Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

SWALIM
Somali Water and Land Information Management

SOMALIA WEEKLY WEATHER FORECAST

Valid From 22 to 28 April 2026

Forecast Highlight:

- Rainfall remains uneven, concentrated in southern districts (Lower Juba, Bay, and Gedo regions) and northern regions remain mostly dry during the coming week
- Very heavy rainfall is highly localized in Lower Juba with flash flooding risk in prone areas
- High temperatures persist across central and southern Somalia with drought recovery expected to still be slow, localized, and uncertain
- Shabelle River remains critically elevated at Jowhar, with flood risk downstream

Review Summary:

- Light to moderate rainfall observed in the last week with localized moderate rains
- Rainfall was poorly distributed (1–2 rainy days in many areas)
- Shabelle River continues rising downstream; Juba remains stable
- Drought improved in the north but persists in the south
- Field reports confirm uneven recovery with continued stress in southern regions

Review of Observed Seasonal and Weekly Weather Conditions and Impacts

Observed Rainfall Conditions

During the week between 14 and 20 April 2026 **(Figure 4)**, light rains were observed across some parts of Somalia with **moderate rainfall (≥50 mm)** being limited and localized at Las Dacawo (53.0 mm) in Woqooyi Galbeed region. Light to moderate rains (30–50 mm) were observed across parts of Woqooyi Galbeed, Middle Juba, Mudug, Togdheer, Gedo, Hiiraan, and Bay regions, including: Magalo-Cad (44.0 mm), Taysa (42.0 mm), and Bodale (35.0 mm) in Woqooyi Galbeed; Bualle (41.5 mm) in Middle Juba; Galkacyo (38.0 mm) in Mudug; Xaaji Saalax (37.5 mm) in Togdheer; Luuq (36.4 mm) in Gedo; Bulo Burte (35.2 mm) in Hiiraan and Baidoa (34 mm) in Bay. **Light rainfall (10–30 mm)** was more widespread but generally less intense, covering parts of Awdal, Sool, Bari, Nugaal, and Lower Shabelle. **Very light rainfall (<10 mm)** was recorded in several locations, particularly across northern Woqooyi Galbeed, Togdheer, Banadir (Mogadishu), and parts of Lower Juba.

In terms of rainfall distribution, relatively better temporal spread (2–4 rainy days) was observed at: Las Dacawo (4 days) in Woqooyi Galbeed; and Bualle, Luuq, Bulo Burte, Baidoa, and Jowhar (3 days each). However, many stations recorded rainfall within 1–2 days, suggesting increasing rainfall intermittency and localized intensity.

Seven (7) weeks into the Gu (March–May) 2026 season (Figure 5-7), significant spatial contrast in rainfall performance is evident across Somalia, with significant cumulative amounts in northern and parts of southwestern regions, and notable deficits persisting in parts of southern and coastal areas. **High cumulative rainfall totals (150 mm and above)** have been widely observed across northwestern regions including Boon (280.0 mm), Xeego (262.0 mm), Harirad (190.0 mm), and Baki (168.0 mm) in Awdal region; Las Dacawo (241.5 mm), Taysa (160.0 mm) and Gumburaha (150.0 mm) in Woqooyi Galbeed region. **Significant rains between 100 and 150 mm** have been recorded at Qulujeed (121.0 mm), and Amoud (117.0 mm) and Dilla (107.0 mm) in Awdal region; Hargeisa (147.0 mm), Cadaadley (140.5 mm), Magalo-Cad (139.5 mm), Dooxaguban (123.5 mm), Bulohar (109.0 mm) and Berbera (104.5 mm) in Woqooyi Galbeed. In South Central Somalia, similarly significant rains have been received particularly in April at Dollow (149.1 mm) and Bardheere (100.0 mm) in Gedo region and Jowhar (105.4 mm) in Middle Shabelle region. Satellite estimates also show similar accumulations in Lower Juba and Middle Juba regions and parts of Bay region. In Puntland, moderate rains have been very shortlived and localized with highest totals observed at Qardho (98.0 mm). **Lower cumulative rainfall (less than 50 mm)** has been reported across Hiraan and Galgaduud regions and coastal parts of Lower Shabelle and Middle Shabelle including Banadir (Mogadishu).

Observed River Levels

Recent satellite rainfall shows that the Juba basin has received significant rainfall over the past 2–3 weeks compared to the Shabelle basin, particularly across southern Ethiopia, northeastern Kenya, and parts of Gedo and Lower Juba. In contrast, rainfall over the Shabelle catchment in Ethiopia has been light to moderate but spatially uneven.

Despite this, Shabelle River levels remain higher and more responsive, driven by earlier sustained rainfall and strong lagged downstream propagation. At Belet Weyne, levels are receding but remain elevated, while Bulo Burte continues rising due to downstream transmission. Jowhar remains near-critical.

In the Juba basin, despite significant rainfall, the response is less coherent due to spatial spread across Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia. This explains the minor fluctuations in river levels at Dollow and Luuq.

Experienced Impacts

Latest Radio Ergo audience feedback (9 to 15 April) indicates that drought impacts continue to dominate across much of Somalia, despite localized rainfall and emerging recovery signals in some regions. This reflects the uneven spatial distribution and intensity of rainfall observed about that reporting week.

In northwestern regions (Awdal, Woqooyi Galbeed, Sanaag) and parts of Gedo and Bay, callers reported rainfall supporting gradual recovery, consistent with observed moderate rains. In these areas, communities noted improving pasture conditions, water availability, and early signs of livestock recovery, although livestock remain weak and susceptible to disease, indicating lagged recovery following prolonged drought.

Across central regions (Galgaduud, Mudug), feedback confirm that scattered and light rainfall has been received, but drought conditions remain widespread. Callers frequently reported intense heat, water shortages, livestock deaths, and limited aid access, particularly in areas such as Adado, Abudwak, and Harardhere. This aligns with observed rainfall patterns showing limited and poorly distributed rainfall, insufficient to reverse drought conditions.

In southern and riverine regions (Hiraan, Middle Shabelle, Lower Shabelle, Bay), drought impacts remain severe and widespread, despite some localized rainfall.

Callers reported crop failure and poor germination after planting, water scarcity and high temperatures, livestock mortality and disease outbreaks and food insecurity and increased humanitarian needs.

Notably, Lower Shabelle (Wanlaweyn, Qoryoley, Kuntawarey) emerged as a persistent drought hotspot, with repeated reports of failed crops and acute water shortages, consistent with limited rainfall during the period.

In Hiraan (Belet Weyne), reports of a sudden rise in river levels and localized flooding, despite limited local rainfall, indicate upstream catchment contributions, consistent with observed rainfall in upper Shabelle areas. This highlights a dual risk of drought and flooding occurring simultaneously, complicating local vulnerability.

In general, field feedback confirms that while recent rains have triggered localized improvements in northern and parts of southern Somalia, the majority of central and southern Somalia remain under significant drought stress due to delayed onset, insufficient rainfall, and poor temporal distribution. Recovery remains fragile and highly dependent on sustained rainfall in the coming weeks.

Monthly and Weekly Weather Forecast

Rainfall Forecast for Period 22 to 28 April 2026

According to NOAA-NCEP GFS, moderate rainfall is confined to the south and central regions including the Juba and Shabelle River basins. The evolution of Madden Julian Oscillation (MJO) is likely to favor heavy rains in the last week of April particularly between 25 and 30 April 2026. Dry conditions are likely to be observed over northern parts of Somalia with chances of localized light rains. The spatial distribution of the forecast rains is as below:

- **Very heavy cumulative rainfall above 150 mm** is likely over central parts of Afmadow district in Lower Juba region.
- **Heavy rainfall cumulative between 100 and 150 mm** is anticipated over central parts of Afmadow district and southern parts of Badhaadhe district in Lower Juba region; central parts of Buur Hakaba district and northeastern parts of Baidoa district in Bay region; northeastern parts of Luuq district in Gedo region and central parts of Baraawe district in Lower Shabelle region.
- **Moderate cumulative rainfall between 50 and 100 mm** is forecast over vast areas in Badhaadhe district and central parts of Afmadow district in Lower Juba region; Bu'aale district in Middle Juba; Baidoa and Dinsoor districts in Bay region; Xudur district and southern parts of Tayeeglow district in Bakool region; eastern parts of Garbahaarey district and western parts of Ceel Waaq district in Gedo region; Baraawe and Qoryooley district and coastal parts of Kurtunwaarey district in Lower Shabelle region; Cadale and Balcad districts and southern parts of Jowhar district in

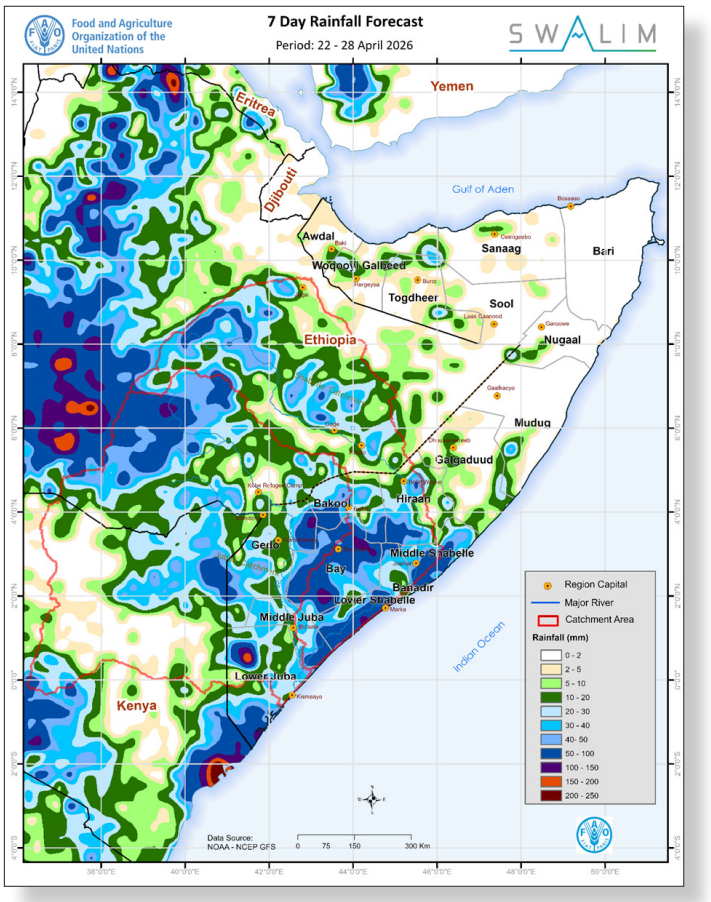

Figure 1: Cumulative rainfall forecast over Somalia for the week from 22 to 28 April 2026

Middle Shabelle region; southwestern parts of Bulo Burte district in Hiraan region. It is important to know that such moderate rains are likely to fall over several areas within the catchments of both Shabelle and Juba Rivers within the country.

- **Light rains below 50 mm** are expected over many other areas in the southern and central parts of the country and in isolated areas in the north. It is important to know that such light rains are likely to fall over several areas within the catchments of both Shabelle and Juba Rivers in Ethiopia.

Tempreture Forecast

Maximum Temperature (Daytime)

- **Very high daily maximum temperatures (35–40°C)** are expected over much of the central and southern inland belt of Somalia, particularly over: most parts of Dhuusamarreeb, Ceel Buur, Ceel Dheer, and Cadaado districts in Galgaduud region; most parts of Belet Weyne, Bulo Burte, and Jalalaqsi districts in Hiraan region; inland parts of Jowhar, and parts of Adan Yabaal district in Middle Shabelle region; large parts of Baidoa and Buur Hakaba districts and southern parts of Dinsoor in Bay region; parts of Xudur district in Bakool region; central parts of Luuq, Baardheere, and Garbahaarey districts in Gedo regionsouthern and central inland parts, especially around Gaalkacyo and toward Hobyo inland belt in Mudug region; inland parts of Afmadow district in Lower Juba; Saakow district and inland parts of Bu'aale district in Middle Juba regions. These very high temperatures overlap with areas expected to receive rainfall, meaning humidity-enhanced heat stress is likely in several central and southern districts.
- **High daily maximum temperatures (30–35°C)** are likely over most of northern Somalia and parts of the southern coastal belt, including: most parts of Borama, Baki, Lughaye, and Zeylac districts in Awdal region; most parts of Hargeisa, Gebiley, and Berbera districts in Woqooyi Galbeed region; most parts of Burco, and Owdweyne districts in Togdheer region; most parts of Buuhoodle Laas Caanood, Taleex, and Xudun in Sool region; most parts of Ceel Afweyn and Laasqoray districts in Sanaag region; Bari: most parts of Bosaso, Caluula, Iskushuban, and Qardho districts in Bari region; most parts of Garoowe, Burtinle, and Eyl districts in Nugaal region. Similar temperatures are also likely over coastal areas in Lower Shabelle (Marka and Afgooye), Banadir (Mogadishu), and Lower Juba (Kismaayo and Badhaadhe). These areas are likely to remain hot, although generally less intense than the inland central-southern heat hotspot.
- **Moderate daily maximum temperatures (25–30°C)** are confined to a few elevated and coastal-moderated areas, particularly Sanaag highlands, especially around Ceerigaabo, Shiekh district in Togdheer region and localized Bari escarpment and elevated northeastern zones.

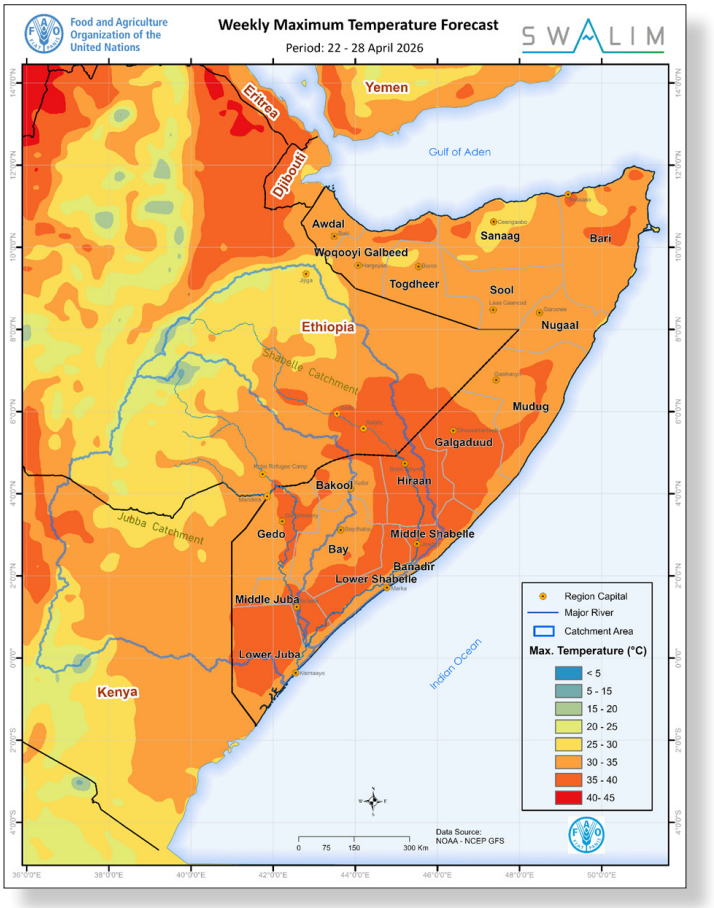

Figure 2: Maximum temperature forecast over Somalia for the week from 22 to 28 April 2026

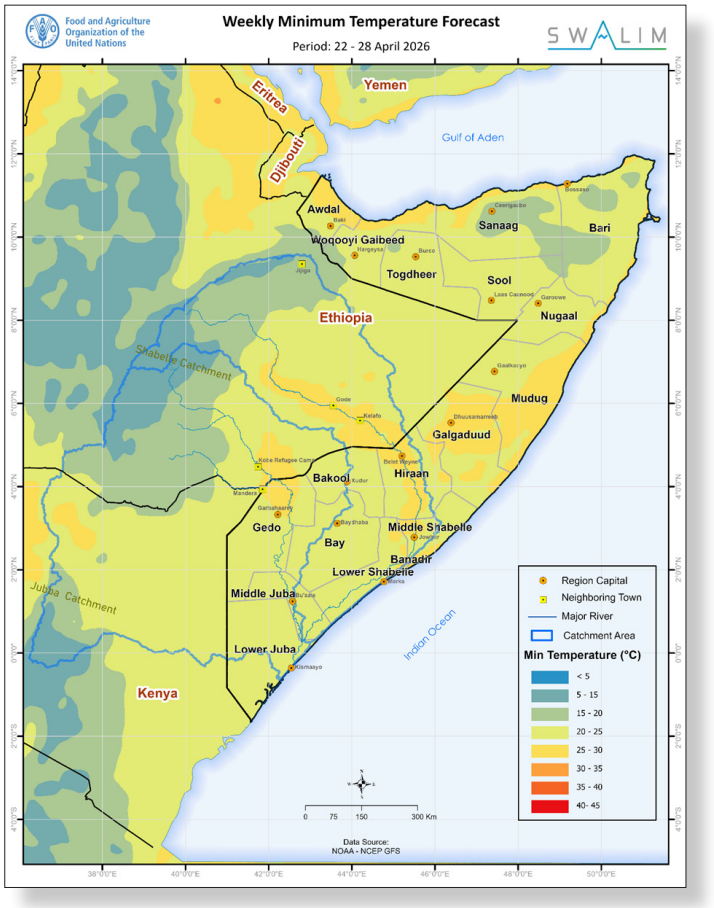

Figure 3: Maximum temperature forecast over Somalia for the week from 22 to 28 April 2026

Minimum Temperature (Night-time)

- **High minimum (night-time) temperatures (25–30°C)** are concentrated over the more humid southern and central belt, especially over Lower Shabelle region, Banadir (Mogadishu); parts of Jowhar, Balcad, and Cadale districts in Middle Shabelle region; parts of Belet Weyne and Bulo Burte districts in Hiraan region; eastern and central parts, including areas around Cadaado and Dhuusamarreeb in Galgaduud region; coastal to sub-coastal belts especially Kismaayo, Jamaame, Badhaadhe in Lower Juba region and Bu'aale in Middle Juba. These warm nights imply limited nocturnal cooling, which increases heat stress accumulation, especially where rainfall and humidity are also present.
- **Moderately high minimum (night-time)** temperatures (20–25°C) are likely to prevail over most of the country, including Awdal, Woqooyi Galbeed, Togdheer and Sool regions; much of Sanaag, Bari, and Nugaal, Bay, Bakool, Gedo, Mudug, Hiraan, Galgaduud, and Middle Shabelle regions; most inland parts of both Lower Juba and Middle Juba regions.
- **Moderate minimum (night-time) temperatures (15–20°C)** are restricted to elevated northern areas, especially Sanaag highlands, particularly around Ceerigaabo; localized elevated parts of Bari.

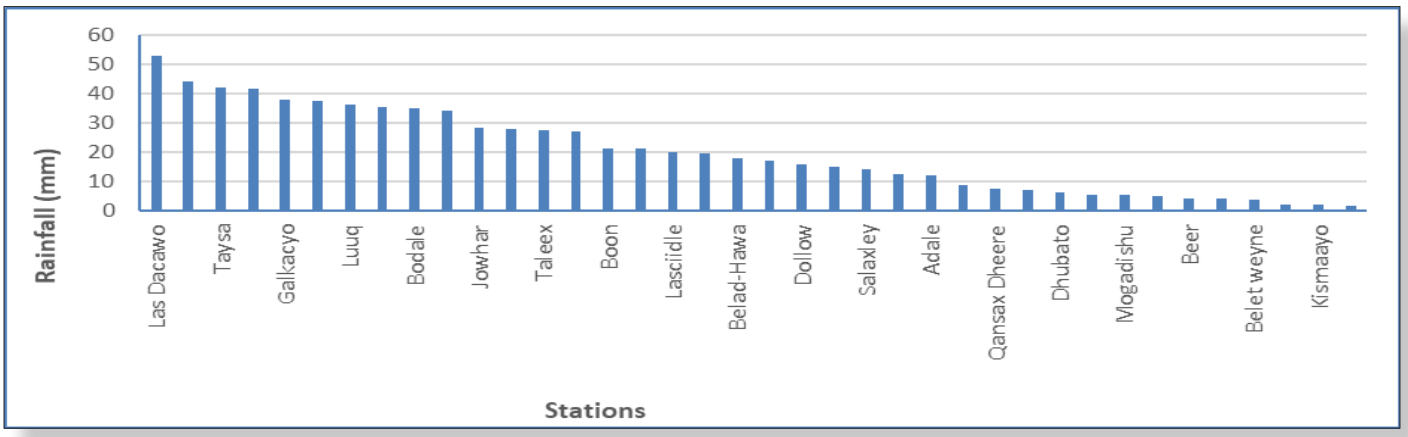

Figure 4: Cumulative rainfall observed at individual stations across SomaliA between 14 and 20 April 2026

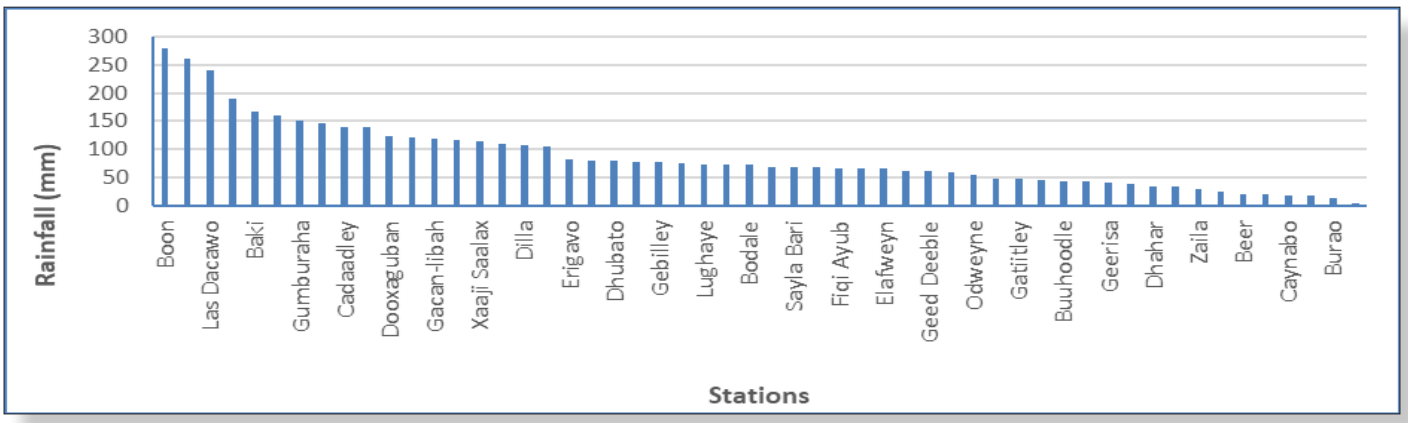

Figure 5: Cumulative rainfall observed at individual stations across Somaliland between 1 March and 20 April 2026

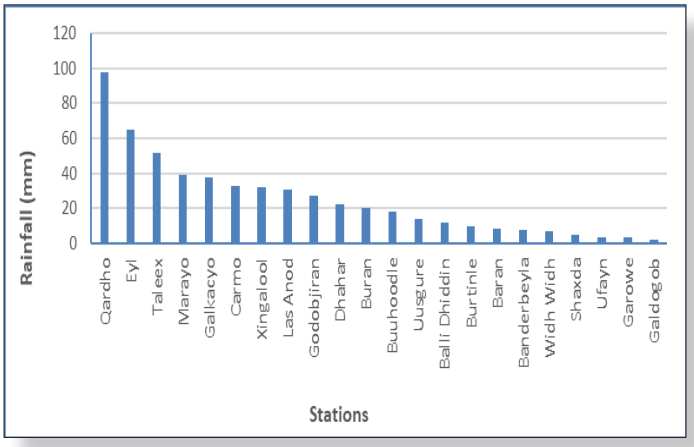

Figure 6: Cumulative rainfall observed at individual stations across Puntland between 1 March and 20 April 2026

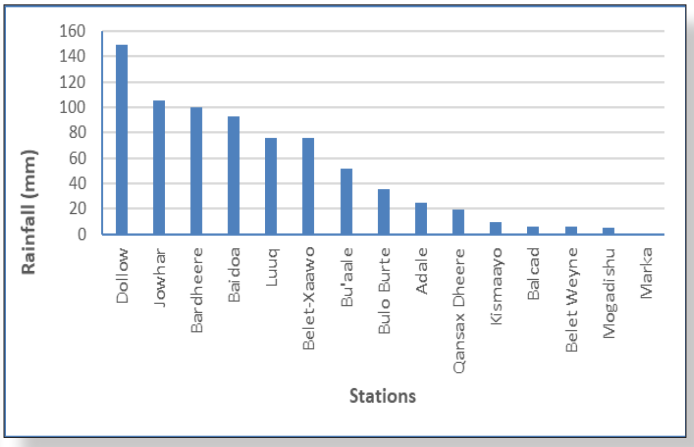

Figure 7: Cumulative rainfall observed at individual stations across South Central Somalia between 1 March and 20 April 2026

Current River Levels

River levels along the Shabelle River remain elevated with continued downstream propagation, while the Juba River shows minor fluctuations with localized rises but generally remains within safe limits.

Today (23 April) at Belet Weyne (5.16 m), river levels have receded slightly (-0.40 m) from last week (16 April) following the earlier peak. However, levels remain significantly elevated, at 0.94 m above 2025 levels and 1.35 m above the long-term mean (LTM), but still 1.34 m below the moderate flood threshold, indicating sustained upstream recharge despite reduced peak flows.

Further downstream at Bulo Burte (5.30 m), the river shows a continued significant rise (+1.20 m weekly increase), confirming active downstream flood wave propagation. Current levels are 2.00 m above 2025 levels and 1.99 m above LTM, though still 1.20 m below the moderate flood threshold, suggesting increasing flood sensitivity in downstream areas. At Jowhar (4.60 m), river levels remain critically high but stable, with no significant weekly change (0.00 m). The level is now only 0.40 m below the moderate flood risk threshold, while remaining well above LTM (+1.27 m) and equivalent to 2025 levels. This confirms that Jowhar, and downstream areas including Balcad and Afgooye, remain highly flood-sensitive, where even minor additional increases could trigger riverine flooding, particularly at known breakage points.

In contrast, the Juba River is stable with minor flactuations. At Dollow (3.18 m), river levels have declined (0.32 m) over the past week but remain slightly above 2025 (+0.14 m) and LTM (+0.63 m), and 1.32 m below the moderate flood threshold, indicating reduced upstream inflows and low immediate flood risk.

At Luuq (3.46 m), river levels have increased moderately (+0.54 m), reflecting localized upstream recharge, but remain below 2025 levels (-0.36 m) and 2.04 m below the moderate flood threshold, confirming that flood risk remains low across the Juba basin.

Figures 8 and 9 show the current station levels against the Long Term Mean and 2025 values along the Shabelle River at Belet Weyne and along the Juba River at Luuq, respectively.

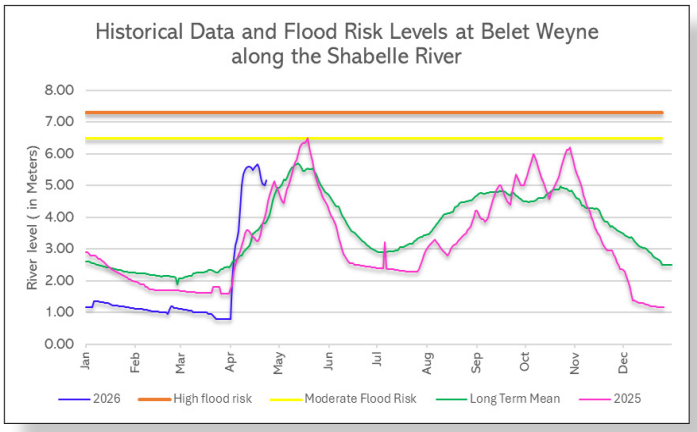

Figure 8: Current levels along the Shabelle River at Belet Weyne Gauging Station as on 22 April 2026 compared to LTM and Flood Risk Levels

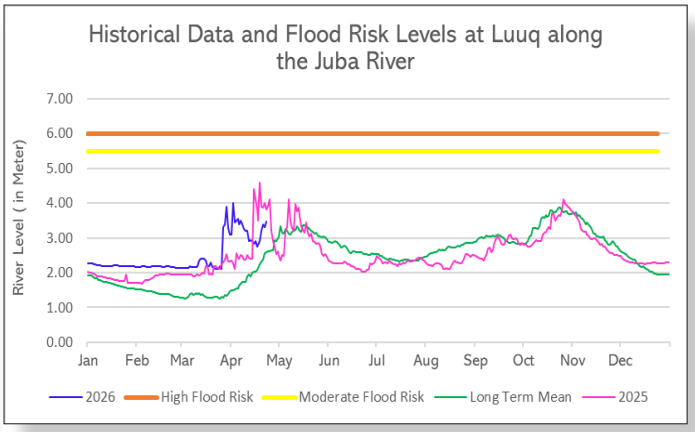

Figure 9: Current levels along the Juba River at Luuq Gauging Station as on 22 April 2026 compared to LTM and Flood Risk Levels

Impacts Associated with the Weather Forecast

- **Drought:** Gradual improvement is expected in the north and isolated southern areas, but moderate to severe drought persists across southern and central Somalia due to uneven rainfall
- **Water & Pasture:** Localized and lagged improvements expected in parts of Lower Juba, Middle Juba, Gedo regions, but recovery remains patchy and insufficient in key drought hotspots
- **Flood Risk:** Shabelle River remains near critical levels, especially at Jowhar and downstream. There is moderate risk of riverine flooding particularly at identified breakage points with additional upstream or local rainfall. Localized flash floods are possible in Afmadow, Bay, and coastal areas in the south
- **Heat Stress:** High daytime temperatures coupled with warm nights will increase heat stress and evapotranspiration, limiting moisture recovery even in rainy areas
- **Agriculture & Livelihoods:** Rains will support planted crop, fodder and pasture regeneration, but uneven distribution, dry spells, and weak livelihoods will constrain recovery

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