

## The USAID FEWS-NET

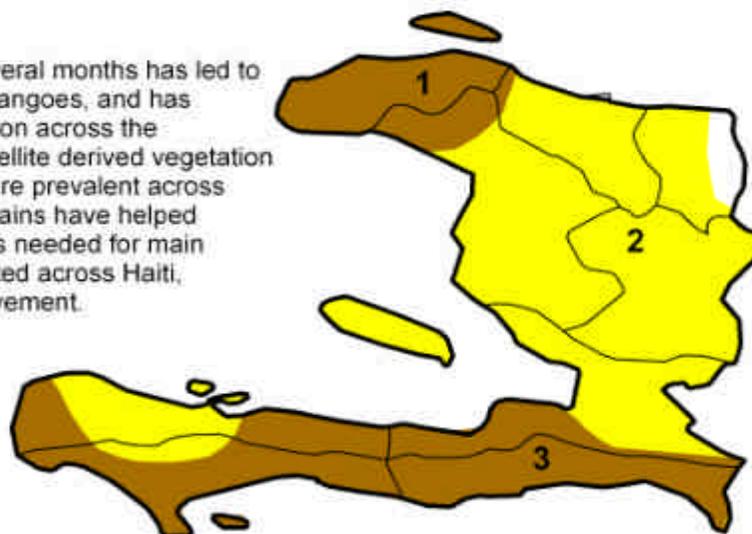
# Haiti Weather Hazards Assessment

for

April 21 - 27, 2005

1) Rainfall during 2004 was well below normal across Haiti's Northwest Department despite being more abundant than 2003. This resulted in long term drought. The drought has degraded vegetation and crops, and reduced water supplies. Recent rains have resulted in some improvement, however more rain is needed. Showers are expected across northern Haiti, which may result in some further improvement.

2) Below normal rainfall over the past several months has led to below normal harvests of petit-mills and mangoes, and has reduced the water available for rice irrigation across the departments of Artibonite and Centre. Satellite derived vegetation observations indicate that dry conditions are prevalent across much of the island of Hispaniola. Recent rains have helped to increase moisture, however more rain is needed for main season crop planting. Showers are expected across Haiti, which should result in some further improvement.



3) A drought since November 2004 has led to a loss in black beans, congo beans, sorghum, and bananas. In addition, flow from springs has decreased by as much as 50%. This drought is particularly devastating for this area due to the infrequency of dry events. Showers are expected across Haiti's southern coast, which may result in some relief.