

SOMALIA WEEKLY WEATHER FORECAST

Valid From 6th to 12th Dec 2023

Dry conditions are likely to prevail over several parts of the country.

Review of the Weather Conditions for the Period 29th November to 5th December 2023

Dry conditions were observed across the country in the past week, with only two stations recording light rainfall: Bualle 4 mm (1 day) and Jamame 9 mm (1 day)

Given these generally dry conditions over the catchments of Juba River, there has been a steady drop in the river levels to below flood risk levels at Dollow, Luuq and Bardheere and Bualle but with ongoing flooding downstream of Bualle. Due to the late onset and magnitude of the flood water from the Ethiopian Highlands, the Shabelle river remains bankful at its upper sections with receding floods at Belet Weyne and ongoing floods at Bulu Burti and Jalalaqsi. Jowhar river level is stable at moderate flood risk as a result of leakages from river breakages upstream, and sustained flooding of the floodplain as a consequence.

Current River Levels

Given the generally dry conditions over the catchments of both Juba and Shabelle River, there has been a general steady drop in the river levels. Compared to observations made along the Juba River last week on Wednesday 29th November 2023, water levels are now below flood risk levels having dropped from 4.20 m to 2.92 m at Dollow, from 5.16 m to 3.10 m at Luuq, and from bankful (12.00 m) to 7.26 m at Bualle. Similar water levels are likely over Bardheere where the bridge which anchored the river gauge was swept away during the height of the floods. The Shabelle river remains bankful at its upper sections in Belet Weyne (8.30 m) with receding floods at Bulu Burti (8.00 m) and Jalalaqsi, where there are ongoing floods. At Jowhar, the river level has generally remained stable in the past one week due to breakages reported upstream leading to loss of flood water between Jalalaqsi and Jowhar. Today's level (4.90 m) is only 10 cm below moderate flood risk.

Figures 1 and 2 show the current river levels against the Short Term Mean and 2022 levels for Belet Weyne and Luuq stations respectively.

Impacts Associated with the Weekly Weather Forecast

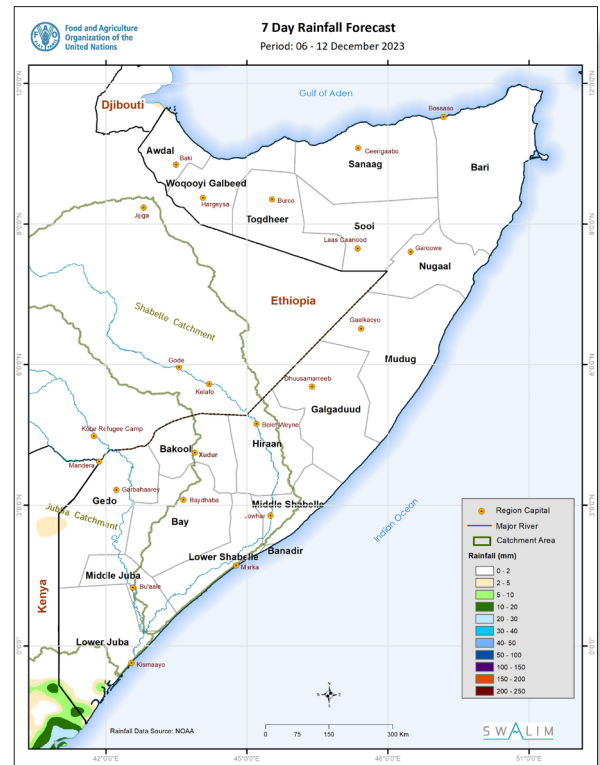
The prevailing and forecast dry weather conditions over the catchments of both Juba and Shabelle Rivers within the country and in the Ethiopian highlands is expected to lead to a further decrease in the river levels along both rivers lessening the risks associated with flooding.

River levels along the Juba River are expected to drop further down to Long Term Mean (LTM) at Dollow, Luuq and Bardhere and Bualle. The ongoing flooding downstream of Bualle is expected to reduce in magnitude and spatial extent. The river level at Belet Weyne is expected to gradually decrease at first as floods subsides before sharply dropping to LTM. At Bulu Burti the river level is expected to decrease gradually thereby lessening the magnitude of ongoing floods. The river level at Jalalaqsi and associated flooding is likely to be sustained during the first part of the forecast period.

Forecast of the Weather Conditions for the Period 6th December to 12th December 2023

Dry conditions: Most parts of the country are expected to remain dry during the coming week. The model predictions for the month of December indicating minimal rainfall amounts across the country and the Ethiopian highlands signals the end of the Deyr rainy season for Somalia.

Temperature Forecast: The current forecast indicates likelihood of high temperatures ranging from 30°C to 35°C over extensive areas in the south, central and northeastern parts of the country. Milder temperatures ranging between 20°C and 25°C are anticipated over some areas in the following regions: Awdal, Woqooyi Galbeed, Togdheer and Sanaag regions and inland parts of Bari region. Moderate temperatures of 25°C to 30°C are anticipated in the rest of the country.



Map 1: 7-Days Cumulative rainfall forecast over Somalia.

The river level at Jowhar is likely to remain stable as water is continuously lost to breakages upstream; with upward tendency and moderate flood risk as the flood wave moves downstream.

The forecast for rainfall and temperature suggests the presence of a relatively warmer and dry air mass over extensive areas in the south, central and northeastern parts of the country. These conditions are likely to accelerate evapotranspiration, extracting soil moisture from previously inundated and waterlogged areas. Additionally, water seepage will contribute to soil drying up thus rendering areas more accessible and favorable for flood recession farming. The communities returning to their residences post-evacuation should carefully evaluate the existing ground conditions and the state of structures before habitation.

Coupled with the previous month's wet conditions, the mild temperature over some areas still favors various agropastoral activities such as short-crop cultivation, pasture growth, and fodder production more so under flood recession farming. Despite these favorable conditions, given the forecast period's progression towards dry and hot Jillal season, agro-pastoralists are advised to prioritize water conservation, especially in areas where favorable rains were

received in the previous month. The current forecast provides an opportune time for farmers to engage in harvesting, processing, and storing available fodder, ensuring a sustainable supply for animal feeding during the upcoming dry season.

Vector borne diseases are likely to spread under the present hydro-climatic conditions.

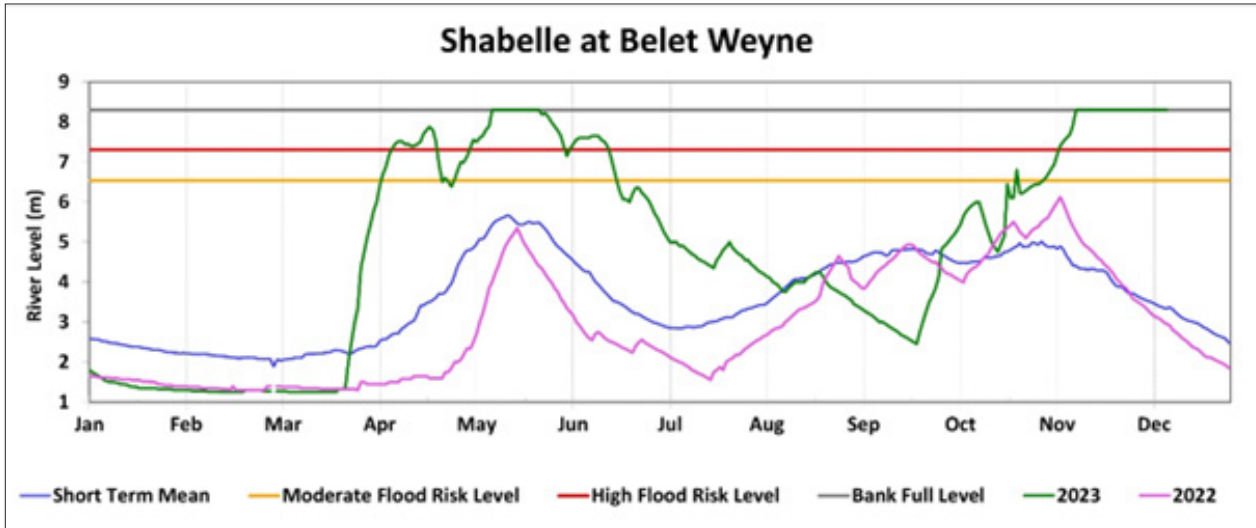


Figure 1: Shabelle river level at Belet Weyne gauging station as on 6th December 2023

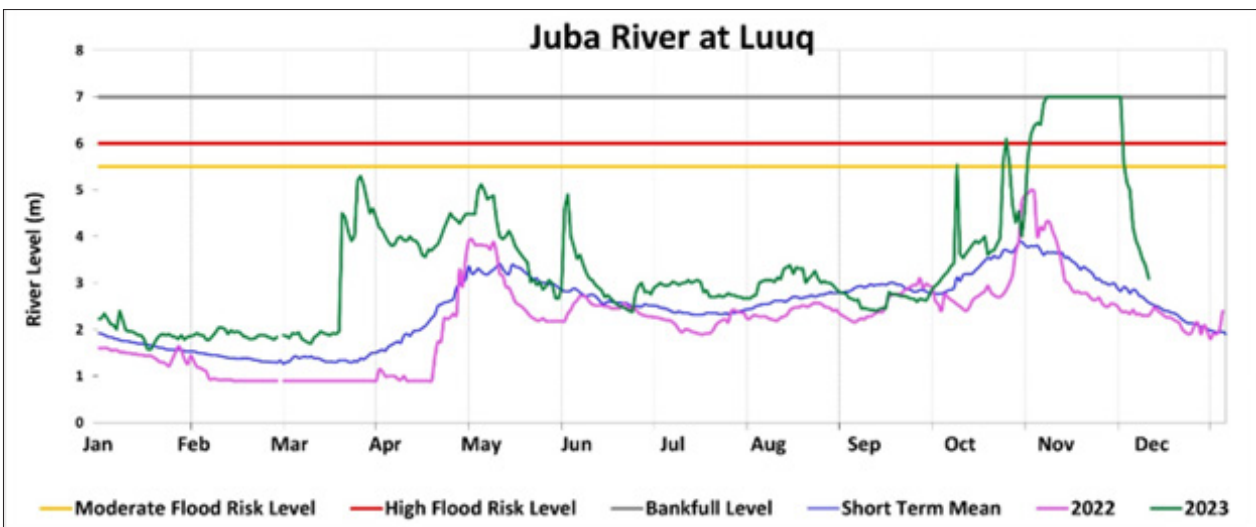


Figure 2: Juba River level at Luuq gauging station as on 6th December 2023

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