Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

SWALIM
Somali Water and Land Information Management

SOMALIA WEEKLY WEATHER FORECAST

Valid From 18th to 24th Oct 2023

Moderate to heavy rains expected over central and southwestern areas of the country, specifically in Gedo, Bakool, Hiraan and Nugaal.

Review of the Weather for the Period 12th to 17th Oct 2023

During the review period, several stations experienced notable rainfall of above 30 mm. Both Qardho and Laas Dawaco received 86 mm of rain spread over two days. Buran recorded 65 mm of rainfall within a single day, while Eyl reported 55 mm of rain over two days. Similarly, Sheikh and Qansaxdheere received 52 mm and 51.2 mm of rainfall, respectively, occurring over two days. Both Dhahar and Waridaad observed 45 mm of rainfall in a single day. Lastly, Xaaji Saalax recorded 36 mm of rainfall over one day. Other stations around the country also recorded significant amounts (Graph 1).

Forecast of the Weather for the Period 18th to 24th Oct 2023

Moderate to heavy rains expected over central and southwestern areas of the country during the coming week. The rains over Gedo and Bakool are likely to be observed in the first part of the forecasting period. The spatiotemporal distribution of the forecast rains is as below.

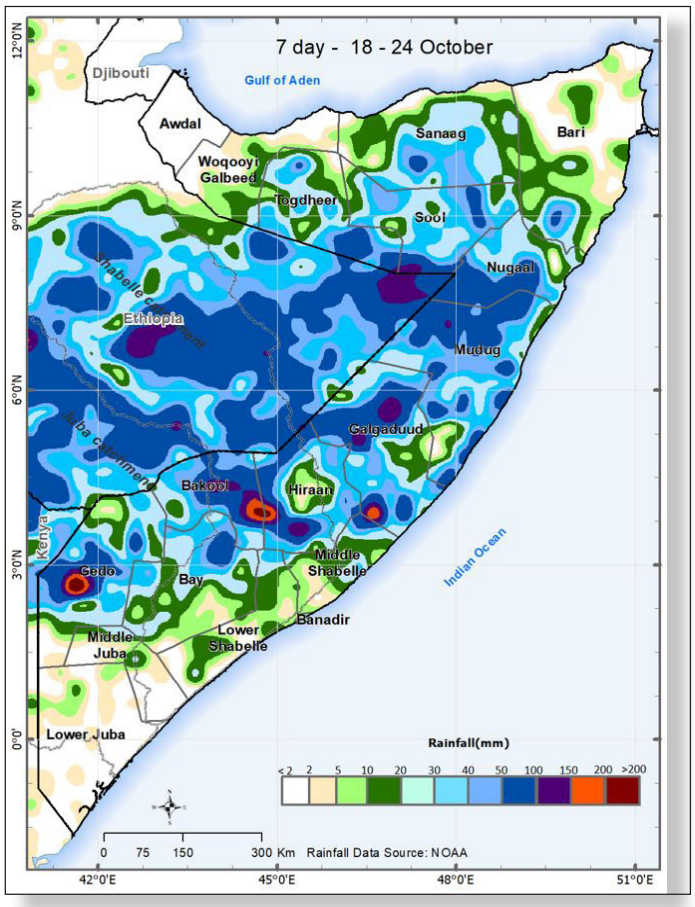
Heavy rainfall of above 100 mm is expected over Bakool, central parts of Gedo, southern parts of Hiraan and isolated areas in northern Galgaduud, localized areas in Galkayo in Mudug and southern parts of Sool. The rainfall over Ceel waaq in Gedo, Tayeeglow in Bakool, western parts of Bulo Burti in Hiraan and western parts of Ceel dheer in Galgaduud is likely to exceed 150 mm.

Moderate rainfall of between 50 and 100 mm is expected in Ceel Waaq and Garbahaarey districts in Gedo region, Baydhaba ditricts in Bay, Xudun, Ceel Barde, Tayeeglow districts in Bakool region, western parts of Bulo Burti district, northern parts of BeletWeyne district and western parts Jalalaqsi district in Hiraan. In the central parts of the country, rains of similar amounts are expected over Dhuusamareeb district and southern parts of Cadaado districts in Galgaduud region, Galkayo district, western part of Jariiban district and several isolated areas in Mudug region. Towards the north, comparatively moderate rainfall is also expected over Burtinle district in Nuugal region, southern parts of Qardho district in Bari region, central parts of Taleex districts in Sool region, southern parts of Las Anod, Buuhoodle district in Togheer, Ceel Afweyn town and it's border areas with Erigavo in Sanaag region.

Light rainfall of below 50 mm is anticipated over the rest of the country with the exception of noncoastal areas of Awdal region, Hargeisa and Gebiley districts in Woqooyi Galbeed region, western parts of Bari region particularly over Bosasso district.

Temperature Forecast: Elevated temperatures between 35°Cand 45°C are likely in Lower Juba and Lowe Shabelle regions, Jalalaqsi districts in Hiraan region and eastern parts of Berbera districts in Woqooyi Galbeed region. The rest of the country is expected to observe moderate temperatures between 25°C and 35°C.

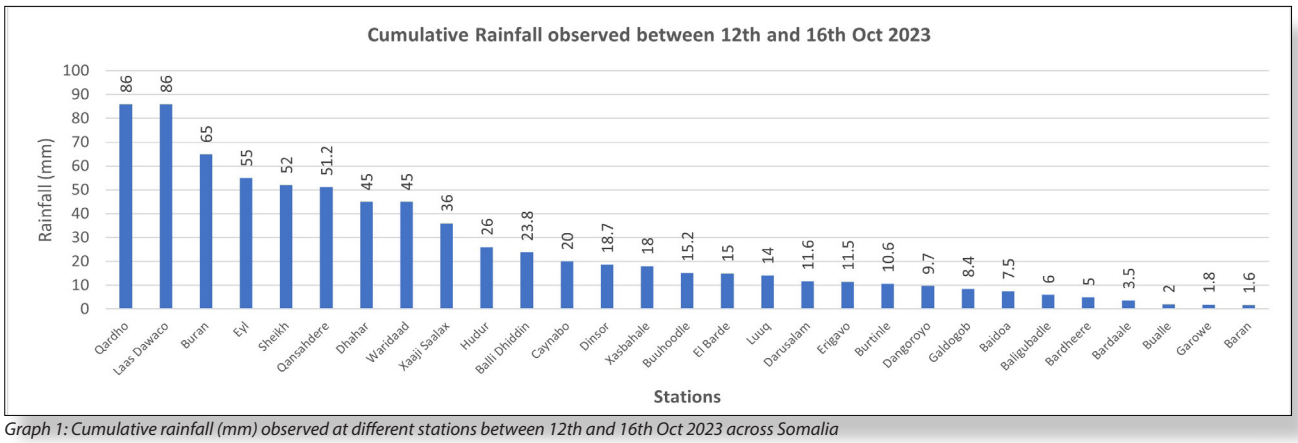
There was a general decrease in water levels along the Shabelle River during the review period. Notably, at the Jowhar Station, the level is below both the short-term average and the level recorded in 2022. The water levels along Juba River fluctuated below moderate flood risk level throughout the week. Large volumes of water have been sighted at Limey district in Ethiopia which forms part of the upper catchment of Shabelle river.



Map 1: Cumulative rainfall forecast over Somalia between 18th and 24th October 2023

Current River Levels

There was a general decrease in water levels along the Shabelle River during the review period. Notably, at the Jowhar Station, the level is below both the short-term average and the level recorded in 2022. The water levels along Juba River fluctuated below moderate flood risk level throughout the week. Large volumes of water have been sighted at Limey district in Ethiopia which forms part of the upper catchment of Shabelle river. Considering the distance, the large volume of water is likely to lead to a rise in water level along Shabelle river at Belet Weyne in two to three weeks. Depending on the intensity of the forecast moderate to heavy rainfall over the Ethiopian highlands, and the localized rainfall within the country, the river levels are likely to rise.



Graph 1: Cumulative rainfall (mm) observed at different stations between 12th and 16th Oct 2023 across Somalia

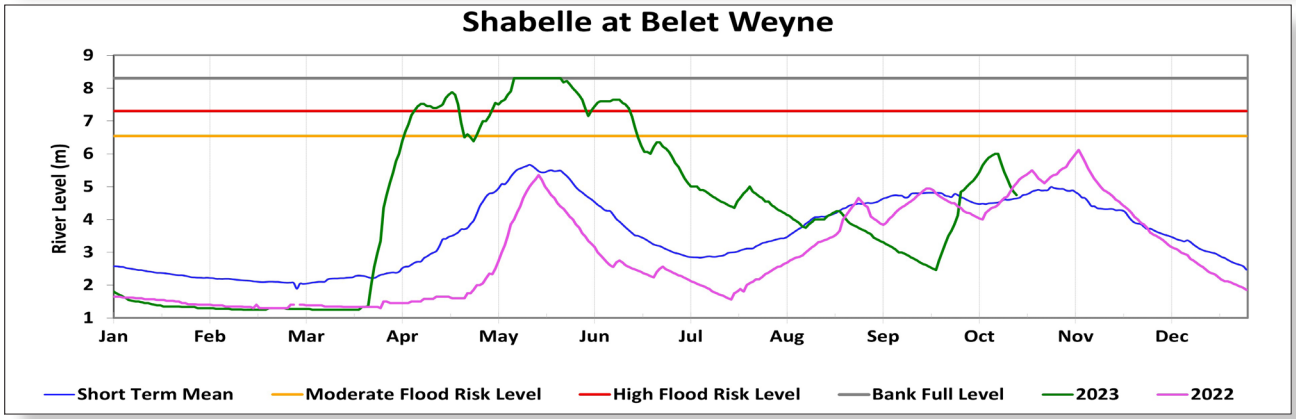


Figure 1: Shabelle river level at Belet Weyne gauging station as on 18th Oct 2023

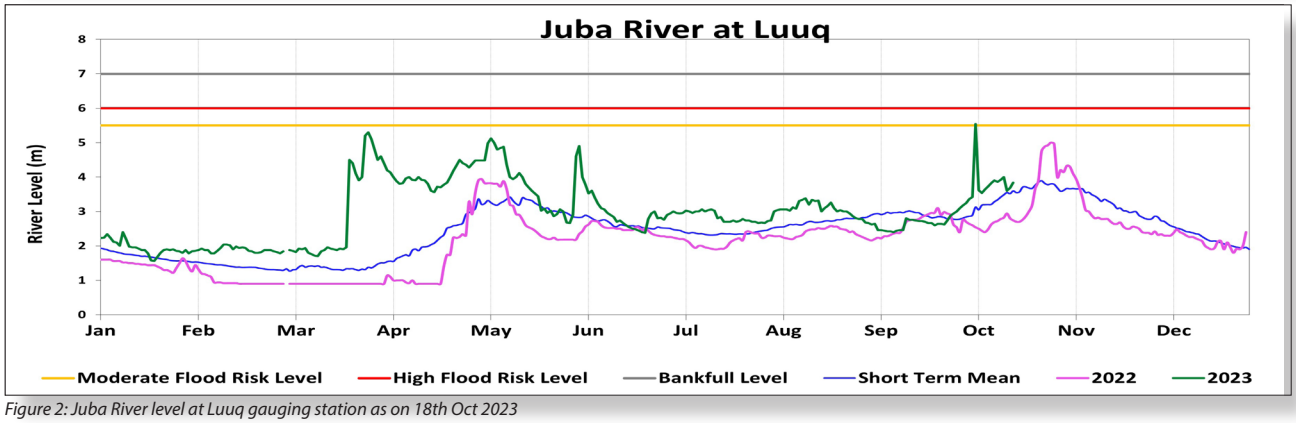


Figure 2: Juba River level at Luuq gauging station as on 18th Oct 2023

Impacts Associated with the Weekly Weather Forecast

The moderate to heavy rains predicted over the Ethiopian highlands and over the river catchment areas within the country are likely to result in accelerated runoff into the river streams. Given the already saturated soils, it is projected that the runoff will lead to a rise in water levels along the Juba and Shabelle rivers posing risk of moderate flooding during the forecast period. Considering the forecast isolated heavy storms over Ceel waaq in Gedo, Tayeeglow in Bakool, western parts of Bulo Burti in Hiraan and western parts of Ceel dheer in Galgaduud against the established warning indicators, there is also a potential risk of flash flooding in susceptible built-up areas. Residents living within these vulnerable areas are strongly advised to remain vigilant and take necessary precautions. It is imperative to proactively implement both riverine and flash flood anticipatory measures, especially in vulnerable areas, as an integral component of the early warning system.

The anticipated moderate to heavy rainfall expected over the agropastoral livelihood zones over central and southwestern areas of the country, specifically in Gedo, Bakool, Hiraan and Nugaal will be favorable for crop as well as fodder growth. The elevated temperatures, over Lower Juba and the Lower Shabelle regions, could result in significant evapotranspiration. However, the wet soil conditions associated with the seasonal rainfall projection will still favor crop, pasture and fodder production.

Tropical Cyclone Watch

There is a recent confirmation of the continued warming of the tropical Pacific Ocean and that the energy built up is still expected to favor enhanced rainfall but could also fuel cyclonic systems like has been observed over the northern Indian Ocean. Such cyclones are always associated with devastating storms over prone areas away from the equator e.g., Cape Guardafui in the northeastern part of the country (Puntland). SWALIM is keenly monitoring the evolution of the conditions that favor its development.

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