

# SOMALIA WEEKLY WEATHER FORECAST

Valid From 11th to 18th April 2023

**Moderate to heavy rainfall is expected over several parts of southern and central Somalia, light rainfall in isolated areas in the north of the country and dry conditions in parts of central and northeastern regions**

## Weather Review for 4th to 11th April 2023

Some parts of the country received light to moderate rains over the last week with twenty eight (28) stations receiving at least 1 mm (*Figure 1*) particularly in the northwestern parts of the country. The stations that received at least 50 mm of cumulative rainfall in the last seven days were those in Awdal region and include; Baki (84 mm), Amoud (61 mm) and Boon (50 mm). Moderate rains were also observed in Wanlewayne (46.3 mm) in Lower Shabelle region, Dararweyne (39 mm) in Sanaag region and Hargeisa (36 mm) in Woqooyi Galbeed region.

## Weather Forecast for 4th to 11th April 2023

According to the weekly forecast, several areas in central and southern Somalia are expected to receive moderate rainfall of over 50 mm of cumulative rainfall during the forecast period (*Map 1*). The spatial variation of the cumulative rainfall amounts are as follows:

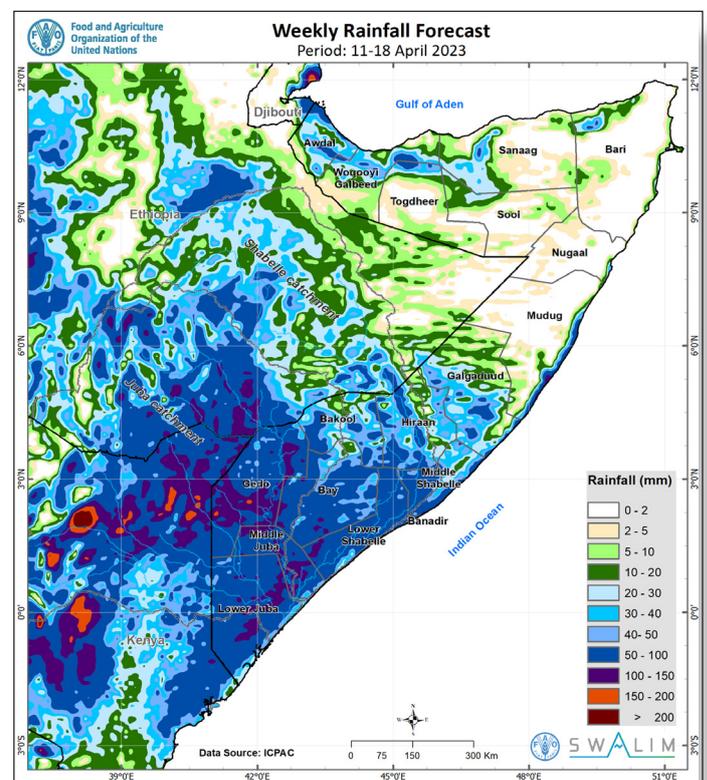
**Heavy rainfall** of between 100 mm and 150 mm is expected in some parts of southern Somalia including Gedo, Lower Juba, Upper Juba, Lower Shabelle and Bay regions. In the Gedo region, the areas include Ceel Waaq district, northern Baardheere, and the southern border between Garbahaarey and Luuq regions. In Middle Juba region, the areas include northern parts of Saakow district, central parts of Buáale district and the northern parts of Jilib district. Areas included in the Lower Juba region are southern and eastern parts of Afmadow district and central and northern parts of Kismayo district. Areas in western part of Diinsoor district and southern parts of Buur Hakaba in Bay region and western parts of Sablaale in Lower Shabelle region, and coastal parts of Hobyo and Xarardheere districts in Muduug region are also likely to observe rains of similar amounts. Very heavy rainfall of above 150 mm is likely in isolated areas in southern Somalia and particularly over central parts of Gedo region

**Moderate rainfall** of between 50 mm and 100 mm is expected over several areas in central and southern Somalia including; Gedo, Lower Juba, Upper Juba, Lower Shabelle and Bay regions, southern and eastern parts of Hiraan region, southern parts of Lower Shabelle region, and northern parts of Awdal region. Some areas in Bakool region and Galgaduud region, coastal areas in Muduug region, Sanaag region and northern parts of Bari region are also forecast to receive similar amounts of rainfall.

**Light rains** of less than 50 mm are expected over several parts of Bakool, Hiraan region, Middle Juba and Galgaduud, Awdal, Woqooyi Galbeed regions. Similar rains are expected over central western parts of Sanaag region, northern parts of Togdheer region, northwestern parts of Sool region, and northwestern part of Bari region.

**Dry conditions** are expected in several areas of the central and northern Somalia including non-coastal areas of Muduug, Nugaal, Bari and Sool regions. Similar dry conditions are forecast over several areas in central and eastern parts of Sanaag region, central and southern parts of Togdheer region, and some areas in the southwestern parts of Woqooyi Galbeed 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 very isolated areas in northern Sanaag and Bari regions.



Map 1: Cumulative rainfall forecast over Somalia between 11th and 18th April 2023

## Current River Levels

The levels along Juba river have dropped below the moderate flood risk threshold from Dollow (3.4 m), Luuq (3.88 m) Bardheere (6.88 m) and Bualle (7.1 m) as reported on 4th April 2023 to Dollow (3.96 m), Luuq (4.0 m) Bardheere (6.28 m) and Bualle (5.17 m) as of today (11th April).

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 on 4th April surpassing the moderate flood risk level and to 7.45 m today (11th April) surpassing the high flood risk level (7.3 m). Although still 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 on 4th April and to 5.8 m today (11th 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 from 4.3 m on 4th April to 4.18 m today (11th April). This is still below the moderate flood risk level for the station.

Figures 2 and 3 show the current river levels against the Short Term Mean and 2022 levels for Luuq and Belet Weyne stations respectively. There is a moderate risk of flooding along the Shabelle River at Belet Weyne, the town and its surrounding. Population living at 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 given in the coming days, given the forecast heavy rains (between 100 mm and possibly heavier) within the southern parts some parts of southern Somalia including Gedo, Lower Juba, Upper Juba, Lower Shabelle and Bay regions. These rains together with that forecast over Ethiopian highlands (Map 1) may lead to increased run off leading to flooding.

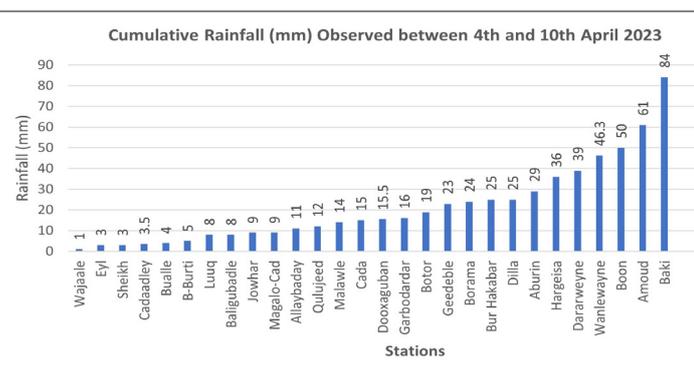
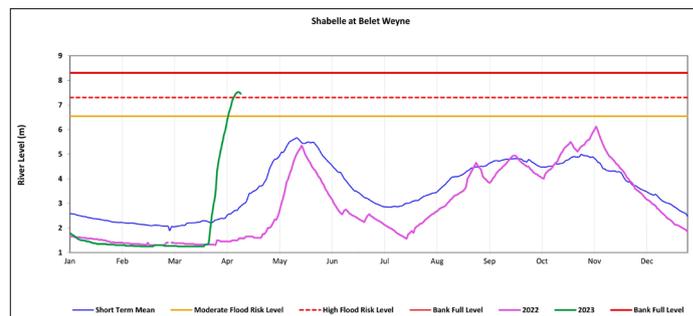


Table 1: Cumulative rainfall (mm) observed over different stations between 4th and 10th April 2023 across Somalia

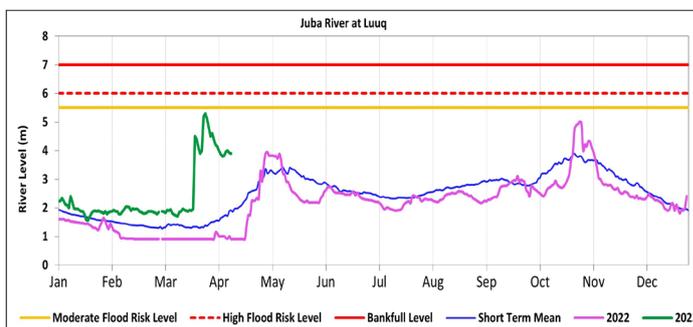
## Impacts Associated with the Weekly Weather Forecast

According to this weekly outlook, moderate to heavy rainfall is expected over several areas in central and southern Somalia with light rainfall in isolated areas in the north and dry conditions in central and northeastern regions. The heavy rainfall of possibly more than 150 mm expected in some parts of southern Somalia including Gedo, Lower Juba, Upper Juba, Lower Shabelle and Bay regions (Map 1), together with rains of similar amounts expected over Ethiopian highlands, may lead to increased run off both upstream and downstream thereby causing rise in continuously rising levels along Juba River and currently fluctuating levels along Shabelle River. This is likely to lead to flood risk along the reaches of both rivers during the forecast period. Population living at the flood prone areas of both rivers should therefore take precaution

The moderate to heavy rainfall expected over the central and southern parts of the country are likely lead to substantial recharge of surface water sources and vegetation regeneration which is important for human and livestock survival. Over Gedo region, the forecast heavy rains may actually signal the climatological onset of rains that are favorable for planting. However, high temperatures (28°C to 32°C) that are forecast to succeed the forecast wet conditions may lead to rapid evaporation thereby leaving no soil water to support vegetation regeneration.



Graph 1: Shabelle river level at Belet Weyne gauging station



Graph 2: Juba river level at Luuq gauging station

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