

SOMALIA WEEKLY WEATHER FORECAST

Valid From 4th to 11th April 2023

Light rainfall is expected over several parts of Somalia with moderate rainfall in isolated areas in northwestern and southern areas and dry conditions in the central regions

Weather Review for 28th to 4th April 2023

Several parts of the country received moderate to heavy rains over the last week with thirty two (32) stations receiving at least 1 mm (Figure 1). The stations that received at least 50 mm of cumulative rainfall in the last seven days include: Borama (50.5 mm) in Awdal region, Gebiley (51.5 mm), Allaybaday (55.5 mm), Malawle (56 mm), Dilla (59 mm) and Magalo-cad (63 mm) in Woqooyi Galbeed region, Dararweyne (52 mm) in Sanaag region and Burao (54 mm) in Togdheer region.

Although the river levels along Shebelle remained below the flood risk threshold, there were reported floods in Raqayle, Misir, Doonka, and Shiidlo Bari villages in Jowhar district attributed to weak canals and river embankment breakages causing damages to cultivated crops such as sesame, cowpea and vegetables within the floodplain. The full list of open breakages can be accessed from [this link](#).

Weather Forecast for 4th to 11th April 2023

The weekly outlook shows that most parts of the country are expected to receive less than 50 mm of cumulative rainfall during the forecast period (Map 1). The spread of the cumulative rainfall amounts are as follows:

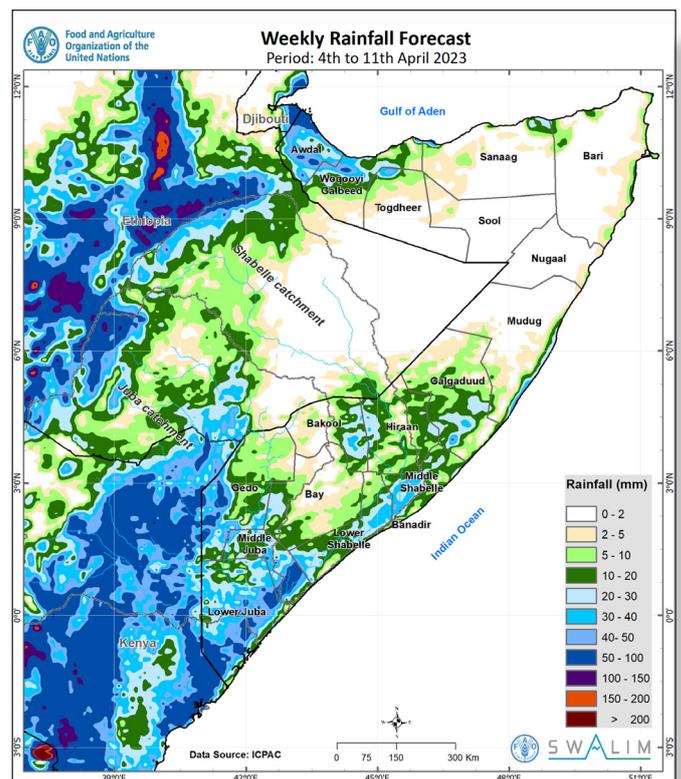
Moderate rainfall of between 50 mm and 100 mm expected over isolated areas in the north-western and southern parts of the country. The areas in the northwestern part of the country are: northern Zeylac district, central Baki district and northwestern Hargeisa district. Areas in the southern parts of the country are: Belet Xaawo, Ceel Waaq districts, southwestern parts of Baardheere district, northern Jilib district and southern Bu'ale district, southeastern Afmadow district central parts of Kismayo and Badhaadhe districts.

Light rains of less than 50 mm are expected over several parts of Awdal, Lower Juba, Middle Juba, Gedo, Lower Shabelle, Middle Shabelle and Hiraan regions. Rains of similar intensity are expected over central and northern Woqooyi Galbeed, northern Togdheer region, northern border between Sanaag and Bari regions, central and western Galgaduud region, eastern Bakool region, southern

Bay region, and the coastal strip of Mudug region.

Dry conditions are expected in central parts of the country including most areas in Togdheer, Sool, Sannag, Bari, Nugaal and Mudug regions. Similar conditions are expected over northern and southern parts of Galgaduud region, central areas of Hiraan region, western Bakool region, and northern Gedo region, central and northern Bay region.

Moderate temperatures of between 20°C and 32°C are expected over most parts of Somalia. However, cold conditions with temperatures less than 20°C are expected over isolated areas in northern parts of the country particularly the southern Awdal-Woqooyi Galbeed regional border, northwestern Togdheer region, and isolated areas in northern Sanaag and Bari regions



Map 1: Cumulative rainfall forecast over Somalia between 04th and 11th April 2023

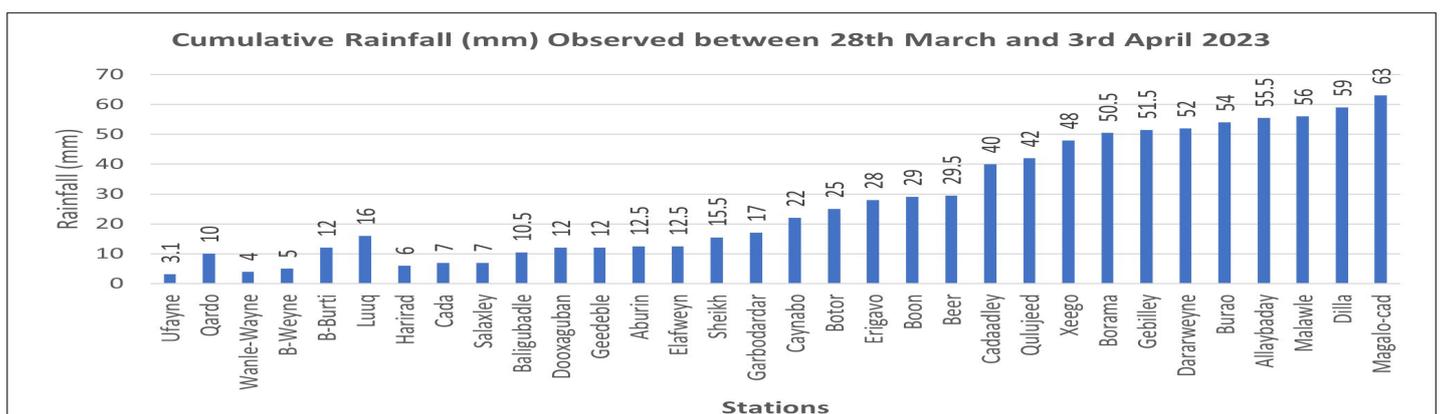


Table 1: Cumulative rainfall (mm) and rainy days observed over different stations between 28th March and 03rd April 2023 across Somalia

Current River Levels

The levels along Juba river have dropped steadily from Dollow (4.28 m), Luuq (4.80 m) Bardheere (8.60 m) and Bualle (7.20 m) as reported on 28th March 2023 to Dollow (3.4 m), Luuq (3.88 m) Bardheere (6.88 m) and Bualle (7.1 m) as of today (4th April). All the levels are below moderate flood risk threshold for the stations.

Along Shabelle River, the levels have been on a steady rise. At Belet Weyne the levels have steadily risen from 1.36 m on the 23rd March to 6.68 m today (4th April) surpassing the moderate flood risk level (6.5 m). Although way below the moderate flood risk level, a similar steady rise has been observed at Bulo Burti where river levels have risen from 1.3 m on the 22nd March to 4.8 m today (4th April). A similar steady rise that began at Jowhar on the 25th March (1.25 m), and peaking at 4.85 m on 31st March, has dropped slightly to 4.3 m today (4th April) without getting to the moderate flood risk level.

Figures 2 and 3 show the current river levels against the Short Term Mean and 2022 levels for Luuq and Belet Weyne stations respectively. It is worth noting that the current river level along both Jubba and Shabelle are above average for this period of the year. There is a moderate risk of flooding along the Shabelle River at Belet Weyne town and its surrounding areas. Population living in the flood prone areas of Beletweyne and downstream reaches should take precaution. Although the river levels at the other gauging stations are below the flood risk threshold, the levels are expected to rise in the coming days, given the ongoing and forecast of heavy rains (more than 200 mm) within Ethiopian highlands (*Map 1*).

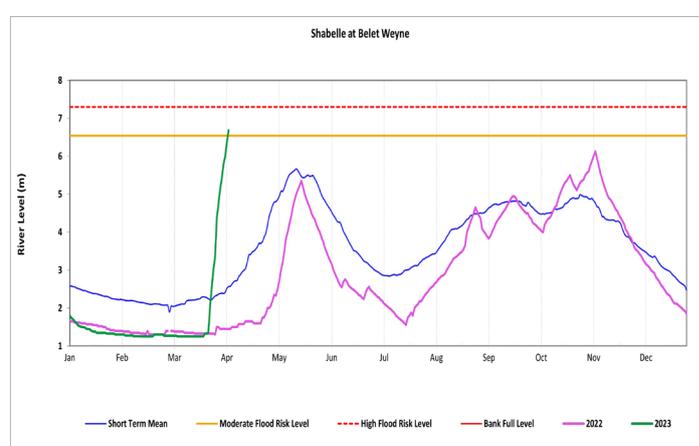
Impacts Associated with the Weekly Weather Forecast

Based on Gu 2023 seasonal rainfall onset analysis, the earliest rains would be expected in the first and second week of April particularly over Gedo (earlier than April 11) progressing over the other parts of the country in a northeastwards manner. According to this weekly outlook, light rainfall is expected over several areas in Somalia with moderate rainfall in isolated areas in northwestern and southern areas and dry conditions in the central regions.

Even with this forecast conditions, the heavy rains predicted (*Map 1*) over Ethiopian highlands (more than 200 mm) will sustain the rising river levels in and Shabelle and may lead to an upward trend along the Juba River during the forecast period. The risk of flooding remains high along Shabelle River at Belet Weyne town and its surrounding. The population living at the low lying areas of Beletweyne and downstream reaches should take precaution.

The observed and forecast wet conditions together with the cold conditions (temperatures less than 20°C) expected over isolated areas in northern parts of the country particularly the southern Awdal-Woqooyi Galbeed regional border, northwestern Togdheer region, and isolated areas in northern Sanaag and Bari regions are likely to lead to partial recharge of surface water sources and vegetation regeneration which is important for human and livestock survival.

However, high temperatures (28°C to 32°C) that are forecast to succeed the wet conditions may lead to rapid evaporation thereby leaving no soil water to support vegetation regeneration. These negative impacts will be more severe over the northern parts of Galgaduud region, central areas of Hiraa region, western Bakool region, northern Gedo region, and central parts of Bay region where hot and dry conditions are predicted.



Graph 1: Shabelle river level at Belet Weyne gauging station



Graph 2: Juba river level at Luuq gauging station

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