

SOMALIA WEEKLY WEATHER FORECAST

Valid From 16th to 23rd May 2023

Light rainfall is expected over most parts of Somalia with moderate rains over isolated areas in northeastern and dry conditions over southwestern parts of the country.

Weather Review for 10th to 16th May 2023

Dry conditions were observed in many parts of Somalia over the last week with only two stations receiving at least 50 mm of cumulative rainfall: Gumburaha (79 mm) in Woqooyi Galbeed region and Balli Dhiddin (57.6 mm) in Bari region (Figure 1). It is noteworthy that the rains received at Gumburaha station were intense, 79mm on a single day. Up to sixteen (16) stations recorded at least 1 mm of rainfall.

Belet Weyne town and its surrounding areas continue to experience massive floods, after the Shabelle River bursts its banks a week ago. The river remains bankful for the 8th consecutive day, with more water spilling over and causing havoc to the already dire situation. About 80% of the town is flooded, houses and infrastructure destroyed, and many people displaced.

Weather Forecast for 16th to 23rd May 2023

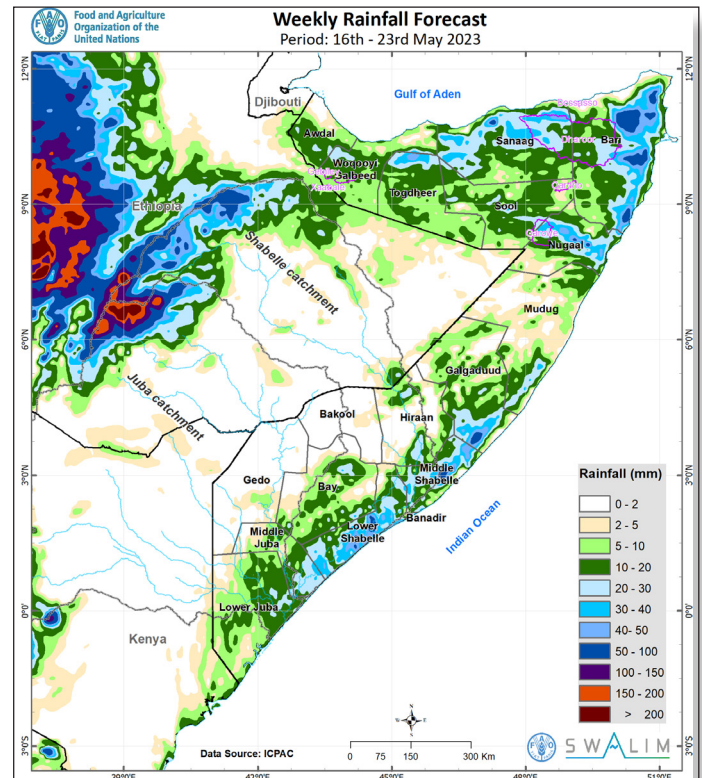
Light rainfall is expected over most parts of Somalia with moderate rains over isolated areas in northeastern and dry conditions over southwestern parts of the country during the forecast period (Map 1). The spatial variation of the cumulative rainfall amounts is as follows:

Moderate rainfall of between 50 mm and 100 mm is likely over Bari region particularly Iskushuban district, southern parts of Calulla district, eastern parts of Qandala district and southern parts of Bandarbeyle district. Moderate rains are also expected in isolated areas in the northwestern part of Ceerigaabo district in Sanaag region and over the areas on the border between Garowe and Eyl districts in Nugaal region. In the central regions, rains of similar amounts are expected over Cadale district in Middle Shabelle region, southern parts of Ceel Dheer district in Galgaduud region, Qoryooley district and eastern parts of Kurtunwaarey and Baarawe districts in Lower Shabelle region.

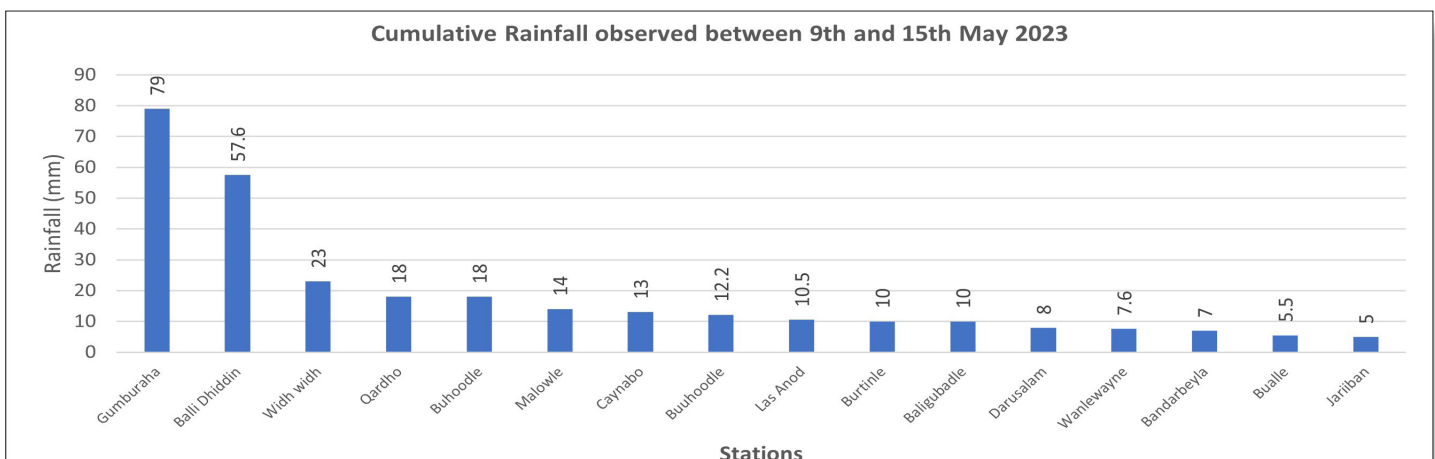
Light rainfall of less than 50 mm is expected over several areas in the Country with a tendency towards moderate over eastern parts of Bari region, northern parts of Sanaag region, Garowe and Eyl districts in Nugaal region, Ceel District in Galgaduud region,

Cadale and Adan Yabaal districts in Middle Shabelle region, and several areas in Lower Shabelle region. Light rains are also expected over Central BeletWeyne district and Jalalaqsi district in Hiraan region.

Dry conditions are expected in the southwestern parts of the country particularly over Gedo, Bakool and some parts of Hiraan regions including areas at their border with Bay region. Dry conditions are also likely in Mudug region particularly over Galdogob district, Gaalkacyo district and its border with Hobyo district. In Awdal region, dry conditions are expected over the northern parts of Zeylac and Lughaye districts. Similar conditions are likely over eastern part of Berbera in Woqooyi Galbeed region. Areas in the coastal strip of Bossaso, Qandala and Calulla districts in Bari region area also likely to remain dry.



Map 1: Cumulative rainfall forecast over Somalia between 16th and 23rd May 2023



Graph 1: Cumulative rainfall (mm) observed at different stations between 9th and 16th May 2023 across Somalia

Moderate temperatures of between 24°C and 28°C are expected over several areas in the southern and northeastern parts of the country. Temperatures as low as 20°C are likely over some areas in the southern parts of Aw Woqooyi Galbeed regions, Sheikh district in northern Togdheer region and Ceerigaabo in Sanaag region and northern parts of Qandala district in Bari region. High temperatures of between 28°C and 32°C are expected in Hiraan, Galgaduud, mudug, Nugaal, and Sool regions, southern and eastern parts of Bari region, and northern parts of both Awdal and Woqooyi Galbeed regions. Similar temperatures conditions are also likely over Dollow and Luuq districts in Gedo region. Temperatures as high as 36°C are likely over eastern parts of Hobyo district in Mudug region.

Current River Levels

Since bursting its banks on May 9th 2023, the Shabelle River's water level at Belet Weyne (Figure 2) has remained at bankful height of 8.30 m up to the current date of May 16th. The river levels at Bulu Burti, located about 100 km downstream of Belet Weyne, have shown a consistent increase from 5.74 m on May 5th to 6.72 m as of today, May 16th, 2023. This current reading surpasses the moderate flood risk threshold (6.50 m) by 22 cm. At Jowhar, the river level today is 3.75 m, which is more than 1 meter below the moderate risk level.

The general dry conditions observed in the last week over Juba River catchment within and outside Somalia led to a general decrease in the river levels. Compared to observations made on 10th May, river levels recorded today (16th May) represent a decrease from 3.88 m to 3.40 m at Dollow, from 4.36 m to 3.80 m at Luuq, from 7.58 m to 7.04 m at Bardheere, and from 7.60 m to 6.02 m at Bualle.

Figures 1 and 2 show the current river levels against the Short Term Mean and 2022 levels for Luuq and Belet Weyne stations respectively.

Impacts Associated with the Weekly Weather Forecast

Despite the reduced rains across Somalia in the coming week, the Shabelle River remains high as more water flows in from Ethiopia. At Belet Weyne the river remains bankful with flooding in the town and surrounding areas. The level at Bulu Burti is likely to rise to the high flood risk level within the forecast week as the flood wave moves downstream from Belet Weyne. Communities living near riverbanks and low lying areas should take all necessary precautions.

The expected moderate rains over Bari region has a potential risk of flash flooding in settled and low lying areas. Continuous monitoring of rainfall-run off situation in towns such as Qardho, Garowe, Galkayo, Eyl, and Bandarbeyla is needed.

Since the previous week has been generally dry, the expected moderate rainfall will lead to partial recharge of surface water sources and sustenance of the regenerated vegetation which is

important for human and livestock survival. However, the high temperatures e.g., over eastern parts of Hobyo district in Mudug region, coupled with the dry conditions observed in the last week, are likely to lead to evaporation thereby reducing the soil water necessary for vegetation regeneration. Over the north-eastern, the moderate rains are favourable for weeding planting. However, the moderate rainfall may lead to disturbance of the topsoil thereby reducing its productivity. The dry conditions over the south-western parts particularly Gedo and Bakool regions may lead to excess evaporation depleting the soil moisture needed by the crops.

El Niño Update and Possible Impacts over Somalia

The El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is currently in a neutral state. According to the IRI/CPC forecast, there is a 62% chance of El Niño during the transition from Gu to May-June-July with increasing chances afterwards until a 86% chance during October-November-December, Deyr rainy season. El Niño events tend to enhance rainfall in eastern East Africa including southern Somalia. Drier-than average conditions tend to occur northern East Africa including northern Somalia. Additionally, positive Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) conditions may also develop during June to September, according to the Australian Bureau of Meteorology forecast, leading to enhanced El Niño-related wetting influences during the East Africa short rains. If the El Niño is confirmed, flooding is to be expected country wide during the Deyr season.

A more conclusive seasonal prediction will be available in June.

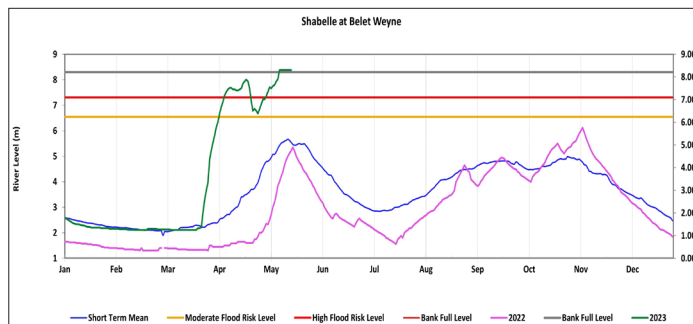


Figure 1: Shabelle river level at Belet Weyne gauging station as at 16th May 2023

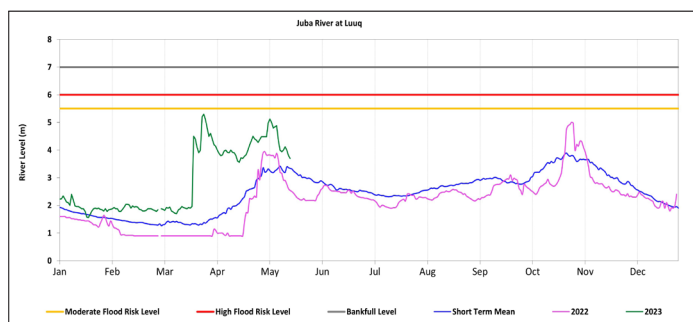


Figure 2: Juba river level at Luuq gauging station as at 16th May 2023

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



Funded by the European Union

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