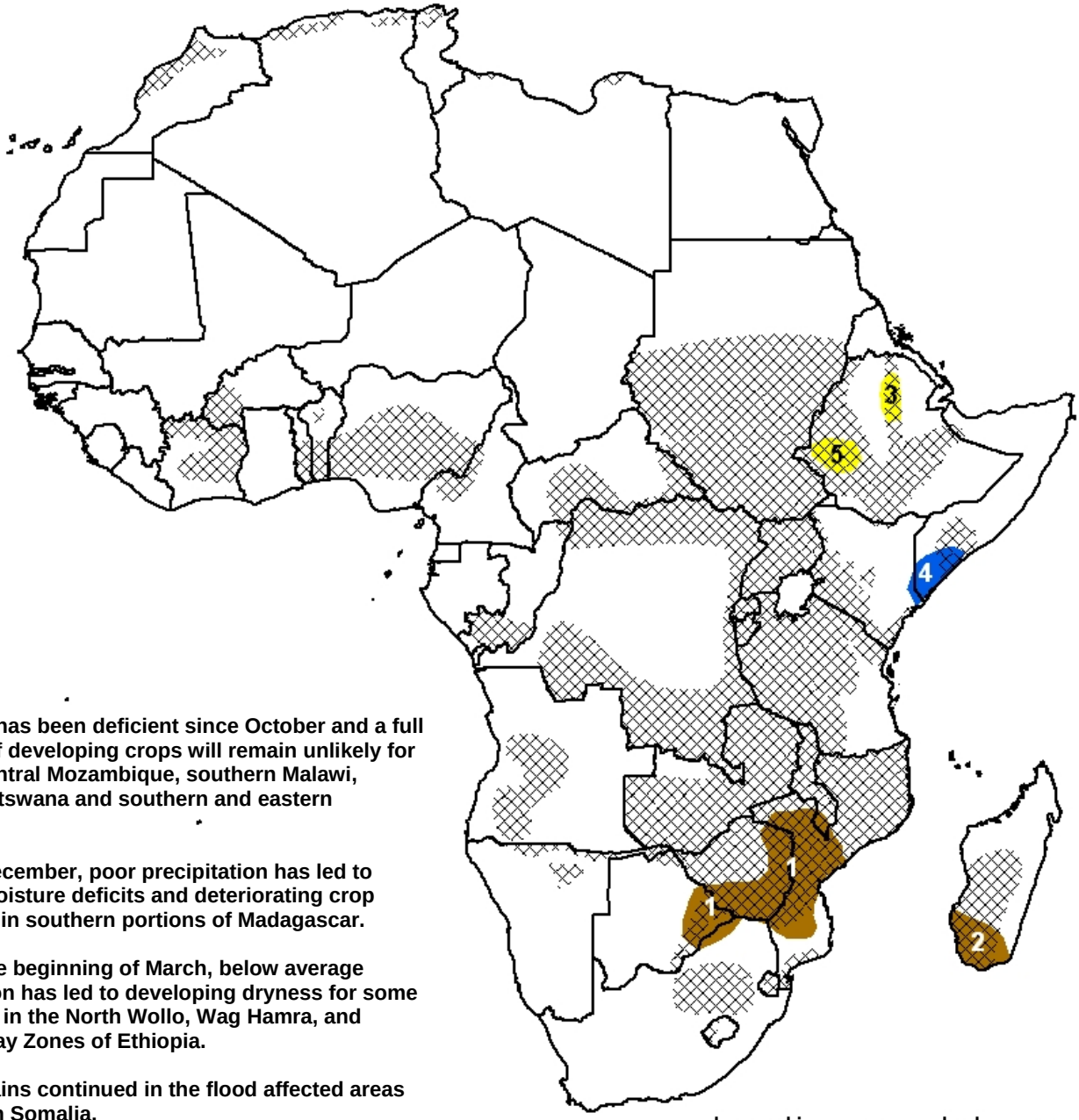
The USAID FEWS NET Weather Hazards Impacts Assessment for Africa
April 22 – April 28, 2010

- **In the last observation period, above average rainfall was observed in many places of the Horn of Africa with the heaviest rainfall events occurring in southern Somalia, parts of eastern Kenya and southern Ethiopia.**



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

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

3) Since the beginning of March, below average precipitation has led to developing dryness for some local areas in the North Wollo, Wag Hamra, and South Tigray Zones of Ethiopia.

4) Heavy rains continued in the flood affected areas of southern Somalia.

5) The persistent below average rainfall in southwest Ethiopia has led to a moisture deficit that has begun to affect early agricultural activities in parts of western Oromiya and Gambella regions of Ethiopia.

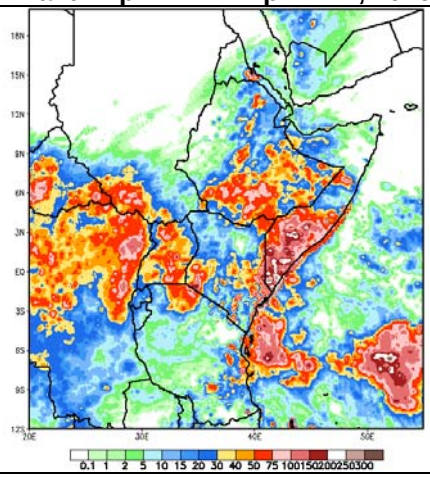
Legend is very general, please see numbered descriptions for details.

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

Heavy rains continue in the Horn of Africa

During the last observation period, heavy rains continued in southern Somalia with increased intensity and areal coverage in the Juba and Shebelle regions. The weekly total rainfall has exceeded 50mm in many places of southern Somalia with some areas receiving weekly total rainfall in excess of 150mm **(Figure 1).** The increase in the intensity and areal coverage of heavy rainfall would lead to additional flooding and worsen the flooding events of the previous week in the region. Heavy rains were also observed over much of the SNNPR, southern Oromiya and Somali regions of Ethiopia, with weekly total rainfall exceeding 50mm in many places. The Belg rainfall has also increased in the Belg-growing areas of southern Tigray and eastern Amhara regions of Ethiopia, with scattered heavy rains occurring along the western escarpment areas. Increase in rainfall was also observed in much of Uganda and parts of western and eastern Kenya during the last observation period **(Figure 1)**.

Satellite Estimated Precipitation (mm)
Valid: April 11th – April 17th, 2010



igure 1: NOAA/CPC

Rains continue to be below average in southwest Ethiopia and southeast Sudan

Despite a significant increase in rainfall in parts of the Horn of Africa, rainfall over much of the Afar and pocket areas of Eastern Amhara, western Oromiya and Gambella regions of Ethiopia remained below average in the last observation period as well.

The heavy rains that continued in southern Somalia have resulted in the monthly wet anomalies of over 100mm in the areas bordering eastern Kenya and southern Somalia (Figure 2). Meanwhile, rainfall deficits continued to grow across portions of southwest Ethiopia and southeast Sudan during the last observation period. The developing dryness in these regions has worsened the monthly and seasonal rainfall deficits in some places. In the last month, rainfall deficits exceeded 100mm in parts of western Oromiya and Gambella regions in Ethiopia **(Figure 2)**. The latest WRSI analysis of the long rain grains depicts the negative impacts of late start of rainfall in parts of southwest Ethiopia **(Figure 3)**. The weak rainfall activity in this region would affect long cycle Meher crops (maize and sorghum) as well as the planting activity of the long cycle crops.

Outlooks for the coming week indicate a high probability of enhanced rainfall in the Horn of Africa, including southern Ethiopia, northern and eastern Kenya, and southern Somalia. The persistence of heavy rainfall in the Horn of Africa may lead to additional flood risks in the region.

Satellite Estimated Precipitation Anomaly (mm)
Valid: March 19th – April 17th, 2010

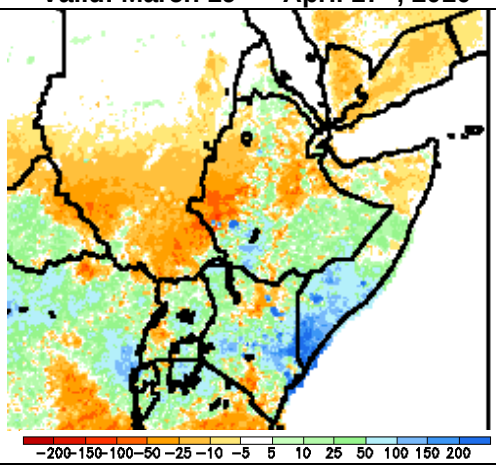


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

Water Requirements Satisfaction Index (WRSI)
Lon rain grains - April 17, 2010

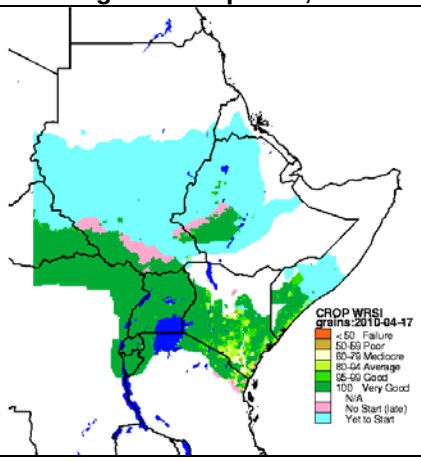


Figure 3: USGS / EROS

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.