, its impact on the Gu rains across the country begins to diminish



Map 1: Cumulative rainfall forecast over Somalia between 21 and 28 May 2024

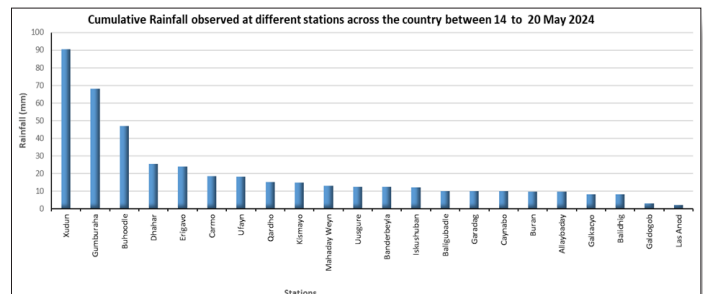


Figure 1: Stations that observed rainfall of more than 1 mm between 14 May and 20 May 2024

ushering in Hagaa season. However, given that today's Madden Julian Oscillation's (MJO) 3-day forecast position is associated with better skill and reliability, there is still some likelihood of moderate rains before the end of the month. Day-to-day monitoring is therefore advised.

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

Light cumulative rainfall of less than 50 mm is forecast over most coastal parts of Somalia including; Berbera district in Woqooyi Galbeed region; northern parts of Ceel Afweyn, Ceerigaabo and Laasqoray districts in Sanaag region; Bossaso, Qandala, Banderbeyla, Caluula and Iskushuban districts in Bari region; Eyl district in Nugaal region; Jariiban, Xarardheere and Hobyo districts in Mudug region; Ceel Dheer in Galgaduud region; Adan Yabaal, Cadale and Balcad districts in Middle

Shabelle region; Afgooye, Qoryooley, Kurtunwaarey and Sablaale districts in Lower Shabelle region; Mogadishu in Banadir region; Jilib district in Middle Juba region; Jamaame, Kismayo and Badhaadhe districts in Lower Juba region. Similarly, other inland districts that are likely to receive light rainfall include Hargeisa and Gebiley districts in Woqooyi Galbeed region; Odweyne district in Togdheer region; Belet Weyne district in Hiraan region; Tayeeglow district in Bakool region; Baydhaba and Qansax Dheere districts in Bay region; and Afmadow district in Lower Juba region.

Tropical Storm Ialy Advisory

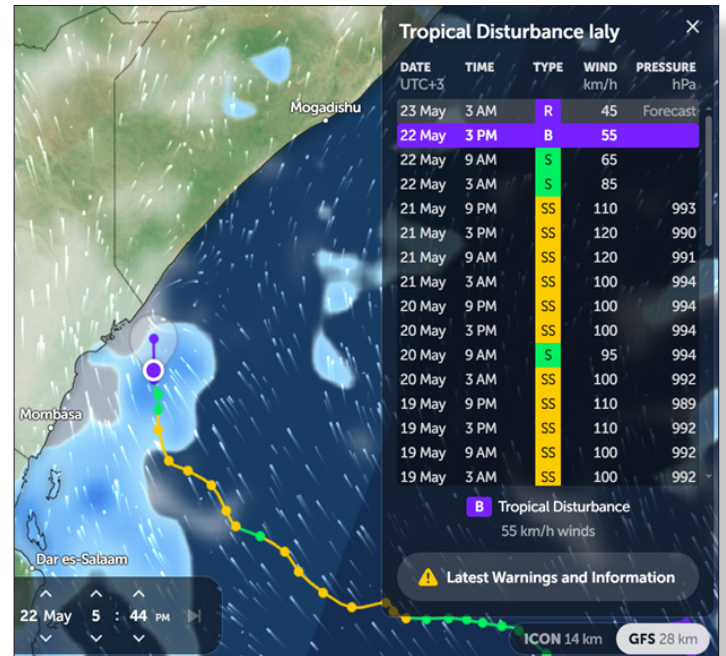
Tropical Storm Ialy (Map 2) started off as a Disturbance on 14 May 2024 growing into a Moderate Tropical Storm on 16 May and into a Severe Tropical Storm on 19 May. **It is forecast to reduce in intensity in the next 24 hours as it approaches the Equator to just a normal low-pressure system without making landfall in any part of the East African coastline.** However, the area of influence may stretch towards the Equator resulting in **strong surface wind, large ocean waves and moderate rainfall over the coastal and nearby inland areas of Badhaade, Kismaayo and Jilib Districts.**

Temperature Forecast:

Moderately high temperatures of between 32°C and 36°C are likely over the central parts of the country particularly over vast inland areas of both Hobyo and Jariiban districts in Mudug region and eastern parts of both Cadaado and Dhuusamarreeb districts in Galgaduud region. Similar temperatures are also expected in the north including vast areas in Zeylac and Lughaye districts and northern parts of Baki district in Awdal region; and over most parts of Berbera district in Woqooyi Galbeed region; northern parts of Ceel Afweyn district and narrow coastal strip of Ceerigaabo and Laasqoray districts in Sanaag region; similarly, in narrow coastal strip of Bossaso and Caluula districts, and isolated areas in the eastern parts of Iskushuban district in Bari region.

Moderate temperatures of between 28°C and 32°C are likely over most parts of the following regions: Hiraan, Middle Shabelle, Galgaduud, Nugaal, and Sool regions. Similar moderate temperatures are also likely over Gaalkacyo and Galdogob districts and coastal parts of Hobyo and Jariiban districts in Mudug region; Bandarbeyla, Qardho and the rest of the areas in both Iskushuban and Caluula districts in Bari region; and Doolow, Luuq, Garbahaarey and Belet Xaawo districts in Gedo region. **Moderate temperatures of between 24°C and 28°C** are expected over most parts of the following regions: Lower Juba, Middle Juba, Bay, Bakool, and Togdheer. Similar conditions are also likely over Sablaale, Baraawe, Kurtunwaarey, Marka, Qoryooley and Afgooye districts in Lower Shabelle region; Ceel Waaq and Baardheere districts in Gedo region; Balcad district in Middle Shabelle region; Qandala district in Bari region; central and southern parts of Laasqoray district, southern parts of both Ceerigaabo and Ceel Afweyn districts in Sanaag region; northern parts of Taleex district and southern parts of Laas Canood district, and northern parts of Caynabo district in Sool region; and Hargeysa and Gebiley districts in Woqooyi Galbeed region.

Dry conditions (including rainfall less than 1 mm) are likely in most areas of Awdal and Sool regions; Burao district in Togdheer region; southern parts of Ceel Afweyn and Ceerigaabo districts in Sanaag region; Qardho district in Bari region; Garowe district in Nugaal region; western parts of Burtinle district in Nugaal region; Gaalkacyo and Galdogob districts in Mudug region; Caabudwaaq and western parts of Cadaado district in Galgaduud region; Ceel Barde, Xudur, Rab Dhuure and Waajid districts in Bakool region; Doolow, Belet Xaawo and Ceel Waaq districts in Gedo region; and Caluula district in Bari region.



Map 2: Temporal evolution of Tropical Storm Ialy as of Wednesday 22 May 2024 (1744 hours) (Source: NOAA/NCEP/NWS GFS on ZoomEarth)

Temperatures less than 24°C are anticipated over the northern parts of Ceerigaabo district in Sanaag region; northern parts of Qandala district in Bari region; and border areas between northern part of Odweyne district and western parts of Sheikh district in Togdheer region. Although dry, the warm airmass over some of these regions will offer some human thermal comfort.

Current River Levels

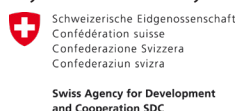
Even with the general dry conditions in the third week of May, the continued downflow of water from upstream has led to a sustained rise in the levels along the Shabelle river. **The level is currently BANKFUL (8.30 m) at Belet Weyne (Graph 1).** At Bulu Burte, the current river level is above the station LTM and below the 2023 level. Compared to observations taken on 14 May 2024, levels recorded on 22 May 2024 at Belet Weyne (8.30 m), and Bulu Burte (6.56 m) represent 74 cm and 79 cm rise, respectively, while in Jowhar the level has dropped from 4.48 m to 4.40 m and is now below the Long-Term Mean (LTM) but above the 2023 level.

The general reduction of rains over Juba River catchment over the last two weeks also led to an overall drop in the river levels. After the sharp rise in the second week of May, a steady drop to below flood risk levels has been observed at Doolow but still above both

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station LTM and 2023 level. The Juba River at Luuq (Graph 2) has also dropped and is currently within the station's LTM and slightly above the 2023 level. Compared to observations taken on 14 May 2024, levels recorded on 20 May 2024 at Doolow (3.20 m) and Luuq (3.22 m) represent 96 cm and 2.38 cm drop, respectively. A similar drop in the levels is likely due to reduced rainfall over the entire Juba River catchment.

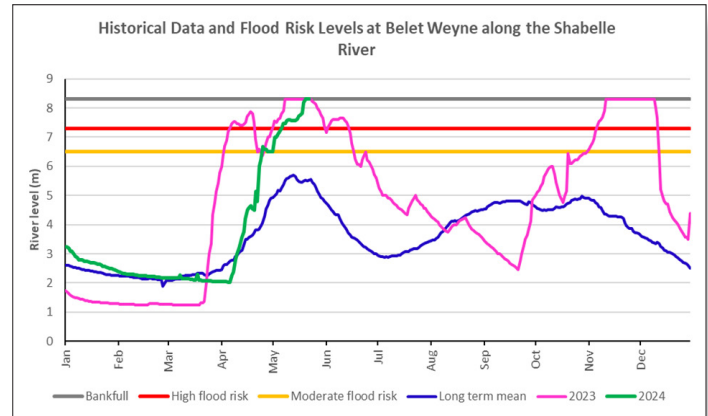
Impacts Associated with the Weekly Weather Forecast

Generally, and as we move towards the end of the month, the cessation of the Gu rains is likely to be observed across the country ushering in Hagaa season. However, there are factors supporting the likelihood of some moderate rains before the end of the month. Day-to-day monitoring is therefore advised. **The activated flash and riverine flood response plans should be sustained along the reach of Juba and Shabelle Rivers until the season's operational end.**

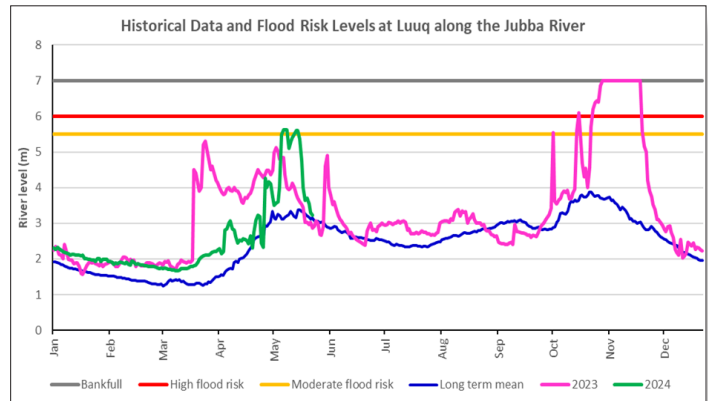
The current and predicted general dry conditions to light rains over the Shabelle River Catchment are likely to lead to a reduction in runoff causing a drop in **the current bankful river level at Belet Weyne** within the next 48 hours. However, the river levels will still pose extremely high risk of flooding within the week, particularly at vulnerable breakage points. As the current large volumes of water at Belet Weyne flows downstream, it is expected that the river will rise at Bulo Burte within the coming week and at Jalalaqsi, Jowhar and Balcad thereafter. There is therefore moderate flooding risk downstream at Bulo Burte, and low risk downstream at Jalalaqsi, Jowhar and Balcad.

The current and predicted dry conditions over the Juba River Catchment are likely to lead to a continued reduction in river levels. However, there is a **moderate-risk warning for strong winds, large waves and flash floods in the coastal parts of Badhaadhe, Kismaayo and Jilib districts** and the surrounding areas due to spillover effects of Tropical Storm Ialy today (22 May 2024).

While the forecast dry conditions will seem beneficial to agropastoral activities like weeding, extended periods of low rainfall afterwards signaling the end of the season may not be favorable to crops and fodder that are still in their early stages.



Graph 1: Shabelle River level at Belet Weyne Gauging Station as of 22 May 2024



Graph 2: Juba River level at Luuq Gauging Station as of 22 May 2024

The forecast **hot and dry airmass** expected over the central parts of the country particularly over vast inland areas of both Hobyo and Jariiban districts in Mudug region and eastern parts of both Cadaado and Dhuusamarreeb districts in Galgaduud region; Zeylac and Lughaye districts and northern parts of Baki district in Awdal region; and over vast areas in Berbera district in Woqooyi Galbeed region will lead to **severe evapotranspiration** with serious implications. The likely end of the rains in Nugaal and Bari has negative implications on the productivity of any season-long crops and fodder. Concerted efforts must therefore be put in place to harvest the rainwater.

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