

SOMALIA WEEKLY WEATHER FORECAST

Valid From 7 May- 13 May 2025

Review Summary:

- Moderate rains fell across central and southern Somalia last week, with dry conditions persisting in Puntland and Awdal
- River levels along the Shabelle rose modestly; Juba levels remained low
- Flooding downstream of Jowhar was linked to man-made riverbank breaches
- Drought eased in the south but continues in Puntland and Awdal

Forecast Highlight:

- Light to moderate rains is expected across central and southern regions this week, with intense storms possible in Middle Shabelle and Galgaduud
- Dry and hot conditions persist in Puntland and Awdal, raising heat stress and water scarcity concerns
- Rainfall prospects remain favorable for most of May

Weather Review

Gu Rainfall Review: Above normal rains were observed in most parts of southern Somalia in March. The rain was normal over Jubaland and below normal over Hirshabelle in April. This far into the Gu season, a total of more than 300 mm of rain has been received in some parts of Jubaland. Rain remains significantly delayed and below normal across most of Somaliland and Puntland. So far less than 100 mm has been observed in parts of Woqooyi Galbeed.

Drought Review: Following the failed Deyr 2024 rains, drought conditions of varying severity were observed in most parts of the country at the start of the year 2025. Intensification and widespread severity particularly over Hirshabelle and Puntland were observed in February and first half of March. Substantial improvement and normalization were then realized in the southern parts in April due to beneficial Gu rains. However, drought conditions have persisted over Puntland and are being initiated over Somaliland particularly in Awdal due to delayed rains.

Weekly Rainfall Review: Based on weekly satellite rainfall estimates, light to moderate rains were generally observed across the country except over most parts of Puntland where dry conditions persisted. Based on actual observations (Figure 3), the following stations received heavy rainfall above 100 mm: Baidoa (191.0 mm) in Bay region; Hargeisa (134.0 mm) in Woqooyi Galbeed region; and Baki (113.0 mm) in Awdal region. Moderate rains above 50 mm were observed over Qansax Dheere (71.9 mm) in Bay region; Sayla (90.0 mm), Baligubadle (79.0 mm), Taysa (73.0 mm), Malawle (56.0 mm), Salaxlay (56.0 mm), Las Dacawo (54.0 mm) and Gumburaha (52.0 mm) in Woqooyi Galbeed region; Qulujeed (66.0 mm) and Borama (54.5 mm) in Awdal region; Waridaad (88.5 mm) in Sool region; Wanle Wayne (79.5 mm) in Lower Shabelle region; and Belet Weyne (52.2 mm) in Hiraan region

River Levels Review: Along the Shabelle River at Beledweyne and Bulo Burte, a slight rise below flood risk levels has been observed. After briefly exceeding high flood risk in late April, the river levels at Jowhar have dropped steadily matching Long

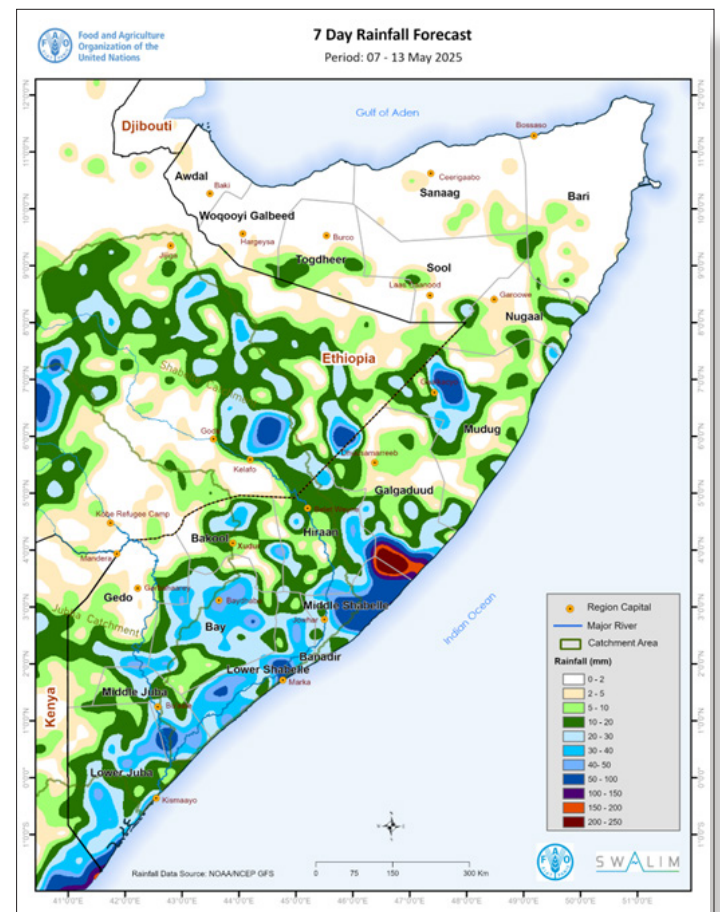


Figure 1: Weekly cumulative rainfall forecast over Somalia from 7 to 13 May 2025

Term Mean (LTM) and 2024 levels. The Juba River levels remain low and below flood risk thresholds, near LTM, and significantly lower than last year's levels at Doloow and Luuq and expectedly downstream (Baardheere, Saakow, Bualle).

Floods Review: Based on Sentinel 1 satellite image acquired on 3 May 2025, a human-induced flooding affected an area of 3,823 ha in Middle Shabelle; 3,684 ha of which is agricultural land- 2,365 ha within Jowhar district and 1,319 ha within Balcad district. An estimated 1,300 buildings have been affected: Jowhar (572) and Balcad (728).

Weather Forecast for the Week Between 7 to 13 May 2025

Rainfall Forecast:

According to the NOAA-NCEP Global Forecasting System (GFS) forecast, widespread light rains are expected in the southern and central parts of the country. The rains are likely to be moderate over Middle Shabelle and coastal parts of Galgaduud and Galkacyo, and heavy over Adan Yabaal and Ceel Dheer. Dry conditions are expected to prevail over some parts of Somaliland and Puntland, particularly the Bari region. However, there seems to be forecast inconsistency with the expected rainfall conditions over some parts of Puntland (Mudug and Nugaal) and Somaliland (Sool, Sanaag and Togdheer). While GFS anticipates dry conditions to prevail, ICPAC forecasts moderate rains above 50 mm.

As the Inter Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) shifts further north, there is a likelihood that normal to above normal rains will be received in most parts of the country during the month of May except over southern parts of Awdal region and some isolated parts of Jubaland region. However, below normal conditions are expected in most parts of the country at the end of the season with June particularly being dry in the south and over Puntland. The temporal and spatial distribution of the forecast rainfall (Figure 1) are as follows:

Moderate cumulative rainfall of 50 mm to 100 mm is likely to occur over Ceel Dheer district in Galgaduud region and Cadale and Adan Yabaal districts and eastern parts of Jowhar district in Middle Shabelle region; eastern parts of Galkacyo district in Mudug region; Marka district, eastern parts of Qoryooley district, and southern parts of Afgooye district, northern inland parts of Kurtunwaarey district, and western parts of Bu'aale district in Middle Juba region.

Temperature Forecast:

Compared to last week, slightly higher temperatures are to be experienced this week (Figure 2). There are persistent relatively mild thermal conditions in some parts in the north with a significant nocturnal coastal warming effect stretching over Awdal, Woqooyi Galbeed, Bari and Nugaal regions and Jariiban district in Mudug region. The spatial variation of forecast temperature is as follows:

Based on **minimum temperature**, the coolest nighttime thermal conditions (15 °C and 20 °C) are likely over Borama district in Awdal region, northern inland parts of Ceerigaabo district in Sanaag region; northern parts of Owdweyne district in Togdheer region; and southern parts of Gebiley district and central parts of Hargeisa district in Woqooyi Galbeed. The warmest night time thermal conditions (25 °C and 30 °C) are likely over the Zeylac, Lughaye and Baki districts in Awdal region; Berbera district in Woqooyi Galbeed region; Ceel Afweyn district in Sanaag region; Iskushuban and Bandarbeyla districts and narrow coastal parts of Bossaso, Qandala and Caluula districts in Bari region; Eyl and Garowe districts in Nugaal region; Jariiban district and coastal parts of Hobyo district in Mudug region; and narrow coastal strip stretching from Xarardheere district in Mudug region to Banadir region. The rest of the country is likely to experience moderate nighttime thermal conditions ranging from 20 °C and 25 °C.

Light cumulative rainfall of less than 50 mm is forecast over most parts of Lower Juba, Middle Juba, Bay, Hiraan, Lower Shabelle and Banadir regions; Xudur and Ceel Barde districts in Bakool region, Ceel Waaq district and northern parts of Bardheere district in Gedo region, western parts of Ceel Buur district and western parts of both Cabudwaaq and Dhuusamarreeb districts in Galgaduud region, Galdogob district and western parts of Galkacyo district in Mudug region, Burtinle and Eyl districts in Nugaal region. Light rains are also likely over very isolated areas in the following areas: Qardho district in Bari, southern parts of both Ceerigaabo and Lasqoray districts in Sanaag, Laas Canood district and eastern parts of Taleex district in Sool, southern parts of Owdweyne and central parts of Burco district in Togdheer.

Dry conditions are likely to prevail over most parts Awdal and Woqooyi Galbeed regions; Ceel Afweyn district and northern parts of both Ceerigaabo and Laasqoray districts in Sanaag; Buuhodle and Sheikh districts, northern parts of Owdweyne district, northern and southern parts of Burco district in Togdheer region; Bossaso, Qandala, Caluula, Iskushuban, and Bandarbeyla districts in Bari region; Garowe district in Nugaal region; Xarardheere district, northern parts of Galkacyo district and inland parts of both Jariiban and Hobyo districts in Mudug; Cadaado district and eastern parts of Ceel Buur district in Galgaduud region; Rab Dhuure and Waajid districts and southern parts of Tayeeglow district in Bakool; northern parts of Baydhaba district in Bay region; Doolow, Luuq, Garbahaarey, Belet Hawo districts and southern parts of Baardheere district in Gedo region; and northern parts of Afmadow district in Lower Juba region.

Rainfall and Temperature Classification

- Dry conditions: 0 mm
- Light rain: 0 to 50 mm
- Moderate rain: 50 to 100 mm
- Heavy rain: 100 to 150 mm
- Very heavy rain: more than 150 mm
- Low temperatures: Below 25 °C
- Moderate temperatures: 25 °C to 30 °C
- Moderately high temperatures: 30 °C to 35 °C
- High temperatures ranging: 35 °C to 40 °C
- Very high Temperature: More than 40 35 °C

Very high temperatures of more than 40 °C are expected over inland parts of Zeylac and Lughaye districts and northern inland parts of Baki district in Awdal region; inland parts of Berbera district and northern inland parts of Hargeisa district in Woqooyi Galbeed region; Iskushuban district and inland parts of both Qandala and Caluula district in Bari region; and northeastern parts of Ceel Afweyn district in Sanaag region.

High daily maximum temperatures ranging from 35 °C to 40 °C are expected over most other inland parts of Bari region; most parts of Nugaal region; most inland parts of both Mudug and Galgaduud regions; Caynabo and Xudun districts and some parts of Laas Canood district in Sool region; Doolow and Luuq districts and northern parts of Garbahaarey district in Gedo region; Jowhar district and inland parts of both Cadale and Adan Yabel districts in Middle Shabelle region; Wanla Weyne district in Lower Shabelle region; Jalalaqsi district and central parts of both Belet Weyne and Bulo Burte districts in Hiraaan region; Sablaale district in Lower Shabelle region; Buhoodle district and northern and southern parts of Burco district in Togdheer region; northern parts of Laasqoray district and most parts of Ceel Afweyn district in Sanaag region; coastal and southern parts of Zeylac and Lughaye districts and southern parts of Baki district in Awdal region; coastal parts of Berbera district and northern parts of both Gebiley and Hargeisa districts in Woqooyi Galbeed region;

Moderately high daily maximum temperatures ranging from 30 °C to 35 °C are likely over most parts of Lower Juba, Middle Juba, Bay, Bakool and Banadir regions; Belet Hawo, Ceel Waq, and Baardheere districts and southern parts of Garbaharey district in Gedo region; Baraawe, Kurtunwarey, Qoryooley, Marka and Afgooye districts in Lower Shabelle region; Balcad district and coastal parts of both Cadale and Adan yabaal districts in Middle Shabelle region; Qandala district in Bari region; Taleex district in Sool region; Ceerigaabo district and southern parts of Laasqoray district in Sanaag region; Sheikh district and northern parts of Owdweyne district in Togdheer region; southern half of both Hargeisa and Gebiley districts in Woqooyi Galbeed region; and Borama district in Awdal region.

Moderate daily maximum temperatures ranging from 25 °C to 30 °C are expected over tehthe central parts of Ceerigaabo district in Sanaag region.

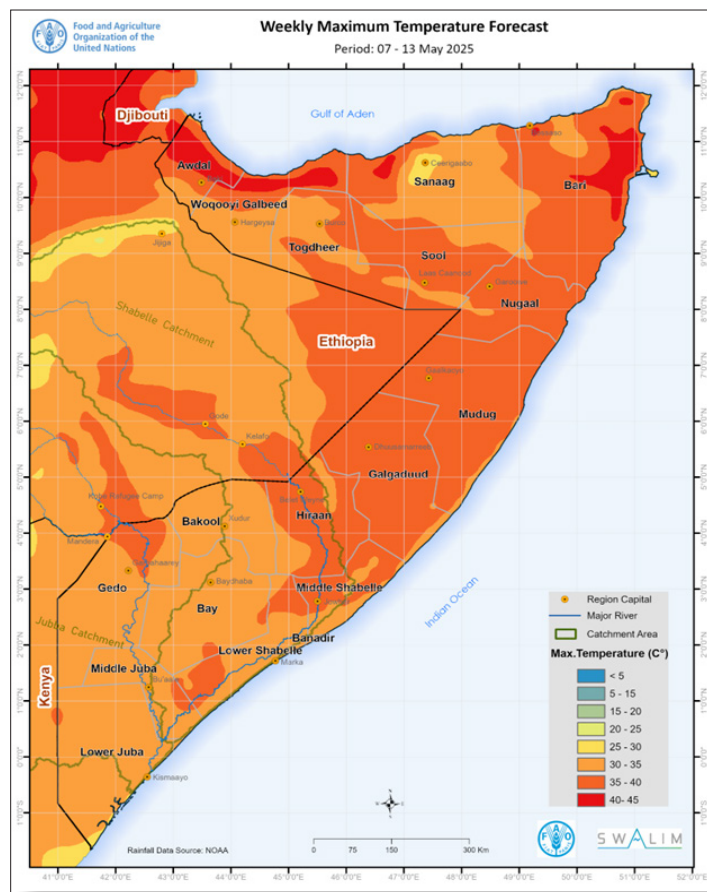


Figure 2: Weekly maximum temperature forecast over Somalia from 7 to 13 May 2025

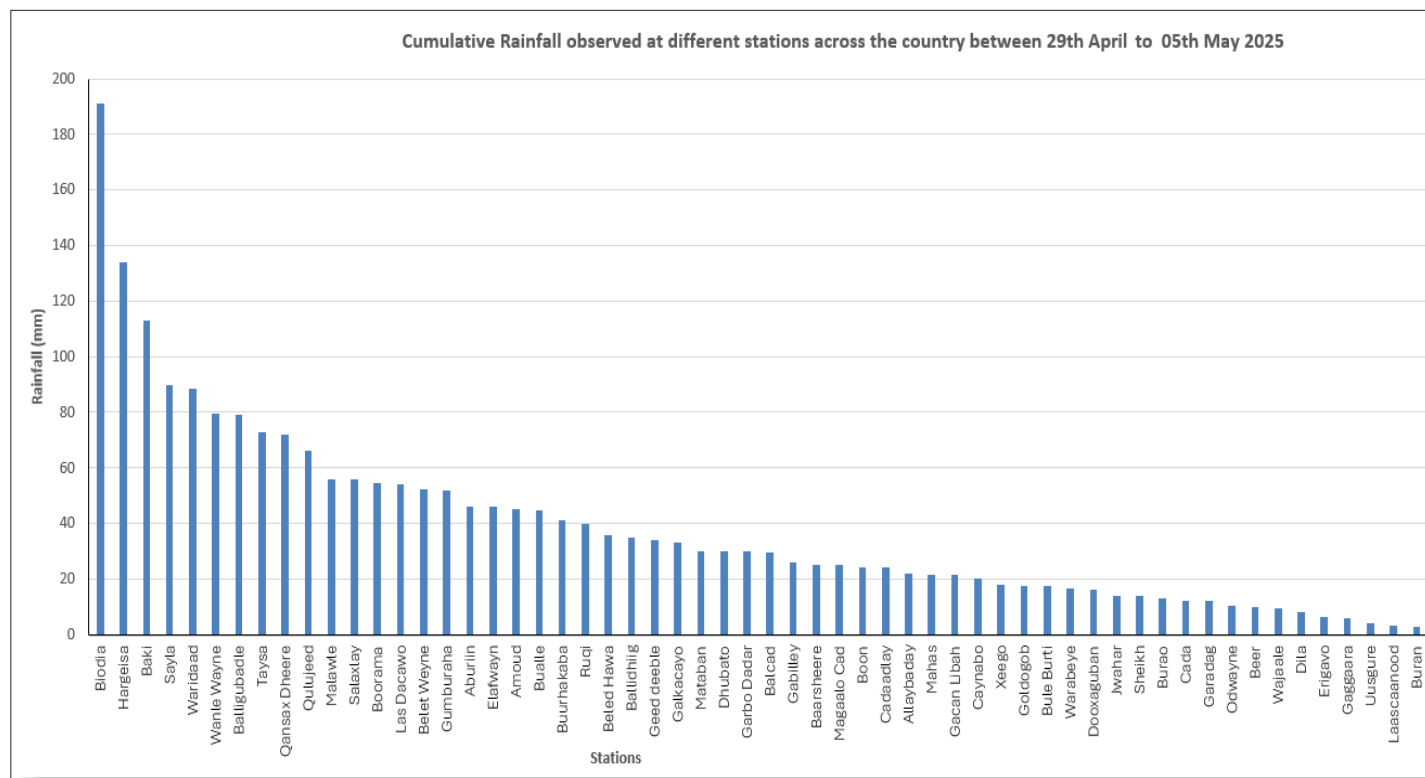


Figure 3: Cumulative rainfall observed at different stations across the country from 29 April to 5 May 2025

Current River Levels

Along the Shabelle River at Beledweyne station (Figure 4), water levels have slightly risen in the last 4 days with the reading taken on 7 May (5.00 m) being 25 cm below LTM level (5.25 m) and 2.33 m below the 2024 level (7.33 m). At Bulo Burte, the water levels have been rising steadily since 1 April with the reading taken on 7 May (4.66 m) being 40 cm above the LTM level (4.26 m) but 39 cm below the 2024 level (5.05 m). After crossing the high flood risk level (5.25 m) on 25 April, the water level began steadily dropping a day later with reading taken on 7 May (4.5) being generally equivalent to both the LTM and 2024 value.

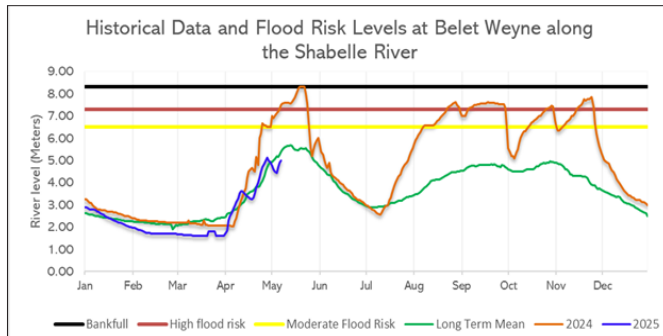


Figure 4: Shabelle River level at Belet Weyne Gauging Station as of 7 May 2025

Along the Juba River, the levels have fluctuated far below flood risk levels. The observation taken on 7 May at Dollow (3.44 m) is almost equivalent to the LTM but 1.06 m below the moderate flood risk level (4.50 m) and 1.78 m below the 2024 level (5.22 m). A similar pattern has been observed at Luuq (Figure 5) where the record taken on 7 May (3.20 m) is almost equivalent to the LTM but more than 2.0 m below both the moderate flood risk level (5.50 m) and the 2024 level (5.48 m). It is expected that similar fluctuations below moderate flood risk levels have been observed at Baardheere, at Saakow and at Bualle.

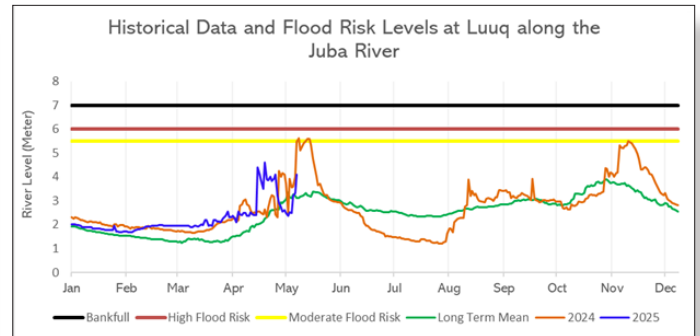


Figure 5: Juba River level at Luuq Gauging Station as of 7 May 2025

Impacts Associated with the 7 - 13 May 2025 Weekly Forecast

Flood Risks:

Shabelle River: Moderate rains over the Ethiopian and Somali catchments are expected to sustain gradual water level increases at Beledweyne and Bulo Burte, and a lagged resumption of the rise in river levels at Jowhar to moderate flood risk threshold. Although natural river overflows are not yet occurring, breakage-induced flooding continues downstream of Jowhar due to intentional breaches made for irrigation.

Flash Flood Risk: Intense localized rainfall this week may trigger flash floods in Adan Yabaal (Middle Shabelle) and Ceel Dheer (Galgaduud). These events may affect settlements, roads, and farmlands, especially in poorly drained or low-lying areas.

Recommendations: Closely monitor high-intensity rainfall events; prioritize rapid repair of riverbank breaches; and sensitize communities against creating new breakages that can act as weak points along the river channel.

Drought, Water Stress and Livelihoods:

Southern and Central Somalia: Gu rains have significantly improved water and pasture availability, supporting ongoing agricultural activities and livestock watering. This has contributed to the normalization of drought conditions across parts of Bay, Bakool, Lower Shabelle, and Gedo.

Puntland & Awdal (Somaliland): Dry conditions persist, with less than 100 mm of cumulative rainfall since March. Continued drought is increasing heat stress, evapotranspiration losses, and straining water and pasture resources. The rains have arrived too late in Puntland to rescue this season's crops.

In Awdal, forecasted below-normal rainfall could prolong water shortages and reduce rangeland productivity.

Recommendations: Employ strategic pasture and water resource management, activate livelihood support for pastoralists, and reinforce community coping mechanisms in Puntland and Awdal.

Harvest Prospects:

Southern Somalia: With normal to above-normal rainfall forecasted in May, there is optimism for a decent harvest and pasture regeneration. Early sprouting of crops and improved forage availability is evident.

Somaliland: Despite a delayed onset, rains are forecast over Sool, Sanaag, and southern Togdheer, supporting late planting and rangeland improvement. However, the situation in Awdal remains worrying due to forecasted rainfall deficits.

Recommendations: Sustain field-level guidance to farmers on crop selection, input use, and water harvesting techniques, particularly in regions with ongoing or late-onset rainfall.

Heatwave and Evapotranspiration Risks:

Very high daytime temperatures (35–40°C and above) in parts of Awdal, Woqooyi Galbeed, Mudug, Bari, and Gedo may cause severe heat stress to humans, livestock, and crops, elevate evapotranspiration, and increase water demand across already stressed areas.

Recommendations: Increase public messaging on heat-related health risks, protect vulnerable livestock (e.g., shade, watering), and monitor dehydration risks in drought-affected communities.

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

