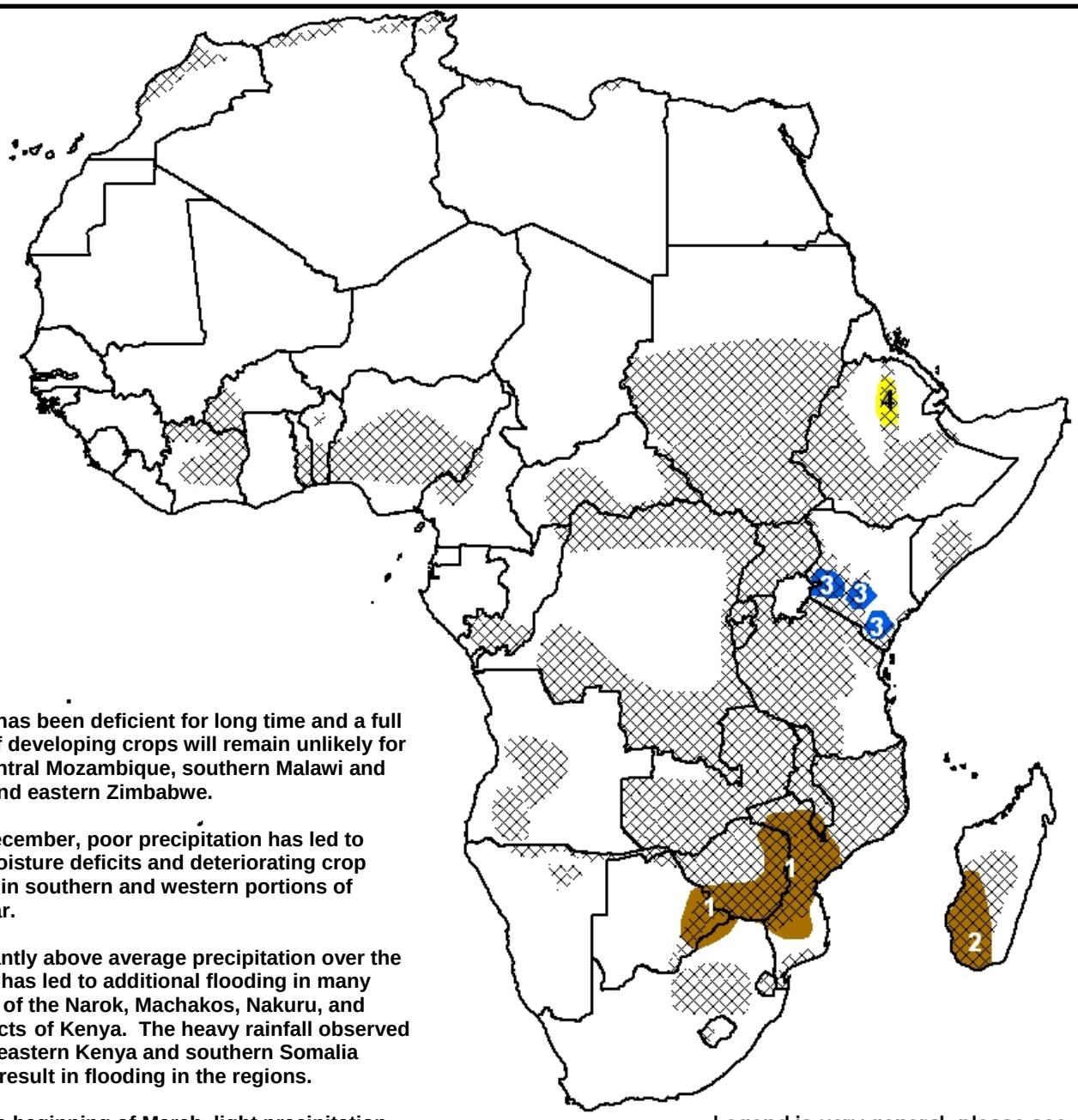
The USAID FEWS NET Weather Hazards Impacts Assessment for Africa
April 8 – April 14, 2010

- **In the recent observation period, heavy rainfall events have expanded towards southern Somalia across eastern Kenya, worsening the flooding conditions in central and southern Kenya and leading to additional flooding events in the regions bordering Kenya and Somalia.**



1) Rainfall has been deficient for long time and a full recovery of developing crops will remain unlikely for parts of central Mozambique, southern Malawi and southern and eastern Zimbabwe.

2) Since December, poor precipitation has led to growing moisture deficits and deteriorating crop conditions in southern and western portions of Madagascar.

3) Significantly above average precipitation over the last month has led to additional flooding in many local areas of the Narok, Machakos, Nakuru, and Taita districts of Kenya. The heavy rainfall observed in parts of eastern Kenya and southern Somalia could also result in flooding in the regions.

4) Since the beginning of March, light precipitation has led to developing dryness for some local areas in the Afar, Wello, and Tigray regions of northern Ethiopia. Because this dryness has occurred early in the season, there remains ample opportunity for improvement in the next couple of months.

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

- April Cropped Areas
- Favorable
- Somewhat Favorable
- Flooding
- Short-term Dryness
- Drought
- Improving Drought

Heavy rainfall continues in East Africa.

During last week, rainfall continued to be heavy over southwestern and the Rift Valley regions of Kenya. Besides, the anomalous heavy rainfall events have also expanded to the east covering eastern Kenya and southern Somalia. The weekly total rainfall in the areas bordering Kenya and southern Somalia has exceeded 75 mm over many places with embedded heavy rainfall (>100mm) in this region **(Figure 1)**.These heavy rainfall events have worsened the flooding conditions over central and southern districts, while leading to risks of additional flooding in eastern Kenya and southern Somalia **(Figure 2)**. There are reports of flooding in many local areas of Narok, Machakos, Nakuru, and Taita districts of Kenya.

Many places over SNNPR region of Ethiopia and the adjacent areas of western Ormoia continued to receive heavy rainfall, with weekly total rainfall exceeding 100mm in some areas of the SNNPR region. The Belg rainfall has been moderate to heavy over eastern and parts of central Ethiopia, while gradually decreasing towards northeast Ethiopia. The persistent weak Belg rainfall over northeast Ethiopia will continue worsening the moisture stress in the Wollo and Tigray regions of Ethiopia **(Figure 1)**.

Rainfall also continued to be heavy over northern Tanzania, much of Uganda and the adjacent areas of the Lake Victoria regions. The coastal areas of Tanzania have also received heavy rainfall, while it decreased over central Tanzania as compared to the previous week. The rainfall predictions for the coming week indicate a general decrease in rainfall over East Africa, with some chances of moderate rainfall to continue in parts of Kenya.

During last week, the seasonal rainfall has not shown improvement in southern Sudan, central Africa and parts of the Gulf of Guinea region. Besides, rainfall is expected to remain week in the coming week in these regions. This delayed rainfall onset could have a negative impact on the early agriculture activities of the regions.

Rainfall continues to be deficient over much of Southeast Africa.

During the last observation period, rainfall continued to be deficient over central Mozambique and the adjacent areas of eastern Zimbabwe. Rainfall deficits have also expanded towards central and southern Tanzania across Mozambique and into Zambia. Rainfall has also shown a significant decrease in much of Madagascar. The persistent rainfall deficit in southern Africa has led to crop failure in many places. The WRSI **(Figure 3)** and the field reports have been consistent in many places of southern and central Mozambique, southern and eastern Zimbabwe and parts of southern Malawi. The dry spell in December and January that resulted in permanent wilting had led to significant crop loss. The replanting made by some farmers during February has also been suffering from wilting due to erratic rainfall of March 2010 followed by the recent long dry spell conditions. The end of the season is approaching and the chances for return of rainfall in the region are very low. In addition to the persistent drought, places along the foot-hill regions have also suffered from loss of crops due to river flooding associated with the heavy rainfall events in the upstream regions.

Satellite Estimated Precipitation (mm)
Valid: March 28th, 2010 – April 3rd, 2010

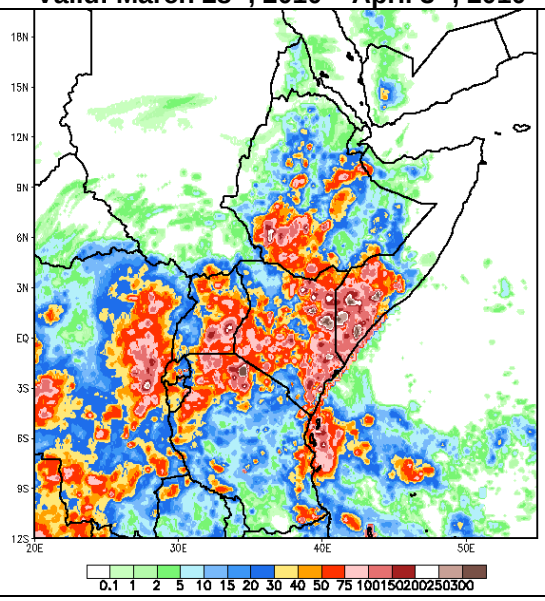


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

Basin Excess Rainfall Map - Catchments
March, dekad 3, 2010

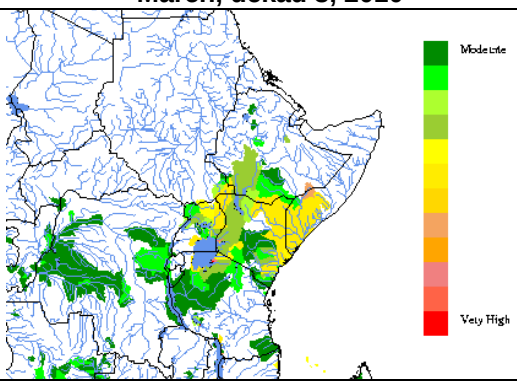


Figure 2: USGS / EROS

Water Requirements Satisfaction Index (WRSI)
March 2010, dekad 3

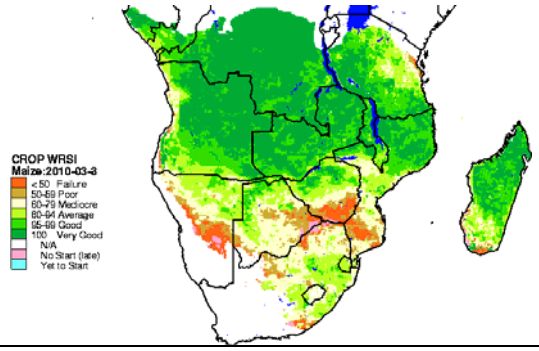


Figure 3: USGS / EROS

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.

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.