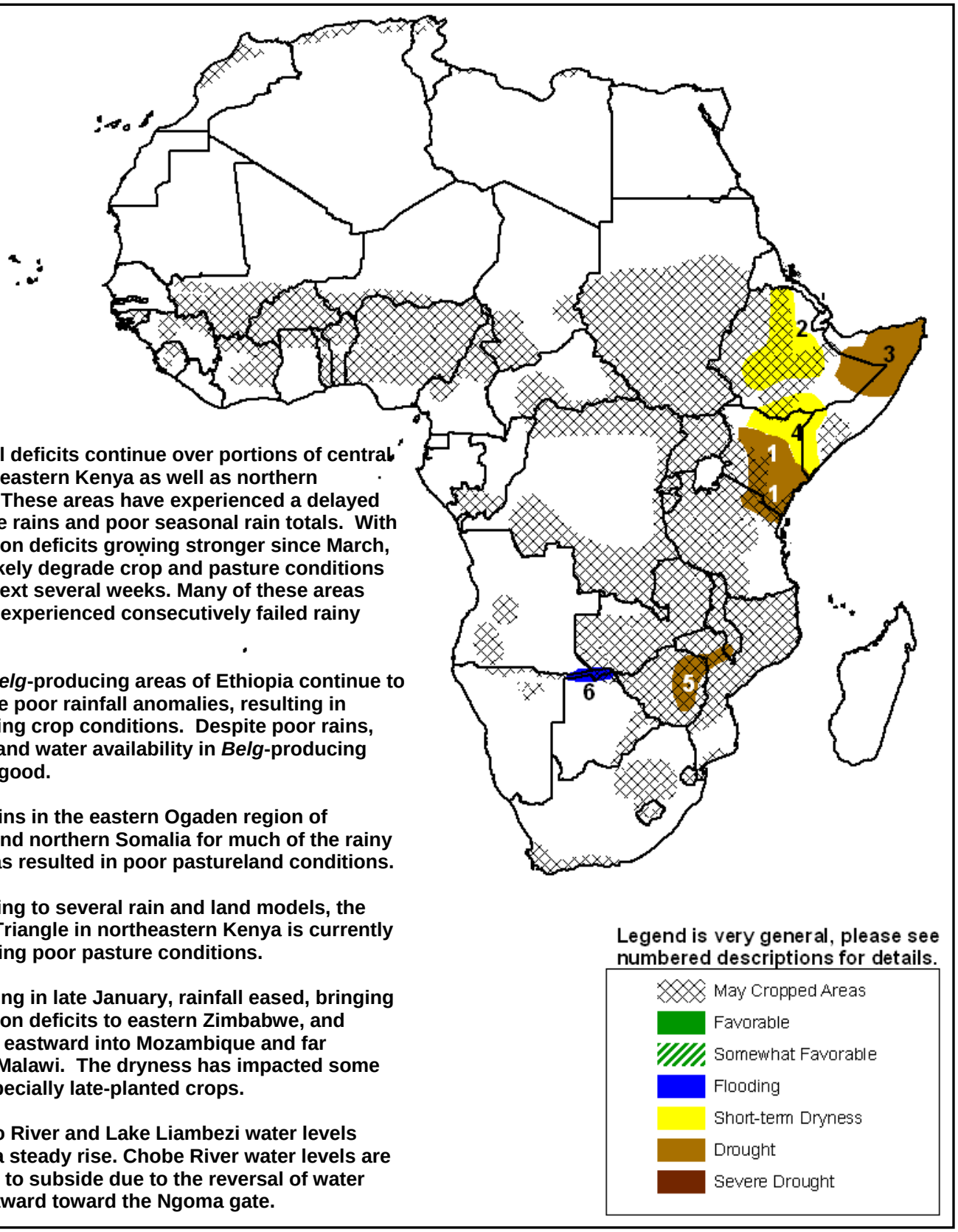
The USAID FEWS NET Weather Hazards Impacts Assessment for Africa
May 14 – 20, 2009

- **Despite rainfall deficits over *Belg*-producing areas of Ethiopia, livestock conditions are good in most parts of the region, and access to pasture and water is stable.**
- **Severe flooding in Angola has affected an estimated 220,000 people.**



1) Rainfall deficits continue over portions of central and southeastern Kenya as well as northern Tanzania. These areas have experienced a delayed start to the rains and poor seasonal rain totals. With precipitation deficits growing stronger since March, this will likely degrade crop and pasture conditions over the next several weeks. Many of these areas have also experienced consecutively failed rainy seasons.

2) Many *Belg*-producing areas of Ethiopia continue to experience poor rainfall anomalies, resulting in deteriorating crop conditions. Despite poor rains, livestock and water availability in *Belg*-producing areas are good.

3) Poor rains in the eastern Ogaden region of Ethiopia and northern Somalia for much of the rainy season has resulted in poor pastureland conditions.

4) According to several rain and land models, the Mandera Triangle in northeastern Kenya is currently experiencing poor pasture conditions.

5) Beginning in late January, rainfall eased, bringing precipitation deficits to eastern Zimbabwe, and extending eastward into Mozambique and far southern Malawi. The dryness has impacted some crops, especially late-planted crops.

6) Kwando River and Lake Liambezi water levels continue a steady rise. Chobe River water levels are beginning to subside due to the reversal of water flows eastward toward the Ngoma gate.

Severe flooding since March in Angola

According to a UN report on Floods and Cholera in Angola, severe floods in the southern and central provinces of the country have affected 220,000 people thus far. Those affected live in the provinces of Moxico, Cunene, Kuando Kubango, Bie, Lunda Sul, Uige and Malange. More than 52,000 of those displaced are in Cunene. Deaths have also been reported as a result of flooding. During the first week of May, heavy rains impacted the northern part of the country, more information is being sought in those areas.

Access to safe water is a challenge in flood-affected areas. Often times, cholera may result due to contaminated waters. Since January, more than 600 cases have been reported.

More recently, rains have eased in the severely flood-affected areas in the south and central provinces (See Figure 1) and UN Charters are taking place to assess the damage.

Rainfall Accumulation
Valid: 00z May 6 – 00z May 12

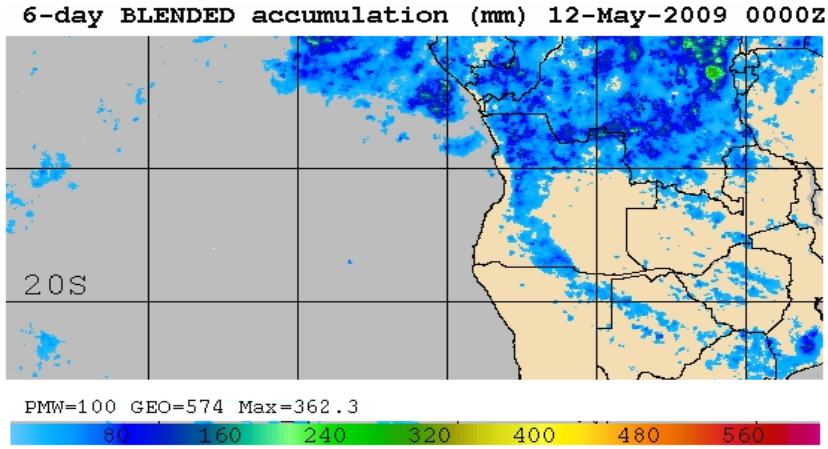


Figure 1: Recent rains remain in northern and western Angola
Source: Naval Research Laboratory

Sahel Rainfall Probability Forecast

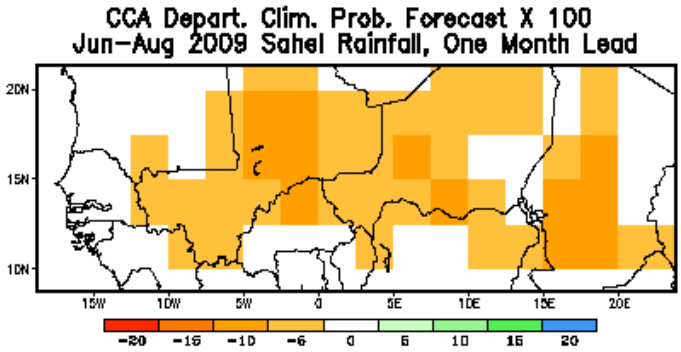


Figure 2: Tilt in the odds of below normal precipitation
Source: NOAA/CPC

West African rainy season outlook

With the start of the West African rainy season in the near future, the African Desk of NOAA's Climate Prediction has released its Canonical Correlation Analysis of the June – August rainfall outlook. In the Sahel, "There is a modest increased chance for below average precipitation over much of the (region) from western Mali to northern Burkina Faso, Niger, and central Chad. Climatology is expected elsewhere." (See Figure 2) In the Gulf of Guinea, "There is a modest increased chance for above average rainfall along the coast of the Gulf of Guinea from Cote d'Ivoire to Benin. Climatology is expected elsewhere." (See Figure 3)

Gulf of Guinea Rainfall Probability Forecast

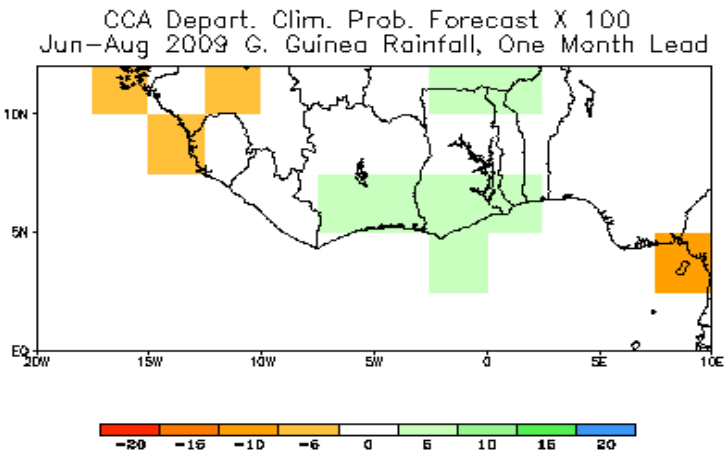


Figure 3: Tilt in the odds of above-normal precipitation