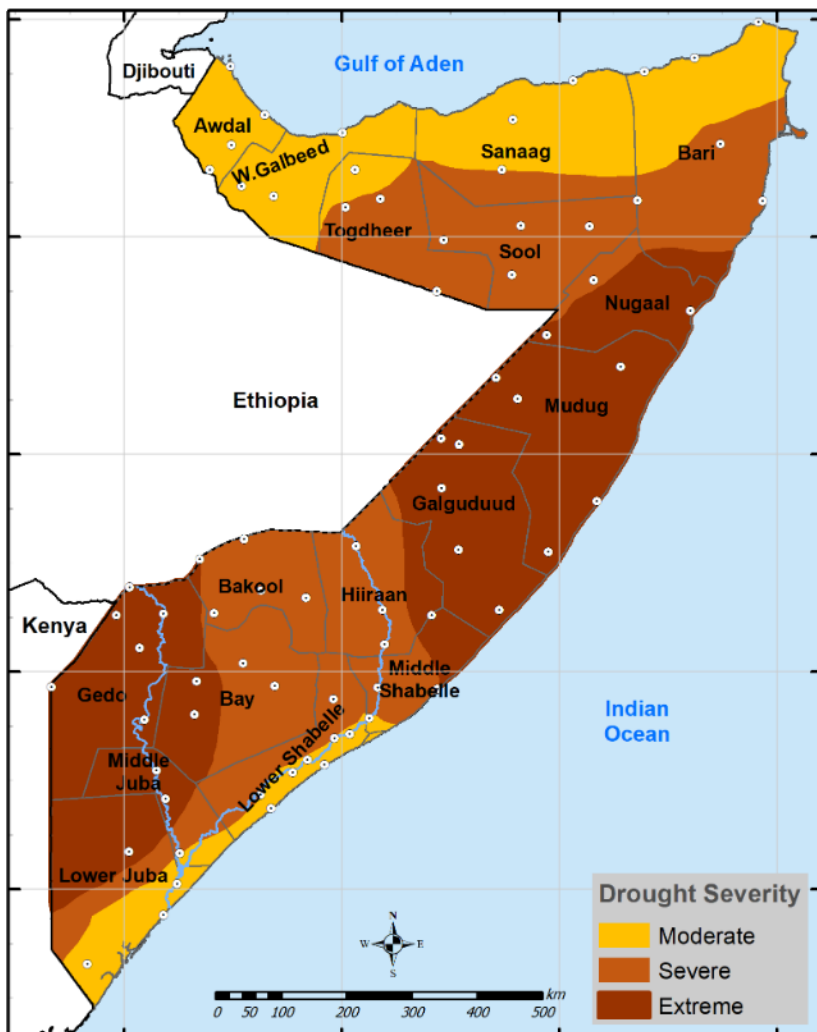


SOMALIA DROUGHT UPDATE

Issued on 27 January 2022

Drought Severity			
DROUGHT CONDITION			WORSENING
MODERATE <i>Damage to early planted crops, reduced land cultivation, and shortage of pastures and water</i>			Awdal, Woqooyi Galbeed, Sanaag and northern parts of Togdheer and Bari; southern coastal areas of Lower Shabelle
SEVERE <i>Crop or pasture losses is likely; water shortages and trucking common; Abnormal livestock migration and death cases</i>			Parts of Lower Juba, Bay, Bakool, Hiraan, Sool, Middle and Lower Shabelle and parts of Togdheer
EXTREME <i>Major crop/pasture losses with limited migration options; increased livestock death; widespread water shortages and water trucking</i>			Gedo, Middle Juba, and parts of Lower Juba, Mudug, Galgaduud, Nuugal and southern parts of Bari regions

Current Drought Situation In Somalia



Map-1: Drought Conditions Map - January 2022

The poor rains during the last three consecutive seasons (October 2020 to December 2021) have caused widespread and worsening drought conditions across most parts of Somalia. This has resulted in failed crop harvests, widespread water shortage, triggering abnormal livestock migration, decline in livestock production and increased livestock deaths. Water and food prices have continued to rise sharply.

Since December 2021 the drought severity has notably worsened. As of January 2022, most parts of the country are experiencing Severe drought conditions, with Jubaland and central regions and adjacent areas already in Extreme drought. Somaliland, which was previously less affected is now experiencing Moderate to Severe drought conditions following an influx of both humans and livestock and a rapid depletion of rangeland conditions.

Current drought conditions are expected to worsen during the remainder of Jilaa season (February—March) or until the start of Gu rains in April 2022.

The water sector, which is core to the functionality of other sectors, has been significantly affected with majority of the sand dams, berkads and dug wells depleting fast and drying up in many parts of the country. There is an increasing demand for domestic and livestock water use leading to over pumping of boreholes. This has contributed to drastic reduction of water levels in boreholes and increased salinity levels. Water trucking has been widespread in many areas with the affected communities spending many hours in search of the rare commodity with most poor households unable to afford the rising water prices.

Poor rains have led to substantial decline in crop production, with crop failure reported in many areas. This has triggered further increases in food prices. Vegetation conditions are also very poor across the country and continue to deteriorate with pastoralists trekking longer distance in search of pasture and water.

Consequently, pastoralists are selling the surviving livestock to meet basic needs of both human and livestock.

Update on the Juba and Shabelle Rivers

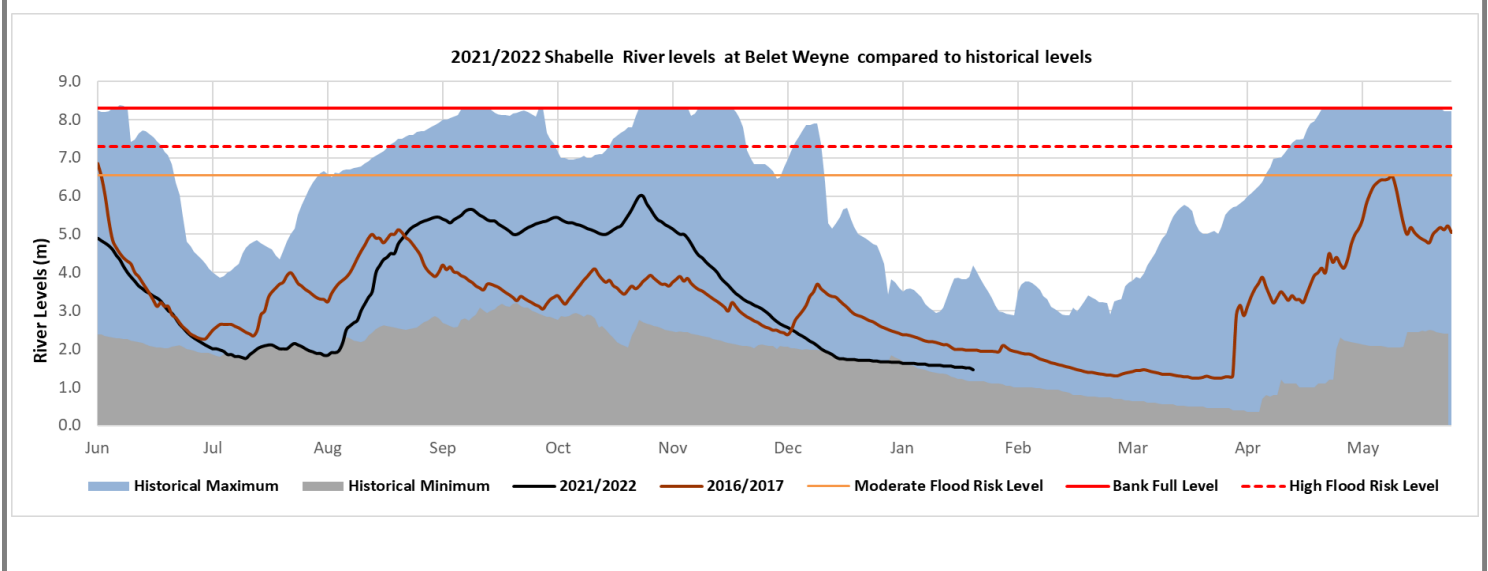
The meteorological drivers of drought often cause subsequent hydrological effects such as reduced catchment runoff and river flows. The Juba and Shabelle Rivers are currently experiencing a Hydrological drought which has led to not only reduced flow but also resulted in significant changes in water quality. This has a direct negative impact on all the different water users.

Currently the river flow along the two rivers have surpassed the low levels observed in early 2017 which witnessed the worst drought in recent history. Along the Shabelle some parts in the middle and lower reaches have dried up. The levels are expected to remain low until the onset of the 2022 Gu rains in April. This will have further adverse impact on the livestock, agriculture and all other water dependent sectors.

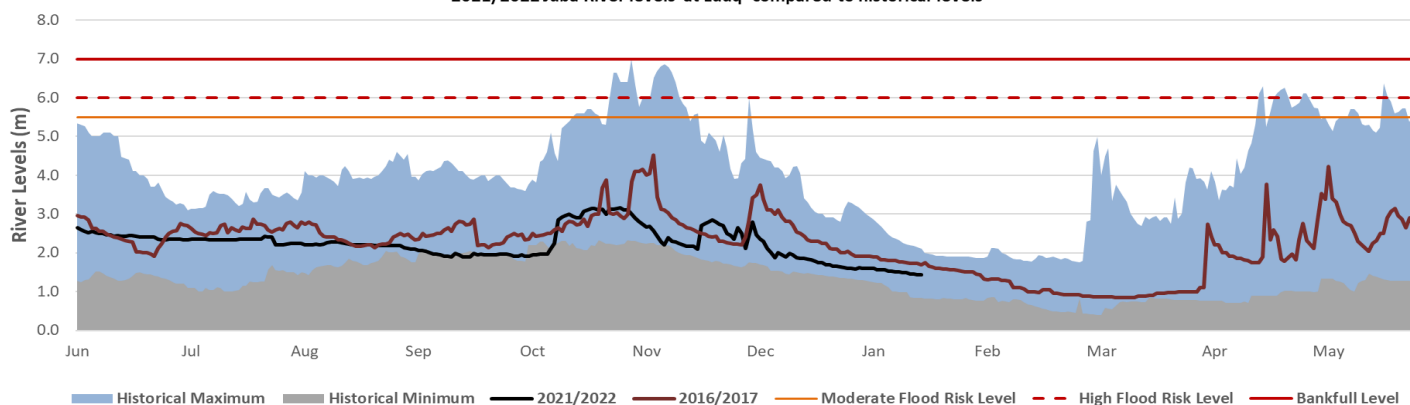
The graphs below show comparison of 2021-2022 and 2016-2017 levels for both the Shabelle and Juba Rivers at Belet Weyne and Luuq stations, respectively.

On the positive side, it is advisable to take advantage of the current situation and close any open river breakages and weak river embankments along the river. SWALIM is currently mapping the weak and open river banks along the two rivers and the results will be shared during the first half of February to allow adequate time for intervening agencies to work on the weak points before the next rainy season.

The river levels are updated on a daily basis and can be found in this link: <http://frrims.faoswalim.org/rivers/levels>



2021/2022 Juba River levels at Luuq compared to historical levels

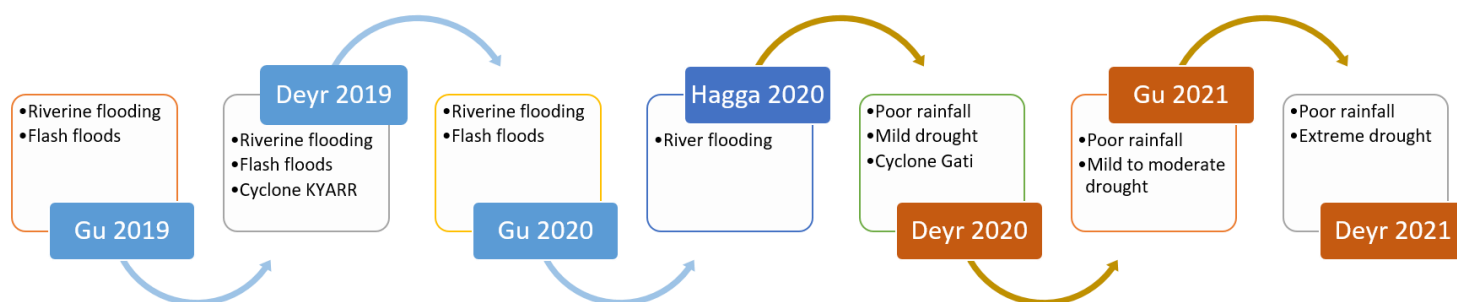


Recurrent Climate Related Shocks in Somalia

The frequency of climate hazards in Somalia is on the increase and this is undoubtedly as a result of climate change. The ongoing drought in the country is getting worse and is expected to peak by March 2022. The past 20 years have seen some of the driest conditions in Somalia on record; most recent and serious drought events being in 2010/2011, in 2016/2017 and the ongoing 2021/2022 drought. In between the drought periods there have been a number of severe flooding events with devastating impacts. Since 2013, the Somali coast has been hit annually by tropical storms which have had serious ramifications. Climate change models are predicting an increase of such extreme events in the future, with some seasons getting more rains and others receiving depressed rains.

Looking back at the last three years in Somalia, the country has experienced climate shocks each season, leaving in their wake undocumented economic losses as well as human suffering. There has been either too much rainfall or too little of it and sometimes cyclones as seen in figure 1 below. Episodes of extreme heat have also been reported during the dry seasons of Jilaal (January to March) and Haggai (June/July to September). As it is, climate related disasters will continue to negatively affect the economy and livelihoods of the Somali communities on top of other shocks (COVID-19 pandemic, insecurity/conflict, Desert Locust and others). Priority and focus on climate adaptation and resilience commitments as part of the recovery can have a triple benefit.

Figure 1: Climate Hazard Timeline in Somalia (2019—2021)



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