

## The USAID FEWS NET Weather Hazards Impacts Assessment for Africa May 7 – 13, 2009



Short-term Dryness

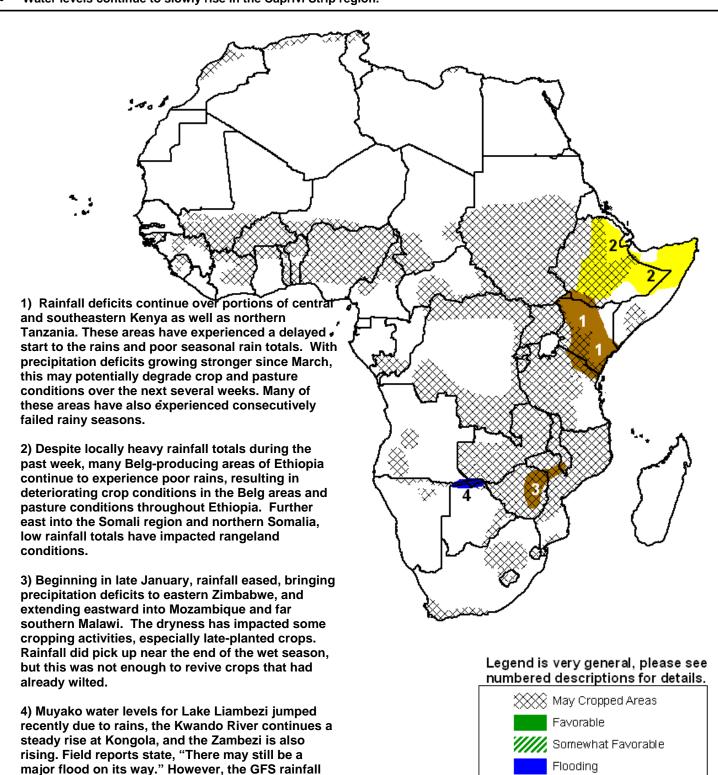
Severe Drought

Drought

- Rainfall deficits continue over the Belg regions of Ethiopia. Compounded with a delayed start of season, a reduction of Belg harvests is expected across parts of Ethiopia.
- Water levels continue to slowly rise in the Caprivi Strip region.

forecast model does not indicate any rain for that

region during the period of May 7 - May 13, 2009.



## **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." 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." For the past month, preseason rainfall totals along the Gulf of Guinea have been above average, with positive anomalies ranging from 25 - 50 mm. Further north into the Sahel countries, rainfall anomalies have been below average in southern Mali and much of Burkina Faso. Totals have been near average elsewhere. (See Figure 1)

## **Inter-Tropical Front Position**

During the third dekad of April the Intertropical Front made a minor retreat in its annual advancement. During the second dekad of April it was situated around 11.7 degrees north latitude. This position is significantly south of the same dekad of 2008, when the ITF was around 13.4N. Further east, the ITF position is near normal but overall its average positioning is approximately .5 degree south of normal. (See Figure 2) The slow advancement of the ITF could be attributed to the current warmness in the Gulf of Guinea, causing an increase in rains there, but also preventing the advancement of the ITF, leading to dryness in the Sahel.

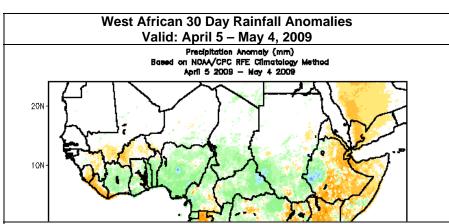
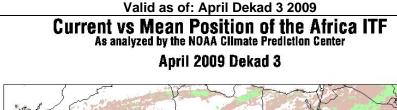


Figure 1: Green and blue colors indicate rainfall anomalies that are above normal. Orange indicates below-normal rainfall anomalies. White indicates rainfall totals that are near normal.

Inter-Tropical Front

Source: NOAA/CPC



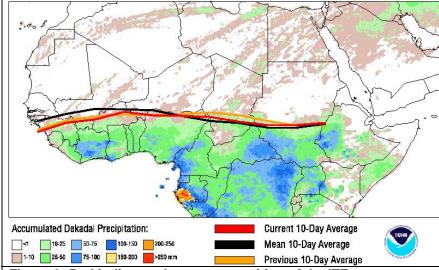


Figure 3: Red indicates the current position of the ITF. Source: NOAA/CPC

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 assessment process and products include participation by FEWS NET field and home offices, NOAA-CPC, USGS, USDA, NASA, and a number of other national and regional organizations in the countries concerned. Questions or comments about this product may be directed to Wassila. Thiaw@noaa.gov or 1-301-763-8000 x7566. Questions about the USAID FEWSNET activity may be directed to Gary Eilerts, USAID Program Manager for FEWSNET, 1-202-219-0500 or geilerts@usaid.gov.