





## Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET 12 – 18 May 2022

- Drought persists over the Horn of Africa despite recent increased rains over some areas in the region.
- A favorable rainfall distribution was observed over much of the Gulf of Guinea countries in West Africa.



1) The seasonal performance exhibited severe drought over southern Madagascar with tremendous loss of agriculture and pastoral activities.

2) Recent increase of rainfall might help restore grass land coverage from the robust moisture deficits across southern Mozambique, a major part of Zimbabwe, and portions of northern Botswana.

3) Inconsistent rainfall and dry spells since late December have caused strengthening moisture deficits which led to severe drought by the end of rainy season.

4) Erratic and uneven distribution of rainfall developed abnormal dryness across several regions of eastern Africa. Longer period of moisture deficits led to expanding drought conditions across northeastern Ethiopia, northeastern Kenya, and far southern Somalia now that the season is more than half over.

Note: The Hazards outlook map is based on current weather/climate information, short and medium-range weather forecasts (up to 1 week), sub-seasonal 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 considers long-range seasonal climate forecasts but does not reflect current or projected food security conditions. FEWS NET is a USAID-funded activity whose purpose is to provide objective information about food security conditions. Its views are not necessarily reflective of those of USAID or the U.S. Government. The FEWS NET weather hazards outlook process and products include participation by FEWS NET field and home offices, NOAA-CPC, USGS, USDA, NASA, and several other national and regional organizations in the countries concerned. Questions or comments about the hazard's outlooks may be directed to Dr. Wassila Thiaw, Head, International Desks/NOAA, <u>wassila.thiaw@noaa.gov</u>.

Questions or comments about the nazard's outlooks may be directed to Dr. wassna Thiaw, Head, International Desks/NOAA, <u>wassna.thiaw@noaa.gov</u>. Questions about the USAID FEWS NET activity may be directed to Dr. James Verdin, Program Manager, FEWS NET/USAID, <u>iverdin@usaid.gov</u>

# A poor performance of the March – May, rainfall season has led to drought over the Horn of Africa.

This year, the Belg, March – May, rainfall season has performed poorly over the Horn of Africa. Rainfall accumulation since March was well below-average throughout the sub-region. Seasonal rainfall deficits exceeded 100 mm over many areas, including southwestern and eastern Ethiopia, much of Kenya, southern Somalia, and northern Tanzania (Figure 1). The delayed onset to the season and poorly-distributed rain during March and April has resulted in moderate to large moisture deficits, which have led to droughts, affecting southern and eastern Ethiopia, Kenya, and southern Somalia. Although, enhanced rains were received over some areas, including southern Somalia and eastern Kenya recently, the prolonged lack of rain has already negatively impacted biomass conditions and water availability over many areas.

The latest vegetation products have showed that belowaverage and unhealthy conditions spread from southern and eastern Ethiopia, Kenya, to southern Somalia.

During the next outlook period, reduced and limited rains are forecast over much of eastern Africa. While scattered, moderate rains are expected over western Ethiopia, little to light and likely below-average rain amounts are expected elsewhere. This forecast drier pattern will likely exacerbate droughts and worsen impacts over many local areas.

# Widespread, favorable rains continued over West Africa during the past week.

During early May, a favorable distribution in rainfall was observed over West Africa. Moderate to locally heavy rains fell along the Gulf of Guinea, with the largest (> 100 mm) amounts over localized areas in southern Ghana and southern Nigeria (**Figure 2**). Farther north, light to moderate rains were also received over the Sudanian-Guinean region in northern Ghana, northern Togo, northern Benin, southern Burkina Faso, and north-central Nigeria. An analysis of this past thirty days cumulative rain has indicated that wetter-than-average conditions dominated over much of the Gulf of Guinea countries.

According to the latest agroclimatic products, biomass conditions were mostly positive and favorable over the subregion. Following favorable rainfall over the past several weeks, West Africa's ground conditions may be off to a good start.

During the next week, while moderate to locally heavy rains are forecast over Sierra Leone, Liberia, parts of Guinea Conakry, central and southern Nigeria, widespread light rains are expected over the remainders of the sub-region. The forecast rain amounts will likely be near-average and would maintain adequate soil moisture for cropping activities.

#### 3-Month Satellite Estimated Total Rainfall Anomaly (mm) Valid: 01 March – 10 May 2022

RFE2 3-Mon Total Rainfall Anomaly (mm) Period: 01Mar2022 - 10May2022



### Figure 1: NOAA/CPC



### Figure 2: NOAA/CPC



Figure 3: Hazards, focused over eastern Africa



Figure 4: Hazards, focused over southern Africa