

FLOOD ADVISORY FOR JUBA AND SHABELLE RIVERS, SOMALIA

Issued: 21st October 2023

Shabelle River: Flash Flooding at Beletweyne and Moderate Risk of Riverine Flooding along its Downstream Reaches

Juba River: Receding Flash Floods and High Risk of Riverine Flooding at Luuq and Bardheere, and Moderate Risk of Riverine Flooding Downstream

Shabelle River

In the last 24 hours, heavy rainfall has been received and recorded (21st October 2023) at Beletweyne (88.2 mm), Mataban (40.0 mm), Bulu Burte (51.0 mm), Mahaday Weyne (20.0 mm), Jalalaqsi (87.0 mm), Jowhar (18.0 mm) and Balcad (23.0 mm). Compared to yesterdays' measurements, the levels have increased by 1.29 m at Beletweyne, and by 0.12 m at Bulu Burte, while it remained stable at Jowhar.

These localized rains also led to flash floods in Beletweyne which affected population, assets, and livestock particularly at the bridge near the ex-livestock market and in Hawo Taako and Kooshin villages. The IDPs are reported to have been safely evacuated to Ceel Jaale.

Light rainfall is predicted over the Shabelle catchment within the country in the next 24 hours increasing to moderate cumulative amounts in the coming seven (7) days. Although light rain is forecast over the Shabelle river basin in the Ethiopian highlands today, it is expected to increase to between moderate and heavy rains in the coming seven (7) days.

The runoff from previous heavy and forecast light localized rains onto and from seasonal wadis within Hiraan region, together with moderate to heavy rains over the river basin in the Ethiopian highlands, will keep the water levels along Shabelle River rising in the coming seven (7) days. This is therefore an alert to trigger both riverine and flash floods anticipatory actions and to caution communities living at vulnerable areas in Gedo to be vigilant as the flash flood water stagnates over the saturated surfaces in Beletweyne and the water levels along Shabelle River keep rising.

Juba River

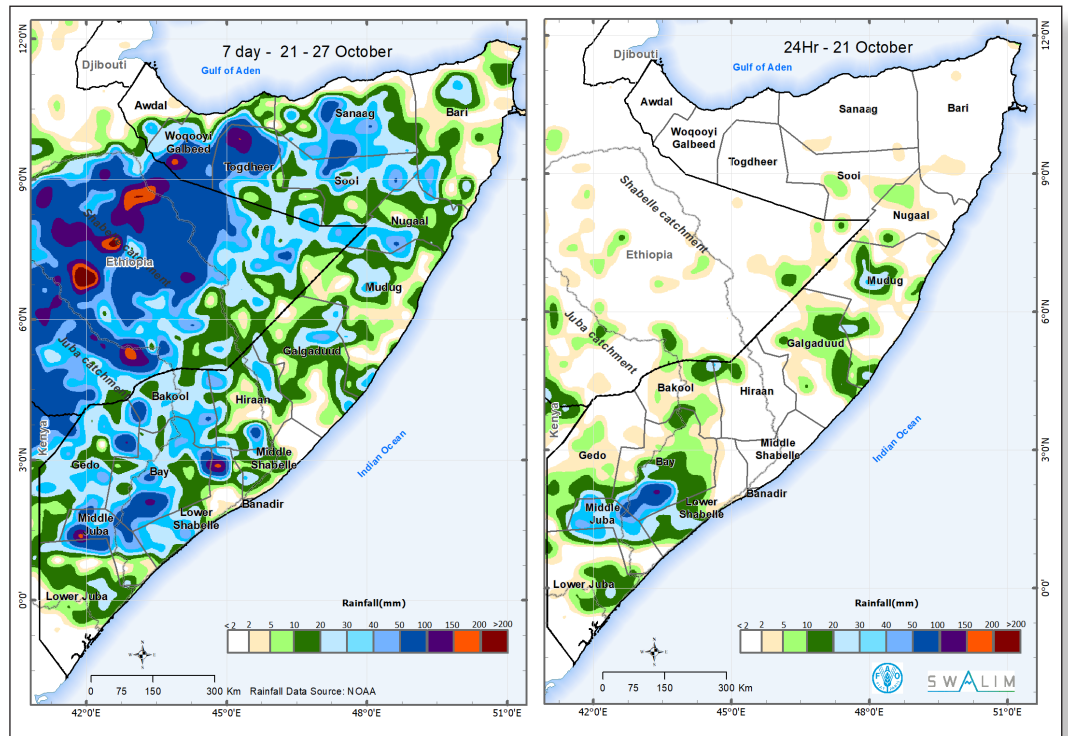
In the last 24 hours, moderate rainfall has been received and recorded (21st October 2023) at Bardheere (15.0 mm) and Luuq (2.5 mm) with dry conditions over Dollow and Bualle.

Compared to yesterdays' measurements, the levels have increased by 0.5 m at Luuq, increased by 1.04 m at Bardheere, decreased by 0.24 m at Dollow and decreased by 0.17 m at Bualle.

The flash floods due to previous localized rains at Luuq have subsided as the water run off to the seasonal wadis and into the Juba River.

Light rainfall is predicted over the Juba catchment within the country in the next 24 hours increasing to moderate cumulative amounts in the coming seven (7) days. Although light rain is forecast over the Juba River basin in the Ethiopian highlands today, it is expected to increase to between moderate and heavy rains in the coming seven (7) days.

The runoff from previous heavy and forecast light localized rains onto and from seasonal wadis within Gedo region, together with moderate to heavy rains over the river basin in the Ethiopian highlands, will keep the water levels along Juba River rising in the coming seven (7) days. This is therefore an alert to trigger both riverine and flash floods anticipatory actions and to caution communities living at vulnerable areas in Gedo particularly at Luuq and Bardheere to be vigilant as the flash flood water stagnates over the saturated surfaces in Luuq and the water levels along Juba River keep rising.



Map 1: 7-Day (21st – 27th October 2023) and 24-Hour (21st October 2023) Cumulative rainfall forecast over Somalia

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