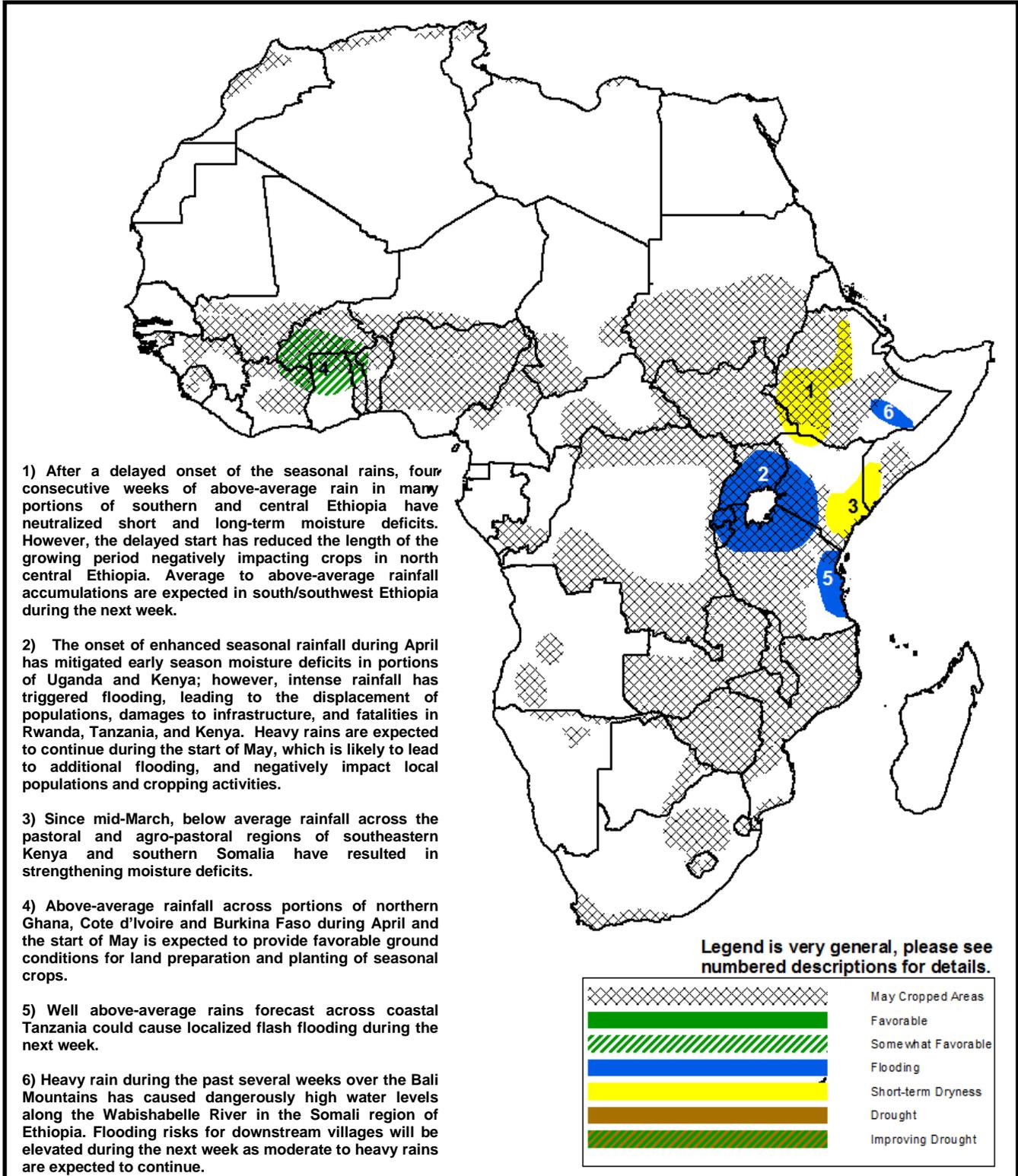


Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET May 3 – May 9, 2012

- Heavy rains and flooding continued to occur across East Africa during the past seven days.



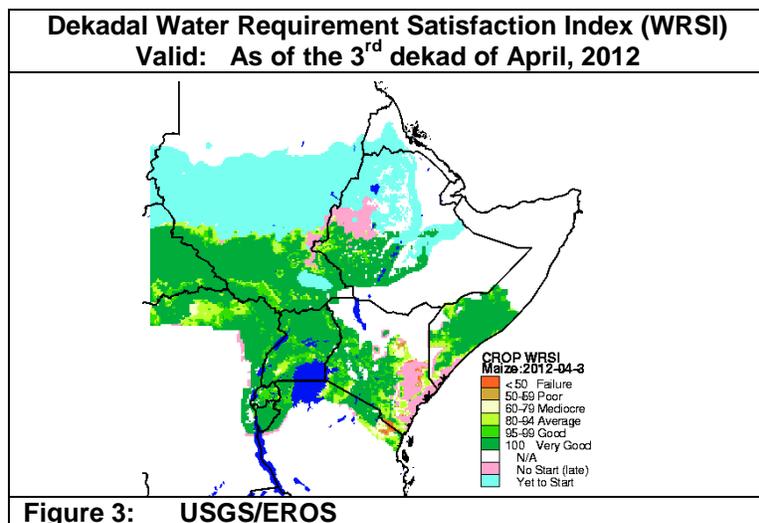
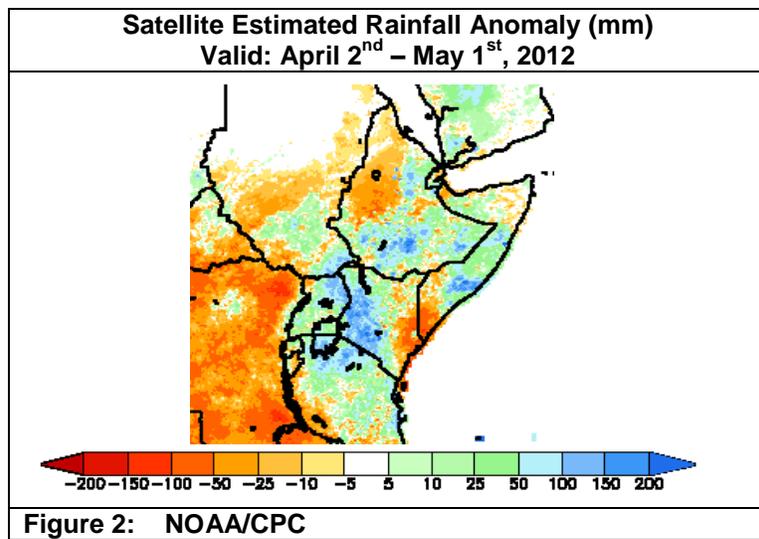
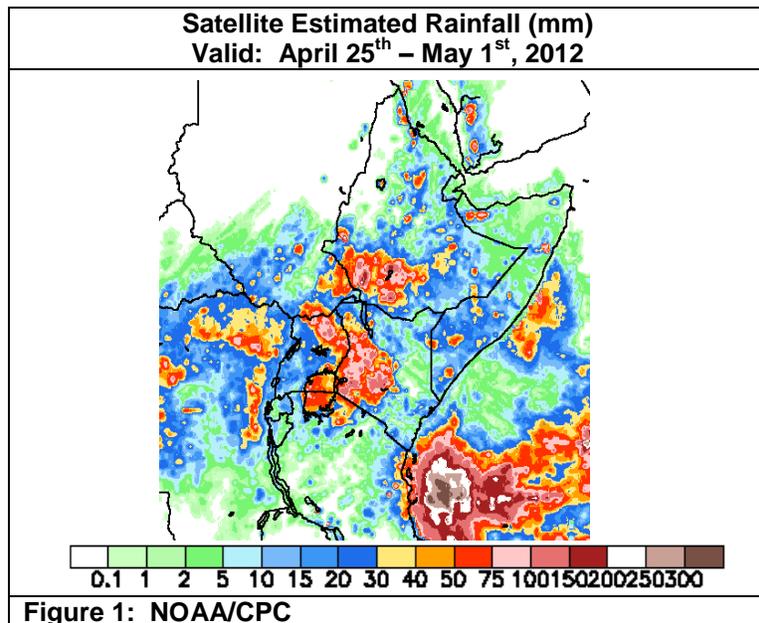
Abundant rains continue to improve moisture conditions in East Africa but cause flooding concerns.

During the past seven days, moderate to heavy rain (>20mm) was observed across the Greater Horn of Africa. The heaviest rainfall (>75mm) was recorded across western Kenya, southwestern Ethiopia, and northern Uganda for a fourth consecutive week. The torrential rainfall across western Kenya resulted in numerous reports of flash flooding which caused localized infrastructure damage, displacement of populations and fatalities. Moderate rains (15-40mm) were observed across central and southern Somalia helping to increase ground moisture after a slow start to seasonal rains. In contrast, rainfall was limited (<15mm) across eastern/coastal Kenya (**Figure 1**).

Seasonal rains since April 1st have been heavy and well distributed across East Africa in contrast to the poor rainfall totals that occurred throughout March. An analysis of thirty-day rainfall anomalies shows that moderate rainfall surpluses (5-25mm) are present across the Greater Horn of Africa. The difference between March (dry) and April (wet) indicates an increase in available moisture and an on-going recovery of seasonal rains in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia. The four weeks of above-average rains have led to strong rainfall surpluses (>50mm) in the past thirty days in the Oromiya, eastern SNNP, Somali regions of Ethiopia, western and southwestern Kenya, northern Uganda, northern Tanzania and central Somalia (**Figure 2**). The anomalously heavy rains in the Somali region of Ethiopia has led to elevated river levels and flooding concerns along the Wabishabelle River. Despite the poor start to the rains in March, for the season to date, an analysis of water requirement for the development of crops shows satisfactory to good conditions around the Lake Victoria region, southwestern Ethiopia and Somalia. The lack of rains across coastal Kenya, however, has led to a late start (**Figure 3**).

The recent increase in rains has benefited in mitigating seasonal dryness. The delayed start to the Belg rains in Ethiopia, though, will negatively impact crops especially in still dry portions of northern/central Ethiopia where 60% of grain crops is grown during the Belg season. However, the increase in moisture during April across Ethiopia will help create good conditions for the upcoming long rains. Farther south, torrential rains and flash flooding have negatively impacted local areas around Lake Victoria including northern Rwanda and the Western, Nyanza, Rift Valley, and Eastern provinces of Kenya during the past several weeks. The floods have resulted in the displacement of populations, damages to infrastructure and fatalities.

For the upcoming seven days, models forecast a continuation of above-average rainfall which will elevate the risk for flooding across saturated areas in the region. The highest weekly rainfall totals are expected across already flood-affected areas around Lake Victoria including western Kenya, northern Tanzania, southern Ethiopia and southern Somalia (>40mm). Abundant rains (>75mm) are also expected across coastal Tanzania which could cause localized flash flooding.



Note: The hazards outlook map on page 1 is based on current weather/climate information and short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week). It assesses their potential impact on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at this continental scale. This product does not reflect long range seasonal climate forecasts or indicate current or projected food security conditions.

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