Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

SWALIM
Somali Water and Land Information Management

SOMALIA WEEKLY WEATHER FORECAST

Valid From 29 April - 5 May 2025

Review Summary:

- So far, Gu rains have been normal to above normal in most parts in southern Somalia but remains significantly below normal across most of Somaliland and Puntland
- Widespread rains were observed across southern Somalia, with moderate intensity particularly over Lower Juba, Middle Juba, Gedo, Bay and Lower Shabelle regions
- Rainfall triggered moderate increases in water levels along the Shabelle River, with levels at Jowhar slightly exceeding moderate flood risk threshold
- Isolated flooding episodes have been reported downstream of Jowhar and at Afgooye due to human-induced riverbank breakages
- The Juba River levels saw significant reductions at Dollow and Luuq due to diminished rainfall upstream.

Forecast Highlight:

- Light to moderate rainfall is anticipated over south-central Somalia, while predominantly dry conditions will persist across Somaliland and Puntland
- River levels along the Shabelle River will likely continue rising moderately, but remain below natural flooding thresholds, with human-induced flooding ongoing downstream of Jowhar
- The Juba River will fluctuate but will remain below flood risk levels.

Weather Review

So far, Gu rains have been normal to above normal in most parts in southern Somalia but remains significantly below normal across most of Somaliland and Puntland. Based on weekly satellite rainfall estimates, rains were generally observed in the southern parts of the country with moderate intensities particularly over Lower Juba, Middle Juba, Gedo, Bay and Lower Shabelle regions and light intensity over Bakool, Middle Shabelle, and some central parts of Woqooyi Galbeed region. Dry conditions prevailed over Puntland, most parts of Somaliland, inland parts of Galmudug and most parts of Hiraan region. Based on actual observations *(Figure 1)*, the following four stations in the southern part of the country recorded moderate rainfall of between 50 and 100 mm from 22 to 28 April 2025: Baidoa (98.0 mm) in Bay region, Afgooye (91.3 mm) in Lower Shabelle region, Bardhere (66.0 mm) in Gedo region and Bualle (66.0 mm) in Middle Juba region. Light rainfall of below 50 mm was observed in the following individual stations: Taysa (45.0 mm), Allaybaday (19.5 mm), Salaxley (13.0 mm), Aburin (8.0 mm), and Gumburaha (7.0 mm) in Woqooyi Galbeed region; Qansax Dheere (40.0 mm) and Buur Hakaba (1.6 mm) in Bay region; Bulo Burte (38.0 mm) in Hiraan region; Galkacayo (33.0 mm) and Galdogob (13.0 mm) in Mudug region; Awdheegle (29.3 mm) and Wanla Wayne (15.0 mm) in Lower Shabelle region; Magalo Cad (20.5 mm) in Awdal region; Jowhar (20.0 mm) and Balcad (8.2 mm) in Middle Shabelle region and Dollow (18.4 mm) and Luuq (5.8 mm) in Gedo region, Mogadishu (8.0 mm) in Banadir region; and Widh-widh (3.7 mm) in Togdheer region.

Rising water levels have been observed along the Shabelle River, especially at Beledweyne, Bulo Burte, and Jowhar. Despite elevated levels, no natural river overflow has occurred. However, flooding from breakages associated with riverbank breach for irrigation occurred downstream of Jowhar at Bayaxaaw, Raqayle with ongoing community-led efforts to repair these breaches, and in Afgoooye. A significant drop in Juba River levels at Dollow and Luuq has been observed with levels expected to remain stable below flood-risk thresholds downstream.

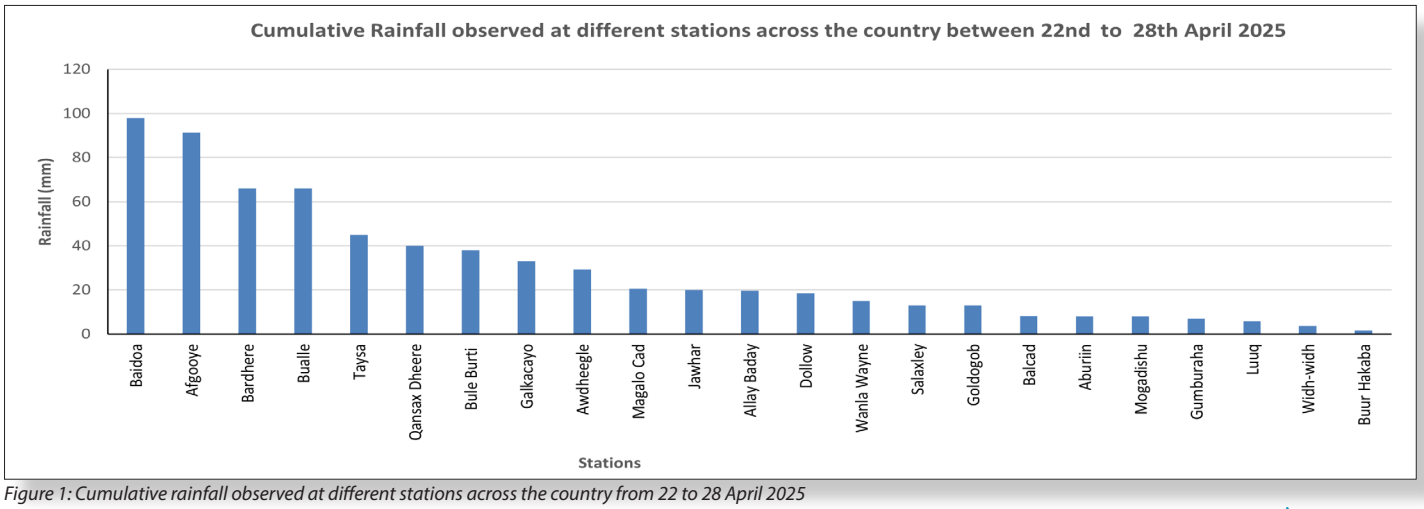

Figure 1: Cumulative rainfall observed at different stations across the country from 22 to 28 April 2025

Weather Forecast for the Week Between 29 April - 5 May 2025

Rainfall Forecast:

According to the NOAA-NCEP Global Forecasting System (GFS) forecast, light to moderate rains are expected in some areas in the southern and central inland parts of the country and isolated areas in Somaliland. Dry conditions are anticipated to prevail over most areas in Puntland, Lower Juba region, and central coastal parts of the country. The temporal and spatial distribution of the forecast rainfall *(Figure 2)* are as follows:

Moderate cumulative rainfall of 50 mm to 100 mm is likely to occur over isolated areas in Bay region particularly eastern parts of Diinsoor district and areas in Baydhaba-Buur Hakaba border; western parts of Rab Dhuure district and southern parts of Ceel Barde district in Bakool region; central parts of Owdweyne district inTogdheer region; and northern parts of Ceerigaabo district in Sanaag region. Such moderate rains are expected to fall over the upper sections of the Juba River catchment in Ethiopia.

Light cumulative rainfall of less than 50 mm is forecast over most parts of Gedo, Middle Juba, Bay, Bakool, Lower Shabelle, Hiraan and Togdheer regions; some parts of Galgaduud region particularly the areas bordering Ceel Buur and Dhuusamareeb districts, and the eastern parts of Cadaado district; most parts of Galdogob district, areas bordering Gaalkacyo and Hobyo districts in Mudug region; parts of Awdal region particularly southern areas of both Borama and Baki districts; most parts of Sanaag region particularly Laasqoray district, eastern areas of Ceel Afweyn District, and western parts of Ceerigaabo district; most parts of Gebiley district and northern areas of Hargeisa district in Woqooyi Galbeed region; most parts of Xudun district and southern areas of Laas Caanood in Sool region; and northern parts of Qandala district in Bari region. Rains of similar intensity are likely to fall over most areas within the catchments of both Juba and Shabelle River.

Dry conditions are likely to prevail over most parts Lower Juba, Middle Shabelle and Nugaal regions; most parts of Galgaduud region particularly Ceel Dheer District and southern parts of Ceel Buur district; several parts of Mudug region particularly Xarardheere, Hobyo and Jariiban districts; most parts of Bari region particularly Bossaso, Qardho, Iskushuban ,Callula and southern areas of Qandala district; most parts of Taleex district and northern parts of Laas Caanood district in Sool region; western parts of Ceel Afweyn district and eastern parts of Ceerigaabo district in Sanaag region; Woqooyi Galbeed region particularly Berbera and Hargeisa districts; and several parts of Awdal region particularly Zeylac and Lughaye districts.

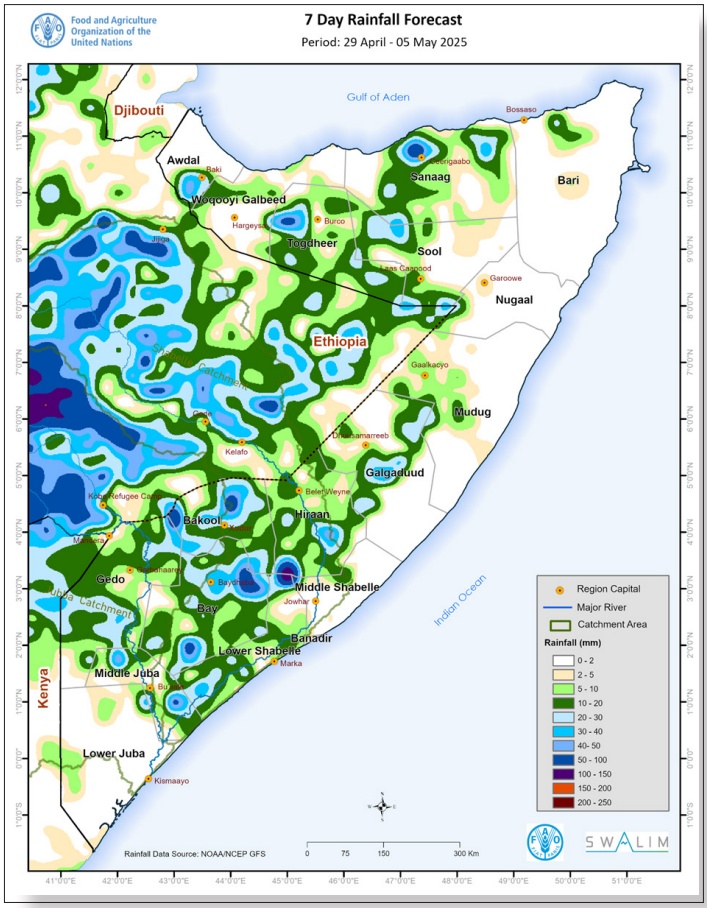

Figure 2: Weekly cumulative rainfall forecast over Somalia from 29 April to 5 May 2025

Rainfall and Temperature Classification

- Dry conditions: 0 mm
- Light rain: 0 to 50 mm
- Moderate rain: 50 to 100 mm
- Heavy rain: 100 to 150 mm
- Very heavy rain: more than 150 mm
- Low temperatures: Below 25 °C
- Moderate temperatures: 25 °C to 30 °C
- Moderately high temperatures: 30 °C to 35 °C
- High temperatures ranging: 35 °C to 40 °C
- Very high Temperature: More than 40 35 °C

Temperature Forecast:

Compared to last week, maximum temperature *(Figure 3)* is expected to drop slightly this week particularly over the central parts of the country particularly Hiraan region and inland parts of both Middle Shabelle and Galgaduud regions. There are persistent low thermal conditions in the north, particularly Borama district, southern parts of Gebiley district, northern parts of Ceerigaabo district, and parts of Qandala district. There is night-time coastal warming with marked influence stretching far inland over Galgaduud and Mudug regions. The spatial variation of forecast temperature is as follows:

Based on **minimum temperature**, the coolest nighttime thermal conditions (15 °C and 20 °C) are likely over northern inland parts of Ceerigaabo district in Sanaag region; northern parts of Owdweyne district in Togdheer region; central parts of Qandala district in Bari region; southern parts of both Baki and Borama districts in Awdal region; and southern parts of both Gebiley and Hargeisa districts in Woqooyi Galbeed. The warmest night time thermal conditions (25 °C and 30 °C) are likely over most areas in Galgaduud and Mudug regions; narrow northern coastal strip with marked influence in the northern parts of Zeylac, Lughaye and Baki districts in Awdal region; narrow eastern coastal strip including Banadir region; some parts of Hiraan region particularly Jalalaqsi district and the central and eastern parts of both Belet Weyne and Bulo Burte districts; Balcad district and western parts of Jowhar district; Afgooye and Wanla Weyn districts in Lower

Shabelle region. The rest of the country is likely to experience moderate nighttime thermal conditions ranging from 20 °C and 25 °C.

High daily maximum temperatures ranging from 35 °C to 40 °C are expected over Afmadow district and inland parts of Badhaadhe district in Lower Juba region; Bu'aale district and eastern parts of Saakow district in Middle Juba region; southern parts of Diinsoor district in Bay region; inland parts of both Hobyo and Jariiban districts and eastern parts of Gaalkacyo district in Mudug region; central parts of Garowe district in Nugaal region; Bossaso district, southeastern parts of Qardho district, inland parts of both Iskushuban and Caluula districts in Bari region; eastern parts Laas Caanood district in Sool region; western parts of Ceel Afweyn district in Sanaag region; central parts of both Zeylac and Baki districts and southern parts of Lughaye district in Awdal region; inland parts of Berbera district, northern parts of Gebiley district, and northern inland parts of Hargeisa district in Woqooyi Galbeed region.

Moderately high daily maximum temperatures ranging from 30 °C to 35 °C are likely over narrow northern and eastern coastal strip and over most parts of the following regions: Gedo,Togdheer, Bakool, Bay, Lower Shabelle, Middle Shabelle, Hiraan and Galgaduud. Similar temperatures are also likely over; Borama district and southern parts of Baki district in Awdal region; southern parts of both Gebiley and Harqeisa districts in Woqooyi Galbeed region; Caynabo, Xudun, and Taleex districts and western parts of Laas Caanood district in Sool region; Laasqoray district and southern parts of both Ceel Afweyn and Ceerigaabo districts in Sanaag region; most parts of Bandarbeyla and Qardho districts in Bari region; Burtinle and Eyl districts in Nugaal region; Galdogob district, vast coastal parts of Hobyo district, and southern parts of Gaalkacyo district in Mudug region.

Moderate daily maximum temperatures ranging from 25 °C to 30 °C are expected over vast areas in the northern parts of Ceerigaabo district in Sanaag region, vast areas in the northern parts of Oodweyne district and some areas in the northwestern parts of Burco district in Togdheer region, and some central areas stretching from the north to south of Qandala district in Bari region.

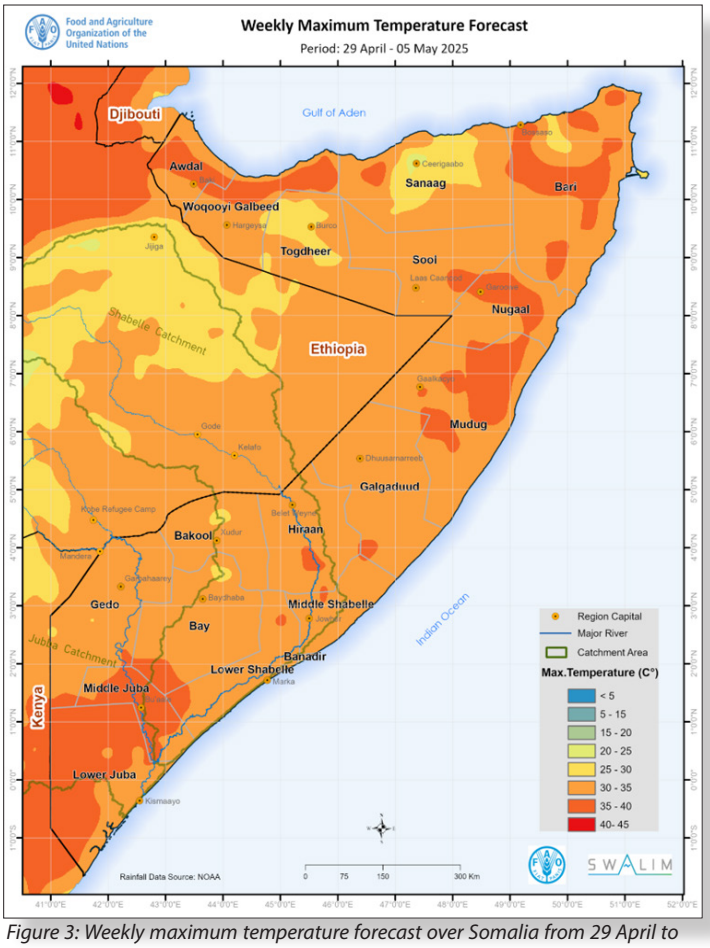

Figure 3: Weekly maximum temperature forecast over Somalia from 29 April to 5 May 2025

Current River Levels

Along the Shabelle River at Beledweyne station *(Figure 4),* there is a steady increase in water levels with the reading taken on 29 April (4.98 m) being 98 cm above last week's level (4.00 m), 19 cm above LTM level (4.69 m) but 1.52 m below the 2024 level (6.50 m). A similar steadily rising pattern has been observed at Bulo Burte with the level observed on 29 April (4.00 m) being 80 cm above last week's record (3.20 m) but generally equivalent to both LTM and 2024 level. Although dry conditions were generally observed in the last week, this steady rise must have been driven by delayed run off occasioned by light to moderate rains over the upper catchments in mid-April. A second sharp rise in water levels at Jowhar that began on 22 April crossed the moderate flood risk threshold (5.00 m) on 24 April and high flood risk threshold (5.25 m) on 25 April but decreased slightly to 5.15 m on 29 April. The river level is 15 cm above the moderate flood-risk threshold.

Along the Juba River at Dollow station, there has been an 82 cm decrease from last week's reading (3.20 m) with the level observed on 29 April (2.38 m) being 67 cm below the LTM (3.05 m) and 1.70 m below 2024 level (4.08 m). The level recorded on 29 April at Luuq (2.54 m) represents a 1.46 m drop from last week's value (4.00 m) and is almost equivalent to LTM, but 54 cm below last year's record (3.08 m) as shown in Figure 5. This fluctuation with a general drop is likely to be driven by a prolonged reduction in rainfall intensity in the upper catchments. Even with the observed rains over its catchment within the country, it is expected that the river flow downstream will lead to similar fluctuations below moderate flood risk levels at Bardheere, at Saakow and at Bualle.

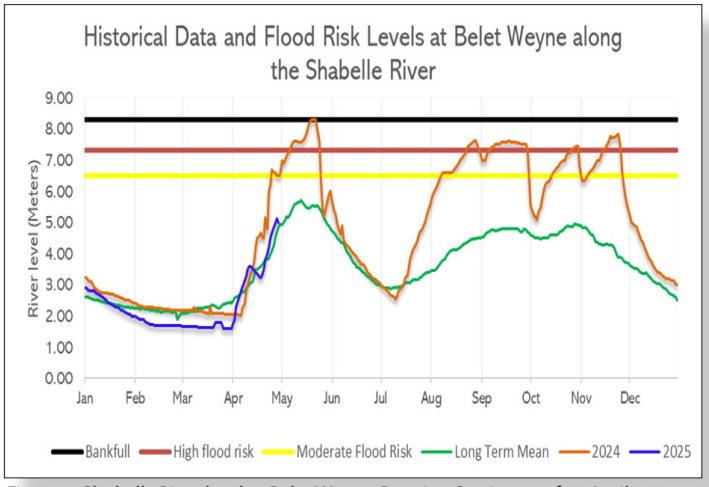

Figure 4: Shabelle River level at Belet Weyne Gauging Station as of 29 April 2025

Impacts Associated with the 29 April - 5 May 2025 Weekly Forecast

The runoff from the observed and forecasted light to moderate rains within the Shabelle River catchment, both in Somalia and upstream in Ethiopia, are expected to sustain the steady water level rise at Beledweyne, Bulo Burte, and Jowhar stations. While natural river overflows remain unlikely, existence of river breakages poses continued risk to local communities and farmlands, particularly in Bayaxaaw, Raqayle, and Afgooye. Authorities should urgently repair these breaches and communities are advised against creating new openings along the riverbanks.

For the Juba River, forecasted moderate rains over its upper catchments, especially within Ethiopian highlands, will likely cause fluctuations and minor increases in river levels, but conditions will remain below flood-risk thresholds. Communities along the Juba River should nevertheless stay alert and monitor river conditions, especially in areas historically prone to flash flooding.

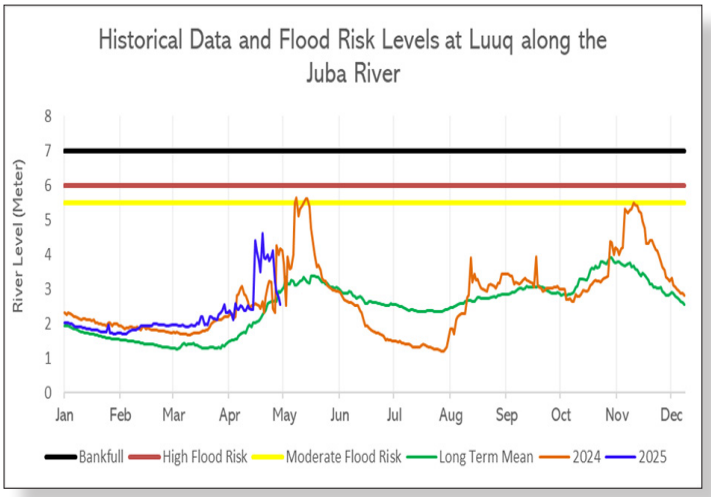

Figure 5: Juba River level at Luuq Gauging Station as of 29 April 2025

Dry conditions forecasted for most parts of Puntland, parts of Somaliland, and some central regions particularly Lower Juba, Middle Shabelle, and Nugaal will likely lead to increased heat stress, higher evapotranspiration rates, and greater demand for water. Livestock health and pasture availability particularly in Puntland could deteriorate further, thus escalating vulnerability among pastoral communities.

The anticipated moderate rains across certain areas in Bay, Bakool, Togdheer, and Sanaag regions will generally improve soil moisture conditions, benefitting crop and fodder and overall agro-pastoral productivity. Additionally, moderate rainfall over Togdheer and Sanaag could slightly alleviate existing drought conditions but may not be sufficient for complete recovery; careful water and pasture resource management remains critical.

Overall, communities, farmers, and local authorities should closely monitor weather updates and remain prepared for potential fluctuations in rainfall and temperature conditions during this forecast period.

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

Funded by the European Union

UKaid from the British people

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