

## SOMALIA WEEKLY WEATHER FORECAST

Valid From 26th April to 3rd May 2023

**Moderate to heavy rainfall is expected over several areas in southern, central and northwestern parts of Somalia with dry conditions only in the northeastern coastal areas**

### Weather Review for 19th to 24th April 2023

Over the last week, light to moderate rains were recorded over several parts of the country with twenty three (23) stations recording at least 1 mm of rainfall (*Graph 1*). The stations that received at least 50 mm of cumulative rainfall were Bardheere (128 mm) in Gedo region and Las Dawaco (74 mm) in Bari region. The stations that received intense rains of more than 20 mm per day include Dollow (42.2 mm/day) and Luuq (28 mm/day) in Gedo region, Amoud (25 mm/day) and Borama (22 mm/day) in Awdal region and Geedeble (24 mm/day) in Woqooyi Galbeed region. The best temporal distribution of moderate rains during the past one week were received at Las Dawaco (74 mm in 3 days) in Bari region and Qulujeed (41 mm in 3 days) in Awdal region.

The heavy rains experienced in Bardheere resulted to flash floods that led to loss of two lives, and damage to property. Dhobley, in Afmadow district 900 households and IDP's were also affected by flash floods on Sunday 23rd April.

### Weather Forecast for 26th April to 3rd May 2023

According to the weekly forecast, several areas in southern, central and northwestern parts of Somalia are expected to observe heavy (above 100 mm) to very heavy (above 150 mm) cumulative rainfall during the forecast period (*Map 1*). The spatial variation of the cumulative rainfall amounts is as follows:

**Very heavy rainfall** of more than 150 mm is expected over several areas in the central part of Lower Shabelle region including Kurtunwaarey, Qoryooley and Afgooye districts. Similarly heavy rainfall is likely over several areas in the southern parts of Gebiley and Hargeisa districts in Woqooyi Galbeed. Very heavy rainfall is also expected over isolated areas in northeastern parts of Ceel Barde district in Bakool region, southern parts of Bulo Burti district in Hiraaan region, southern border between Ceel Afweyn and Ceerigabo districts in Sanaag region, Sheikh district in Togdheer region, and Baki district in Awdal region. The rains over the border between Gebiley and Hargeisa may actually exceed 200 mm.

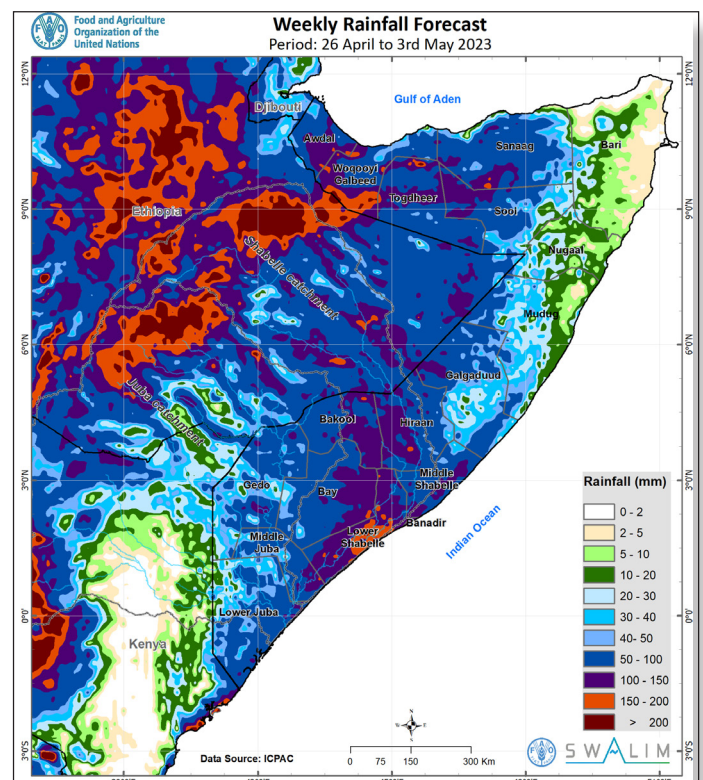
**Heavy rainfall** of between 100 mm and 150 mm is expected in several areas of central Somalia including the entire Lower Shabelle region, northeastern parts of Baardheere district and isolated areas in Dollow and Luuq districts in Gedo region, Buur Hakaba district in Bay region, Hudur and Tayeeglow districts in Bakool region, eastern parts of Jilib district in Middle Juba region, western parts of all Belet Weyne, Bulo Burti and Jalalaqsi districts in Hiraaan region, and southern parts of Cabudwaaq and Dhuusamarreeb districts in Galgaduud region. Similarly heavy rainfall is likely over southern parts of Ceerigaabo district and southern and western parts of Ceel Afweyn district in Sanaag region, entire Caynabo district in Sool region, central parts of both Owdweyne and Burco district in Togdheer region, southern parts of Gebiley and Hargeisa districts in Woqooyi Galbeed, Baki, Borama and Lughaye districts in Awdal region.

**Moderate rainfall** of between 50 mm and 100 mm is expected over several areas in Awdal region, Woqooyi Galbeed region, Togdheer region, western and central parts of Sanaag and Sool regions. Rainfall of equal amount is likely over Badhaadhe, Kismaayo and Jamaame districts and eastern parts of Afmadow district in Lower Juba region, Saakow district, western parts of Jilib district and eastern parts of Bu'ale district in Middle Juba region, Dollow and Luuq districts and northeastern parts of Baardheere district in Gedo region, Diinsoor, Qansax Dheere and Baydhaba districts in Bay region, Middle Shabelle region. Comparable rainfall is expected over Waajid and Rab Dhuure districts and western parts of Ceel Barde district in Bakool region, eastern parts of all Belet Weyne, Bulo Burti and Jalalaqsi districts in Hiraaan region, Cabudwaaq and Cadaado districts, western parts of Dhuusamarreeb district and southern parts of Ceel Dheer district in Galgaduud region and Galdogob district in mudug region.

**Light rains** of less than 50 mm are expected over several areas in Mudug and Nugaal region, western parts of Bari region and eastern parts of both Sanaag and Sool regions.

**Dry conditions** are expected in northern and eastern parts of Bari region including the coastal areas in Bandarbeyla, Iskushuban, Caluula, Qandala and Bossaso districts.

High temperatures of between 28°C and 32°C are expected in southern and central parts of the country, and moderate temperatures of between 24°C and 28°C in the northern parts.



Map 1: Cumulative rainfall forecast over Somalia between 26th April and 03rd May 2023

## Current River Levels

Except at Bulu Burti, the river levels along Shabelle River have generally dropped. At Belet Weyne the river level decreased from 7.8 m on 19th April to 6.95 m on 22nd April, 3.5 m below high risk flood level (7.3 m), and to 6.38 m as reported today (26th April) which is 12 cm below moderate flood risk level. Although generally stable and below the moderate flood risk level (5.0 m), the river level at Jowhar has decreased from 4.1 m on 19th April to 3.9 m as observed today (26th April). At Bulu Burti, the river levels have steadily risen, crossing the moderate flood risk level (6.5 m) on 20th April, to 6.55 m as reported today (26th April).

The rains observed in the last week led to a general rise in the levels along Juba River. Compared to observations made on 19th April, today's (26th April) river levels rose from 3.86 m to 4.22 m at Dollow, from 3.7 m to 4.36 m at Luuq, from 5.96 m to 9 m at Bardheere and from 4.1 m to 7.20 m at Bualle. Except at Bardheere, the fluctuations in these Juba river levels during the past week were below moderate flood risk thresholds. Bardheere, the river level rose sharply from 5.86 m on 22nd April to 9 m on 23rd April crossing both moderate (7.4 m) and high (8.2 m) risk levels following heavy rains (106 mm) received.

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

There is a risk of moderate floods along Shabelle River at Belet Weyne and Bulu Burti. The 9 m level along Juba River at Bardheere poses a high risk of flooding in the town and its surroundings. The very heavy rainfall (more than 150 mm) forecast over several areas in southern and central parts of Somalia and over the catchments of both Shabelle and Juba Rivers in Ethiopian Highlands (Map 1), will lead to a further rise in the levels and flooding along their entire reaches.

The population living in the flood prone and low lying areas along the entire reaches of both rivers should take precaution.

The expected heavy rainfall will lead to substantial recharge of surface water sources and sustenance of the regenerated vegetation which is important for human and livestock survival. Even with the forecast high temperatures (28°C to 32°C), the forecast heavy rains, together with the previous rains, are likely to exceed the evaporation thereby sustaining the soil water and supporting vegetation regeneration. These conditions are therefore favorable for planting in the central and northwestern parts of the country and late planting in the southern parts. However, the heavy rainfall may lead to disturbance of the topsoil thereby reducing its productivity.

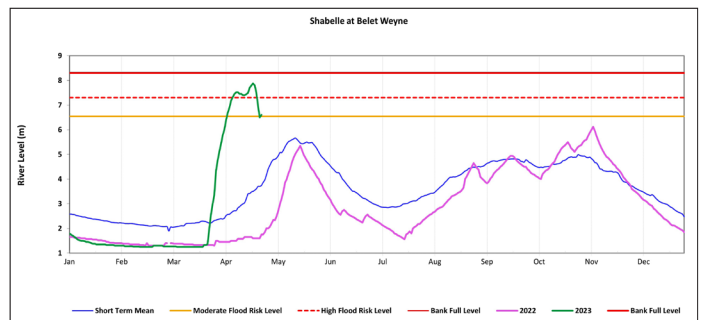


Figure 1: Shabelle river level at Belet Weyne gauging station

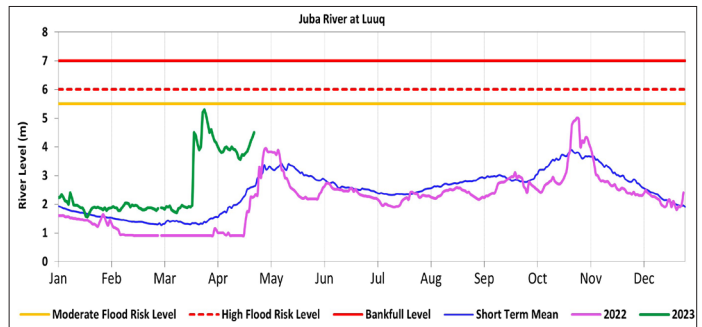
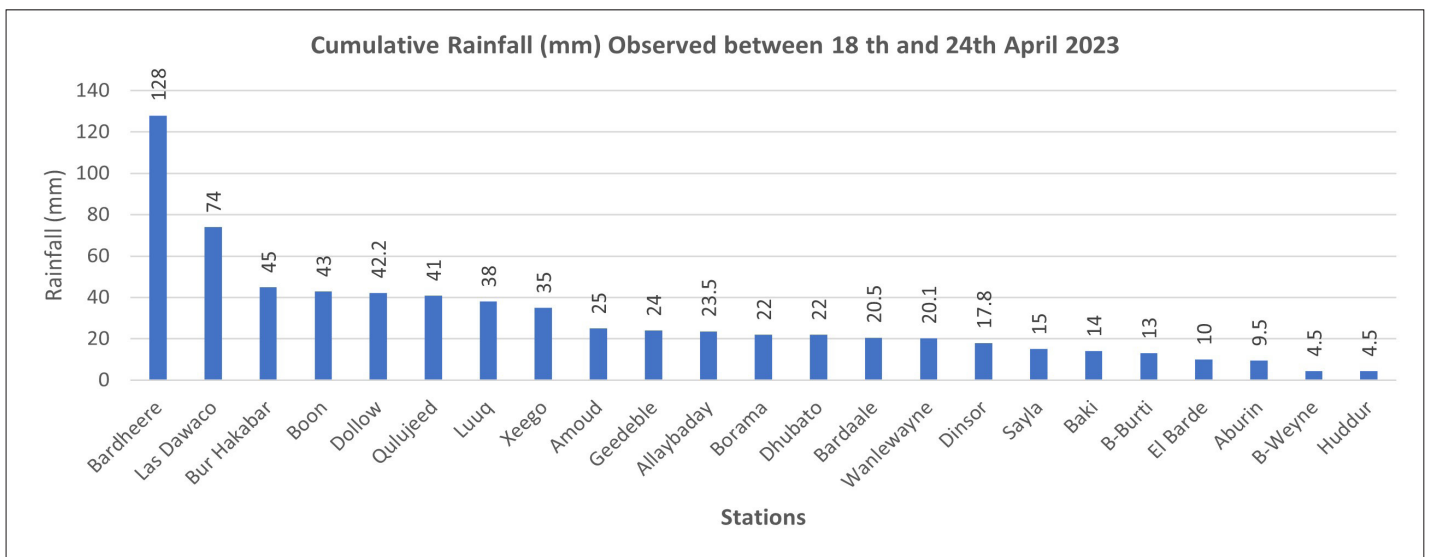


Figure 2: Juba river level at Luuq gauging station



Graph 1: Cumulative rainfall (mm) observed over different stations between 18th and 24th April 2023 across Somalia

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