

UPDATE ON THE JUBA AND SHABELLE RIVER LEVELS, SOMALIA

Issued: 9 November 2025

Observed Rainfall

FAO SWALIM and partners continue to monitor and analyze rainfall and river conditions across Somalia and the upper catchments in Ethiopia. The latest satellite rainfall estimates for 1 – 7 November 2025 confirm the prevalence of dry conditions across most parts of the country with only light rainfall over southern Somalia and the Ethiopian highlands, consistent with the forecast issued in our Weekly Weather Forecast Bulletin (4–10 November 2025).

Current River Levels

Today's observations (9 November) at the Shabelle River monitoring stations at Belet Weyne (4.30 m), Bullo Burti (4.33 m), and Jowhar (3.78 m) show that water levels remain stable and well below flood-risk thresholds. Similarly low levels are recorded along the Juba River at Dollow (3.10 m) and Luuq (3.18 m).

At **Belet Weyne**, the river level has been on a downward trend since October 29 (6.20 m), with today's record (4.30 m) representing almost 2 m reduction in level. **Today's level is also more than 2 m below moderate flood risk level (6.50 m)**, and 2.50 m below last year's level (6.80 m). Along the Juba at **Luuq**, the river level has been on a downward trend since October 26 (4.10 m), with today's record (3.18 m) representing almost 1 m reduction in level. **Today's level is also more than 2 m below moderate flood risk level (5.50 m)**, and 2.14 m below last year's level (5.32 m).

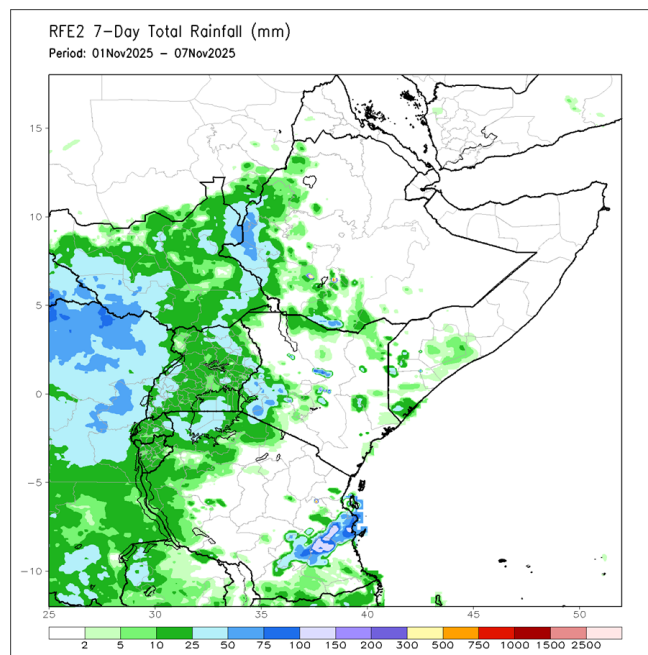


Figure 1: Observed cumulative satellite rainfall estimates (NOAA CPC RFE2) from 1 to 7 November 2025

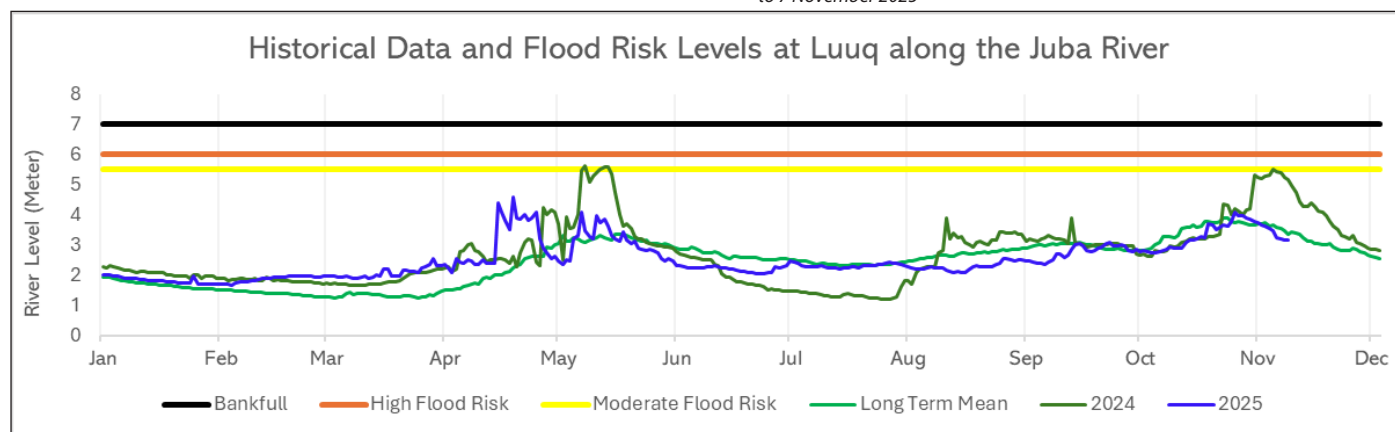


Figure 2: Current levels along the Shabelle River at Belet Weyne Gauging Station as on 9 November 2025 compared to LTM and Flood Risk Levels

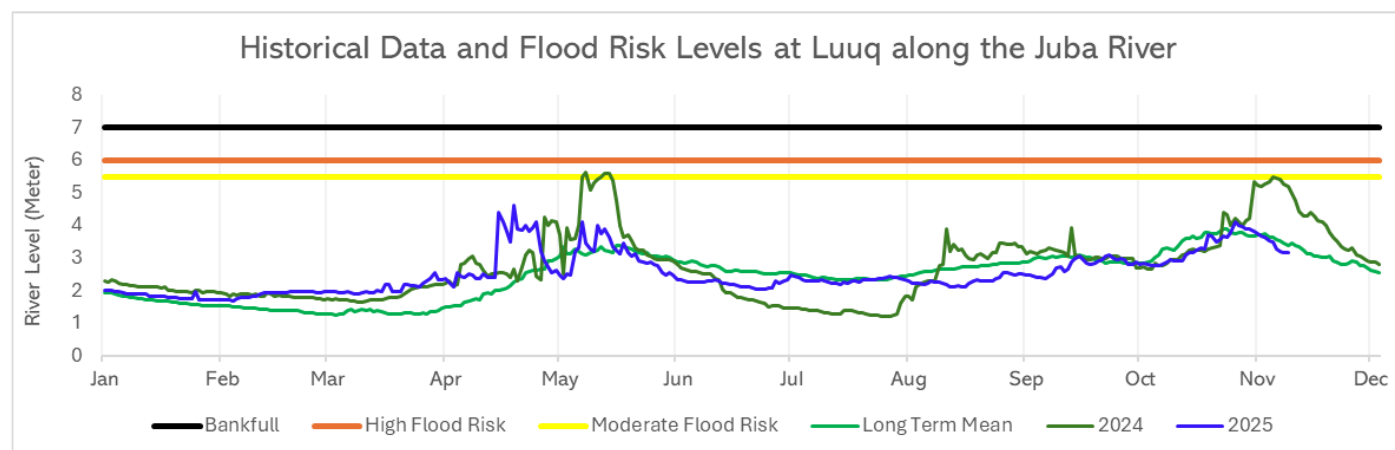


Figure 3: Current levels along the Juba River at Luuq Gauging Station as on 9 November 2025 compared to LTM and Flood Risk Levels

Based on climatology, the first week of November represents the climax of the Deyr rainfall season. So far into the season, Deyr rains have been below normal across most parts of the country. Given that the Madden Julian Oscillation (MJO) index (Figure 5) is out-of-phase, and as confirmed by the NOAA GFS (Figure 4), dry conditions are forecast over Somalia including the entire Juba and Shabelle River catchments in the coming

week. The Deyr season may actually come to an end in the coming two weeks ushering in the hot and dry Jilaal season.

Based on the available observed and forecast data, the likelihood of flooding along both Juba and Shabelle Rivers remain low.

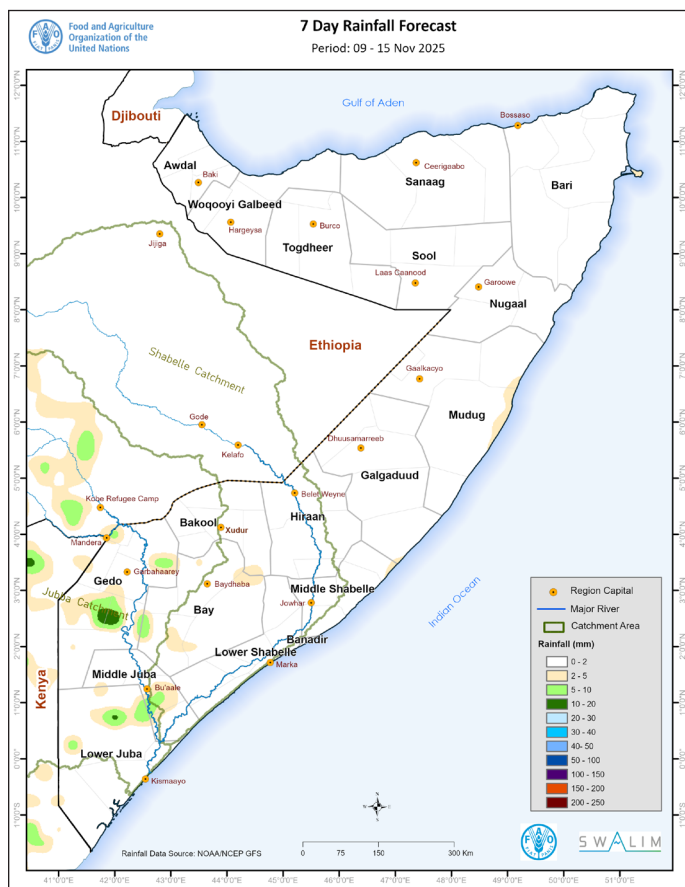


Figure 4: Forecast weekly total rainfall from 9 to 15 November 2025

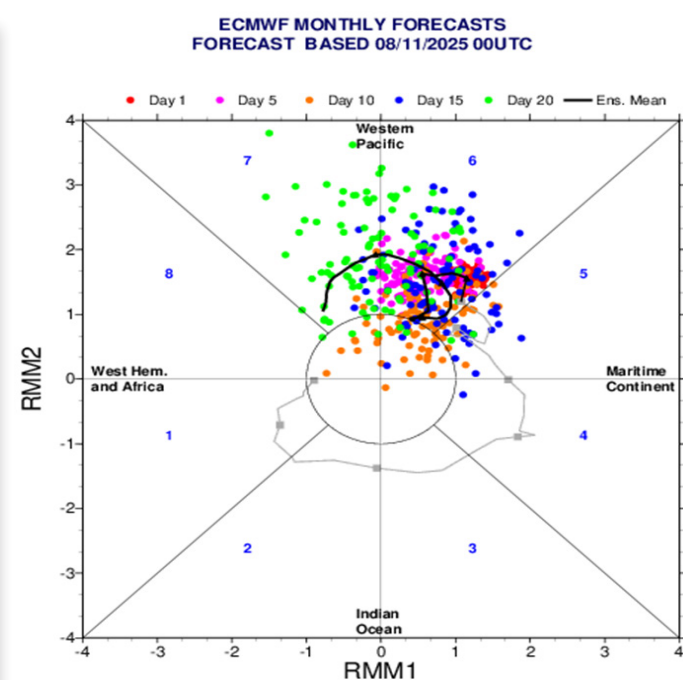


Figure 5: Madden Julian Oscillation as of 8 November 2025 showing the position of the index in region 6/7. Significant cloudiness and precipitation in Somalia are normally favored when the index is in phase 2/3 and outside the inner cycle

FAO-SWALIM will continue to provide regular updates in coordination with SODMA and relevant authorities to ensure consistent and evidence based early warning communication.

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

