Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

SWALIM
Somali Water and Land Information Management

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

Deyr 2026 Flood Advisory No. 4 | Date: 26 October 2026 | Location: Hiraan and Middle Shabelle – Belet Weyne, Bulo Burti, Jalalaqsi, Jowhar, Balcad and surrounding areas

(Message Begins)

Observed Rainfall

Rain returned to the Shabelle catchment from 23 October. Satellite estimates show about 19 mm on average over the catchment above Belet Weyne during 19–26 October, nearly all of it in the past three days. Since the start of the month (1–24 October), 200–500 mm has fallen over Hiraan, Galgaduud and the Gode–Kelafo area, more than six times normal in places.

River Levels

Belet Weyne reached the moderate flood risk level (6.50 m) this morning at 6.56 m, after rising every day for a week. Deefow, near the Ethiopian border, is still rising (6.90 m, about 4 m since 13 October). Bulo Burti is rising slowly (5.36 m), and Jowhar, below moderate flood risk level since 20 October, is steady at 4.28 m. Satellite radar (Copernicus, images to 24 October) shows possible flooding over about 55 km² in Jowhar district, consistent with open river breakages.

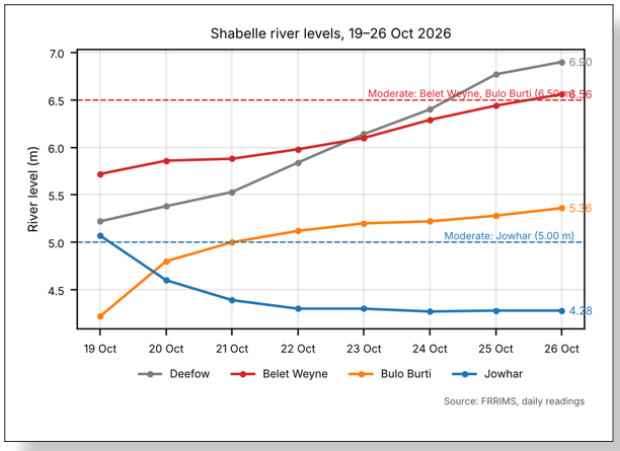
Station	26 Oct (m)	24-h change	Since 19 Oct	Moderate (m)	High (m)	Bankfull (m)	Status Today
Deefow (early warning)	6.90	+0.13	+1.68	–	–	–	Rising (watch)
Belet Weyne	6.56	+0.38	+0.84	6.50	7.30	8.30	**MODERATE (rising)**
Bulo Burti	5.36	+0.38	+1.14	6.50	7.20	8.00	**1.14 m below moderate (rising)**
Jowhar	4.28	+0.00	-0.79	5.00	5.25	5.50	**0.72 m below moderate (steady)**

Rainfall Forecast for the coming week (26 October – 1 November) and Riverine Flood Outlook

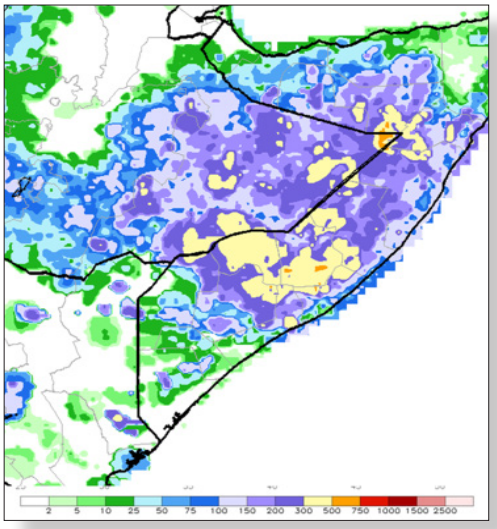
Light rains are forecast over most of the Shabelle catchment in Ethiopia (10–30 mm), with isolated moderate rainfall in the north, and less than 10 mm around Gode and Kelafo. Within Somalia, upto 20 mm is expected over Hiraan (Belet Weyne, Bulo Burti and Jalalaqsi) and less than 10 mm over Middle Shabelle (Jowhar and Balcad). The 10-day outlook to 4 November is wetter over Middle Shabelle, with 30–50 mm around Jowhar and 20–40 mm around Balcad.

With water still arriving from upstream, the level at Belet Weyne is expected to stay at the moderate flood risk level and rise further over the next few days. Lighter rain upstream should slow the rise later in the week, but the high level (7.30 m) could be approached if the daily rise continues. The rise will pass to Bulo Burti over the coming days and reach Jowhar later, bringing a risk of renewed flooding through open river breakages between Jowhar and Balcad.

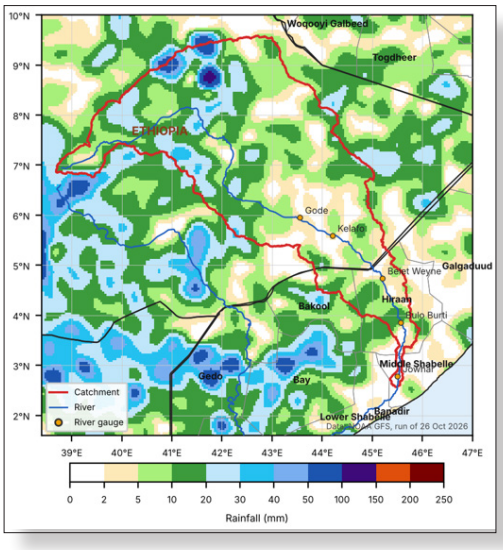
- There is therefore a **MODERATE AND RISING RISK OF FLOODING** at Belet Weyne this week, a **LOW BUT RISING RISK** at Bulo Burti and Jalalaqsi, and a RISK OF RENEWED FLOODING later at Jowhar and Balcad as the high flows move downstream. Flood contingency plans should be kept on standby along the Shabelle River at Belet Weyne, Bulo Burti, Jalalaqsi, Jowhar and Balcad



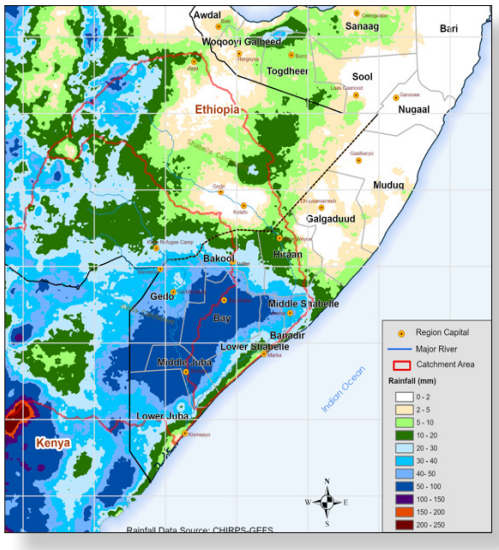
River levels, 19–26 Oct (m, FRRIMS)



Observed rainfall 1–24 Oct (mm, ARC2)



Forecast 26 Oct – 1 Nov (mm, GFS)



Forecast 25 Oct – 4 Nov (mm, CHIRPS-GEFS)

TAKING EARLY ACTION SAVES LIVES

- **Belet Weyne:** Riverside communities should keep livestock, food stocks, seed and farm equipment away from the riverbanks, and agree safe routes to high ground. Reinforce weak riverbanks with sandbags where available
- **JOSP Works:** Teams and communities working on the Jowhar Offstream Storage Project (JOSP) should keep equipment and materials away from the river and avoid working on exposed embankments as the high flows approach Jowhar
- **Bulo Burti, Jalalaqsi, Jowhar and Balcad:** Close open river breakages and check canal intakes and gates now, before the high flows arrive. Follow river level updates from SWALIM and SoDMA closely
- **Hiraan and Middle Shabelle:** Do not cross the river, flooded areas or togga. Treat or boil drinking water and follow radio and SMS updates

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

Next update: with the weekly bulletin on Wednesday, 28 October 2026, or a snap advisory if conditions change rapidly

(Message Ends)

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