



## Shabelle River Catchment Flood Advisory

**Hagaa 2024 Flood Advisory No. 1**

**Date Issued: 24 August 2024**

**Validity Period: 24 and 25 August 2024**

**Location: Hirshabelle – Belet Weyne, Bulo Burte, Jalalaqsi, Jowhar, and Balcad Districts**

**(Message begins)**

### SHABELLE RIVER CATCHMENT FLOOD ADVISORY

This flood advisory is applicable to Hirshabelle – Belet Weyne, Bulo Burte, Jalalaqsi, Jowhar, Balcad districts and the surrounding areas.

Even with the absence of rains in Somalia and eastern parts of Ethiopia, the continued downflow of water from the upper catchments in central portions of Ethiopian Highlands has led to a sustained rise in the levels along the Shabelle River. Due to the distance of flow, the river system has taken more than a month to respond to the rains observed in the central parts of Ethiopian Highlands.

After the river level at Belet Weyne steadily dropped from the bankful level (8.30 m) on 24 May 2024, a slow upward trend began on 11 July 2024 (*Graph 1*). The river level consistently rose thereafter but relatively stable and below the moderate flood risk level in July, and only crossed the moderate flood risk level on 8 August 2024. **In the last 48 hours, the river at Belet Weyne has approached its critical zone with today's level being 10 cm above high flood risk threshold (7.30 m) posing high risk of flooding.** This signals a need for close monitoring and potential flood preparedness particularly at vulnerable breakage points.

As expected, a similar pattern has been observed downstream at **Bulo Burte** (*Graph 2*) where the river level began a consistent rise from a low of 2.63 m on 14 July 2024 to 6.52 m today (24 August 2024) which is **2 cm above moderate flood risk level (6.50 m)**. About the same time (13 July 2024), the level at Jowhar also observed a steady rise which has however been stable in the last week with today's level being **22 cm below moderate flood risk level (5.00 m)**. The reported flood episodes at Jowhar and Balcad are therefore occasioned by river breakages and not overbank spillage. Nonetheless, the floods at Balcad are reported to have affected 27 villages with approximately 10,000 people in need of emergency relief in terms of shelter, WASH, health and nutrition support.

Considering the lag-effect of the observed rains in central parts of Ethiopian Highlands in the last one month and the light rains to dry conditions forecast over the catchment in both Somalia and Ethiopia (*Map 1*), **the river levels are expected to rise further but not to bankful levels in the coming week.**

There is therefore an **EMERGING HIGH OVERBANK FLOODING RISK AT BELET WEYNE and MODERATE OVERBANK FLOODING RISK DOWNSTREAM AT BULO BURTE**, and low overbank flooding risk downstream at Jalalaqsi, Jowhar and Balcad, but **continued episodes of breakage driven flooding at Jowhar and Balcad.**

SWALIM is a multi-donor project managed by FAO and currently funded by The European Union, SDC, FCDO, AICS, Government of France and USAID



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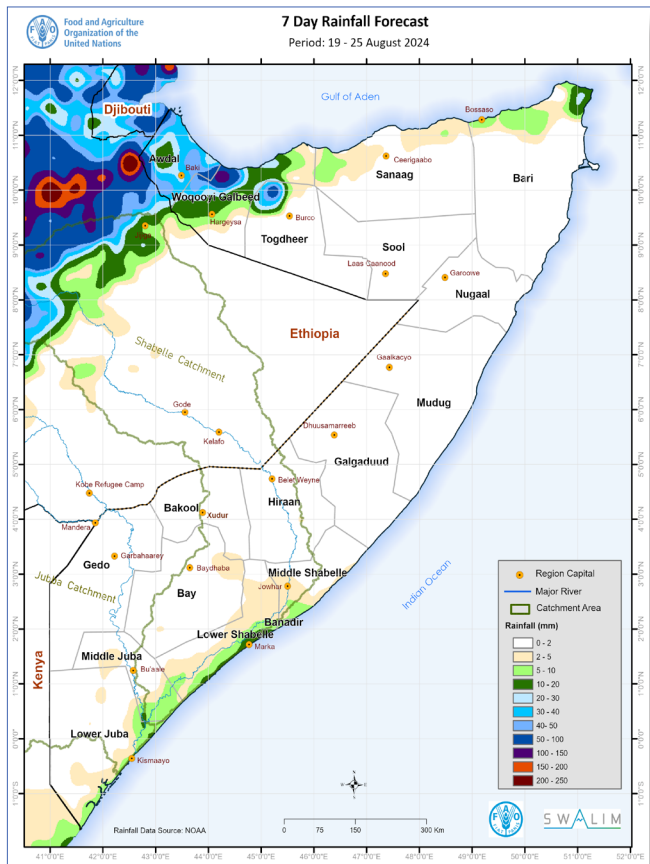
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## TAKING EARLY ACTION SAVES LIVES

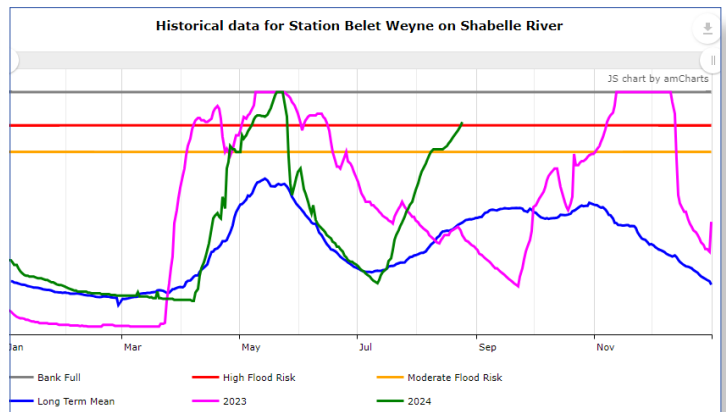
The residents living along the flood prone areas, particularly at Belet Weyne and Bulo Burte should remain cautious. **The authorities concerned need to closely monitor the situation and take anticipatory action for potential flood particularly at vulnerable breakage points.**

The residents along the entire stretch of the Shabelle River including for Belet Weyne, Bulo Burte, Jalalaqsi, Jowhar and Balcad and the adjacent areas should stay informed through regular bulletin updates at specified times, monitor through radio, television, and internet for flood warnings.

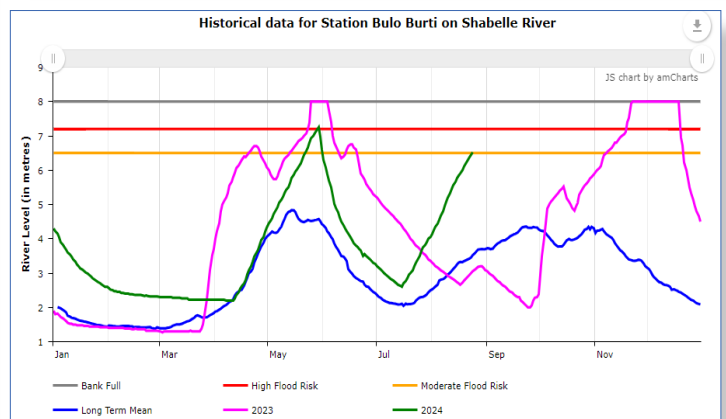
This information has been provided by the Somali Disaster Management Agency (SoDMA), Hirshabelle State Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations



Map 1: Cumulative rainfall forecast over Somalia between 19 and 25 August 2024



Graph 1: River level at BeletWeyne gauging station as at 24 August 2024



Graph 2: River level at Bulo Burte gauging station as at 24 August 2024

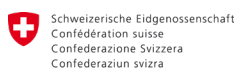
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(Message ends)

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