

## SOMALIA WEEKLY WEATHER FORECAST

Valid From 21 - 27 Oct 2026

### Review Summary:

- Heavy rains continued over Bay, Hiraan, Sool, Togdheer, Mudug and Middle Shabelle during 13–19 October. Mataban recorded 221.9 mm in 4 days, Laan Madow 221.6 mm, Las Anod 161.5 mm, Baidoa 157.5 mm and Caynabo 149.0 mm. Satellite estimates (IMERG, 14–20 October, the latest seven days available) indicate that 40–80 mm also fell over Tayeeglow, Xudur, Jalalaqsi and Ceel Buur districts, where no rain gauges reported.
- By 19 October, 29 stations with a long-term record had reached or exceeded their October normal, including Baidoa (377.5 mm, 279%), Galkacyo (230.5 mm, 484%), Buuhoodle (PL) (221.7 mm, 649%) and Caynabo (150.0 mm, 703%). Burao (6%), Qardho (16%) and Bandarbeyla (20%) remain far below normal.
- A new rise is moving down the Shabelle. Deefow rose 2.08 m and Belet Weyne 1.48 m this week, and Belet Weyne stood at 5.88 m today, 0.62 m below its moderate flood-risk level. Jowhar fell below its moderate flood-risk level on 17 October, briefly returned above it on 19 October (5.07 m) and stood at 4.39 m today. Juba levels are falling.
- Radio Ergo callers (8–14 October) reported floods in Jowhar, El-dhere, Baidoa and Bardera, with two deaths and livestock losses at Habre in Bay. Drought persisted in Sheikh and Dadmaren (Togdheer), Bari and Bur-Salah (Mudug).

### Forecast Highlight:

- Moderate rains over the Shabelle valley, Bay and the north-west. Moderate rainfall of 50–100 mm is forecast over parts of Jalalaqsi, Bullo Burto, Jowhar, Wanla Weyn, Baydhaba and Ceel Barde districts in the south and over parts of Hargeysa, Owdweyne and Ceel Afweyne districts in the north, with localized heavy rainfall of 100–150 mm in Wanla Weyn and Ceerigaabo districts.
- Heavy rains over the Ethiopian Shabelle headwaters. Heavy to very heavy rainfall of 100–250 mm is forecast over the upper Shabelle catchment in Ethiopia, within a wider area of 50–100 mm.
- Belet Weyne and Bullo Burti are likely to continue rising and may approach their moderate flood-risk level (6.50 m) late in the week. The rise is expected to reach Jowhar during the week, bringing it back towards or above its moderate flood-risk level (5.00 m).
- Rains over northern Bari and an Arabian Sea low. Very light to light rainfall of 2–30 mm is forecast over Bossaso, Qandala and Caluula districts, with moderate rainfall of 50–100 mm over a small area of Bossaso district along the coast. A weakening low-pressure area over the south-western Arabian Sea may bring thunderstorms, gusty winds and rough seas near Socotra and the Gulf of Aden during 21–23 October.
- Dry and hot conditions are likely in the south and north-east. Dry conditions with very light rains are forecast over Lower Juba, Marka, Mudug coast and southern Bari (Bandarbeyla, Qardho and Iskushuban), with very high maximum temperatures of 40–45°C over most of Sablaale and Bu'aale districts.

## REVIEW — OBSERVED CONDITIONS AND EXPERIENCED IMPACTS

### Observed Rainfall Conditions

#### Weekly rainfall (13–19 October 2026):

Heavy rains continued during the week, concentrated over Bay, Hiraan, Middle Shabelle, Mudug, Sool and Togdheer. Mataban recorded the highest weekly total (221.9 mm in 4 rainy days), followed by Laan Madow (221.6 mm), Las Anod (161.5 mm), Baidoa (157.5 mm), Caynabo (149.0 mm), Buuhoodle (138.6 mm), Galdogob (110.6 mm), Balidhig (110.0 mm), Galkacyo (106.5 mm), Darusalaam (99.5 mm) and Murcaanyo (91.7 mm). Moderate totals were recorded at Wanle Weyne (75.9 mm), Garadag (73.5 mm), Jowhar (71.0 mm), Balcad (70.7 mm), Burtinle (66.7 mm) and Dollow (50.0 mm). Lighter rains fell at Kismayo (42.9 mm), Bullo Burti (41.8 mm), Belet Weyne (18.4 mm) and Bardheere (13.0 mm), while Burao, Qardho, Bandarbeyla and Borama remained mostly dry.

In areas where no rain gauges reported, satellite rainfall estimates (IMERG) for 14–20 October, the latest seven-day period available and one day later than the station week, indicate district totals of 40–80 mm over Tayeeglow (78 mm) and Xudur (44 mm) districts in Bakool region, Jalalaqsi district in Hiraan region (61 mm) and Ceel Buur district in Galgaduud region (46 mm).

#### Deyr 2026 rainfall performance to date (1–19 October):

Rainfall observations are reported as a proportion of each station's October long-term mean (LTM) and of its full Deyr (October–December) LTM already received since 1 October. Station totals for 1–19 October are ranked in **Figure 1**, with bar colours showing the percentage of the October LTM received. Stations are grouped below in the same classes as **Figure 1**:

at or above 100%, 50–100% and below 50% of the October LTM. The October normal has already been reached or exceeded in the following stations: Caynabo 150.0 mm (703% of October; 595% of Deyr), Buuhoodle (PL) 221.7 mm (649%; 549%), Las Anod 180.5 mm (619%; 445%), Garadag 89.5 mm (524%; 409%), Galkacyo 230.5 mm (484%; 355%), Balidhig 135.5 mm (381%; 336%), Beer 91.0 mm (376%; 325%), Galdogob 171.1 mm (364%; 285%), Mataban 292.5 mm (345%; 241%), Hargeisa 91.0 mm (337%; 252%), Gacan-libah 91.0 mm (337%; 252%), Burtinle 139.3 mm (326%; 234%), Allaybaday 69.0 mm (303%; 223%), Baidoa 377.5 mm (279%; 164%), Bardheere 221.5 mm (271%; 103%), Buuhoodle 78.0 mm (228%; 193%), Xudun 46.7 mm (212%; 158%), Xasbahale 73.0 mm (201%; 154%), Taleex 46.9 mm (173%; 138%), Sheikh 121.5 mm (172%; 110%), Las Dacawo 79.0 mm (159%; 98%), Bulo Burti 127.2 mm (144%; 83%), Awdheegle 56.3 mm (141%; 36%), Dollow 65.4 mm (133%; 82%), Wanle Weyne 182.6 mm (125%; 64%), Jariiban 53.0 mm (124%; 78%), Baki 16.5 mm (116%; 74%), Malawle 24.0 mm (102%; 77%) and Jowhar 99.0 mm (102%; 51%). Baidoa, Bardheere, Sheikh and most of the stations in Sool, Togdheer and Mudug have already received more than their full Deyr normal.

The rains received in the following stations represent between 50% and 100% of the October normal: Belet Weyne 74.9 mm (88%; 57%), Cadaadley 49.5 mm (88%; 59%), Mogadishu 29.5 mm (86%; 25%), Bualle 63.5 mm (86%; 39%), Dhahar 18.1 mm (85%; 71%), Dararweyne 25.5 mm (83%; 59%), Eyl 31.6 mm (79%; 53%), Bur Hakaba 73.8 mm (66%; 43%), Aburin 13.5 mm (63%; 47%), Garowe 23.9 mm (63%; 47%), Luuq 27.9 mm (58%; 25%), Gatiitley 37.0 mm (57%; 40%), Wajaale 8.0 mm (51%; 31%) and Taysa 8.0 mm (51%; 34%).

Rainfall remains below 50% of the October normal at Dilla 7.0 mm (49%; 28%), Afgooye 23.4 mm (48%; 12%), Dhubato 21.0 mm (48%; 33%), Odweyne 18.5 mm (31%; 23%), Borama 5.0 mm (27%; 16%), Bandarbeyla 3.2 mm (20%; 8%), Qardho 4.0 mm (16%; 13%) and Burao 2.0 mm (6%; 5%). Stations without a long-term record also recorded high totals, including Laan Madow (279.6 mm), Saaxo (170.0 mm), Qansax Dheere (169.7 mm), Darusalaam (164.3 mm), Belad Hawa (105.4 mm), Kismayo (99.4 mm) and Balcad (85.7 mm).

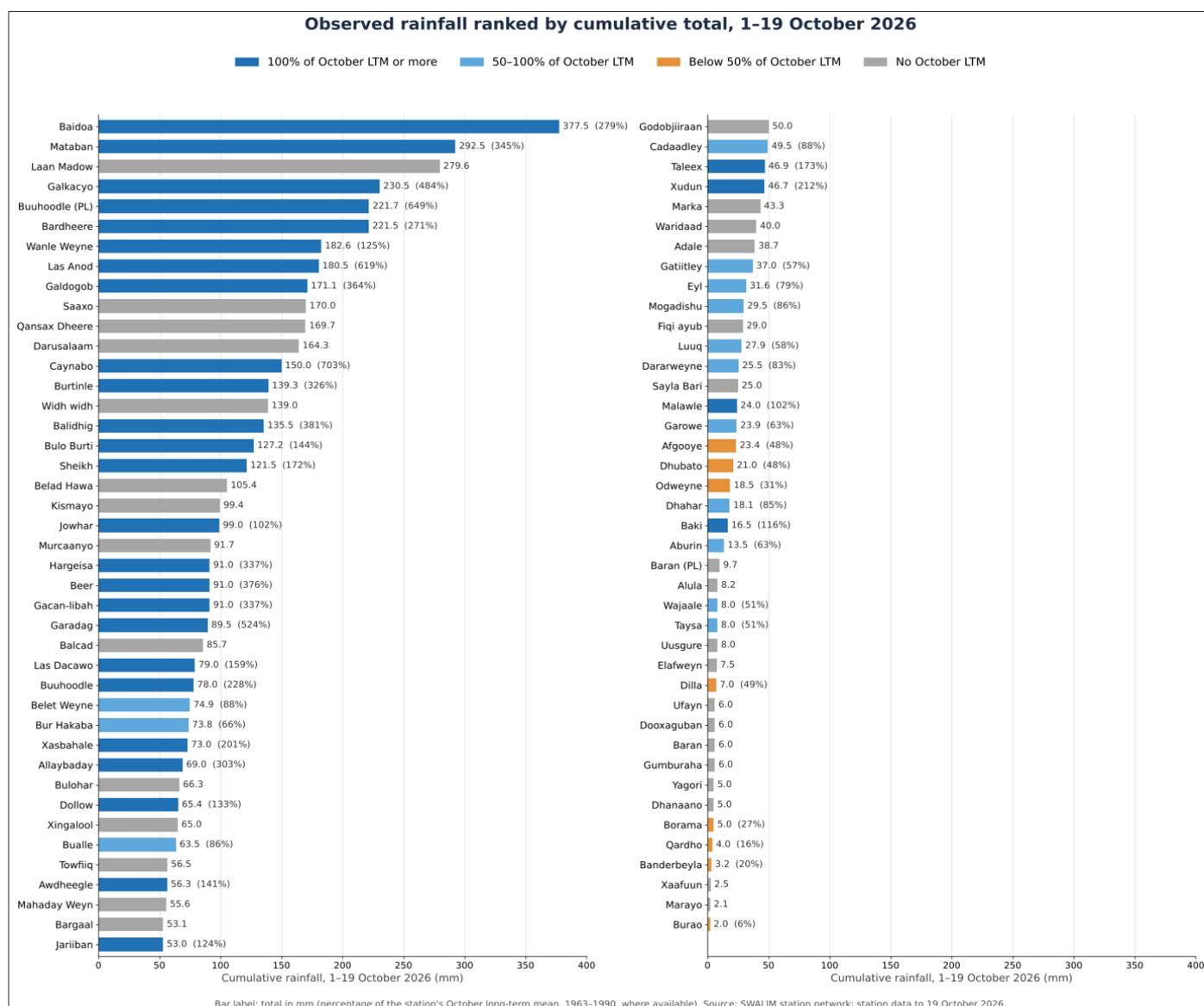


Figure 1: Observed station rainfall, 1–19 October 2026, ranked from highest to lowest; bar colours show the percentage of the October LTM received

## Observed River Levels

On the Shabelle River, levels continue to rise in the upper and middle reaches, with a new flood wave moving downstream towards Jowhar. Although levels at Jowhar have receded following last week's high flood-risk conditions, the approaching rise is expected to reach the station during the week, warranting continued close monitoring.

Satellite rainfall estimates (IMERG) indicate an average of 20.1 mm over the Ethiopian catchment upstream of Belet Weyne during 14–20 October.

On the Juba River, levels are generally declining following recent peaks at the upstream monitoring stations, with levels remaining below moderate flood-risk thresholds. Satellite rainfall estimates indicate an average of 22.4 mm over the catchment upstream of Dollow during the same period.

### Shabelle River:

- Deefow (upstream of Belet Weyne) is rising (3.45 m → 5.53 m this week, +2.08 m). It is 0.97 m below its moderate threshold (6.50 m).
- The level at Belet Weyne (Figure 2) is rising (4.40 m → 5.88 m this week, +1.48 m). It rose to 5.72 m on 19 October and 5.86 m on 20 October, and the rise has slowed to 0.02 m today. It is 0.62 m below the moderate flood-risk level (6.50 m), 0.72 m above last year's level on the same date (5.16 m) and 1.00 m above the long-term mean (4.88 m).
- Bulo Burti is rising quickly (3.75 m → 5.00 m this week, +1.25 m), including 0.58 m on 20 October and 0.20 m today. It is 1.50 m below its moderate threshold (6.50 m) and 0.85 m above last year's level on the same date (4.15 m).
- Jowhar is falling (5.38 m → 4.39 m this week, -0.99 m). It remained above its high flood-risk level (5.25 m) until 15 October, fell to 4.90 m on 17 October, rose briefly to 5.07 m on 19 October and has since fallen 0.68 m. It is 0.61 m below its moderate flood-risk level (5.00 m) and 0.11 m below last year's level on the same date (4.50 m).

## Experienced Impacts

According to Radio Ergo Audience Feedback Report (8–14 October 2026), the heavy rains brought both drought relief and flooding. In Middle Shabelle, a caller in El-dhere (location as recorded by Radio Ergo) reported farms submerged, flooding in Jowhar as the river rose and fears of flooding at Geedo-barken and Konge. In Bay, floods in and around Baidoa swept away goats and household belongings, and two deaths with livestock losses were reported at Habre. Farms were flooded around Bardera in Gedo, and displacement sites were affected by rainwater. Callers in Hiraan reported the river rising, and in Qoryoley the river was close to overflowing.

Beneficial rains were reported in Galgaduud (Abudwak, Dhusamareb, Guriel and Wabho), Hiraan, Middle Shabelle, Bay, Tayeeglow, Gedo and the Juba regions, where water catchments have been replenished and farmers have planted. At the same time, drought persisted in Sheikh and Dadmaren in Togdheer, in Bari, where farmers are still waiting for the rains, around Bur-Salah in Mudug and in parts of Galgaduud (Meygag) and Gedo. Callers also reported crop pests (flying insects and aphids) in Hirshabelle and Bay, mosquitoes in Jowhar, and livestock diseases, including diarrhoea, CCPP and miscarriages in Hiraan.

### Juba River:

- Dollow is falling (3.26 m → 3.08 m this week, -0.18 m). It peaked at 3.76 m on 16 October. It is 1.42 m below its moderate threshold (4.50 m) and 0.52 m below last year's level on the same date (3.60 m).
- Luuq (Figure 3) is falling (3.32 m → 3.02 m this week, -0.30 m). It peaked at 3.62 m on 17 October. It is 2.48 m below its moderate threshold (5.50 m), 0.48 m below last year's level (3.50 m) and 0.71 m below the long-term mean (3.73 m).
- Monitoring of the middle and lower Juba at Bardheere, Saakow and downstream of Bu'aale relies on the upstream stations at Dollow and Luuq.

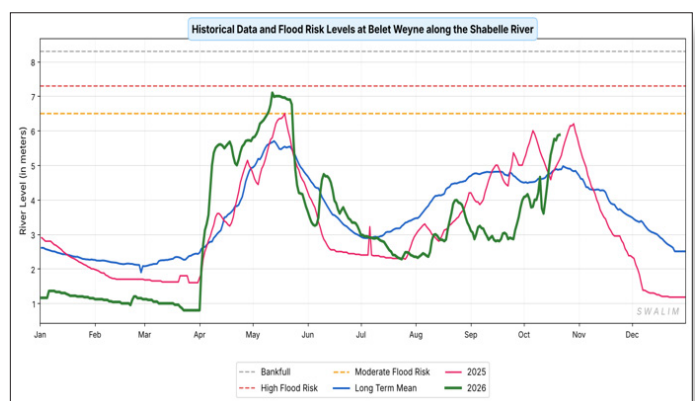


Figure 2: Shabelle River at Belet Weyne — 2026 to date vs 2025, LTM and flood-risk levels

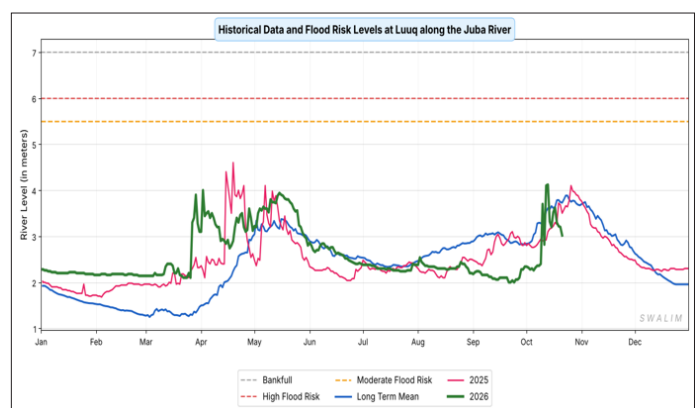


Figure 3: Juba River at Luuq — 2026 to date vs 2025, LTM and flood-risk levels

The rains observed since 1 October are expected to ease drought conditions over most of Bay, Bakool, Hiraan, Middle Shabelle, Galgaduud, Mudug, Sool and Buuhoodle, where many stations have already exceeded their October normal. Drought conditions are likely to persist over Burao district in Togdheer, Qardho and Bandarbeyla districts in Bari and over Borama in Awdal, where rainfall since 1 October remains below 30% of the October normal. Callers also reported continuing drought in Sheikh and Dadmaren in Togdheer during 8–14 October, although Sheikh station has since received 172% of its October normal.

## FORECAST — EXPECTED CONDITIONS (21 OCTOBER TO 27 OCTOBER 2026)

### Rainfall Forecast

According to NOAA-NCEP GFS model forecasts, moderate rains this week are expected over the Shabelle valley in Hiraan, Middle Shabelle and Lower Shabelle, over Bay and Bakool and over the north-western highlands of Woqooyi Galbeed, Togdheer and Sanaag. Light rains are expected over most of Gedo, Middle Juba, Galgaduud and Banadir, while dry conditions to very light rains are expected over Lower Juba, Mudug, Nugaal and southern Bari, with very light to light rains over northern Bari. The expected rainfall distribution is shown in Figure 4 and summarized below:

- **Heavy cumulative rainfall of 100–150 mm** is expected over a small area of Wanla Weyn district in Lower Shabelle region and a localized area of Ceerigaabo district in Sanaag region.
- **Moderate cumulative rainfall of 50–100 mm** is expected over parts of Jalalaqsi and Bulo Burto districts in Hiraan region, Wanla Weyn district in Lower Shabelle region, Jowhar district in Middle Shabelle region, Baydhaba district in Bay region and Ceel Barde district in Bakool region, and over parts of Owdweyne district in Togdheer region, Hargeysa district in Woqooyi Galbeed region and Ceel Afweyn district in Sanaag region. Smaller areas of moderate rainfall are also expected in the north of Buur Hakaba district and in Qansax Dheere district in Bay region, Tayeeglow and Xudur districts in Bakool region, Garbahaarey district in Gedo region, Burco and Sheikh districts in Togdheer region, Berbera district in Woqooyi Galbeed region, Ceerigaabo and Laasqoray districts in Sanaag region and along the coast in Bossaso district in Bari region.
- **Light cumulative rainfall of less than 50 mm** is likely over several other areas, with 30–50 mm expected to dominate over Waajid and Rab Dhuure districts in Bakool region, Baydhaba district in Bay region, Ceel Waaq district in Gedo region, Sheikh district in Togdheer region and Gebiley district in Woqooyi Galbeed region, and over about half of Belet Weyne and Bulo Burto districts in Hiraan region, Tayeeglow district in Bakool region, Belet Xaawo district in Gedo region and Hargeysa district. Light cumulative rainfall of 10–30 mm is expected over all of Baraawe and Kurtunwaarey districts in Lower Shabelle region, most of Sablaale district, most of Luuq and Baardheere districts in Gedo region, Diinsoor, Qansax Dheere and Buur Hakaba districts in Bay region, Jilib and Saakow districts in Middle Juba region, Balcad and Adan Yabaal districts in Middle Shabelle region, Xudur district in Bakool region, Ceel Dheer district in Galgaduud region, Burtinle district in Nugaal region and Banadir, and over about half of Jowhar and

Cadale districts, Cabudwaaq district in Galgaduud region, Caynabo and Xudun districts in Sool region, Ceerigaabo district in Sanaag region, Bossaso and Caluula districts in Bari region and Lughaye district in Awdal region.

- **Very Light cumulative rainfall of 2–10 mm** is expected over most of Dhuusamarreeb district and about half of Cadaado and Ceel Buur districts in Galgaduud region, about half of Gaalkacyo district in Mudug region, most of Garoowe district in Nugaal region, Taleex and Laas Caanood districts in Sool region, Qoryooley district in Lower Shabelle region, Doolow district in Gedo region and Qandala district in Bari region, and over about half of Afgooye district in Lower Shabelle region, Bu'aale district in Middle Juba region and Afmadow district in Lower Juba region.
- **Dry conditions** are expected over all of Xarardheere district and most of Hobyo district in Mudug region, most of Eyl district in Nugaal region, Bandarbeyla, Qardho and about half of Iskushuban districts in the south of Bari region, most of Marka district in Lower Shabelle region, most of Jamaame district and nearly all of Badhaadhe and Kismaayo districts in Lower Juba region (0–5 mm), and most of Zeylac district in Awdal region.
- **River Catchments (outside Somalia):** Heavy to very heavy rainfall of 100–250 mm is forecast over the upper Shabelle catchment in Ethiopia, south of Jijiga, within a wider area of moderate rainfall of 50–100 mm over the northern half of the catchment. A second area of moderate to heavy rainfall (50–150 mm) is forecast further south, west of Kelafo. Over the Ethiopian part of the Juba catchment, light rainfall of 20–50 mm is forecast over most areas, with moderate rainfall of 50–100 mm over parts close to the Somalia border; the mean forecast above Dollow is 26.6 mm.

### Climate Drivers:

**El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO):** A strong El Niño is under way. El Niño is an unusual warming of the sea surface in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean, and its strength is measured by the Niño-3.4 index, the difference between the current sea surface temperature in that part of the Pacific and its long-term average. The Australian Bureau of Meteorology's relative Niño-3.4 index, which allows for the general warming of the tropical oceans, currently stands at +2.81°C, far above normal. The latest IRI (19 October) and CPC (8 October) forecasts expect El Niño to peak around November–December and to last at least until early 2027. El Niño usually brings above-normal Deyr rainfall to most of Somalia.



**Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD):** The Bureau of Meteorology's weekly IOD index was  $+0.88^{\circ}\text{C}$  for the week ending 11 October, the fifth consecutive week above the  $+0.4^{\circ}\text{C}$  threshold. The IOD is still officially neutral but a positive IOD is likely to be declared in the coming weeks. Together with El Niño, a positive IOD warms the western Indian Ocean and favours above-normal rainfall over the Horn of Africa for the rest of the Deyr season.

**Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO):** The ECMWF forecast from 20 October shows the MJO moving from phase 1 into phases 2 and 3 (Indian Ocean) with moderate amplitude over the next two weeks. This favours enhanced convection and rainfall over East Africa and Somalia during the forecast period and into early November.

**Arabian Sea low-pressure system:** A tropical system over the southern Arabian Sea weakened to a low-pressure area on 20 October, with winds near its centre below 17 knots, and is moving westwards towards the Horn of Africa, according to Oman's National Multi Hazard Early Warning Centre. It is expected to weaken further and dissipate during 21–23 October. Yemen's National Center for Meteorology and Early Warning warns of thunderstorms, winds of 15–20 knots gusting to 30 knots and rough seas over Socotra and the Gulf of Aden. The remnants may enhance showers and gusty onshore winds along the north-eastern coast of Bari early in the forecast period.

## Temperature Forecast

### Maximum Temperature

Maximum temperatures during 21–27 October 2026 are expected to remain high across most parts of Somalia. The expected spatial variation of maximum temperature is shown in Figure 5 and summarized below:

- **Very high daily maximum temperatures of  $40\text{--}45^{\circ}\text{C}$**  are forecast over most of Sablaale district in Lower Shabelle region and Bu'aale district in Middle Juba region, about half of Kurtunwaarey district in Lower Shabelle region, Jilib district in Middle Juba region and Kismaayo district in Lower Juba region, and over parts of Afmadow and Badhaadhe districts in Lower Juba region.
- **Moderately high daily maximum temperatures of  $35\text{--}40^{\circ}\text{C}$**  are expected across all of Gedo region (Baardheere, Belet Xaawo, Ceel Waaq, Doolow, Garbahaarey and Luuq districts), Saakow district in Middle Juba region, Wanla Weyn district in Lower Shabelle region, Jalalaqsi district in Hiraan region, Jowhar district in Middle Shabelle region and Buur Hakaba district in Bay region, and over most of Diinsoor and Qansax Dheere districts, Rab Dhuure, Waajid and Xudur districts in Bakool region, Qoryooley and Afgooye districts in Lower Shabelle region, Bulu Burto district in Hiraan region, Ceel Buur district in Galgaduud region and Afmadow district in Lower Juba region.
- **High daily maximum temperatures of  $30\text{--}35^{\circ}\text{C}$**  are likely over most of central and northern Somalia, including Mudug, Nugaal, Sool and Bari regions, most of Galgaduud

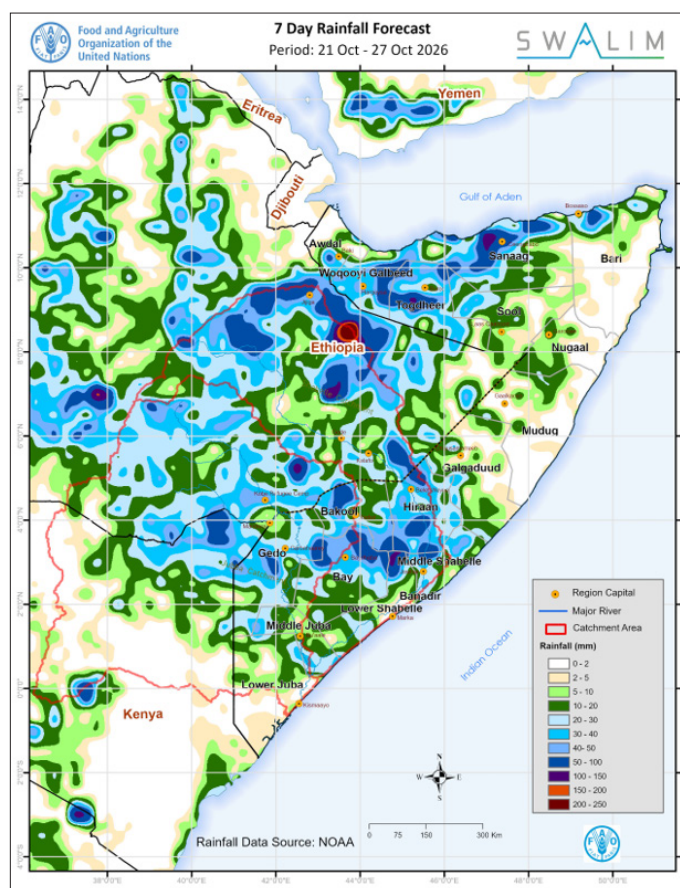


Figure 4: Cumulative rainfall forecast, 21 October to 27 October 2026

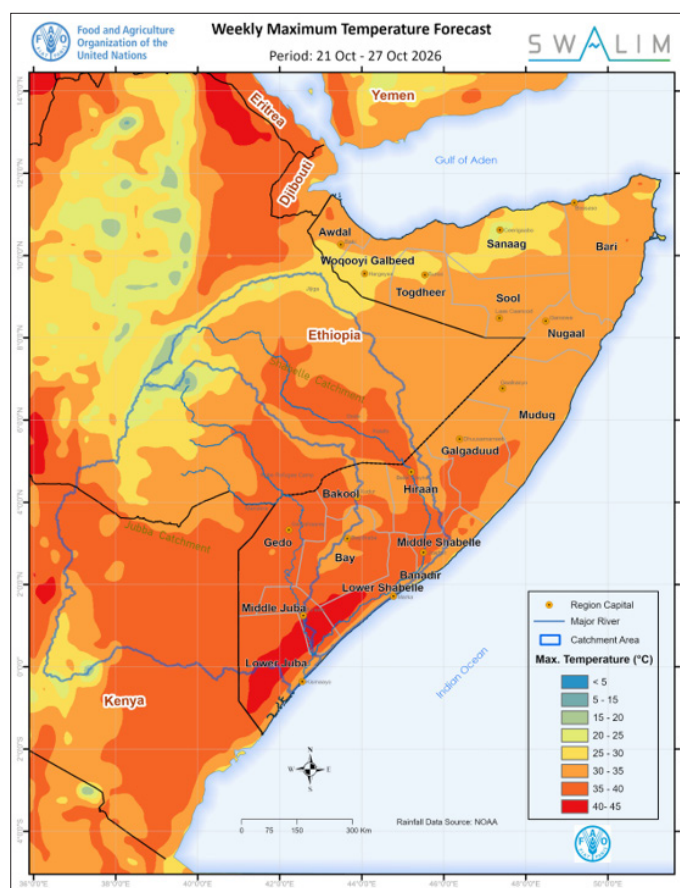


Figure 5: Maximum temperature forecast, 21 October to 27 October 2026

region, Belet Weyne district in Hiraan region, Balcad, Cadale and Adan Yabaal districts in Middle Shabelle region, Marka, Baraawe and Jamaame districts on the southern coast, Baydhaba district in Bay region, Ceel Barde district in Bakool region, Burco and Buuhoodle districts in Togdheer region, Berbera district, most of Banadir and most of Awdal region.

- **Moderate daily maximum temperatures of 25–30°C** are likely over Borama district in Awdal region, Gebiley and Hargeysa districts in Woqooyi Galbeed region and Sheikh district in Togdheer region, and over about half of Ceerigaabo, Laasqoray and Ceel Afweyn districts in Sanaag region and Qandala district in Bari region.

These temperature conditions may increase evapotranspiration, livestock water demand, heat stress and soil moisture loss, especially in areas where rainfall remains light, scattered or poorly distributed.

### Minimum Temperature

Minimum temperatures are expected to remain moderately warm across most parts of the country, with relatively warmer night-time conditions likely over Banadir, Doolow district and parts of the Gulf of Aden coast. The expected spatial variation in minimum temperature is shown in Figure 6 and summarized below:

- **High minimum temperatures of 25–30°C** are likely over all of Doolow district in Gedo region and most of Banadir, about half of Dhuusamarreeb district in Galgaduud region and Lughaye district in Awdal region, and over parts of Luuq district in Gedo region, Ceel Buur and Ceel Dheer districts in Galgaduud region, Cadale and Adan Yabaal districts in Middle Shabelle region, Marka district in Lower Shabelle region, Hobyo district in Mudug region, Zeylac and Baki districts in Awdal region and Berbera district in Woqooyi Galbeed region.
- **Moderately high minimum temperatures of 20–25°C** are expected across nearly all of southern and central Somalia, including Bay, Bakool, Hiraan, Middle Juba, Lower Juba, Nugaal and Mudug regions, most of Gedo, Lower Shabelle, Middle Shabelle, Galgaduud, Sool and Bari regions, and Buuhoodle district in Togdheer region.
- **Moderate minimum temperatures of 15–20°C** are mainly indicated over the northern highlands, over most of Hargeysa and Gebiley districts in Woqooyi Galbeed region, Borama district in Awdal region and Owdweyne, Sheikh and Burco districts in Togdheer region, about half of Ceel Afweyn, Ceerigaabo and Laasqoray districts in Sanaag region and Qandala district in Bari region, and parts of Bossaso district in Bari region and Caynabo district in Sool region.

Daytime maxima of 35–45°C with warm nights of 20–25°C over Middle Juba, Lower Juba, Sablaale and Gedo coincide with dry conditions to light rains over Lower Juba and the southern coast. This is expected to keep heat stress high and to dry out surface water quickly there.

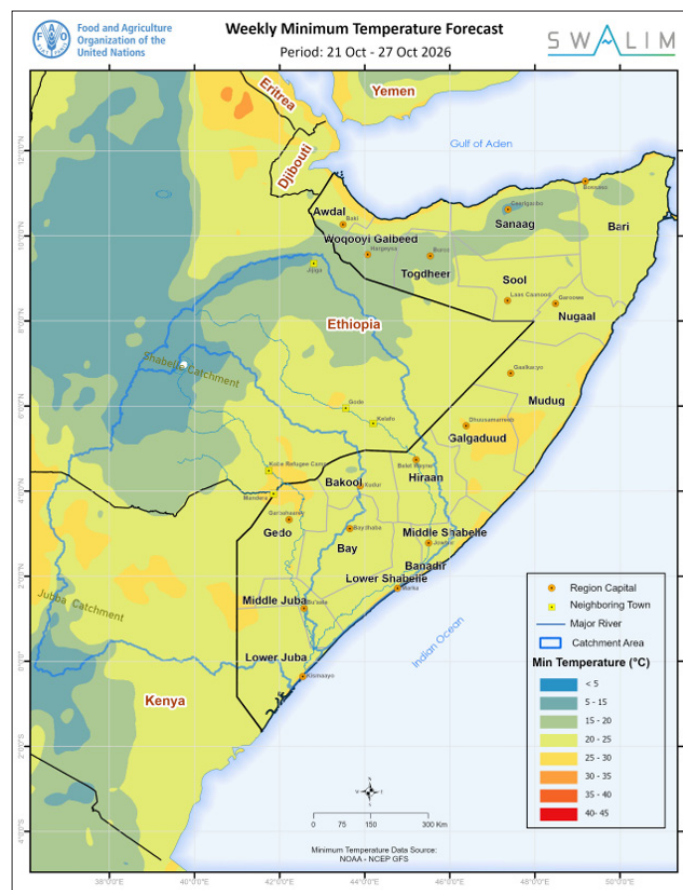


Figure 6: Minimum temperature forecast, 21 October to 27 October 2026

### IMPACT OUTLOOK AND ADVISORIES

**Flood Risk:** Riverine flood risk is rising along the Shabelle. Belet Weyne is 0.62 m below its moderate flood-risk level and Bullo Burti has risen 0.78 m in two days. With heavy to very heavy rainfall of 100–250 mm forecast over the upper Shabelle catchment in Ethiopia and moderate local rainfall of 50–100 mm over parts of Jalalaqsi, Bullo Burto and Jowhar districts, levels at Belet Weyne and Bullo Burti are likely to continue rising and may approach their moderate flood-risk level (6.50 m) late in the week or early next week. The rise is expected to reach Jowhar during the week. Jowhar was above its moderate level as recently as 19 October, river embankments are already weakened and breakages between Jowhar and Balcad remain open, so renewed flooding of nearby farms and villages is likely if Jowhar returns above 5.00 m.

On the Juba, flood risk is low. Dollow and Luuq are falling and are more than 1.4 m below their moderate levels, and only light to moderate rainfall is forecast over the Ethiopian Juba catchment.

Moderate to heavy local rainfall over Bay, Wanla Weyn and Jalalaqsi, where callers already reported floods during 8–14 October, brings a risk of flash flooding in low-lying settlements and displacement sites around Baidoa and along seasonal watercourses. In the north-west, moderate rainfall over parts of Hargeysa, Owdweyne and Ceel Afweyn districts and smaller areas of Burco and Sheikh districts brings a risk of flash floods along togga. Along the Gulf of Aden coast, moderate rainfall over a small area of Bossaso district, together with showers

from the weakening Arabian Sea low, may cause localized flash floods in coastal togga.

**Drought and Water Stress:** Drought and water stress are expected to continue easing over most of Bay, Bakool, Hiraan, Middle Shabelle and the north-western highlands, where light to moderate rainfall is forecast. Some relief is also expected in Sheikh, Burco and Owdweyne districts in Togdheer, where callers reported continuing drought, as 30–100 mm is forecast over parts of these districts. Water stress is likely to persist in southern Bari (Bandarbeyla, Qardho and Iskushuban), Xarardheere and Hobyo in Mudug, Eyl in Nugaal and Zeylac in Awdal, where dry conditions are forecast, and in Lower Juba, where dry conditions coincide with very high temperatures.

**Heat Stress:** Daytime maxima of 40–45°C are forecast over most of Sablaale and Bu'aale districts and about half of Kurtunwaarey, Jilib and Kismaayo districts, with 35–40°C over all of Gedo and Saakow, and warm nights of 25–30°C at Doolow and Banadir. Combined with dry conditions over Lower Juba, this heat is expected to increase heat stress for people and livestock, raise water demand and speed up the drying of surface water.

**Agriculture and Food Security:** The good rains in Bay, Bakool, Hiraan, Middle Shabelle and Galgaduud have supported planting and crop establishment in the agropastoral and riverine areas. This week's light to moderate rains over these areas will continue to support crop growth, but waterlogging is likely in low-lying fields around Baidoa, Wanla Weyn and Jalalaqsi, and riverine farms between Belet Weyne and Balcad are at risk of flooding as the Shabelle rises. Crop pests (flying insects and aphids) reported in Hirshabelle and Bay may spread under the warm, wet conditions. In Lower Juba and the southern Bari farming areas, dry conditions will delay planting.

**Livestock and Rangeland:** Pasture and water are expected to continue regenerating across Bay, Bakool, Galgaduud, Sool and the north-western highlands, and to improve in Togdheer where moderate rainfall is forecast. Livestock diseases reported by callers, including diarrhoea, CCPP and miscarriages in Hiraan, are likely to increase under wet conditions and in crowded flood-displaced herds. In southern Bari, Eyl, Xarardheere and Hobyo, dry conditions are expected to keep pressure on water points and grazing.

**Fisheries and Coastal Areas:** The Lower Juba coast, including the Kismaayo, Badhaadhe and Jamaame fishing communities and the Bajuni islands, is forecast dry conditions to very light rains (0–5 mm), with daytime maxima of 30–45°C, the highest in Kismaayo and Badhaadhe districts. The heat will shorten the time catch can be kept fresh without ice. Along the Gulf of Aden and the north-eastern coast of Bari, very light to light rains of 2–30 mm are forecast over Bossaso, Qandala and Caluula districts, with moderate rainfall of 50–100 mm over a small area of Bossaso district, while the Indian Ocean coast of southern Bari and Eyl is forecast dry.

A weakening low-pressure area over the south-western Arabian Sea is moving westwards towards the Horn of Africa and is expected to dissipate during 21–23 October. Until it dissipates, it may bring thunderstorms, winds of 15–20 knots gusting to 30 knots and rough seas around Socotra and in the Gulf of Aden, with showers and strong onshore winds possible along the coast of Caluula, Qandala and Bossaso districts if it moves closer to the coast.

**Ongoing Projects:** The Jowhar Offstream Storage Programme (JOSP), implemented by the Federal Government of Somalia with FAO and partners in the Jowhar and Balcad districts of Middle Shabelle, is restoring the Jowhar offstream reservoir, river embankments, the barrage and the irrigation canal network to reduce flood and drought risk. With a new rise expected to reach Jowhar during the week, works on and near the river embankments are exposed to renewed high river levels.

### Advisory Recommendations

- **For riverine communities and authorities along the Shabelle (Belet Weyne, Bullo Burti, Jalalaqsi, Jowhar and Balcad):** A new rise is moving downstream and Belet Weyne may approach its moderate flood-risk level late in the week. Communities are advised to follow river-level updates daily, to reinforce weak embankments and open breakages with sandbags where available, and to move livestock, food stocks and farm equipment away from the river. Flood contingency and evacuation plans in Jowhar and Balcad should be kept active.
- **For JOSP implementing partners (Jowhar and Balcad):** Teams are advised to keep equipment and materials away from the river, to avoid working on exposed embankments as levels rise again, and to inspect reinforced embankment sections daily. Any operation of intakes, outlets or diversion structures should be coordinated with river-level updates.
- **For riverine communities along the Juba (Dollow, Luuq, Bardheere, Saakow, Bu'aale, Jilib and Jamaame):** Levels are falling and only light to moderate rainfall is forecast over the Ethiopian Juba catchment this week. Communities should continue to monitor river levels and use the lower levels to repair weak riverbanks.
- **For communities in Bay, Lower Shabelle and Hiraan (Baidoa, Buur Hakaba, Wanla Weyn and Jalalaqsi):** Moderate to heavy rainfall is forecast. Communities should not cross flowing watercourses, and displacement sites should be protected from runoff with drainage channels.
- **For communities in the north-west (Hargeysa, Burco, Owdweyne, Sheikh and Ceel Afweyn):** Moderate rainfall is forecast. Communities should avoid crossing flowing togga and should not shelter in dry riverbeds. Pastoralists can plan to use the expected rains to refill berkads.

- **For farmers in Bay, Bakool, Hiraan and Middle Shabelle:** Farmers are advised to open drainage in waterlogged fields, to avoid planting on low-lying riverbank land and to report crop pests to agricultural extension services.
- **For fishing communities in Lower Juba (Kismaayo, Badhaadhe, Jamaame and the Bajuni islands):** Fishers are advised to land and process catch early in the day and to use ice, shade, salting or drying to limit spoilage in the heat.
- **For fishing communities and boat operators on the Gulf of Aden and north-eastern coasts (Caluula, Qandala and Bossaso):** Fishers are advised to follow official marine warnings, to avoid going to sea during thunderstorms or when winds and waves increase, particularly towards Socotra and in the Gulf of Aden during 21–23 October, and to secure boats and gear well above the high-water line.
- **For WASH, health and livestock actors:** Water support should continue in southern Bari, Lower Juba, Xarardheere, Hobyo and Eyl, where dry conditions are forecast. Malaria prevention, safe drinking water in flood-affected areas around Jowhar, Baidoa and Bardheere, and livestock vaccination and disease surveillance in Hiraan and Middle Shabelle should be scaled up.

### Key Operational Message

A new rise is moving down the Shabelle as heavy to very heavy rainfall of 100–250 mm is forecast over the upper Shabelle catchment in Ethiopia. Belet Weyne and Bullo Burti are likely to keep rising and may approach their moderate flood-risk level (6.50 m) late in the week, and the rise is expected to bring Jowhar back towards or above its moderate level, with a risk of renewed flooding through open breakages between Jowhar and Balcad. Moderate to heavy local rains over Bay, Wanla Weyn and Jalalaqsi bring a flash-flood risk where floods were already reported. The Juba is falling. Southern Bari, the Mudug coast and Lower Juba remain dry and hot, and drought persists in parts of Togdheer and southern Bari. A weakening low-pressure area over the Arabian Sea may bring thunderstorms, gusty winds and rough seas to the Gulf of Aden and the north-eastern coast of Bari during 21–23 October. With a strong El Niño, a developing positive IOD and an active MJO over the Indian Ocean, wetter than normal conditions are likely to continue into November, and flood preparedness along both rivers should be maintained.

*This bulletin is co-produced by The Food and Agriculture Organization's Somalia Water and Land Information Management project (FAO-SWALIM) and The Somali Disaster Management Agency (SODMA)*

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

