

SHABELLE RIVER – CLIMATE UPDATE AND RIVERINE FLOOD RISK ADVISORY (DIGNIIN)

Deyr 2026 Flood Advisory No. 2 | Date: 13 October 2026 | Location: Hiraan and Middle Shabelle – Belet Weyne, Bullo Burti, Jalalaqsi, Jowhar, Balcad and surrounding areas

(Message begins)

Observed Rainfall

Heavy rains have fallen over central Somalia and the lower part of the Shabelle catchment in Ethiopia since the start of October. Satellite estimates for 1–11 October show above 100 mm over Hiraan, Galgaduud and the Gode–Kelafo area of Ethiopia, more than two times the normal amount for this time of year. The Ethiopian highlands, where the Shabelle starts, received less, about 25–75 mm.

River levels

At **Jowhar**, the level rose by a further 0.20 m overnight to **5.37 m today**, almost 1 m in 48 hours (4.38 m on 11 October). It is now **12 cm above the high flood risk level (5.25 m) and only 13 cm below bankfull (5.50 m)**. Levels are rising along the whole river: Belet Weyne rose by 0.38 m to 3.98 m and Bullo Burti by 0.38 m to 3.90 m, both still about 2.5 m below their moderate flood risk level (6.50 m). Upstream at Deefow, near the Ethiopian border, the level rose by a further 0.45 m to 2.87 m, confirming that more water is coming from Ethiopia.

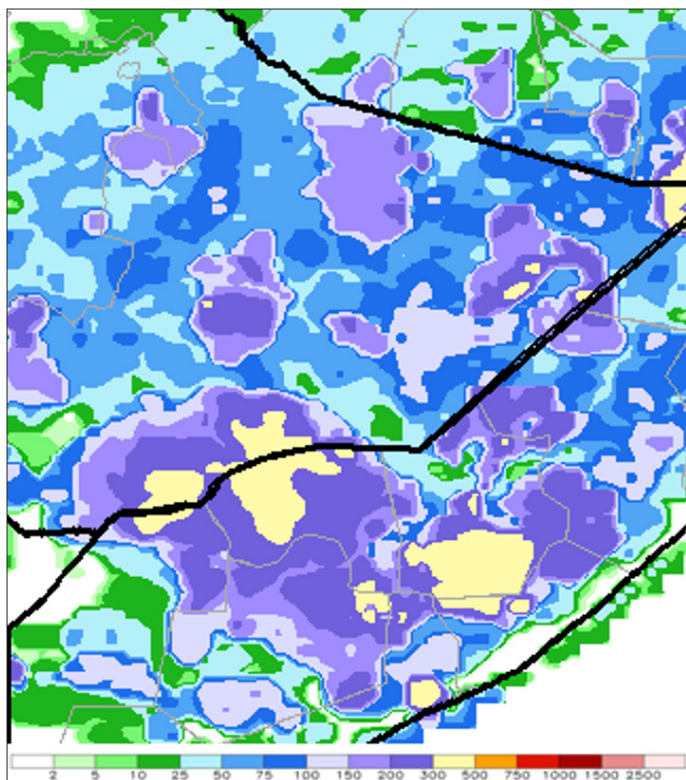
Station	12 Oct (m)	24-h change	Since 5 Oct	Moderate (m)	High (m)	Bankfull (m)	Status today
Deefow (early warning)	2.87	+0.45	+0.30	–	–	–	Rising (watch)
Belet Weyne	3.98	+0.38	+0.18	6.50	7.30	8.30	2.52 m below moderate
Bullo Burti	3.90	+0.38	+0.75	6.50	7.20	8.00	2.60 m below moderate
Jowhar	5.37	+0.20	+0.87	5.00	5.25	5.50	HIGH (13 cm to bankfull)

Rainfall forecast for the coming week (13–19 October) and outlook

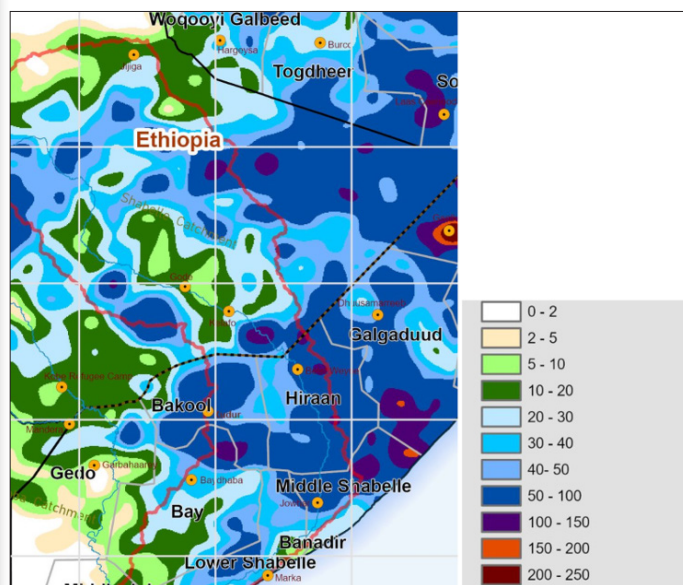
Moderate rains are forecast: 50–100 mm over most of Hiraan and Middle Shabelle (Belet Weyne, Bullo Burti, Jalalaqsi and Jowhar), with isolated falls of 100–150 mm. Over the Shabelle catchment in Ethiopia, rains will be lighter (mostly 10–50 mm), with only isolated areas getting 100 mm or more. Today, mostly light rain is expected along the river, with up to 50 mm just north of Belet Weyne and heavy rain (50–200 mm) along the Lower Shabelle coast.

With the river already above the high flood risk level at Jowhar, more water arriving from Belet Weyne and Bullo Burti and 50–100 mm of local rain forecast this week, the level at Jowhar is **likely to reach bankfull (5.50 m) in the coming days**. Flooding through the open river breakages between Jowhar and Balcad is likely to continue and spread into nearby farms and villages. Levels at Belet Weyne and Bullo Burti will keep rising but are expected to stay below the moderate flood risk level this week.

- There is therefore a **HIGH RISK OF FLOODING at Jowhar, with the level likely to reach BANKFULL in the coming days, and ONGOING FLOODING FROM RIVER BREAKAGES between Jowhar and Balcad**, Levels at Belet Weyne and Bullo Burti are rising but remain at low risk this week.
- **The Government of Somalia, through the Somali Disaster Management Agency (SoDMA), has officially activated the readiness phase for both riverine and flash floods, effective immediately, across all locations covered by the agreed Anticipatory Action (AA) arrangements.**
- **Flood contingency and evacuation plans should be activated at Jowhar and Balcad and placed on standby at Belet Weyne, Bullo Burti and Jalalaqsi.**



Observed rainfall 1–11 Oct 2026 (mm, satellite ARC2)



Forecast rainfall 13–19 Oct 2026 (mm, GFS)

TAKING EARLY ACTION SAVES LIVES

- **Jowhar and Balcad:** close open river breakages and reinforce weak riverbanks now, using sandbags where available. Check canal intakes and gates.
- **JOSP works:** teams and communities working on the Jowhar Offstream Storage Project should move equipment and materials away from the river and avoid working on exposed embankments while levels are high.
- **Riverine villages around Jowhar and Balcad:** move livestock, food stocks and valuables to higher ground now, agree evacuation routes and keep children away from the river.
- **Belet Weyne, Bulo Burti and Jalalaqsi:** follow river level updates and prepare for evacuation if levels rise quickly. Do not cross flowing seasonal streams (togga). Treat or boil drinking water and stay informed through radio, television and SMS.

This advisory is issued by FAO SWALIM in collaboration with the Federal Government of Somalia through SODMA

Next update: Weekly bulletin tomorrow, Wednesday, 14 October 2026

(Message ends)

SWALIM is a multi-donor project managed by FAO and currently funded by The European Union, UKaid, SDC, AICS GCF, World Bank and Government of Canada and Government of Sweden

