

SOMALIA WEEKLY WEATHER FORECAST

Valid: 14 to 20 May 2024

Light to moderate rains expected in Puntland and Somaliland with dry conditions likely throughout central and southern parts of the country.

Review for the week between 7 and 13 May 2024

The second week of May was generally marked by light to moderate rains received at forty (40) stations with heavy rains only being observed at Mataban in Hiraaan region and Doolow in Gedo region (Figure 1). Dry conditions prevailed in several other areas.

The following seventeen individual stations out of a total of 41 (Figure 1) received more than 20 mm of cumulative rain between 7 and 13 May 2024: Mahas (81.5 mm), Belet Weyne (69.9 mm) and Mataban (148.3 mm) in Hiraaan region; Luuq (56 mm) and Doolow (117.5 mm) in Gedo region; Sheikh (25 mm), Taysa (20 mm), Bulahar (28 mm), Ganlibah (37 mm) and Laaso Dacawo (87.0) in Waqooyi Galbeed region; Baidoa (41.6 mm) in Bay region; Ceel Afweyn (41.5 mm) in Sanaag region; Balidhiig (41 mm) and Xaaji Salah (37 mm) in Togdheer region; Carmo (37 mm) in Bari region and Jowhar (32 mm) and Mahaday Weyn (20 mm) in Middle Shabelle region.

Floods occasioned by breakages along the eastern side of Shabelle River at Belet Weyne were reported to have affected three (3) villages (Bacaad, Qooqane and Lafoole) on 12 May 2024. Fortunately, the residents of the said villages were reportedly safely evacuated to high ground.

Forecast for the week between 14 and 20 May 2024

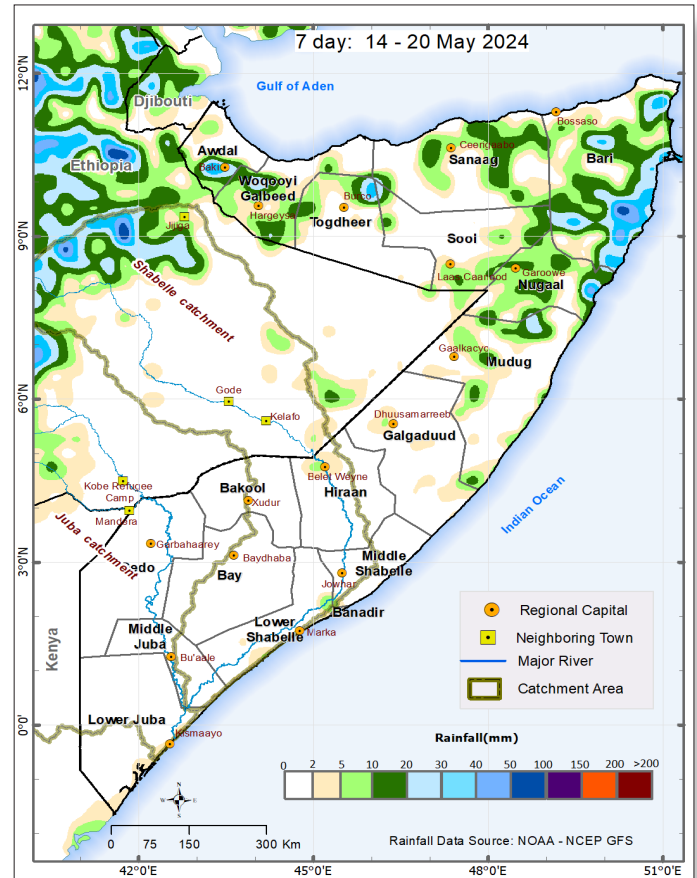
According to NOAA-NCEP GFS, during the week between 14 and 20 May 2024, light to moderate rain are expected in Puntland and Somaliland with dry conditions likely throughout central and southern parts of the country. This general northward spread of the rains is favored by the northward presence of the Inter Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ).

As had been anticipated, the eastward propagation of the Madden Julian Oscillation (MJO) index from the Indian Ocean favored the general dry conditions during the last week (7 – 13). While the index is presently within the region, none of the weather forecast models has captured its effect on rainfall during this forecast week. Given that its 5-day forecast position is associated with better skill and reliability, there is still a likelihood of moderate to heavy rains towards the end of the forecast week i.e., from around 18 May 2024. Day-to-day monitoring is therefore advised. The rains are likely to decrease thereafter marking the end of the Gu season particularly in Jubaland, Southwest and Hirshabelle.

The temporal and spatial distribution of the forecast rainfall (Map 1) are as follows:

Moderate cumulative rainfall between 50 mm and 100 mm is likely over northwestern parts of Bandarbeyla district in Bari region. These rains are likely to be received between 14 and 16 May 2024.

Light cumulative rainfall of less than 50 mm is forecast over several areas in both Bandarbeyla and Iskushuban districts,



Map 1: Cumulative rainfall forecast over Somalia between 14 and 20 May 2024

northern parts of Qardho district, and southern parts of both Qandala and Caluula districts in Bari region; Garowe district, coastal parts of Eyl district, and northern parts of Burtinle district in Nugaal region; eastern and western parts of Ceerigaabo district, western parts of Ceel Afweyn district, and northern parts of Laasqoray district in Sanaag region; southern parts of Laas Caanod district and northern parts of Caynabo district in Sool region; northern parts of Burco district and western parts of Owdweyne district in Togdheer region; Gebiley district and northern and southern parts of Hargeysa district, and southern parts of Berbera district in Woqooyi Galbeed; and Borama and central and southern parts of Baki district, northern parts of Zeylac district in Awdal region. Rains of similarly trace amounts are also likely over isolated areas of Hobyo district, northern parts of Jariiban district, eastern parts of Gaalkacyo district in Mudug region; western parts of Dhuusamarreeb district in Galgaduud region; Belet Weyne town in Hiraaan region; eastern parts of Afgooye district in Lower Shabelle region; and Banadir region.

Dry conditions (rainfall less than 1 mm) are likely in most areas in the following regions: Lower Juba, Middle Juba, Gedo, Bay, Bakool and Middle Shabelle region. Dry conditions are also likely to prevail over Sablaale, Baraawe, Kurunwaarey, Qoryooley, Wanla Weyn districts and central and western parts of Afgooye district in Lower Shabelle region; Jalalaqsi, Bulo Burte and most

other parts of Belet Weyne district in Hiraan region; Ceel Dheer, Ceel Buur, Cabudwaaq and Cadaado districts and most other parts of Dhuusamarreeb district in Galgaduud region; Xarardheere district, vast areas of Hobyo district, most other parts of both Jariiban and Gaalkacyo districts in Mudug region. Towards the northern parts of the country, dry conditions are also likely over inland parts of Eyl district, and most other parts of Burtinle district in Nugaal region; Bossaso district, most other parts of Qardho, Qandala and Caluula districts in Bari region; most other parts of Ceerigaabo, Laasqoray and Ceel Afweyn district in Sanaag region; Xudun, Taleex, and most other parts of both Laas Caanood and Caynabo districts in Sool region; Buhoodle and Sheikh districts and most other parts of Burco and Owdweyne districts in Togdheer region; central parts of Hargeysa district, and most other parts of Berbera district in Woqooyi Galbeed; and Lughaye, northern parts of Baki district, and southern parts of Zeylac district in Awdal region.

Temperature Forecast:

Moderately high temperatures of between 35°C and 40°C are likely over the central parts of the country particularly over Cadaado, Cabudwaaq, Dhuusamarreeb, and Ceel Buur districts and vast inland parts of Ceel Dheer district in Galgaduud region; Galdogob, Gaalkacyo, Hobyo and Jariiban districts and vast inland parts of Xaradheere district in Mudug region; Jalalaqsi district, central and northeastern parts of Belet Weyne district and central and eastern parts of Bulo Burte district in Hiraan region; Jowhar and vast inland parts of Cadale and Adan Yabaal districts in Middle Shabelle region; and Wanla Weyn district, western parts of both Sablaale and Kurtunwaarey districts Lower Shabelle region. Towards the north similar temperatures are likely over Garowe and Eyl districts in Nugaal region; Bossaso, Caluula, Iskushuban and Bandarbeyla districts and eastern parts of Qardho district in Bari region; Xudun and Caynabo districts and northern parts of Laas Caanood and southern parts of Taleex district in Sool region; northern and southern parts of Ceel Afweyn district and southwestern parts of Ceerigaabo district in Sanaag region; southern and northern parts of both Buhoodle and Burco districts in Togdheer region; Berbera district and northern parts of both

Hargeysa and Gebiley districts in Woqooyi Galbeed region; and Lughaye and Zeylac districts and northern Baki district in Awdal region. Similar temperatures are also expected in the south particularly over Doolow district in Gedo region; Afmadow district and northwestern parts of both Badhadhe and Kismaayo districts in Lower Juba region; southern and eastern parts of Buur Hakaba district in Bay region; southern half of Bu'aale district in Middel Juba region.

Moderate temperatures of between 30°C and 35°C are likely over most parts of Bakool region; Baydhaba, Qansax Dheere and Dinsoor districts and most other parts of Buur Hakaba district in Bay region, Baardheere, Ceel Waaq, Garbahaarey, Belet Xaawo and Luuq districts in Gedo region; Jamaame district and coastal parts of both Badhaadhe and Kismaayo districts in Lower Juba region; Jilib and Saakow districts and northern half of Bu'aale 4districts in Middle Juba region; Baraawe, Qoryooley and Afgooye districts, northern parts of Wanla Weyn district and most other parts of Sablaale and Kurtunwaarey districts in Lower Shabelle region. Towards the central parts of the country similar temperatures are likely in Middle Shabelle region; most other parts of both Bulo Burte and Belet Weyne districts in Hiraan region; coastal parts of Ceel Dheer district in Galgaduud region; and coastal parts of Xaradheere district in Mudug region. Towards the north, such temperatures are likely over Burtinle district in Nugaal region; Qardho and Qandala districts in Bari region; Taleex district, southern parts of Laas Caanood district in Sool region; Laasqoray district and central and southeastern parts of Ceerigaabo district, and central parts of Ceel Afweyn district in Sanaag region; Owdweyne and Sheikh districts and central parts of both Burco and Buhoodle districts in Togdheer region; central and southern parts of both Gebiley and Hargeysa districts in Woqooyi Galbeed region; and Borama district and southern parts of Baki district in Awdal region.

Temperatures less than 30°C are anticipated over the northern parts of Ceerigaabo district in Sanaag region and Qandala district in Bari region.

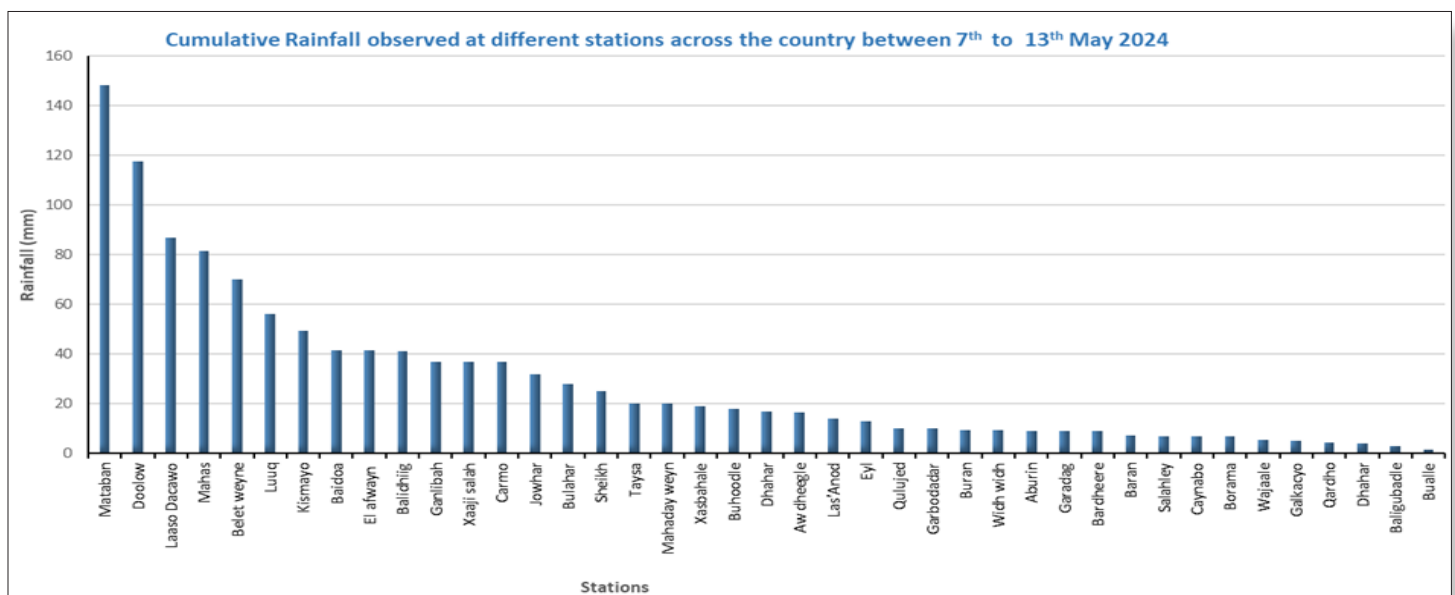
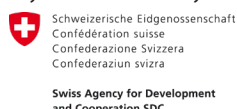


Figure 1: Stations that observed rainfall of more than 1 mm between 7 May and 13 May 2024

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

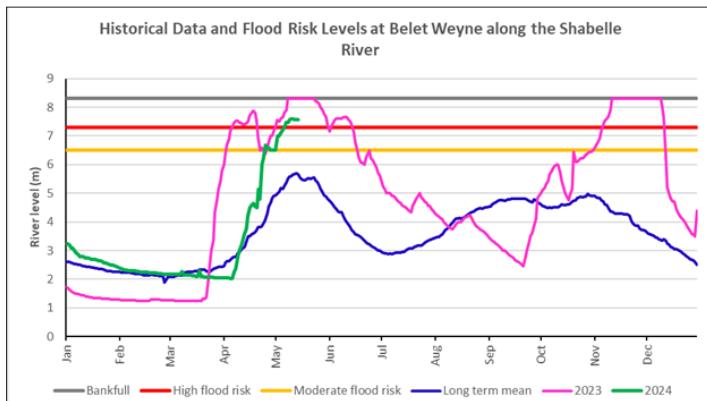


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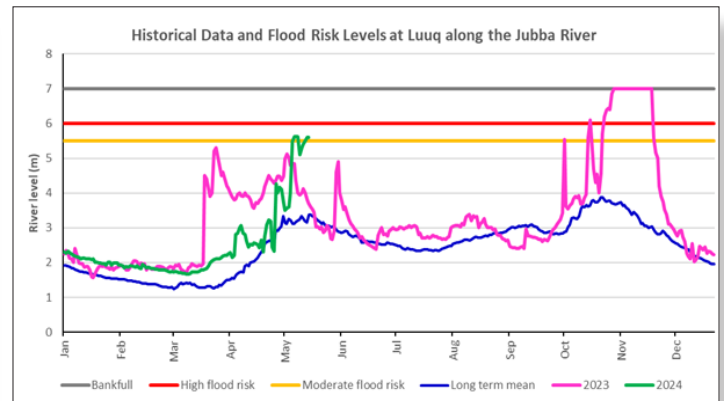
Current River Levels

After rising briefly in response to the moderate to heavy rains received in the first week of May, the levels along the Shabelle River have dropped in the last two days following reduced rainfall intensity in the last week over Shabelle catchment. At 26 cm above high flood risk threshold, the current river level at Belet Weyne is above the station Long Term Mean (LTM) and below the 2023 level (Graph 1). At Bulo Burte, the current river level is above the station LTM and below the 2023 level. The level at Jowhar has dropped from flood risk levels and is now below the Long-Term Mean (LTM) and above the 2023 level. Compared to observations taken on 8 May 2024, levels recorded on 14 May 2024 at Belet Weyne (7.56 m), Bulo Burte (5.77 m) and at Jowhar (4.48 m) represent 8 cm, 63 cm and 3 cm rise.



Graph 1: Shabelle River level at Belet Weyne Gauging Station as of 14 May 2024

The general reduction of rains over Juba River catchment over the last week also led to an overall drop in the river levels. After the sharp rise, the river level has dropped below flood risk levels at Doolow but still above both station LTM and 2023 level. The Juba River at Luuq (Graph 2) has risen to above moderate flood risk level and above both the station LTM and the 2023 level. Compared to observations taken on 8 May 2024, levels recorded on 14 May 2024 at Doolow (4.16 m) and Luuq (5.60 m) represent 70 cm and 2 cm drop, respectively. Even with the unavailability of measurements from the traditional gauging stations at Bardheere and Bu'aale, it is anticipated that a similar drop down in the levels is likely because of reduced rainfall over the entire Juba River catchment.



Graph 2: Juba River level at Luuq Gauging Station as of 14 May 2024

Impacts Associated with the Weekly Weather Forecast

The current and predicted general dry conditions over the Shabelle River Catchment are likely to lead to a reduction in runoff causing a drop in the previously high river levels at Belet Weyne. As the large volumes of water at Belet Weyne flows downstream, it is expected that the river will slightly rise before dipping at Bulo Burte, Jalalaqsi, Jowhar and Balcad within the coming week. There is therefore reduced flash and riverine flooding risk at Belet Weyne and along the entire channel

The current and predicted dry conditions over the Juba River Catchment are likely to lead to a reduction in run off causing a drop in the previously high river levels at Doolow and Luuq. As the large volume of water at Doolow and Luuq flows downstream, it is expected that the river will slightly rise before dipping at Baardheere, Bu'aale and Jilib within the next one week. There is therefore reduced flash and riverine flooding risk at Doolow and along the entire channel. However, given the inherent Gu forecast uncertainty, and more so the forecast return of the MJO index, and due to the known high sensitivity of the Juba River levels to

rainfall events, day by day monitoring is advised. The activated flash and riverine flood response plans should be sustained along the reach of Juba and Shabelle Rivers until the season's operational end.

The rains observed in April across most parts of Somaliland, Jubaland, South West, Hirshabelle, and Galgaduud coupled with low riverine flood risks were beneficial to agropastoral livelihoods in many aspects including favorable soil moisture conditions for crop and fodder production, and replenishment of surface and ground water sources. While the forecast dry conditions will seem beneficial to agropastoral activities like weeding, extended periods of low rainfall afterwards signaling the end of the season may not be favorable to crops and fodder that are still in their early stages. Over Nugaal and Bari the rains may be short-lived and not able to sustain season-long crops and fodder. Concerted efforts must therefore be put in place to harvest the rainwater.

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