

SOMALIA WEEKLY WEATHER FORECAST

Valid: 28 May to 3 June 2024

Dry conditions are expected to prevail over most parts of the country with chances of light morning rainfall over coastal parts of the southern regions.

Review for the week between 21 and 27 May 2024

The fourth week of May (21 and 27 May 2024) was generally marked by dry conditions and light rain (1 mm – 50 mm) received at fifteen (15) stations and moderate rains (50 mm – 100 mm) received at the following four (4) stations (Figure 1): Gumburaha (93.0 mm) in Woqooyi Galbeed region; Las Anod (71.0 mm) in Sool region; Kismaayo (55.6 mm) in Lower Juba region and Jowhar (51.4 mm) in Middle Shabelle region .

Most of the families who had been evacuated to safe high grounds after being displaced by riverine flooding around Belet Weyne town have reportedly returned except for those from sections within two villages (Kooshin and Haawotaako) where extensive flood water caused serious wet ground conditions rendering these houses uninhabitable. Even with the dry weather conditions, the subsequent downflow of the previously high-water levels at Belet Weyne led to a rise in the river level at Bulo Burte. After reported flood waters at Indha Ceel village, sandbags have been deployed to contain the water within the river.

Forecast for the week between 28 May and 3 June 2024

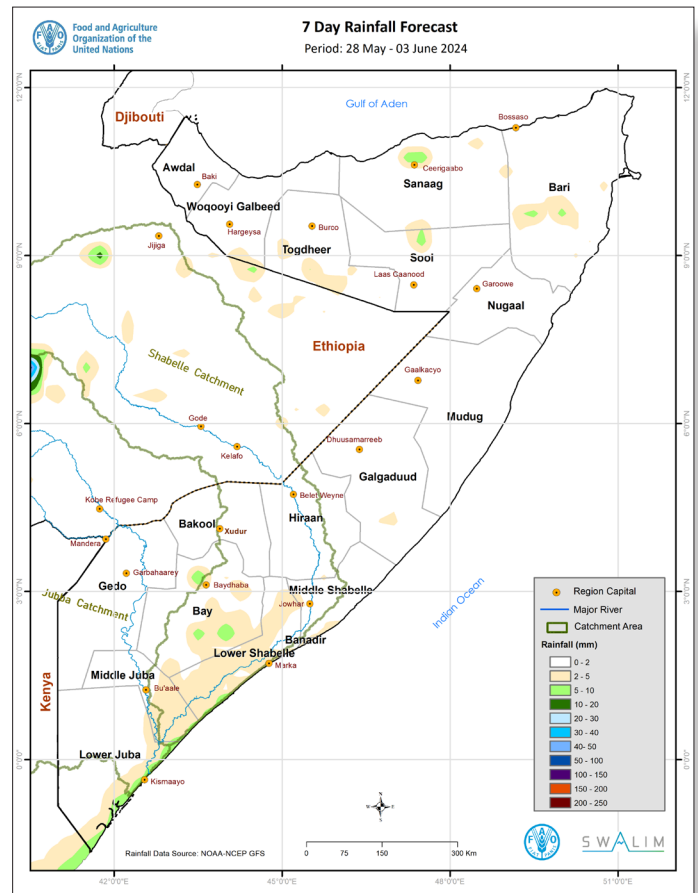
Weekly Rainfall Forecast: According to ICPAC, during the week between 28 May to 3 June 2024, dry conditions are expected in most inland parts of the country with chances of light rainfall over coastal parts of the southern regions (Map 1). Given that this forecast week represents the transition out of the Gu season, it is important to mention that, according to ICPAC, above-normal Hagaa rainfall conditions are expected over Lower Juba, Middle Juba, Lower Shabelle, and Awdal regions. On the other hand, Togdheer and Sool-Sanaag regions are likely to experience drier-than-normal Hagaa conditions.

Evolution of Rainfall Drivers: As the Inter Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) shifts further north, its impact on the Gu rains across the country begins to diminish ushering in Hagaa season. As the ITCZ shifts further north, a low-pressure system will be set up in Indian Sub-continent triggering the Southwest monsoon winds. As the winds blow from land into the Ocean (westerly land breeze) between 3:00 am and 9:00 am in the morning they converge with the prevailing easterly winds aiding lifting of warm and moist air causing the morning showers observed and forecast over the coastal parts of southern regions including Banadir. The forecast shift in the position of Madden Julian Oscillation's (MJO) index from the Indian Ocean re-affirms the forecast dry conditions inland and a reduction in the intensity of the morning coastal showers in the coming days. This shift is also likely to lead to a reduction in the cyclonic activity in the southwestern Indian Ocean and favor such disturbances in the northern Indian Ocean particularly Bay of Bengal.

Temperature Forecast:

The spatial variation of maximum temperature (Map 2) is outlined below:

Extremely high temperatures of above 40°C are likely over the northern parts of the country including Iskushuban district in Bari region; Ceel Afweyn district in Sanaag region; Berbera district in



Map 1: Cumulative rainfall forecast over Somalia between 28 May and 3 June 2024

Woqooyi Galbeed; and Lughaye, Zeylac districts and northern parts of Baki district in Awdal region.

Moderately high temperatures of between 35°C and 40°C are likely over most other parts of both Bari and Awdal regions; most other parts of Ceel Afweyn district and northern parts of Laasqoray district in Sanaag region; and inland parts of the following regions: Galgaduud, Mudug, Lower Juba, Middle Juba and Middle Shabelle region. Similar temperature is also likely over Doolow, Luuq and Bardheere districts in Gedo region; Buur Hakaba district in Bay region; Wanla Weyne district in Lower Shabelle region; Jalalaqsi district and central parts of both Belet Weyne and Bulo Burte districts in Hiraan region; Eyl and Garowe districts in Nugaal region; Caynabo and Xudun districts and northern parts of Laas Canood district in Sool region; northern parts of both Hargeysa and Gebiley districts in Woqooyi Galbeed region; and central parts of Baki district in Awdal region.

Moderate temperatures of between 30°C and 35°C are likely over Bakool and Togdheer region; Badhaadhe, Kismaayo and Jamaame districts in Lower Juba region; Jilib district in Middle Juba region; Sablaale, Baraawe, Kurtunwaarey, Marka, Qoryooley and Afgoye districts in Lower Shabelle region, Dinsoor, Qansax Dheere and Baydhaba districts in Bay region; Balcad and Cadale districts in Middle Shabelle region; eastern parts of Belet Weyne and western parts of Bulo Burte in Hiraan region; coastal parts of Ceel Dheer district in Galgaduud region; narrow coastal parts of Xarardheere and Hobyo

districts in Mudug region; Burtinle district in Nugaal region; Qandala district in Bari region; Taleex district and southern parts of Laas Canood district in Sool region; Ceerigaabo district and southern parts of Laasqoray district in Sanaag region; southern parts of both Hargeysa and Gebiley districts in Woqooyi Galbeed; and Borama district in Awdal region.

Temperatures less than 30°C are anticipated over the northern parts of Ceerigaabo district in Sanaag region; and very narrow coastal strips in the southern parts of the country particularly in Lower Shabelle and Middle Shabelle, including Banadir region.

Impacts Associated with the Weekly Weather Forecast

This week marks the operational end of Gu rains cross the country ushering in Hagea season. The current and predicted general dry conditions to light rains is likely to lead to a further drop in the levels along the entire Juba River and along the Shabelle River at Belet Weyne. The resultant wet ground conditions are expected to dry up permitting families to safely return. As the previously large volumes of water at Belet Weyne flows downstream, it is expected that the river will continue rising at Bulo Burte this coming week and at Jalalaqsi, Jowhar and Balcad thereafter. There is therefore a high flooding risk downstream at Bulo Burte, and low risk at Belet Weyne and downstream at Jalalaqsi, Jowhar and Balcad. Flood response plans can now be deactivated over the entire Juba River and over Shabelle River at Belet Weyne.

The forecast dry conditions may be beneficial to agropastoral activities like weeding, over such areas as Lower Juba, Middle Juba, Lower Shabelle, and Awdal regions where above-normal Hagea conditions are expected to sustain soil conditions favoring continued crop and fodder production. The hot and dry airmass expected over the northern parts of the country including Iskushuban district in Bari region; Ceel Afweyn district in Sanaag region; Berbera district in Woqooyi Galbeed; and Lughaye and Zeylac districts and northern parts of Baki district in Awdal region this coming week will lead to severe evapotranspiration with serious agropastoral implications. The drier-than-normal Hagea conditions, particularly over Togdheer and Sool-Sanaag regions are not favorable to any crops and fodder that are still in their early stages. Concerted efforts must therefore be put in place to conserve water and preserve existing crops and fodder.

Given the light coastal cloudiness and rains, the forecast warm airmass will offer some human thermal comfort over southern coastal parts of the country particularly in Lower Shabelle and Middle Shabelle, including Banadir region.

Current River Levels

In response to the Gu rains, the Shabelle River steadily rose at Belet Weyne culminating in a 5-day bankful situation with reported riverine floods particularly at breakage points. The dry conditions reported in the last one week over Shabelle River catchment led to a sharp drop in the previously high-water levels at Belet Weyne to below flood risk levels. Compared to observations taken on 23 May 2024, levels recorded on 28 May 2024 at Belet Weyne (5.20 m) represent 3.10 m drop from full embankment to below flood risk levels. The subsequent downflow of this voluminous water led to a rise in the river level at Bulo Burte. Observation made on 28

May (7.15 m) represents a 49 cm rise, which is just 5 cm below high flood risk level. The Shabelle River remained stable at 4.40 m in Jowhar and is now above the 2023 level and slightly above the Long-Term Mean (LTM).

The general reduction of rains over Juba River catchment over the last three weeks also led to an overall drop in the river levels. A steady drop in the river level at both Doolow and Luuq (Graph 2) to below flood risk levels has been observed with a record made on 28 May being equivalent to both station LTM and 2023 level. Compared to observations taken on 23 May 2024, levels recorded on 28 May 2024 at Doolow (3.0 m) and Luuq (2.96 m) represent 20 cm and 26 cm drop, respectively. A similar drop in the levels is likely along the entire Juba River due to reduced rainfall over the catchment.

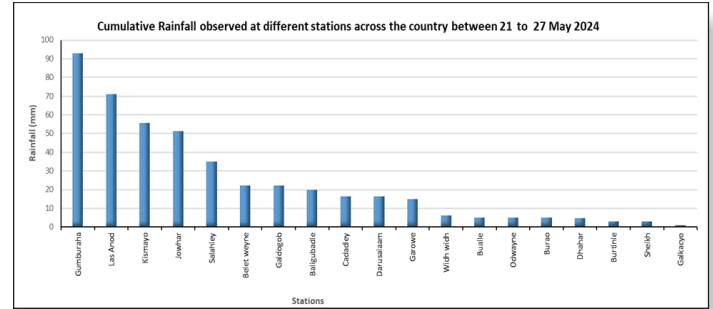
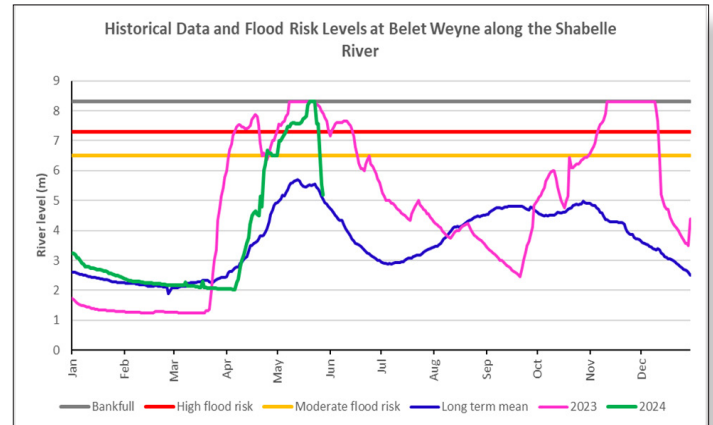
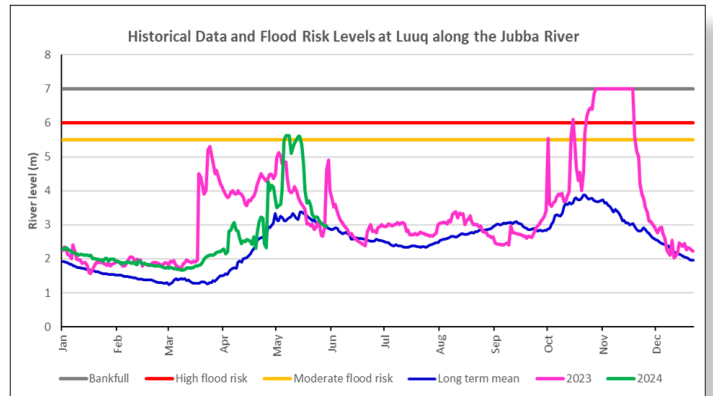


Figure 1: Stations that observed rainfall between 21 and 27 May 2024



Graph 1: Shabelle River level at Belet Weyne Gauging Station as of 28 May 2024



Graph 2: Juba River level at Luuq Gauging Station as of 28 May 2024

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