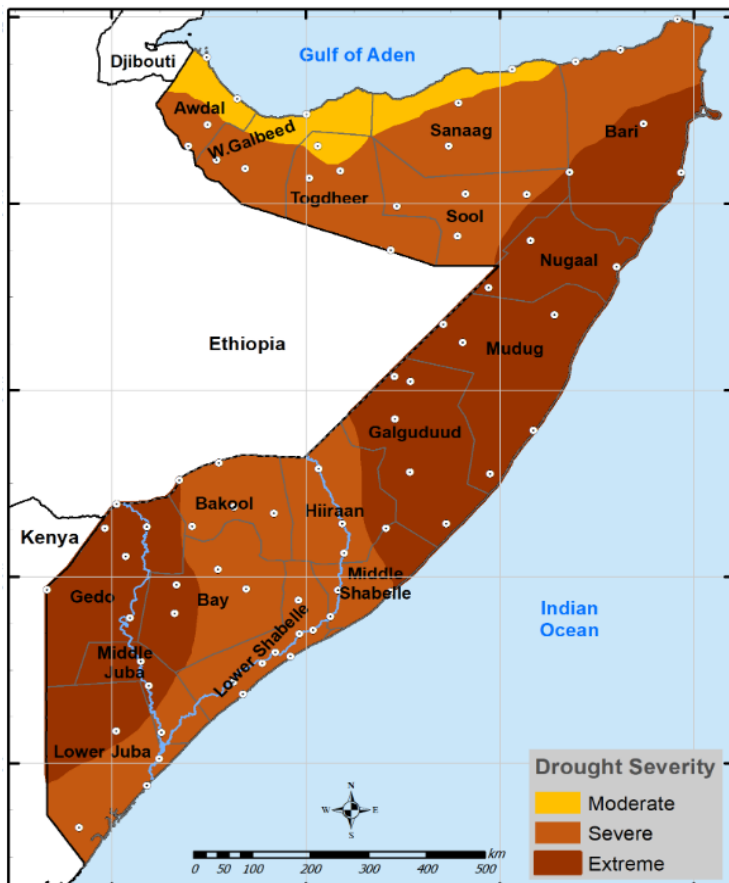


# SOMALIA DROUGHT UPDATE

Issued on 02 March 2022

Drought Severity			
DROUGHT CONDITION	IMPROVING	STABLE	WORSENING
<b>MODERATE</b> <i>Damage to early planted crops, reduced land cultivation, and shortage of pastures and water</i>			Coastal areas of Awdal, W. Galbeed and Sanaag
<b>SEVERE</b> <i>Crop or pasture losses is likely; water shortages trucking common; Abnormal livestock migration and death cases</i>			Parts of Lower Juba, Bay, Bakool, Hiraan, Sool and Togdheer; inland areas of Awdal, W. Galbeed and Sanaag; Middle and Lower Shabelle
<b>EXTREME</b> <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, Bari and Nuugal regions

- Many parts of the country remained generally dry throughout the month of February 2022 leading to persistence of drought conditions.
- Pasture and water are in extremely poor conditions and close to a complete depletion in key pastoral livelihoods across Somalia.
- Severe water crises has resulted to increased water trucking and prices, which pastoral and agro pastoral households meet through increased debt accumulation and/or livestock sales.
- Current drought conditions are expected to worsen until the start of Gu season rainfall in April.



Map-1: Drought Conditions Map - February 2022 Source: SWALIM

The high demand for water is also overstressing the few functional permanent water sources. Preliminary results from the ongoing SWALIM water sources survey across the country indicate 15 to 24 pumping hours per day for many boreholes. Body condition of small ruminants and cattle has deteriorated to poor and very poor conditions, leading to death of offspring (calves, kids, lambs) as well as lactating animals due to prolonged drought conditions. Livestock migration options remain limited due to exhausted rangelands and weak body conditions.

Current river levels along the Juba and Shabelle rivers are currently below their historical minimum, with dry riverbeds observed in many sections of the two rivers. This conditions will get worse until the start of Gu season rainfall in April.

## Update on the Juba and Shabelle Rivers

The graphs in Figure 2 & 3 show comparison of 2021/22 and 2016/17 levels for both the Shabelle and Juba Rivers at Belet Weyne and Luuq stations, respectively. The current levels are lower than that of 2016/17 which was one of the worst drought period in Somalia.

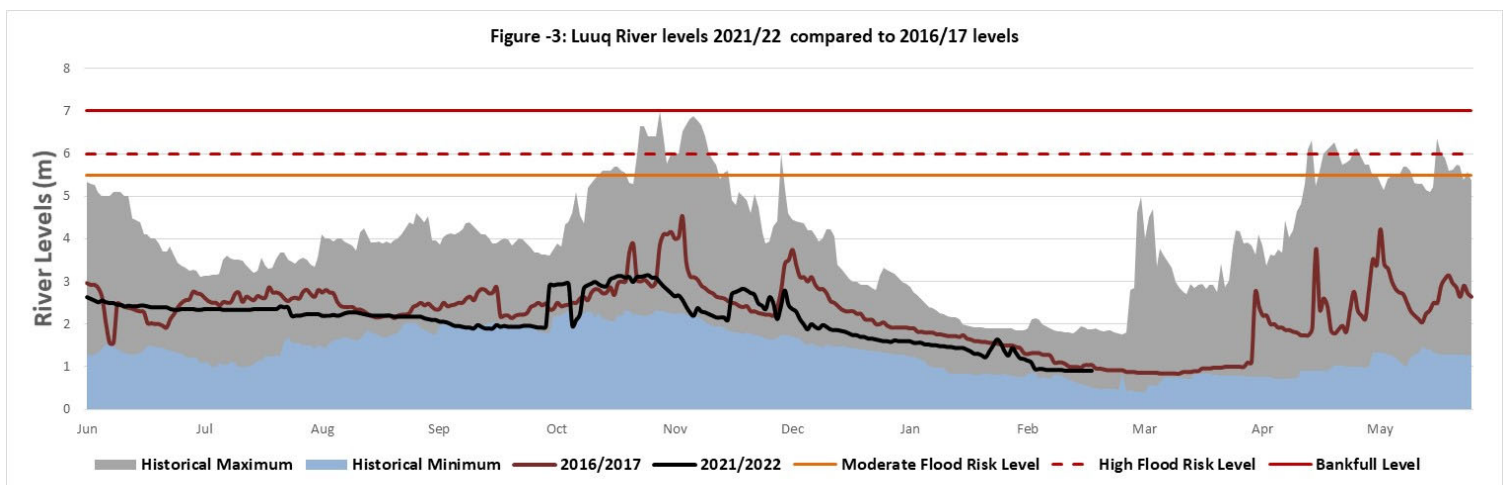
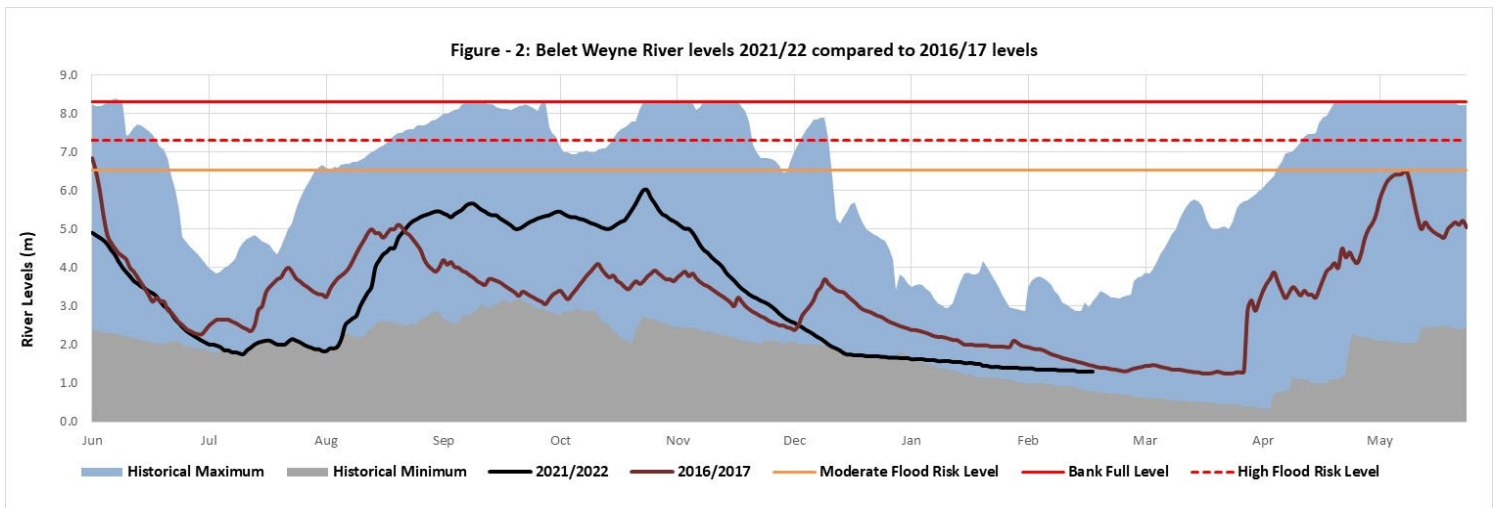
The lower reaches of the two rivers that depend on irrigated agriculture have been affected seriously by the low levels which are not adequate to support irrigated agriculture.

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 two rivers. SWALIM recently mapped the weak and open river banks along the two rivers and shared the results 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>



**Figure – 1: A section of dry river bed along the Juba River at Bardheere**



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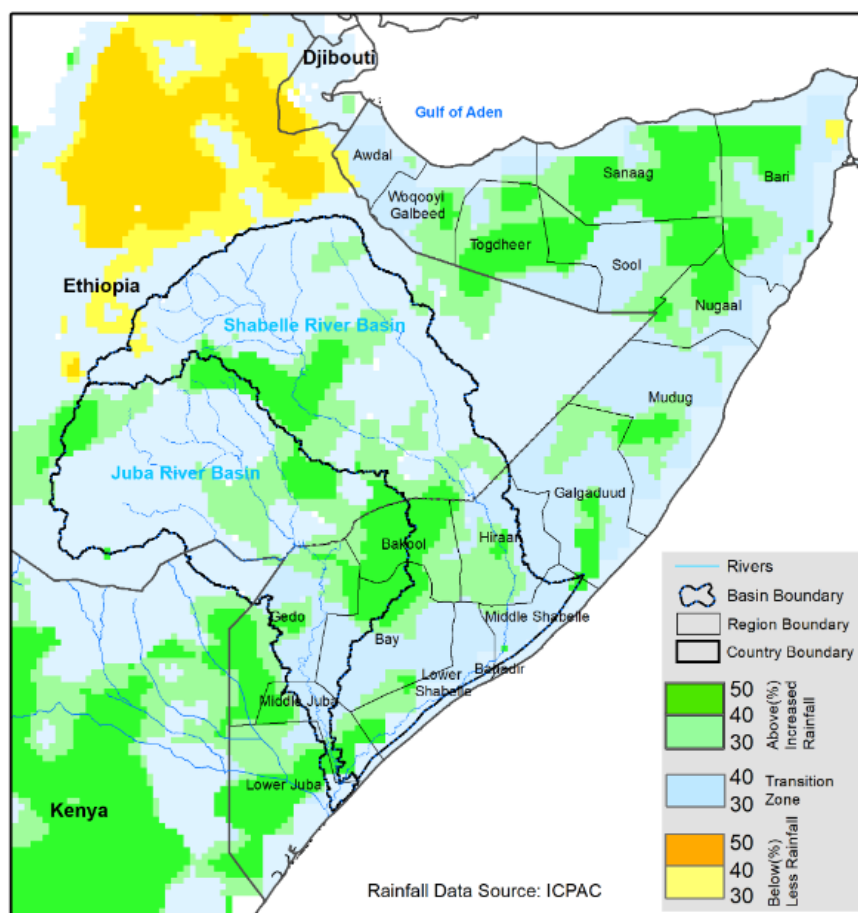


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## Rainfall Forecast for the 2022 Gu season

- Available rainfall forecasts from major climate information services indicate differing outlooks for the April to June 2022 season.
- According to the March to May 2022 seasonal forecast issued by IGAD Climate Prediction and Application Center (ICPAC) during the Greater Horn of Africa Climate Outlook Forum (GHACOF60), there is a likelihood of receiving average to above average rainfall amounts in Somalia and the Ethiopian highlands which are responsible for most of the flow in the Juba and Shabelle rivers in Somalia.
- In contrast, forecast from other global sources ([NOAA](#) and [IRI](#)) indicate that cumulative rainfall during the March-May 2022 long rains/Gu season is most likely to be average to below-average in Somalia.
- Warmer than usual season is expected in larger parts of the southern regions and pockets of Somaliland and Puntland while the rest of the country will remain under normal temperature conditions.
- The seasonal rains are expected to start in the last week of March in the southern areas and second half of April 2022 in the central and northern areas.
- Following the failure of three consecutive rainy seasons since October 2020, extended drought impacts are likely to be experienced across most parts of Somalia even under the more optimistic rainfall forecast from ICPAC/IGAD (map below). However, under the alternative forecast from other sources, the forthcoming Gu season rainfall is expected to be below average and this will likely lead to extended and worsening drought conditions in Somalia. A pessimistic forecast should be considered for humanitarian response planning at least for the first half of 2022.
- This consensus forecast is designed for a regional audience that addresses the rainfall totals summed over the three-month period from March to May 2022. Spells of dry periods may occur in areas with an increased likelihood of enhanced seasonal totals and vice versa. SWALIM will keep updating this forecast for shorter lead time and will share with you through the regular bulletins throughout the rainfall season.



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