

## SOMALIA WEEKLY WEATHER FORECAST

Valid From 28th March to 04th April 2023

### Light rainfall is expected over several areas in Somalia with isolated heavy rainfall in the northwestern areas and dry conditions in the central regions

#### Weather Review for 21st to 27th March 2023

The rains received during the fourth week of March marked an early transition into the Gu (April-May-June) long rain season in Somalia. Several parts of the country received moderate to heavy rains over the last week with thirty two (32) stations receiving at least 1 mm (Figure 1). The stations that received at least 50 mm of cumulative rainfall in the last seven days include: Xasbahale (50 mm) in Nugaal region, Beer (50 mm) and Balidhig (68 mm) in Togdheer region, LasÁnod (69 mm) and Caynabo (108 mm) in Sool region, Gumburaha (113 mm) in Awdal region and Bardheere (193 mm) in Gedo region. It is worth noting that the rainfall at Beer (50 mm) and Balidhig (68 mm) was received on a single day. More intense rainfall (92 mm) observed over 24-hours led to heightened river levels on 24th March at Bardheere river gauging station (9.00 m). The subsequent floods caused loss of 20 lives, significant destruction of property, road infrastructure and farmlands in Bardheere town and surrounding areas.

#### Weather Forecast for 28th March to 4th April 2023

Most parts of the country are expected to receive less than 50 mm of cumulative rainfall during the forecast period (Map 1). The spread of the cumulative rainfall amounts are as follows:

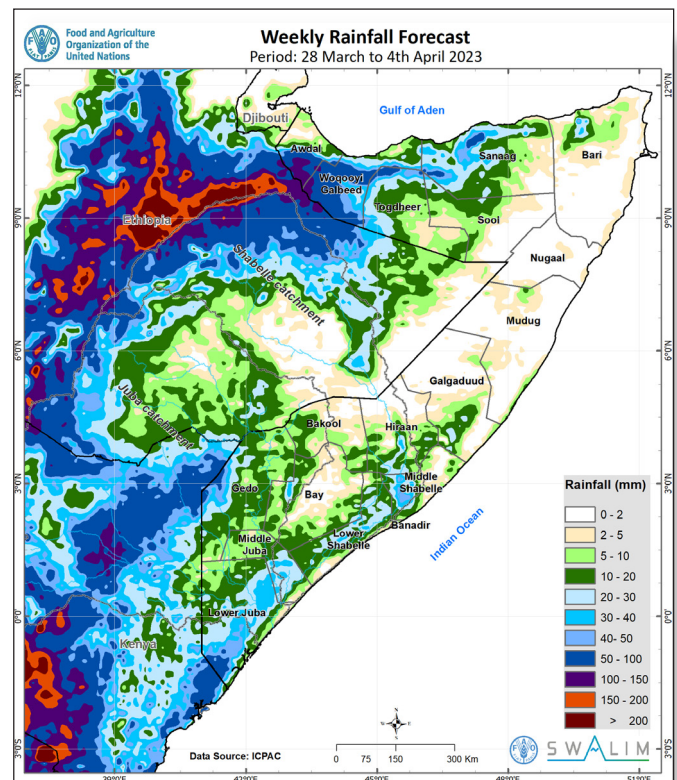
**Light rains** of less than 50 mm are expected over several parts of Lower and Middle Juba, Gedo, Bay, Bakool, Lower and Middle Shabele, Sanaag, and Togdheer regions, southern and central parts of Hiraan region, central areas of Galgaduud region, and isolated areas in northern Bari region, central and western parts of Sool region.

**Moderate rains** of between 50 mm and 100 mm is predicted over isolated areas in the north-western parts of the country. Such rains are expected in the southern parts of Awdal, central and southern parts of Woqooyi Galbeed, localized areas in western and northern parts of Sanaag region, western parts of Gedo region and southwestern parts of Lower Juba region.

**Heavy rains** of between 100 mm and 150 mm are likely over isolated pockets in Baki and Borama districts in Awdal region, and southern parts of Gebiley in Woqooyi Galbeed region.

**Dry conditions** are expected in central parts of the country including most areas in Nugaal and Mudug regions, northern areas of Hiraan and Galgaduud regions, southern areas of Bari region and eastern areas of Sool region.

Moderate temperatures of between 20 °C and 32 °C are expected over most parts of Somalia. However, cold conditions with temperatures less than 20 °C are expected over isolated areas in northern parts of the country particularly the parts of Awdal, Woqooyi Galbeed, Togdheer, Sanaag and Bari regions.



Map 1: Cumulative rainfall forecast over Somalia between 28th March and 04th April 2023

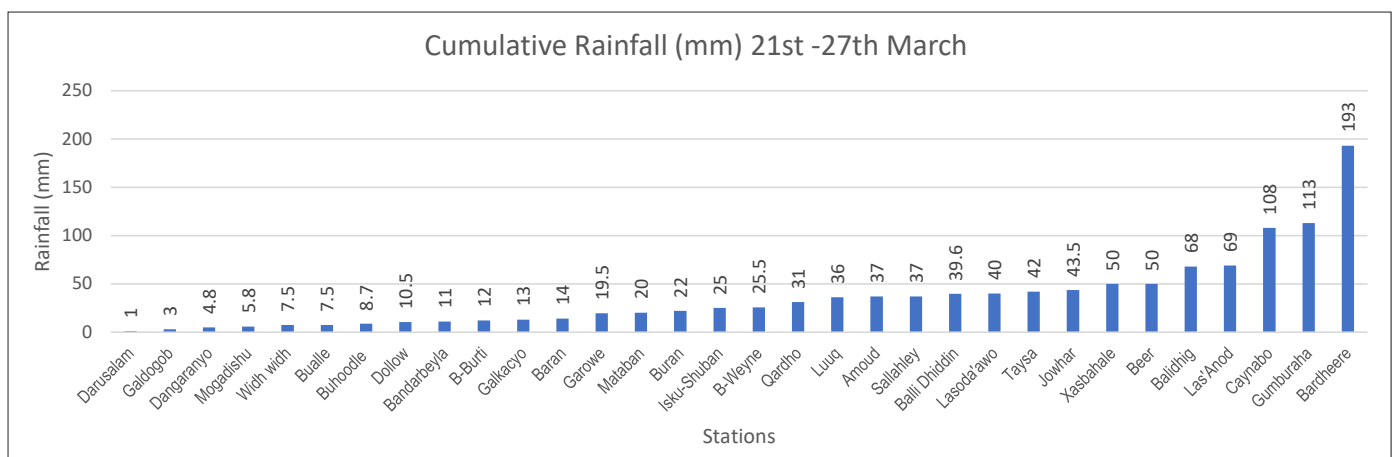


Figure 1: Cumulative rainfall (mm) observed at different stations between 21st and 27th March 2023 across Somalia

## Current River Levels

The levels in the upper reaches of Juba River rose steadily between 23rd and 25th March before subsiding slightly over the last three days. In the middle and lower reaches the levels continue to rise as the flood wave is transmitted downstream. As of 28th March 2023 the readings are; Dollow (4.28 m), Luuq (4.80 m) Bardheere (8.60 m) and Bualle (7.20 m). At Bardheere, the river level is still above the high flood risk threshold. Along Shabelle River, the levels have been on a steady rise over the last three days. At Belet Weyne today's reading is 4.35 m, Bulo Burti 2.65 m and Jowhar 2.1 m, all below the moderate flood risk levels for the respective stations. Figures 2 and 3 show the current river levels against the Short Term Mean and 2022 levels for Luuq and Belet Weyne stations respectively.

Although the river levels along Shabelle are still below the flood risk levels reports from Ethiopia indicate that a huge flood wave is approaching, and may reach Belet Weyne in the next 2 - 3 days, posing a high risk of flooding in the town and its surrounding. Population living at the flood prone areas of Belet Weyne and downstream reaches should take precaution

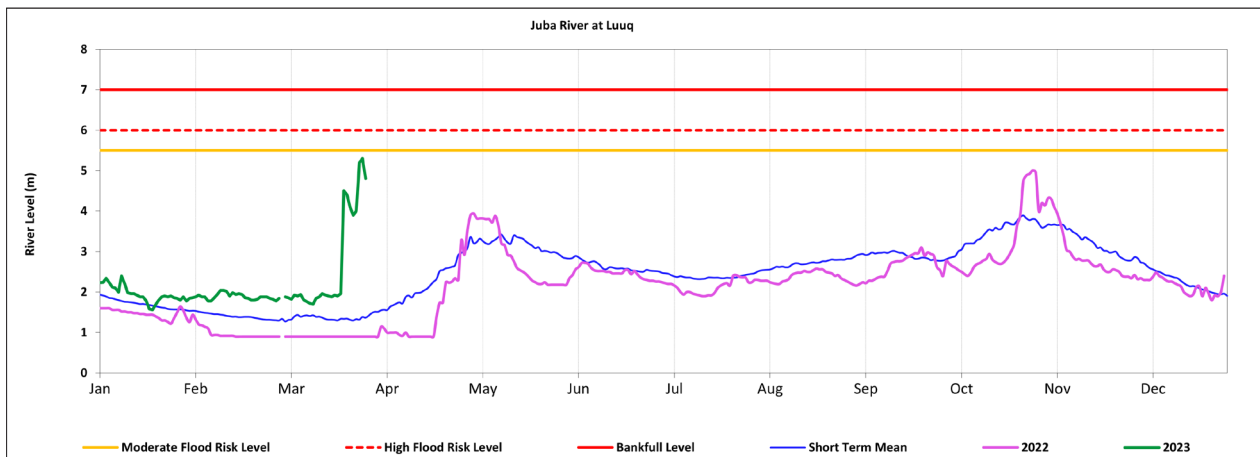
## Impacts Associated with the Weekly Weather Forecast

Even though light to moderate rains are expected over Somalia, the heavy rains predicted (*Map 1*) over Ethiopian highlands (more than 200 mm) will sustain the rising river levels in both

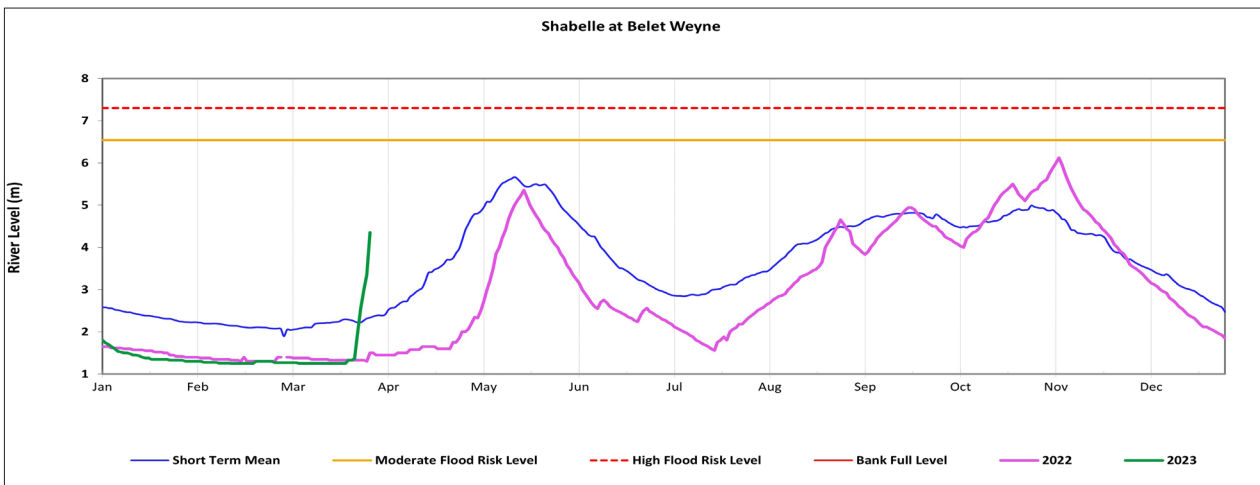
Juba and Shabelle. The risk of flooding remains high along the entire reach of Juba River. Along Shabelle river the huge flood wave reported to be approaching the Somalia border from Ethiopia is expected to reach Belet Weyne in the next 2 – 3 days. Considering the currently rising river levels, this wave poses a high risk of flooding in the town and its surrounding. Today's level is only 2 m below the moderate flood risk level. The population living at the low-lying areas of Belet Weyne and downstream reaches should take precaution.

Based on climatology, these rains represent a wetter than usual conditions. The observed and forecast wet conditions together with the cold conditions (temperatures less than 20°C) expected over isolated areas in northern parts of the country particularly the southern parts of Awdal and Woqooyi Galbeed, northwestern Togdheer, central areas in the northern Sanaag and Bari are likely to lead to partial recharge of surface water sources and vegetation regeneration which is important for human and livestock survival.

However, high temperatures (about 32°C) that are forecast to succeed the wet conditions may lead to rapid evaporation thereby leaving no soil water to support vegetation regeneration. These negative impacts will be more severe over the central parts of the country and particularly over the northwestern parts of Mudug region, and the northern areas of both Hiraan and Galgaduud regions where hot and dry conditions are predicted.



Graph 1: Juba river level at Luuq gauging station



Graph 2: Shabelle river level at Belet Weyne gauging station

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