

The USAID FEWS NET Weather Hazards Impacts Assessment for Africa March 18 – March 24, 2010



- Above-average rainfall across the Greater Horn in the last three weeks has led to excess ground moisture and localized flooding for many parts of Kenya and Uganda.
- Heavy precipitation associated with Tropical Storm Hubert has resulted in flooding and damages to infrastructure for many coastal areas in eastern Madagascar.



Flooding observed across southwestern and northern Kenya.

In the last seven days, seasonally favorable precipitation amounts ranging between 30- 50 mm were observed across much of Kenya, with locally higher amounts in excess of 50mm were received in many local parts of the Eastern and Northeastern provinces of Kenya. Further north, rainfall remained light to moderate over the SNNP and Gambella regions of Ethiopia. In Somalia, isolated rainfall totals ranging between 10- 40 mm were observed along the southern coastline of Somalia, with more favorable totals observed in the lower Shabelle River basin during the last week (**Figure 1**).

Although this past week's rains across East Africa were more moderate compared to the observed rains in the previous two weeks, the persistence of precipitation has both worsened prior floods and triggered additional flooding and excess ground moisture for many pastoral areas in the eastern provinces of Kenya since the beginning of March. In Marsabit and Mandera districts in northeastern Kenya, high rains and flooding have led to a large number of displaced people, damages to infrastructure, and reported losses to livestock. Further south, the Migori and Uriri districts of the Nyanza province also suffered from flooding during the last week due to excessive rains and high water runoff.

Seasonal rainfall accumulations have presently reached between 150 -250 mm across many portions of Kenya, Uganda and Ethiopia since mid-February. This has left many local areas in Uganda, southwestern and northern Kenya, as well as the Oromia and Somali regions of Ethiopia between 100-150 mm above average in precipitation over the last 30 days (**Figure 2**).

Precipitation forecasts suggest another round of moderate to high rainfall totals across the Greater Horn. Rainfall amounts ranging between 30-75 mm are expected for the central and eastern regions of Kenya, as well as more isolated amounts across the pastoral and agro-pastoral parts of Ethiopia and Somalia over the next seven days.

Tropical Storm Hubert produced heavy rains, floods along eastern coast of Madagascar.

In the last week, the development of a short-lived Tropical Storm in the southern Indian Ocean produced copious amounts of rainfall in coastal Madagascar. Rainfall amounts in excess of 125mm have caused numerous floods, damages to infrastructure, and many displaced people along the eastern coastline of Madagascar. Despite the negative impacts by Hubert in the last week, the increase in precipitation over Madagascar has helped to relieve areas that have experienced persistent seasonal dryness. Long-term rainfall deficits and soil water shortages were reduced for parts in the southeast (**Figure 3**), however many local areas in the southwest and along the western coast still face continuing dryness.

Satellite Estimated Precipitation (mm) Valid: March 8th, 2010 – March 14th, 2010









Figure 3: USGS / EROS

Note: The hazards assessment map on page 1 is based on current weather/climate information, short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week), and 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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