





Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET 31 March – 6 April 2022

- A delayed onset to the season and erratic rain has led to abnormal dryness over areas of East Africa.
- Persisting long-term rainfall deficits maintained droughts over many areas of southern Africa.



1) While some areas in Madagascar received increased rain over the past recent weeks, the southwest continued to register long-term large moisture deficits, which have already negatively impacted vegetation conditions. The continued poor conditions have led to severe drought. Forecasts indicated reduced rain over the south during the outlook period.

2) Below-average rainfall since January has led to large seasonal moisture deficits, which have already negatively impacted vegetation conditions and resulted in drought over portions of southern Mozambique. Insufficient rainfall since February has also spread and resulted in abnormal dryness across Zimbabwe and parts of Zambia, Botswana, and Namibia.

3) Below-average rainfall since December of the past year has resulted in severe drought over southwestern Angola and northwestern Namibia. Despite this past month's increased rain, long-term rainfall deficits and deteriorated vegetation conditions persisted.

4) Below-average rainfall over the past six weeks has resulted in moderate thirty-day rainfall deficits over southwestern and eastern Ethiopia, eastern Uganda, southern Kenya, and eastern Tanzania. Rainfall forecasts for the upcoming weeks indicated continued drier conditions, potentially strengthening dryness over the region.

5) Reports have indicated that the past weeks' heavy rain has triggered flooding, leaving fatalities over the South Kivu Province in eastern DRC. Heavy rains are forecast to continue, maintaining high risks for flooding during the outlook period.

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Drier-than-average conditions worsen over East Africa.

Poor rains since the start of the March – May season have led to very low moisture accumulation relative to the long-term average over many areas of the Greater Horn of Africa. Over the past thirty days, areas in southwestern and northeastern Ethiopia, southern South Sudan, parts of Uganda, much of Kenya, northern and eastern Tanzania registered less than 50 percent of their average rainfall (**Figure 1**). Hence, abnormal dryness spread farther south across equatorial eastern Africa, including parts of Uganda, Kenya, and Tanzania. Over Ethiopia, despite this past week's favorable rainfall distribution, moderate to large thirty-day rainfall deficits remained over areas in the southwest, central, and northeast.

An analysis of the latest Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) anomaly indicated that vegetation conditions were now below-average over the southwest-central portions of Ethiopia, western Uganda, and central Kenya. Further deterioration is likely, should insufficient rainfall continue over the sub-region.

During the outlook period, locally moderate rains are forecast over southern Ethiopia and southeast-central Kenya. Meanwhile, little to light (< 25 mm) and likely below-average rains are expected elsewhere.

Southern Africa rain began to subside.

During late March, a decrease in rainfall was observed relative to that of the week prior over southern Africa, particularly over Zambia, Malawi, and Mozambique (**Figure 2**). Suppressed rainfall was also registered over southwestern Madagascar, Botswana, southern Namibia, and parts of South Africa. This reduction in rainfall might have indicated a beginning of the demise to the southern African monsoon. However, heavy downpours fell over southwestern Angola and localized areas in northern Namibia. Although this past weeks' enhanced rains contributed to partially ease dryness over some areas, long-term rainfall deficits, which have already resulted in severe drought, persisted over many areas. Also, long-term rainfall deficits remained over southwestern Madagascar, despite the recent passage of Tropical Cyclones, which brought wetness over the east and northwest.

NDVI anomaly showed that vegetation conditions slightly improved relative to the conditions during the dekad (a 10-day period) prior over the drought-impacted areas in southwestern Angola, northwestern Namibia, and southwestern Madagascar. However, degraded conditions persisted over many local areas.

During the outlook period, widespread and heavy rains are forecast to return across Angola, Zambia, Malawi, northern Mozambique, eastern South Africa, and Lesotho. The forecast wet weather patterns heighten the likelihood for flooding over many previously-flooded local areas. In contrast, limited and reduced rain is expected over parts of Botswana, Zimbabwe, northeast South Africa, and southern Mozambique, which could deplete soil moisture further and negatively impact cropping activities over the region.

30-Day Satellite Estimated Total Percent of Normal Rainfall (%) Valid: 28 February – 29 March 2022

RFE2 30-Day Percent of Normal Rainfall (%) Period: 28Feb2022 - 29Mar2022











Figure 3: Hazards, focused over eastern Africa



This past few weeks' heavy and consistent rains have triggered flooding over many parts in Zambia, northeast Namibia, northern Botswana, southern Malawi, northern Mozambique, and coastal western and east-central Madagascar.

Figure 4: Hazards, focused over southern Africa

Note: The Hazards outlook map is based on current weather/climate information, short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week), subseasonal forecasts up to 4 weeks, and assesses the potential impact of extreme events on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed and predicted to continue during the outlook period. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at the spatial scale of the map. This product takes into account long range seasonal climate forecasts but does not reflect current or projected food security conditions. Questions or comments about this product may be directed to Wassila.Thiaw@noaa.gov or 1-301-683-3424.

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