

## SOMALIA WEEKLY WEATHER FORECAST

Valid From 16th to 20th November 2024

**Moderate rainfall expected in parts of Bay and Lower Shabelle; light rainfall is likely over Lower Juba, Gedo, and Middle Juba, as well as isolated areas of the Juba and Shabelle basins while most of northern Somalia is expected to remain largely dry.**

### Weather Review for the Week Between 7 and 13 November 2024

During the past week, light to moderate rainfall was observed over the central and southern regions of Somalia with 50.0 mm being recorded in Mataban station in Hiraan region. Light rainfall was received in the following individual stations: Bardheere (44.0 mm) and Dollow (2.7 mm) in Gedo region, Wanla Weyne (33.5 mm) in Lower Shabelle region, Buur Hakaba (25 mm) in Bay region, Bargaal (5.7 mm) and Caluula (5.5 mm) in Bari region and Jowhar (4.5 mm) in Middle Shabelle region.

Except for Bakool, Bay, Middle Juba and Lower Shabelle regions, rainfall anomalies for the month of November so far show significant deficits across much of Somalia, particularly in Lower Juba, Gedo, Hiraan, Middle Shabelle Galgaduud, Mudug, Sool and Togdheer regions, possibly reflecting the cumulative impact of evolving La Niña conditions.

The levels along both Juba and Shabelle Rivers are currently above Long-Term Mean (LTM) but below the 2023 levels. The Juba River level at Dollow has dropped to 4.68 m today (16 November 2024) but is still 18 cm above moderate flood risk level (4.50 m). This drop has been occasioned by reduction of rains over its catchment in the Ethiopian highlands and within Somalia. The Shabelle River level at Belet Weyne (7.42 m) today is 92 cm above moderate flood risk level (6.50 m) and slightly (12 cm) above high flood risk level (7.30 m). This rise-and-fall behaviour is likely to be driven by the occurrence of wet and dry spells within its catchment within Somalia and in the Ethiopian highlands.

After a drop from the 7.45 m high flow on 29 October to 6.35 m

### Rainfall Forecast for the Week Between 14 and 20 November 2024

According to NOAA-NCEP GFS, rainfall for the upcoming week is expected to be moderate in parts of Bay and Lower Shabelle and light over Lower Juba, Gedo, and Middle Juba regions, as well as isolated areas of the Juba and Shabelle River basins. Most of northern Somalia is expected to remain largely dry.

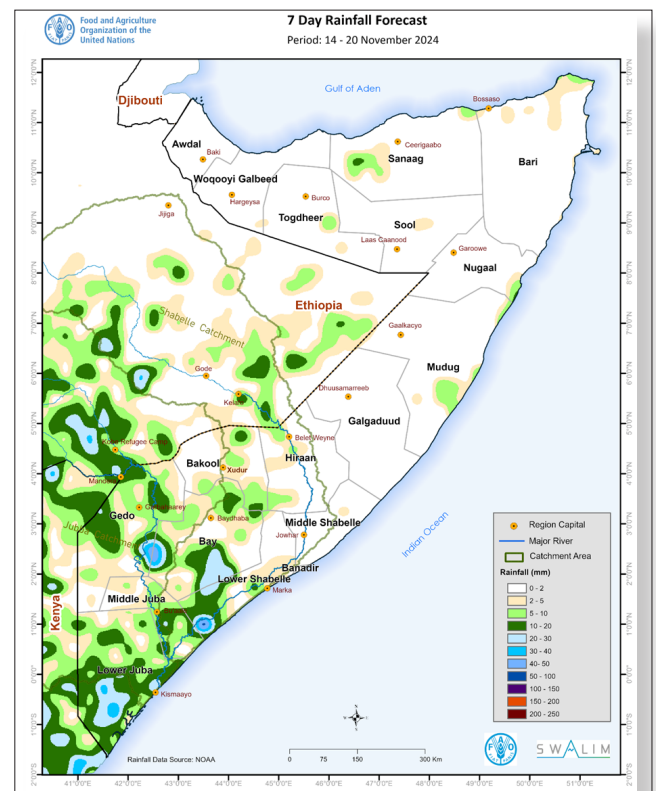
The observed rainfall during the previous week is linked to the arrival of the Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO), which enhanced moisture influx into southern and central Somalia. However, the weakening of the MJO phase, as indicated by the latest ECMWF forecast, implies less intense rains in the coming weeks.

The temporal and spatial distribution of the forecast rainfall (Map 1) are as follows:

**Moderate cumulative rainfall of 50 mm** and above is possible over for south-central parts of the country including the border areas of Dinsoor and Qansax Dheere districts in Bay region and Bardheere district in Gedo region. Similar rains are also likely over Sablaale and Baraawe districts in Lower Shabelle region.

**Light cumulative rainfall of less than 50 mm** is likely over most parts of Lower Juba region, Dinsoor, western parts of Buur Hakaba district and northern parts of Baydhaba district in Bay region; Sablaale, Baraawe,

on 2 November, the Shabelle River level at Belet Weyne (7.35 m) today is 85 cm above moderate flood risk level (6.50 m) and slightly (5 cm) above high flood risk level (7.30 m). This rise-and-fall behaviour is likely to be driven by the occurrence of wet and dry spells within its catchment within Somalia and in the Ethiopian highlands.



Map 1: Cumulative rainfall forecast over Somalia between 14 and 20 November 2024

Kurtunwaarey and Marka districts in Lower Shabelle region; Garbahaarey and Ceel Waaq districts in Gedo region; and eastern parts of Ceel Barde district and southern parts of Tayeeglow district in Bakool region. Light but very localized rains are possible over central parts of Belet Weyne district and southwestern parts of Bulo Burte district in Hiraan region, eastern parts of Burco district in Togdheer region, central parts of Ceel Afweyn district in Sanaag region, and narrow coastal parts of Mudug and Nugaal regions and narrow northern coastal parts of Bari region.

**Dry conditions** are likely to prevail over Middle Shabelle, Galgaduud, Sool, Awdal and Woqooyi Galbeed regions, non-coastal parts of Mudug, Nugaal and Bari regions, and most other parts of Hiraan, Togdheer and Sanaag regions. Dry conditions are also possible over Saakow district in Middle Juba region, western parts of Bardheere district in Gedo region, Rab Dhuure, Waajid and Xudur districts and northern parts of Tayeeglow district in Bakool region, southern parts of Baydhaba district and eastern parts of Buur Hakaba district in Bay region, Jalalaqsi district, most other parts of Bulo Burte district and eastern parts Belet Weyne district in Hiraan region.

## Temperature Forecast for the Week Between 14 and 20 November 2024

Forecasted maximum and minimum temperatures indicate the persistence of varied thermal conditions across the country with nighttime temperatures likely to drop to between 20 °C and 25 °C in northern Somalia, while between 25 °C and 30 °C is expected across most southern and central regions. The spatial variation of forecast daily maximum temperature is as follows.

**Elevated daily maximum temperatures exceeding 35 °C** are likely to persist over southern regions, including inland parts of Badhaadhe and Kismaayo districts in Lower Juba region, Bu'aale district and inland parts of Jilib district in Middle Juba region, and Sablaale district in Lower Shabelle region. Similarly high daily maximum temperatures are expected over the central parts of Mudug region including areas bordering Hobyo, Jariiban and Galkacyo districts.

**Moderately high daily maximum temperatures of 30 °C and 35 °C** are expected in most other parts of the country including Gedo, Bay, Bakool, Middle Shabelle, Hiraan, Galgaduud, Nugaal and Sool regions, central inland parts of Bari region, northern and coastal parts of Awdal region, Berbera district in Woqooyi Galbeed region, southern parts of both Burco and Buhodle districts in Togdheer region, Afmadow district and coastal parts of Lower Juba region, Saakow district in Middle Juba region, and other parts of Lower Shabelle region,

**Moderate daily maximum temperatures ranging between 25 °C and 30 °C** are forecast over several areas in Woqooyi Galbeed and Sanaag regions, Owdweyne and Sheikh districts and northern parts of Burco district in Togdheer region, Borama district and southern parts of Baki district in Awdal region, Bossaso, Qandala, Caluula districts, northern parts of Qardho district in Bari region, northern parts of Baydhaba district in Bay region, northern parts of Xudur district in Bakool region, and narrow eastern coastal parts of the country including Banadir region.

### Impacts Associated with the Weekly Weather Forecast

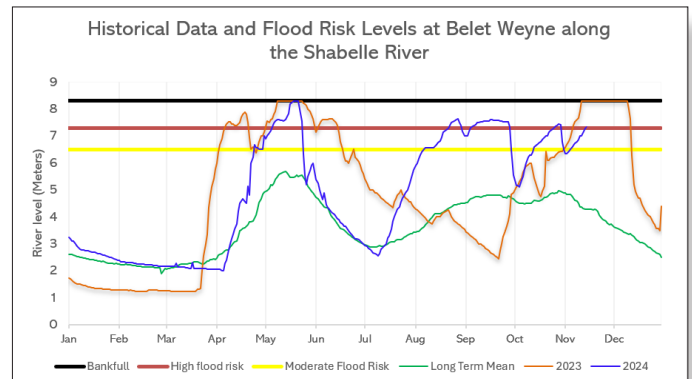
The light rainfall forecast over the Juba and Shabelle River catchments may generate run off that could sustain the high river levels particularly at Belet Weyne posing some risk of localized flooding. Close monitoring of the Juba and Shabelle basins is routinely ongoing.

Harsh hot and dry air mass is likely to stagnate over central parts of Mudug and some inland parts Lower Juba, Middle Juba, Gedo, and Lower Shabelle during the upcoming week leading to increased evaporation rates exacerbating water shortages in already drought-stricken areas, livestock and crop stress due to heat stress and reduced soil moisture levels, and risks of heat stress and dehydration, especially for vulnerable populations in pastoralist communities.

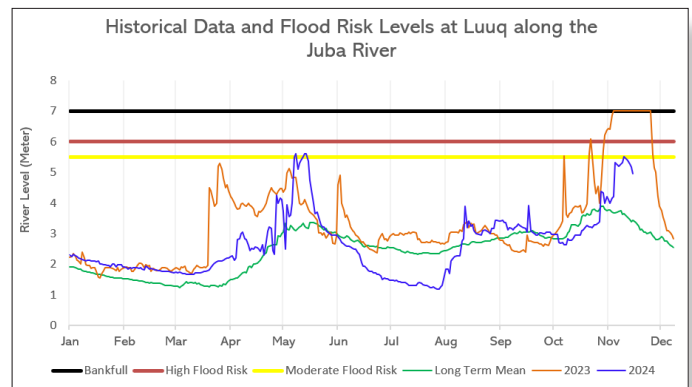
Favourable wet and warm airmass is likely to prevail over localized areas in Bay and Bakool regions. While rainwater may be harvested thereby benefiting agro-pastoralist livelihoods, immediate pasture growth is not likely. Stagnant water from recent and forecast rains may also elevate risks of vector-borne diseases such as malaria

## Current River Levels

The levels along both Juba and Shabelle Rivers are currently above Long-Term Mean (LTM) but below the 2023 levels. The Juba River level at Dollow has dropped to 4.68 m today (16 November 2024) but is still 18 cm above moderate flood risk level (4.50 m). This drop has been occasioned by reduction of rains over its catchment in the Ethiopian highlands and within Somalia. The Shabelle River level at Belet Weyne (7.42 m) today is 92 cm above moderate flood risk level (6.50 m) and slightly (12 cm) above high flood risk level (7.30 m). This rise-and-fall behaviour is likely to be driven by the occurrence of wet and dry spells within its catchment within Somalia and in the Ethiopian highlands.



Graph 1: Shabelle River level at Belet Weyne Gauging Station as of 15 November 2024



Graph 2: Juba River level at Luuq Gauging Station as of 15 November 2024

and dengue fever. scale up vector control efforts and distribute hydration kits to mitigate health impacts in both hot and moist areas is needed. Support to agro-pastoralist communities to take advantage of temporary pasture regeneration in wet regions is also advocated for.

The evolving La Niña conditions are expected to shorten the November rains, with dry conditions likely dominating December. This scenario may pave the way for harsh Jilaal conditions (December–February), potentially setting up widespread drought conditions in southern and central regions that could persist until the Gu rains in March 2025.

Taking early action by strengthening drought preparedness measures in southern regions prone to extended dry spells is recommended.

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

