

## SOMALIA WEEKLY WEATHER FORECAST

Valid From 24th to 30th May 2023

**Moderate to heavy rainfall expected over isolated parts of northern Somalia with light rains over central and dry conditions over southwestern parts of the country.**

### Review of the Weather for past week, 17th to 23rd May 2023

Light rainfall was observed over some areas in Somalia over the last week with twenty one (21) stations recording at least 1 mm of rainfall (*Graph 1*). Moderate cumulative rainfall of at least 50 mm was observed in Taysa (99 mm) in Woqooyi Galbeed region and Badhan (70 mm) in Sanaag region. The rains received at Badhan (70 mm) were spread out in three days. Having been recorded on a single day, the rains received over Xaaji Saalax (42 mm) in Togdheer region was relatively intense.

For close to two weeks, Belet Weyne town and its surrounding areas have witnessed widespread and devastating floods occasioned by the Shabelle River bursting its banks on the 9th May 2023. The river has remained at a bankful height of 8.30 meters up to date. The widespread flooding has resulted to property damage, and population displacement.

### Forecast of the Weather for 24th to 30th May 2023

Moderate to heavy rainfall expected over isolated parts of northern Somalia with light rains over central and dry conditions over southwestern parts of the country during the forecast period (*Map 1*). The spatial variation of the cumulative rainfall amounts is as follows:

**Very heavy rainfall** of between 150 mm and 200 mm is likely over central and northern parts of Awdal region, southern parts of Ceerigaabo district and western parts of Laasqoray district in Sanaag region, northern parts of Caynabo district in Sool region, Buuhoodle district in Togdheer region, and central parts of Bari region.

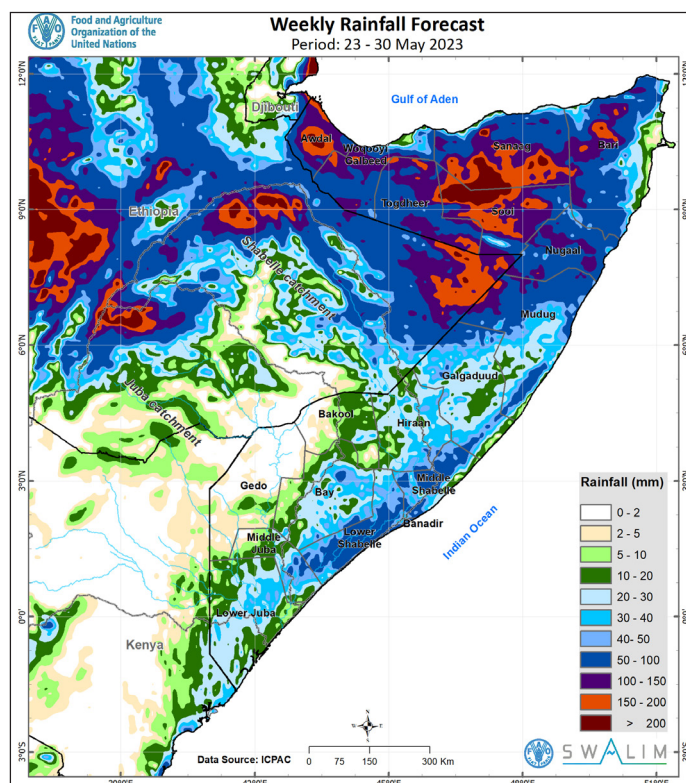
**Heavy rainfall** of between 100 mm and 150 mm is anticipated over several areas in Awdal region; northern parts of both Gebiley and Hargeiye districts in Woqooyi Galbeed; northern and southern parts of Togdheer region; several areas in Sool region; several areas in Ceerigaabo district in Sanaag region; northern parts of Qardho district, western parts of Iskushuban district, southern parts of Qandala district and southwestern parts of Caluula district in Bari region; central Garowe district, southern Eyl district and southern parts of Burtinle district in Nugaal region; and Galdogob district in Mudug region.

**Moderate rainfall** of between 50 and 100 mm is likely over southern Hargeisa in Woqooyi Galbeed region; Owdweyne in Togdheer region; northern parts of Laasqoray district in Sanaag region; Caluula district and southern parts of Qardho district in Bari region; northern parts of both Garowe and Eyl district and western parts of Burtinle district in Nugaal region; Jariiban and Garowe districts and southern parts of Hobyo district in Mudug region; and northern parts of Cabudwaaq in Galgaduud region. Similar moderate rainfall is likely over several areas in Middle Shabelle and Lower Shabelle regions.

**Light rainfall** of less than 50 mm is expected over several areas in Lower Juba region, Middel Juba region, Bay region, eastern parts of Bakool region, Hiraan region, Galgaduud region, Hobyo district in Mudug region, and the coastal areas of Bari region and Berbera district in Woqooyi Galbeed region.

**Dry conditions** are expected in the southwestern parts of the country particularly over Gedo region, Ran Dhuure and Waajid districts and southern parts of Tayeeglow district in Bakool region, and western parts of Saakow district in Middel Juba region.

Moderate temperatures of between 24°C and 28°C are expected over several areas in the southern and northern parts of the country. Temperatures as low as 20°C are likely over some areas in the southern parts of Awdal region, southern parts of Woqooyi Galbeed region, Sheikh district in northern Togdheer region, several areas in central Sanaag region (Ceerigaabo) and northern parts of Qandala district in Bari region. The coldest conditions (16°C to 20°C) are forecast over Erigavo in Sanaag region. High temperatures of between 28°C and 32°C are expected in Hiraan, Galgaduud, mudug, and the coastal areas in the northern part of the country. Similar hot conditions are also likely over Dollow and Luuq districts in Gedo region.



Map 1: Cumulative rainfall forecast over Somalia between 23rd and 30th May 2023

## Current River Levels

Since bursting its banks on May 9th 2023, Shabelle River's water level at Belet Weyne has remained at bankful height of 8.30 m to date (Figure 2). The river level at Bulo Burte, located about 100 km downstream of Belet Weyne, has consistently risen from a low of 5.74 m on 5th May, crossing the moderate flood risk level (6.50 m) on 13th May, and reaching the high flood risk threshold (7.20 m) on 23rd May. With today's level at 7.38 m, the river level is just 62 cm below bankful height (8.0 m). The river level at Jowhar has stagnated below moderate flood risk level (5.0 m) since the beginning of the Gu rain season. Today's level (3.75 m) is more than 1 m below the moderate flood risk level.

The general dry conditions observed in the last week over Juba River catchment within and outside Somalia led to a general decrease in the river levels. Compared to observations made on 16th May, river levels recorded today (24th May) represent a decrease from 3.40 m to 3.08 m at Dollow, from 3.80 m to 2.86 m at Luuq, from 7.04 m to 6.24 m at Bardheere, and from 6.02 m to 5.17 m at Bualle.

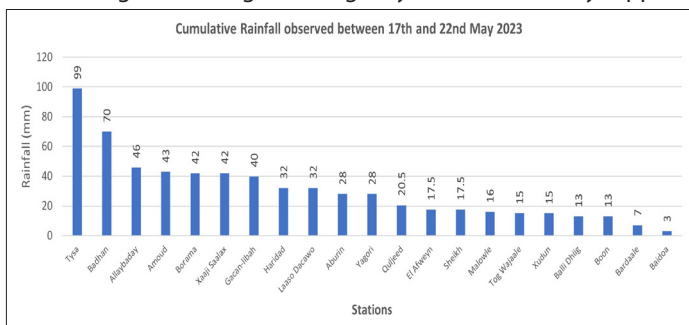
Figures 1 and 2 show the current river levels against the Short Term Mean and 2022 levels for Belet Weyne and Bulo Burte stations respectively.

## Impacts Associated with the Weekly Weather Forecast

Over the last few days, the flood water begun slowly receding from Belet Weyne town and the surrounding areas back into the river, and progressively flowing downstream. Subsequently, the river level at Bulo Burte continues to rise steadily with today's level (7.38 m) already past the high flood risk threshold (7.20 m). The river level is likely to reach bankful level (8.0 m) in the next few days. It is expected that the high river levels at Bulo Burte will be transmitted to Jowhar and eventually to Balcad within the coming week.

As the flood water recedes back to the river, residents of Belet Weyne are urged to beware of crocodiles that could have escaped the river on to the floodplains. They should also beware of the risks of drowning, and of water borne diseases.

The residents of Bulo Burte and Jalalaqsi should prepare for potential evacuation by identifying safe routes to high grounds and gathering essential items, informing family, friends, and neighbors about the flood warning, securing property and considering assembling an emergency kit with necessary supplies.



Graph 1: Cumulative rainfall (mm) observed at different stations between 17th and 22nd May

Residents are also strongly recommended to stay informed through regular bulletin updates, monitor through radio, television and internet for flood warnings.

The expected moderate to heavy rains over the northern parts of the country could potentially lead to flash floods in settled and low lying areas. Continuous monitoring of rainfall-run off situation in towns such as Qardho, Garowe and Galkayo is needed.

Since the previous week has been generally dry, the expected moderate rainfall will lead to partial recharge of surface water sources and sustenance of the regenerated vegetation which is important for human and livestock survival. Over the north, the moderate to heavy rains are favourable for management of the crops at the vegetative stage. However, heavy rainfall may lead to disturbance of the topsoil thereby reducing its productivity. The dry conditions over the south-western parts particularly Gedo and Bakool regions may lead to excess evaporation depleting the soil moisture needed by the crops.

## El Niño Update and Possible Impacts over Somalia

According to IRI, the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is currently in a neutral state. According to ICPAC wetter conditions associated with El Niño are expected between October and December in the equatorial parts. El Niño events tend to enhance rainfall in Eastern Africa including southern Somalia. Drier-than average conditions tend to occur in the northern parts of Eastern 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.

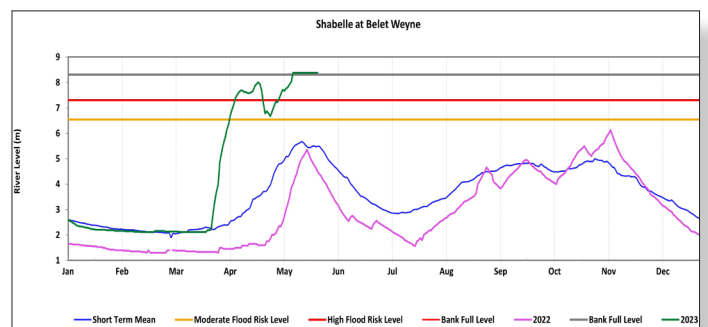


Figure 1: Shabelle river level at Belet Weyne gauging station on 23rd May 2023

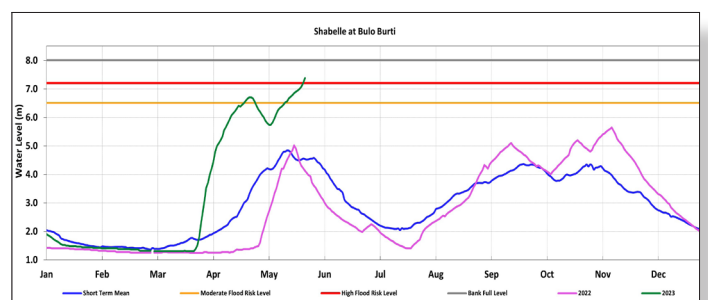


Figure 2: Shabelle river level at Bulo Burte gauging station on 23rd May 2023

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