

FLOOD WARNING LEVEL

River Basin/Region	This Week (18 – 24 May)	Following Week (25 – 31 May)	River Basin/Region	This Week (18 – 24 May)	Following Week (25 – 31 May)
Shabelle	Severe Flood Risk	Moderate Flood Risk	Central regions	No Flood Risk	No Flood Risk
Juba	Severe Flood Risk	Moderate Flood Risk	Puntland	No Flood Risk	No Flood Risk
Bay and Bakool	No Flood Risk	No Flood Risk	Somaliland	No Flood Risk	No Flood Risk

The *Gu* (April-June) season to date has seen significant rainfall across Somalia with many areas recording more than twice their average rainfall over the period. The rains which intensified since mid-April have been well distributed in terms of space and time. The heavy rains have left many areas water logged for weeks. In particular, the Juba and Shabelle basins have had excessive flows that will keep flood risks high during this week and at moderate risk in the coming week. On the down side still, the wet conditions and ample vegetation have created favorable conditions for the spread of desert locust infestation across Somalia. On the up side of the rains, there has been tremendous improvement of vegetation conditions and overall water availability throughout Somalia.

In most parts of Somalia, *Gu* season rainfall usually start to decline starting in mid to late May. The rainfall forecast for the week ending on 24 May 2020 shows a significant reduction of rains across Somalia, with rainfall of up to 50 mm cumulatively confined mostly to coastal parts of Lower Juba and Lower Shabelle regions. The Juba and Shabelle rivers' high to moderate flood risk is likely to persist during this week due to continuing high flows from the upper catchments.

Shabelle River: There was a reduction of rainfall amounts in the basin during the last week. River levels at Belet Weyne have remained at bank-full since 12 May 2020 to date, leading to extensive flooding of the flood plain riverine areas. More than 230 km² have been flooded including 11 km² of urban land and 225 km² of agricultural land. The levels are expected to start going down at Belet Weyne in the next 2 – 3 days. The river level at Jowhar decreased slightly and is at 5.20 m today. River levels are expected to remain high in the lower reaches of the river as the lagged flood flows stream in from upstream reaches and rivers flow bank full through to Qoryoley. **High risk** of flooding is foreseen along the Shabelle during this week; and **Moderate Risk** the following week. Existence of river breakages (50 points identified and reported by SWALIM in February 2020) along the Shabelle will exacerbate the flooding unless emergency repair measures are taken.

Juba River: River levels increased significantly beginning of last week at Dollow, Luuq and Bardheere gauging stations, all within Gedo region. Flooding that was reported has reduced although some farm lands are still under water in Dollow and Luuq districts. The river level at Bardheere has remained at 9.00m for the last seven days, but is expected to start going down in the next 2-3 days. Using VHR satellite imagery, SWALIM identified more than 10 km² of flood-affected areas in Gedo region and approximately 140 km² of inundated land in Middle and Lower Juba regions. Currently, affected areas include Dollow, Luuq, Saakow, Buaale, Jilib and Jamame districts. Given the current high levels in Bardheere, a **High risk** of flooding along the entire Juba river channel remains in place this week; with a reduction to **Moderate Risk** the following week.

In Bay and Bakool regions: Little to no rains were recorded during the week. The forecast for this week indicates reduced rainfall prospects in these regions with no flood risk anticipated.

Somaliland, Puntland, and Central regions: No rains were reported in the northern regions during the last week. This week will see a reduction of rainfall amounts in both northern and central regions with no risk of flash floods expected.

RAINFALL FORECAST

Forecasts for the week ending on 24 May shows a general reduction of rainfall across Somalia with rainfall of 50 confined mostly to the coastal parts of southern Somalia. Reduction in rainfall is also expected in the adjacent eastern Ethiopian highlands over the same forecast period.

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FLOODS AND RAINS UPDATE

 Hotspots	Week in review (11 - 17 May 2020)	Week ahead (18 - 24 May 2020)	
Juba			
Upper <i>(From Dollow to Bardheere)</i>	No rains recorded. River level fluctuated Flooding reported in Dollow and Luuq	 	No rains foreseen A decrease in river levels Reduction in river flooding in Dollow, Luuq and Bardheere
Mid and Lower <i>(from Saakow to Kismayo)</i>	Light to moderate rains in lower Juba. River level very high Flooding in Buaale and downstream reaches	 	Moderate rainfall forecast in Lower Juba during the coming week River flooding in Bualle and downstream is likely to continue given high river levels
Shabelle			
Upper <i>(from Belad Weyne to Jalaasi)</i>	No rains recorded River level remained at Bank full in Belet Weyne Flooding continued in Belet Weyne	 	No rains foreseen in the coming week Sustained high river levels, Severe flooding in Belet Weyne to be sustained
Mid and Lower <i>(from Jowhar to Sabale)</i>	No rains recorded High river levels sustained Flooding reported in Jowhar and lower Shabelle riverine areas	 	Light to Moderate rains forecast in the coming week in Lower Shabelle. Flooding expected due to the increased river levels and existing river breakages
Bay & Bakool			
Bay	No rains recorded No Flash floods reported	 	No rains foreseen No flash floods foreseen
Bakool	No rains recorded No Flash floods reported	 	No rains foreseen No flash floods foreseen

 Deterioration,  improvement, or  no change anticipated in flood conditions.

 Heavy,  moderate,  low, or  no rainfall.

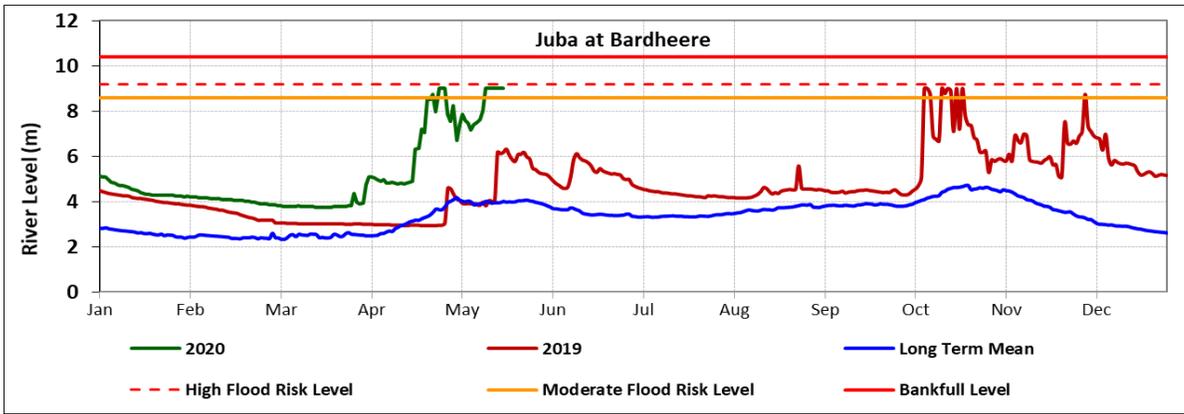
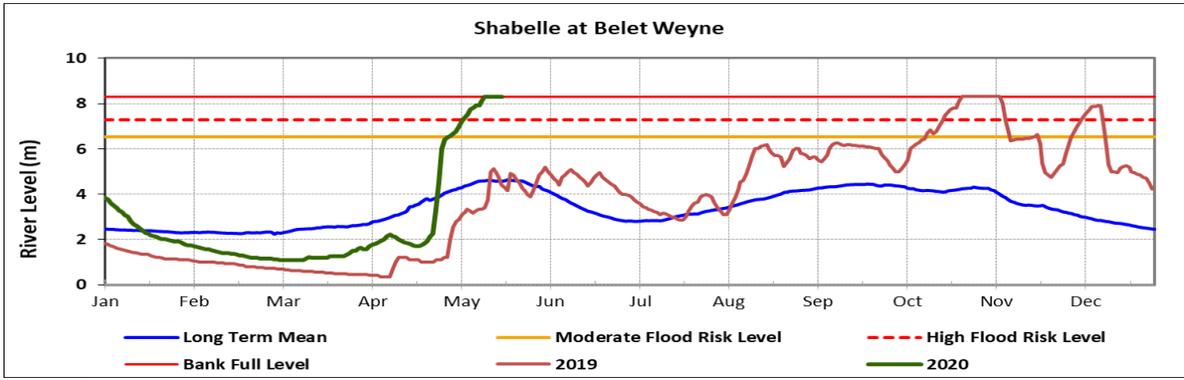
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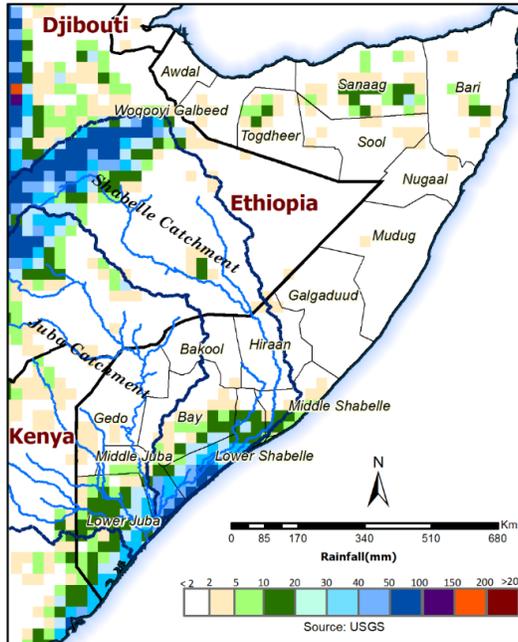
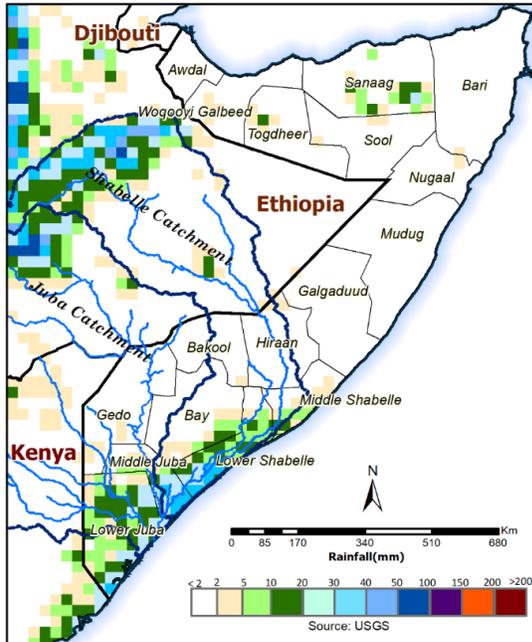
CURRENT RIVER LEVELS



RAINFALL FORECAST

Map 1: 3 day cumulated rainfall forecast (18 – 20 May 2020)

Map 2: 7 day cumulated rainfall forecast (18– 24 May 2020) 2019)



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