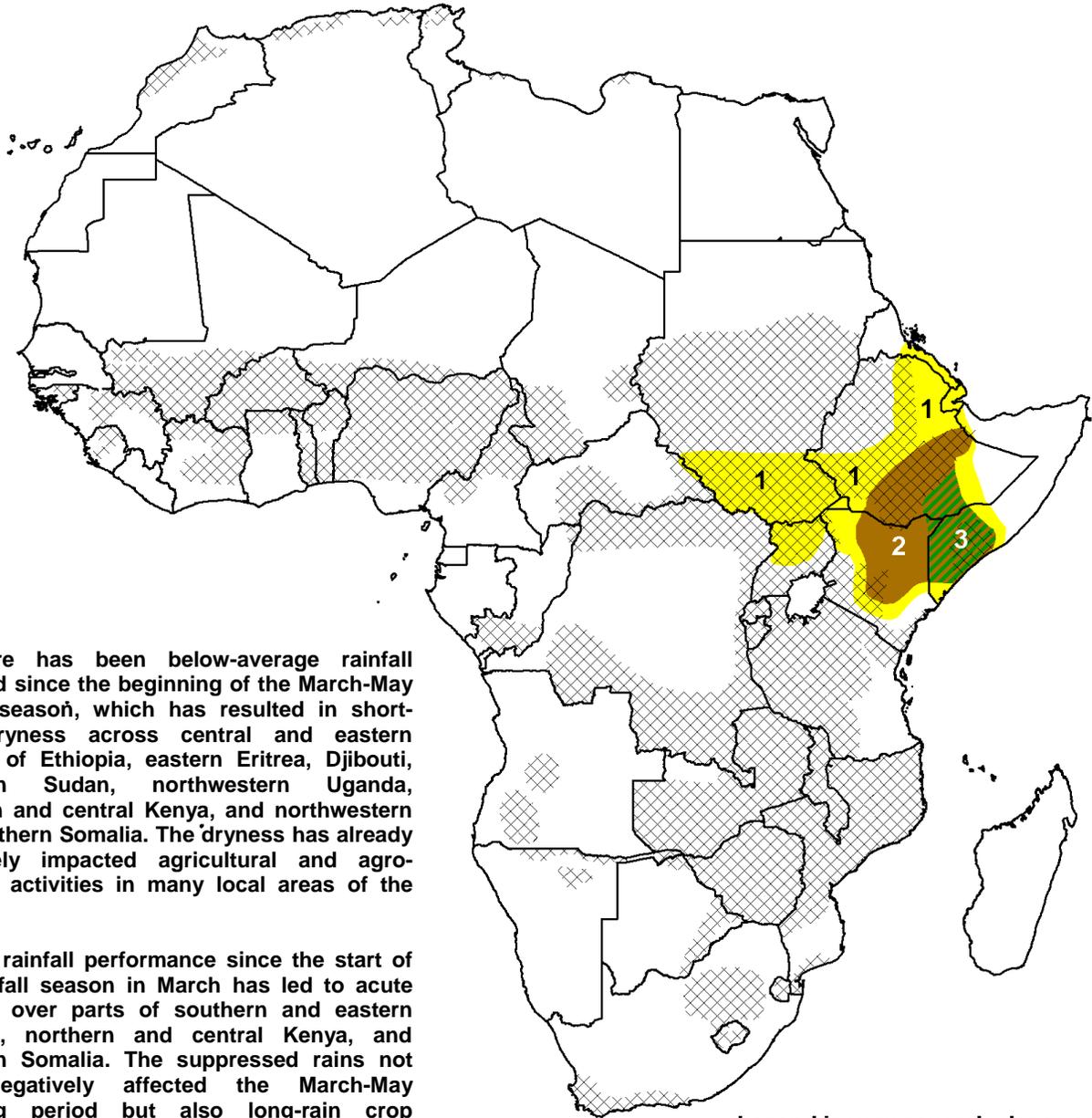


- Localized heavy rainfall over Somalia has improved drought conditions across southern and central portions of the country.
- Moderate to heavy rainfall is forecast across the Greater Horn of Africa for a second consecutive week.

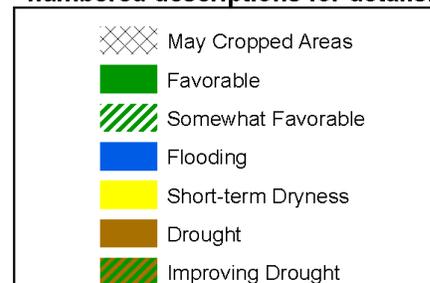


1) There has been below-average rainfall recorded since the beginning of the March-May rainfall season, which has resulted in short-term dryness across central and eastern regions of Ethiopia, eastern Eritrea, Djibouti, southern Sudan, northwestern Uganda, northern and central Kenya, and northwestern and southern Somalia. The dryness has already negatively impacted agricultural and agro-pastoral activities in many local areas of the region.

2) Poor rainfall performance since the start of the rainfall season in March has led to acute dryness over parts of southern and eastern Ethiopia, northern and central Kenya, and southern Somalia. The suppressed rains not only negatively affected the March-May cropping period but also long-rain crop production in Ethiopia.

3) An increase in rainfall during the past two weeks has helped to erase moderate to strong thirty-day rainfall deficits that had developed during the beginning of April. While the rains will not aid rain-fed crops due to the delayed nature of their onset, they could improve moisture conditions in pastoral areas. Outlooks call for average to above-average rains during the period.

Legend is very general, please see numbered descriptions for details.



Localized heavy rain falls across the Greater Horn of Africa.

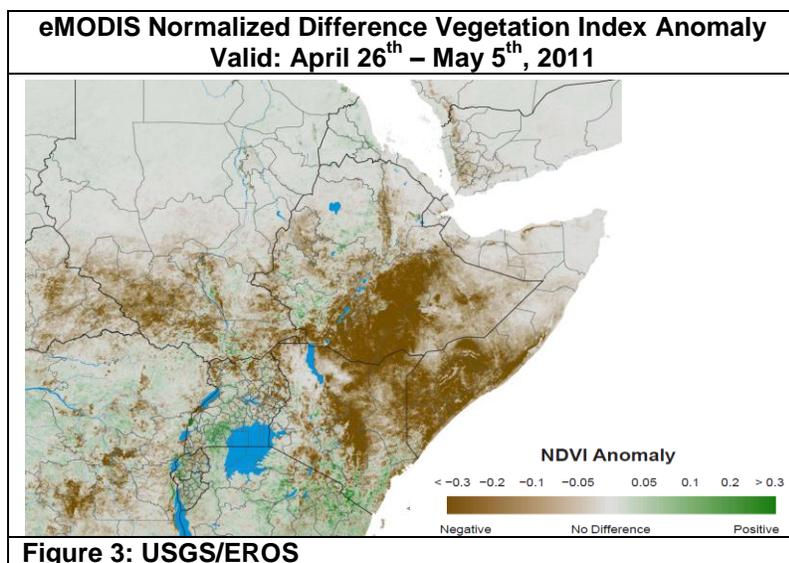
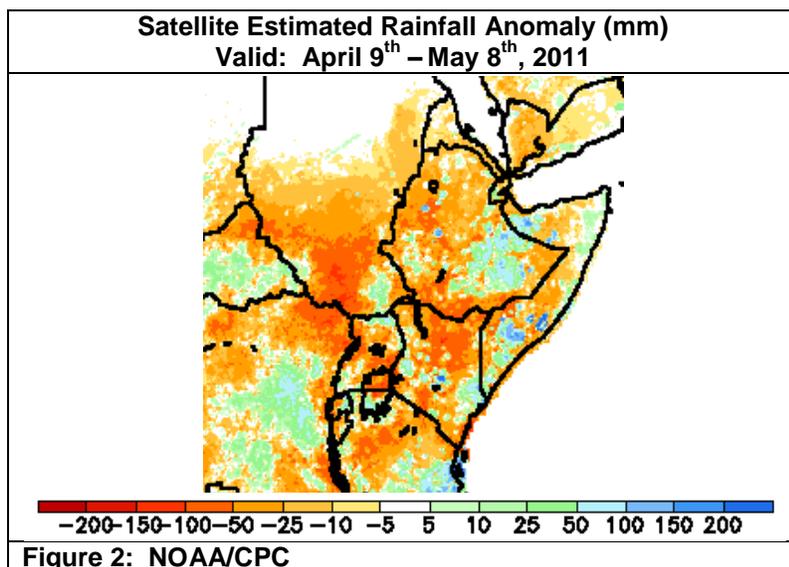
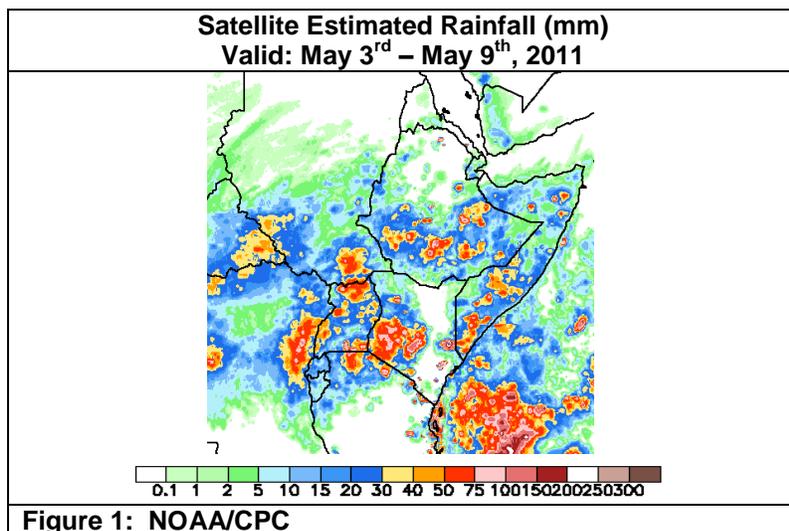
Over the past seven days, moderate to heavy rain (> 15 mm) was observed across recently dry portions of Ethiopia and Somalia. The highest rainfall totals (> 50 mm) in that region were recorded for a second consecutive week across portions of southern Ethiopia and southern and central Somalia. The copious amounts of rain caused localized flash flooding across southern and central Somalia causing fatalities and damaging infrastructure. Elsewhere, heavy rain (> 50 mm) was observed across much of Uganda, western and central Kenya and localized areas in southeastern Sudan. The heavy rain over Uganda and western portions of Kenya marked an increase in rainfall totals from the below-average totals observed during the last couple of months. In contrast, rains were light (< 10 mm) over northern and eastern portions of Kenya which continued the dry trend seen since the beginning of March. Rains were also light (< 15 mm) across western Ethiopia and portions of southern Sudan (**Figure 1**). Climatologically, western Ethiopia and southern Sudan should be observing increasing rainfall totals as May progresses. So far, the rains have been slow to materialize.

The increase in rains received during the past two weeks has helped to erase moderate thirty-day rainfall deficits that developed during the beginning of April. Due to two weeks of above-average rainfall, positive thirty-day rainfall anomalies (10-50 mm) have developed over southeastern portions of Ethiopia and localized areas in southern, central and northern Somalia. The increase in rains has occurred across mostly pastoral areas in the Greater Horn of Africa. Although much of the improvement in rainfall totals has come too late to aid any rain-fed crops in the region. Elsewhere, a reduction of thirty-day rainfall deficits was observed over western Kenya and much of Uganda as heavy rain lowered deficits to moderate totals (10 to 50 mm). However, due to persisting below-average rainfall, rainfall deficits have strengthened to greater than 50 mm over northern/central Kenya and southern Sudan. Recent below-average rainfall has also strengthened rainfall deficits (25-50 mm) over western Ethiopia (**Figure 2**).

Moderate rain (10-40 mm) is forecast to continue across the Greater Horn of Africa during the next week with the heaviest rain (> 50 mm) expected over western Ethiopia, northeastern Somalia and regions surrounding Lake Victoria. Additional heavy rain over Somalia could cause flash flooding.

Despite rains, crop conditions still poor across Greater Horn.

An analysis of vegetation quality over the Greater Horn of Africa indicates that despite the recent increase in rains, crop conditions are still poor across much of southern/central Ethiopia, southern/central Somalia and northern/central Kenya. While the recent rains over Ethiopia and Somalia have improved drought conditions, the impact on rain-fed crops will be minimal due to the timing of the rains late into the March-May season. Below-average conditions are also starting to develop in southern Sudan as seasonal rains have been delayed during the past several weeks.



Note: The hazards assessment 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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