

SOMALIA WEEKLY WEATHER FORECAST

Valid From 25th to 31st March 2025

Light rainfall expected in the South-Central parts of the country with most parts of Somaliland and Puntland remaining dry.

Weather Review

According to climatology, the Gu season begins in the second half of March with rains expected to start in the south spreading northeastwards. Based on seasonal review, Deyr 2024 was marked by below normal rainfall, delayed onset, poor temporal and spatial distribution and prolonged dry spells. Jilal season (December – March 2025) has been predominantly hot and dry. The Gu outlook anticipates below normal rains with normal to delayed onset and above normal temperature conditions.

In the last one-week, light rains were generally observed in some parts of Woqooyi Galbeed, Awdal, Sool and Bari regions. The following individual stations (*Figure 1*) received light rainfall of below 50 mm between 15th and 21st March 2025: Taysa (43.0 mm), Wajaale (40.5 mm), Hargeisa (20.5 mm), Malowle (16.0 mm), Allaybaday (11.5 mm), Amoud (11.0 mm), Gebilley (8.5 mm), Aburin (4.0 mm), Gumburaha (3.0 mm), and Salaxley (3.0 mm) in Woqooyi Galbeed region; Dilla (38.0 mm), Quljeed (5.0 mm), Boorama (2.5 mm), and Magaalo Cad (2.0 mm) in Awdal region; Xudun (15.5 mm) in Sool region and Uusgure (1.0 mm) in Bari region. Very light rain (less than 1.0 mm) was also observed in Balli Gubadle in Woqooyi Galbeed and Taleex in Sool region.

Weather Forecast for the Week Between 25th to 31st March 2025

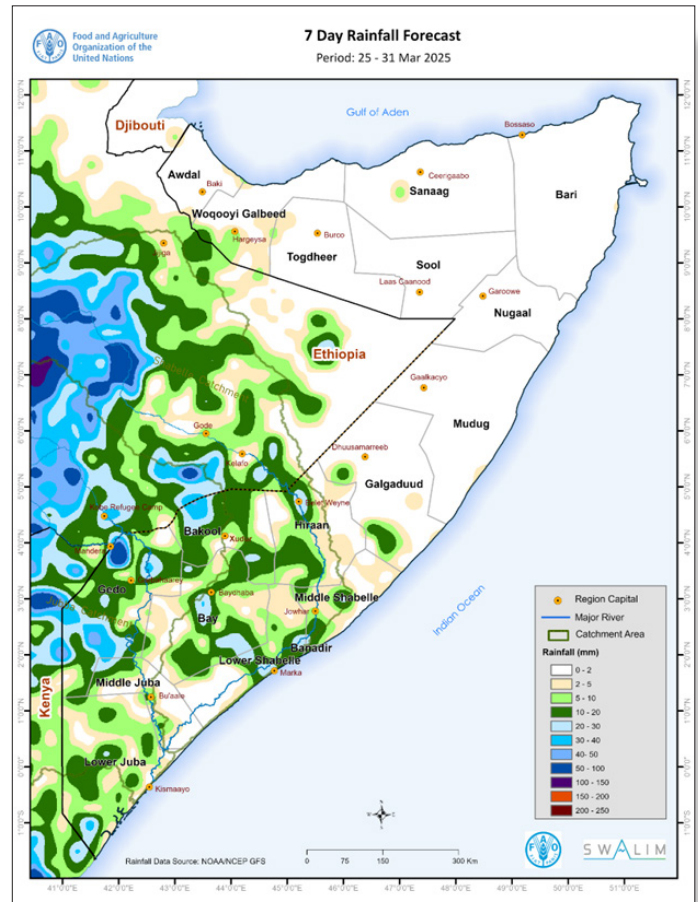
Rainfall Forecast:

This tail end of March marks the climatological start of the Gu rains with the arrival of the InterTropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) from the southern hemisphere. Based on NOAA-NCEP Global Forecasting System (GFS), light rains are expected in the southern parts of the country with most parts of Somaliland and Puntland remaining dry. The status and forecast evolution of Madden Julian Oscillation (MJO) does not favor the likelihood of heavy rains within the forecast period.

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

Moderate cumulative rainfall of 50 mm and more is likely over very isolated areas in Dollow district, western parts of Luuq district and northern parts of Belet Xaawo district in Gedo region.

Light cumulative rainfall of less than 50 mm is forecast over most parts of Gedo region, and some parts of Lower Juba particularly Badhaadhe district, Bay particularly Baydhaba district, Bakool particularly Ceel Barde district, Hiraan particularly Belet Weyne town, Saakow district in Middle Juba region, Middle Shabelle including Banadir region. Light rainfall is also likely over the western parts of both Dhuusamareeb and Ceel Dheer districts in Galgaduud region, southmost parts of both Gebiley and Hargeisa districts in Woqooyi Galbeed region



Map 1: Weekly cumulative rainfall forecast over Somalia 25 - 31 March 2025

and elevated areas in eastern parts of Ceel Afweyn district in Sanaag region. It is important to point out that light to moderate rains is forecast to fall within the catchments of Juba River. Light rains are anticipated over the lower reaches of Shabelle River and moderate rains further up in Ethiopian Highlands.

Dry conditions are likely to prevail over vast areas in Mudug region, Nugaal region and Bari regions. Similarly dry conditions are also expected in Sool, most low-lying areas in Sanaag region, vast inland parts of Awdal region, Berbera district and northern parts of both Gebiley and Hargeisa districts in Woqooyi Galbeed region.

Temperature Forecast:

Forecasted maximum (*Map 2*) and minimum temperatures indicate the persistence of north-south varying thermal conditions across the country. The spatial variation of forecast temperature is as follows:

Based on **minimum temperature**, nighttime thermal conditions are likely to vary from between 15 °C and 20 °C over vast inland areas in north including Gebiley and Hargeisa districts in Woqooyi Galbeed region, Borama district in Awdal region,

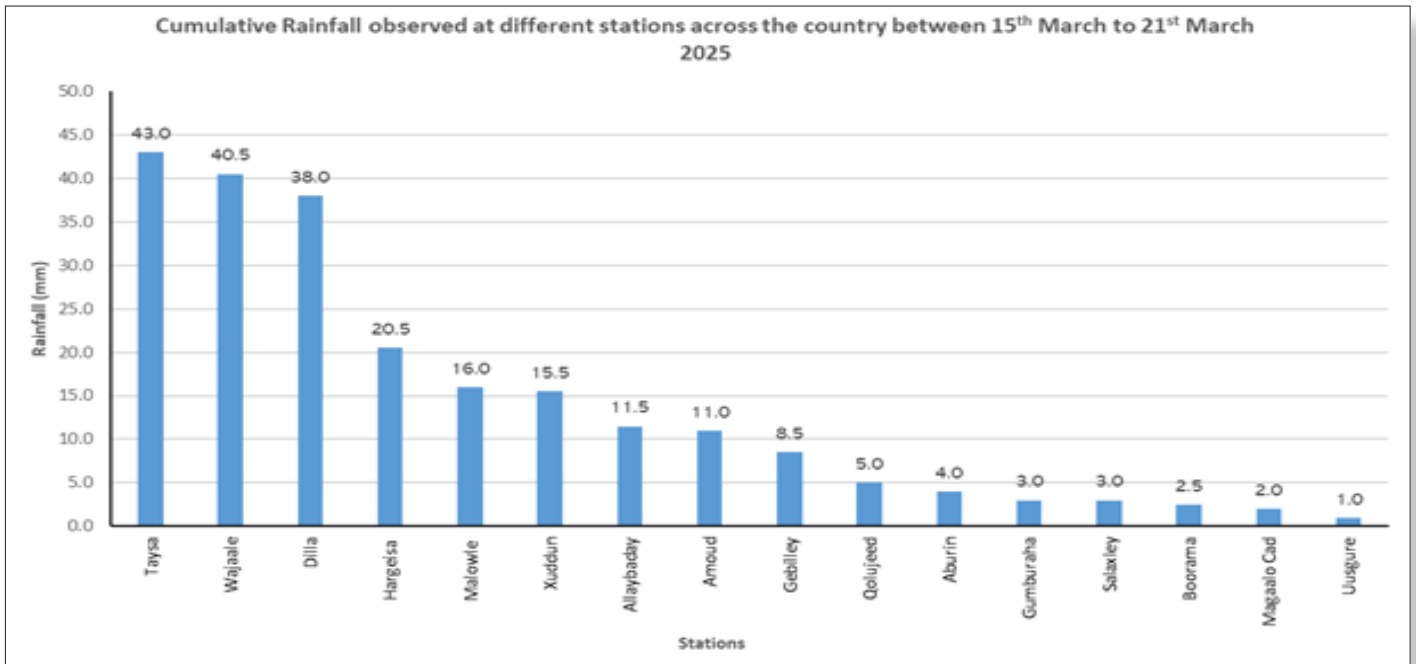
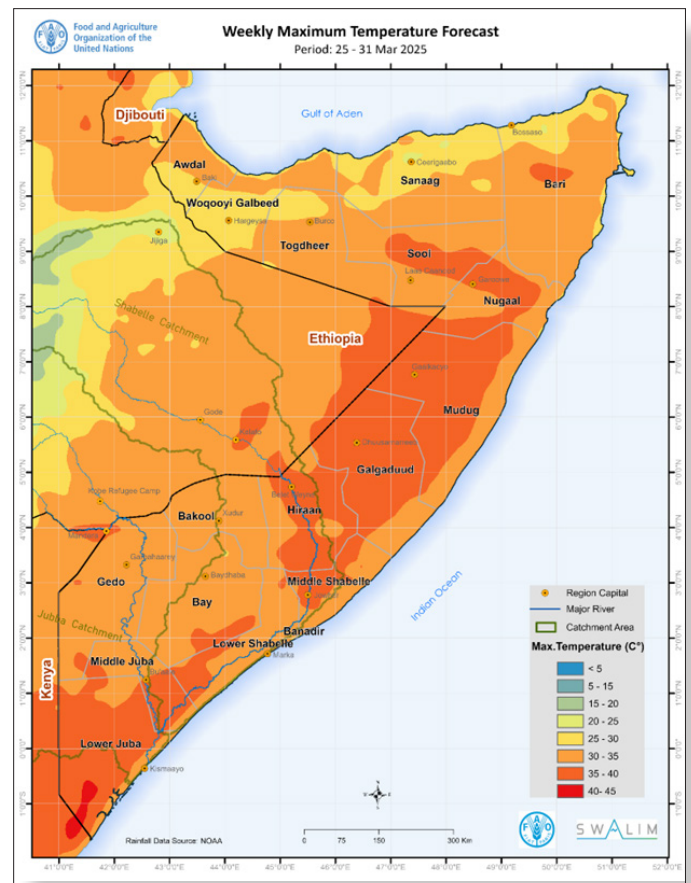


Figure 1: Stations that observed rainfall of more than 1 mm between 15 and 21 March 2025

Sheikh and Burco districts in Togdheer region, Ceerigaabo and Laasqoray districts in Sanaag region, Qandala district and northern parts of Qardho district in Bari region. Night time conditions are comparatively warmer across most southern and central regions. Warmest night time thermal conditions as a result of minimum temperatures greater than 25 °C are likely over most areas in Mudug, Galgaduud, Hiraan, Lower Shabelle, Lower Juba region, and Middle Shabelle including Banadir region. The rest of the country is likely to observe night time temperatures of between 20 °C and 25 °C.

Elevated daily maximum temperatures exceeding 35°C are likely to be observed over inland parts of Lower Juba, Galgaduud, Mudug and Nugaal regions, most parts of Hiraan region, far inland parts of Middle Shabelle, southern half of Middle Juba region, Sablaale district in Lower Shabelle region, southern parts of Buur Hakaba district in Bay region, western parts of Xudun district and northern parts of Laas Canood district in Sool region, and western parts of Ishkushuban district in Bari region. Temperatures in Badhaahde district in Lower Juba region may exceed 40 °C.

Moderately high daily maximum temperatures ranging from 30 °C to 35 °C are expected over most parts of Gedo, Bay, Bakool, and Lower Shabelle regions; Bandarbayle and Qardho districts in Bari region; Caynabo and Taleex districts and southern parts of Laas Canood district in Sool region; southern parts of both Ceerigaabo and Laasqoray districts in Sanaag region; Buhoodle, Burco and Owdweyne districts in Togdheer region; Berbera district in Woqooyi Galbeed region; Lughaye district and northern parts of both Baki and Zeylac districts in Awdal region. Similar conditions are expected over the entire eastern coastal strip stretching from Lower Juba to Bari region including Balcad, Cadale and Adan Yabaal districts in Middle Shabelle region; Banadir region; Ceel Dheer district in Galgaduud region; Xarardheere, Hobyo and Jariiban districts in Mudug region; and Eyl district in Nugaal region.



Map 2: Weekly maximum temperature forecast over Somalia 25 - 31 March 2025

Moderate daily maximum temperatures ranging from 25 °C to 30 °C are forecast over the Borama and southern half of Baki district in Awdal region, Gebiley and Hargeisa districts in Woqooyi Galbeed region; Sheikh district in Togdheer region; Ceel Afweyn district and northern parts of both Ceerigaabo and Laasqoray districts in Sanaag region; Bossaso, Qandala and Caluula districts in Bari region. The temperatures over highlands in Ceerigaabo and Qandala are likely to fall below 25 °C.

Current River Levels

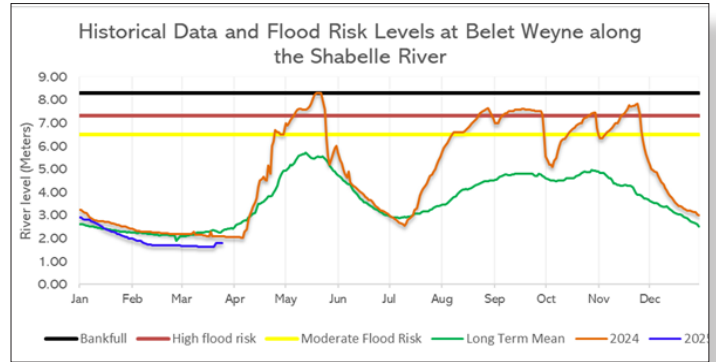
Since mid-January, the level of the Shabelle River at Belet Weyne has been consistently below both 2024 level and LTM (*Graph 1*). According to observations taken today (25 March), it is 65 cm below LTM. The 3-months low river level is a testament to the evolving drought conditions within its catchment. The steady but slight rise that has been observed the last two weeks is in response to rains observed further up in Ethiopian Highlands whose run off is likely to have been lost to abstraction through domestic and agropastoral use and evaporation along the long stretch. Although above the LTM, a similar dropping pattern has been observed at both Bulo Burte and Jowhar since the year began. Today's level at Bulo Burte (1.80 m) is now equivalent to the LTM but still below 2024 level while that at Jowhar (2.35 m) is equivalent to 2024 level and still above LTM.

Since the year began, the height of Juba River at Dollow has been equivalent to the 2024 level and above the station LTM with today's level (2.04 m) being 67 cm above LTM. A similar pattern has been observed at Luuq (*Graph 2*) where today's level (2.10 m) is 81 cm above the LTM. It is very likely that the Juba River depicts similar behaviour downstream at Bardheere and Bualle where efforts are being made to reinstall the river gauging stations.

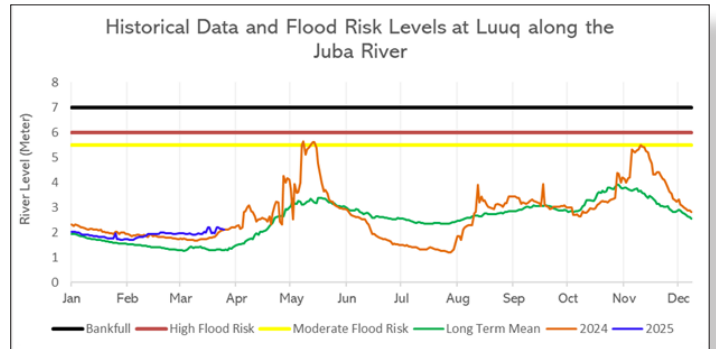
Impacts Associated with the Weekly Weather Forecast

The current low river levels are favorable for any channel assessment, structural and station maintenance and installations. The light to moderate rains is forecast to fall within the catchments of Juba River and the light rains anticipated over the lower reaches of Shabelle River and moderate rains further up in Ethiopian Highlands are likely to generate sufficient runoff to lead to the rise in the levels in the order of centimeters along both Rivers within the forecast period. Given its sensitivity to run off, noticeable rise is likely to be observed along the Juba River by the end of the forecast period. While the rains are expected to increase in both intensity and spread beyond the forecast period, the standard lag between storm events and run off, imply that a significant peak in river levels will be observed in the second week of April particularly over Shabelle River.

Given the forecast below normal Gu rains, there is currently a low likelihood of riverine flooding. On the other hand, isolated intense storms within the Gu could easily generate flash floods in vulnerable poorly drained areas. During this forecast period, the moderate rains forecast over Dollow district, western parts of Luuq district and northern parts of Belet Xaawo district in Gedo region may generate sufficient runoff over bare and paved surfaces.



Graph 1: Shabelle River level at Belet Weyne Station as of 25th March 2025



Graph 2: Juba River level at Luuq Gauging Station as of 25th March 2025

The forecast rains and the probable onset of Gu rains in the second week of April calls for sustained provisions of land preparatory activities and inputs in time for early planting of fast-maturing crops and fodder planting to take advantage of the prevailing soil warmth and forecast moisture conditions. The warm and wet conditions over Gedo are particularly likely to favor crop germination following dryland planting.

The hot and dry mass is likely to lead to prolonged dryness with elevated temperatures, high risk of heat stress, and evapotranspiration losses, and increased demand for water and reduced pasture availability over inland parts of Galgaduud, Mudug and Lower Juba regions. The hot air mass over Badhaadhe district in Lower Juba is particularly worrisome due to its likely negative implications on human thermal comfort and elevated rate of evaporation of the forecast light rain-driven soil moisture conditions.

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