

Flood Alert!

Issued: 17th April, 2015



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations



Within the last 48 hours, heavy downpour has been experienced in many parts of the Juba and Shabelle River basins both in Somalia and in the Ethiopian Highlands (Table 1). Flash floods have been reported in some areas including Belet Weyne and Mogadishu. Following the heavy rains, the river levels have increased drastically in the upper reaches of the two rivers. This high river level is expected to translate into high levels downstream thus endangering vulnerable communities.

The rainfall forecast for the next seven days (18th to 24th April, 2015) is pointing towards moderate to heavy rains within the Ethiopian highlands and inside Somalia as seen in Map 1. Observed river levels along the Juba and Shabelle Rivers are expected to continue rising further in the coming week following the foreseen heavy rains.

There is therefore **high risk of flooding** in the coming few days in the lower reaches Shabelle rivers given the current situation and the foreseen rains. Areas to watch include;

- Jowhar town and its environs; where the river level currently is at full crest,
- Other riverine towns in the lower Shabelle region such as Balcaad and Kurtunwaarey

There is no risk of flooding that is foreseen along the Juba River during the same period.

The foreseen heavy rains are also likely to cause flash floods in low lying areas.

Map 1: 7 days Rainfall Forecast from 18th to 24th April, 2015

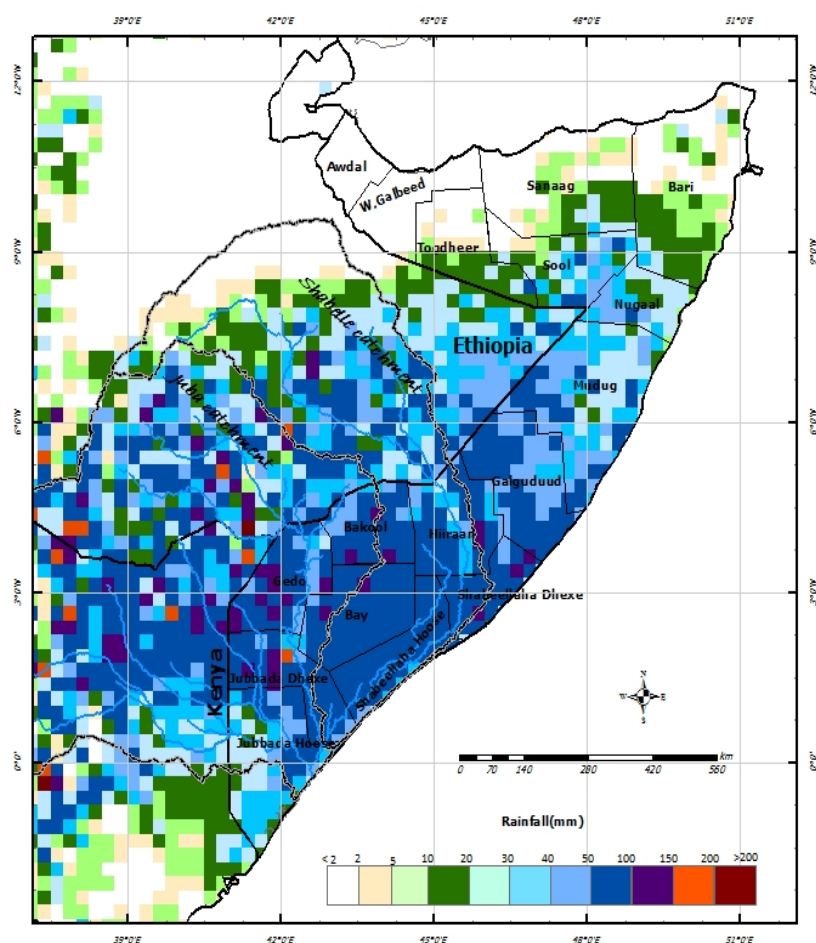


Table1: Total rainfall for some selected stations for the period 16th and 17th April, 2015

Station	Rainfall (mm)
Belet Weyne	103.0
Bulo Burte	37.0
Jowhar	0.0
Balad	45.0
Mogadishu	77.0
Dollow	80.0
Luuq	52.0
Bardheere	56.0
Wanle Weyne	19.0
Burhakaba	16.0

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