

SOMALIA WEEKLY WEATHER FORECAST

Valid From 27th Sep to 3rd Oct 2023

Light to moderate rains expected over central parts of Somalia particularly over Ceel Buur and Cabudwaaq districts in Galgaduud region, Belet Weyne district in Hiraan region, and Jariiban district in Mudug region.

Introduction

The last week of September technically marks the end of the Hagaa season over Somalia. This week's forecast therefore ushers in the Deyr (October - December) "short rains". While the Deyr season is associated with the southward movement of the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ), as late as mid-September, climate models have confirmed the influence of both El Niño and positive Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) throughout the season. These two climatic phenomena are expected to lead to above normal rains over most parts of East Africa including southern Somalia.

Review of the Weather for the Period 19th to 25th September 2023

During the review period, isolated areas in the northern part of the country experienced wet conditions, while the rest of the country remained generally dry. The following weather stations recorded more than 30 mm of rainfall: Yagori (64 mm) in Togdheer, Las Anod (62 mm) in Sool, Mataban (51.2 mm) in Hiraan, Amoud (37 mm) in Awdal, Buhoodle (33 mm) in Togdheer and Widh Widh (30.4 mm) in Sool region. Currently, water levels along the Juba River are within the anticipated range for this time of the year. However, levels along the Shabelle River are below the typical levels expected at this point of the year but have begun to steadily rise owing to the rains experienced in the Ethiopian highlands.

Forecast of the Weather for the Period 27th Sept to 3rd Oct 2023

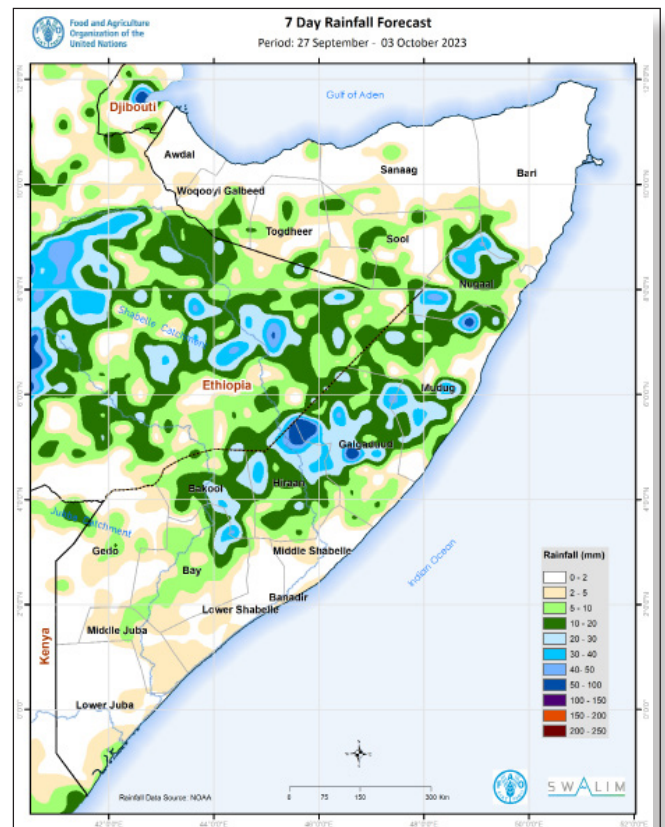
Rainfall Forecast: There is agreement among several forecast products that light to moderate rains of up to 100 mm is expected over the southwest state and central parts of the country, with some forecasting products anticipating more intense rains. The spatial variation of the consensus-based rainfall forecast is as follows:

Moderate rainfall of between 50 and 100 mm is expected over isolated areas in Galgaduud, Mudug and Hiraan regions. Specifically, such rains are likely over Ceel Buur district and southern parts of Cabudwaaq district in Galgaduud region, northern parts of Belet Weyne district in Hiraan region, and northern parts of Jariiban district in Mudug region.

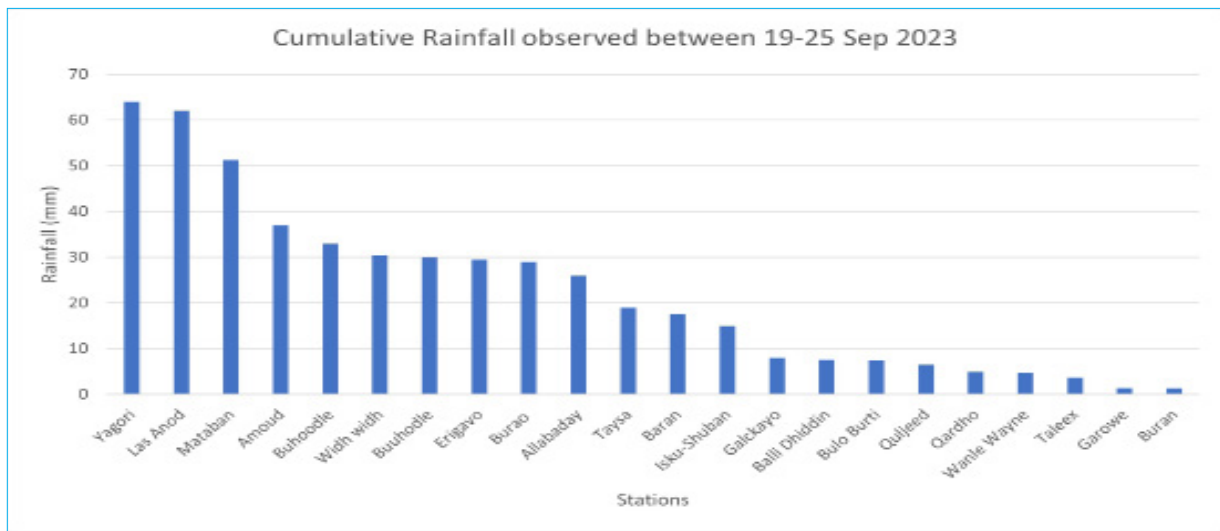
Light rainfall of less than 50 mm is anticipated over Bakool, Hiraan, Galgaduud, Mudug, and Nugal regions. Rains of such intensity are also possible over northern parts of Bay region, southern parts of Bari region, and isolated areas in Sool, Togdheer and Woqooyi Galbeed regions.

Dry conditions are likely in extensive areas in the southern and northern parts of the country. In the north such dry conditions are expected over Awdal region, northeastern parts of Woqooyi Galbeed region, Sanaag and Bari regions. In the south, such dry conditions are likely over Gedo region, coastal parts of Middle Shabelle, Lower Shabelle, Middle Juba, and Lower Juba regions. However, there are chances of cloudiness leading up to light rains over some of these areas.

Temperature Forecast: The southern and central coastal areas of the country, along with central parts of Bakool region, northern parts Bay region, southwestern parts of Nugaal region, northwestern parts of Mudug region, and extensive areas of Sool, Togdheer, Woqooyi Galbeed, and Sanaag regions are likely to experience moderate to high temperatures ranging between 25°C and 30°C. On the other hand, inland regions of southern and central Somalia, as well as coastal areas of Awdal, Woqooyi Galbeed, and Bari regions, are likely to experience higher temperatures of between 30°C and 45°C.



Map 1: Cumulative rainfall forecast over Somalia between 27th September and 3rd October 2023



Graph 1: Cumulative rainfall (mm) observed at different stations between 19th and 25th Sep 2023 across Somalia

Current River Levels

Currently, water levels along the Juba River are within the anticipated range for this time of the year. However, levels along the Shabelle River are below the typical levels expected at this point of the year but have begun to steadily rise owing to the rains experienced in the Ethiopian highlands.

Although the current water level along Juba River is within the anticipated range and along Shabelle River is below its typical levels for this time of year, the levels have been on a gradual rise due to the continued rains over their primary catchments in the Ethiopian highlands.

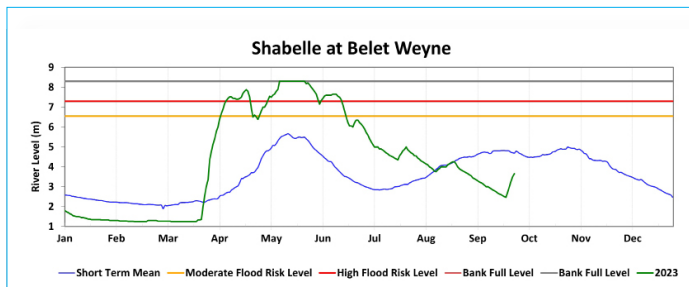


Figure 1: Shabelle river level at Belet Weyne gauging station as on 27th Sep 2023

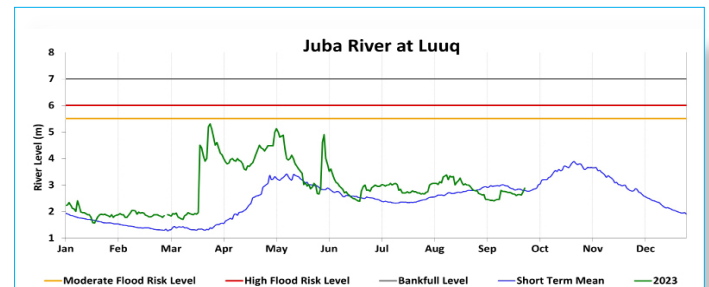


Figure 2: Juba river level at Luuq gauging station as on 27th Sep 2023

While such light to moderate rains is expected to continue over the upper catchment of Shabelle River in Ethiopia. Based on consensus, the moderate rains are expected to lead to steady and gradual increase in the water levels of both rivers, with a low likelihood of flooding during the week in forecast.

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 forecast light to moderate rains over the southwest and central parts of the country, coupled with the general dry conditions in the previous week, offers an opportunity for livelihood activities such as land preparation. The forecast weekly rains may lead to minimal recharge of water sources, partial replenishing of water catchment levels, and slight improvement in the soil conditions. These conditions are ideal for land clearance in the agropastoral livelihood zones and should signal the harvest of any late farm produce that might be destroyed by the subsequent arrival of El Nino related rains.

The forecast higher temperatures (30°C. and 45°C.) over inland regions of southern and central Somalia, as well as coastal areas of Awdal, Woqooyi Galbeed, and Bari regions, are likely to lead to substantial evaporation which may offset

this week's resultant wet soil conditions thereby leaving no reasonably sufficient soil water for crop and fodder production. Fortunately, the soil moisture conditions will improve as the season progresses.

Depending on scale and intensity, localized convective rains over some areas in Galgaduud, Mudug and Hiran regions and Nugal-Bari border may result in flash floods. It is important to point out that these earlier rains will also soak up the soils paving way for conducive conditions for run off in the subsequent weeks. As part of the timely and accurate early warning system, anticipatory action for any flood water related risk should be placed on standby in vulnerable areas.

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