Shabelle Riverine Flood Advisory

PSA No. 1

Date Issued: 17 Sep 2025

Validity Period: 16 – 22 September 2025

Location: Jowhar and surrounding areas, Middle Shabelle Region

(Message begins)

Current Situation: The Shabelle River at Jowhar has risen sharply, reaching **5.40 m, only 10 cm below the bank-full level of 5.50 m.** This occurred despite dry conditions over the entire Somali and Ethiopian catchment. No natural overbank flow has been recorded yet, and upstream stations at Belet Weyne and Bulo Burte remain below flood-risk levels. The cause of this isolated sharp rise is still under investigation

Forecast Situation: Dry weather is expected across the Shabelle catchment through 22 September, but the riverine flood risk remains very high at Jowhar and downstream, especially at known breakage and overflow points

Possible Impacts

- Sudden riverbank failures or human-made breaches could trigger **localised riverine flooding,** damaging crops, homes, and infrastructure

- Water contamination and disruption of shallow wells and latrines may cause health risks

- Access to some villages may be cut off if unexpected overflow occurs

Recommended Actions

Community and local authorities:

- Urgently identify, reinforce, and seal any weak points or breaches using sandbags or soil bunds

- Avoid cutting or diverting riverbanks for irrigation, which can accelerate flooding

- Prepare evacuation routes and safeguard essential items, livestock, and documents

Stay informed:

- Monitor FAO-SWALIM, SoDMA, and Hirshabelle State MOHADM bulletins.

- Tune to local radio, television, and SMS alerts for real-time updates

This advisory is issued by FAO-SWALIM in collaboration with Somali Disaster Management Agency (SoDMA) and Hirshabelle State Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management

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