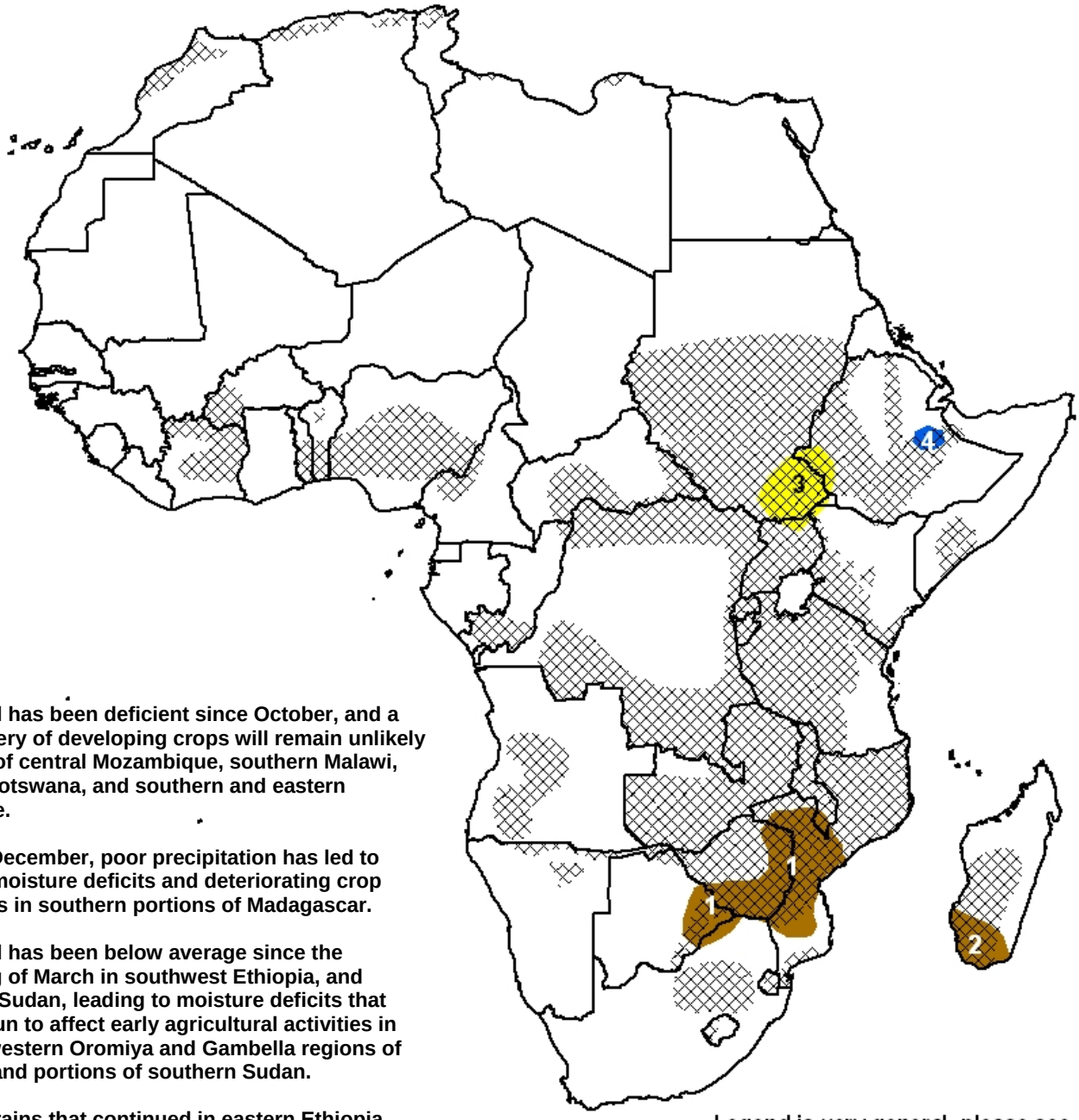
The USAID FEWS NET Weather Hazards Impacts Assessment for Africa
April 29 – May 5, 2010

- **In the last observation period, rainfall has increased in the western and central parts of the Gulf of Guinea, while eastern parts of the Gulf of Guinea and parts of the Horn of Africa continued to receive heavy rainfall.**



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) Rainfall has been below average since the beginning of March in southwest Ethiopia, and southern Sudan, leading to moisture deficits that have begun to affect early agricultural activities in parts of western Oromiya and Gambella regions of Ethiopia and portions of southern Sudan.

4. Heavy rains that continued in eastern Ethiopia during the last observation period have resulted in localized flooding in Erer, Gorogutu, Meta and Dire Dawa areas. The flood events in Erer, Gorogutu and Meta districts have resulted in damages to crops and infrastructure.

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

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

Many parts of the Gulf of Guinea and the Horn of Africa receive moderate to heavy rainfall

Rains continued to be moderate to heavy in many parts of the Gulf of Guinea and the Horn of Africa during the last observation period. In the western parts of the Gulf of Guinea, the enhanced rains were limited more or less along the coastal regions, while the high rainfall in central and eastern parts of the Gulf of Guinea region had wider areal coverage with the highest rainfall occurring near Mount Cameroon and Adamaoua highlands (**Figure 1**). The increase in rainfall in the recent observation period has helped to improve rainfall deficits observed in parts of the Gulf of Guinea countries during the previous weeks.

Parts of the Horn of Africa countries have also continued to have enhanced rainfall. The weekly total rainfall in much of southern and eastern Ethiopia, parts of northern Somalia, and parts of the Lake Victoria areas exceeded 50mm, with the heaviest rainfall observed in the vicinity of Lake Victoria. Rains have also increased in parts of central and northern Somalia, while decreasing in eastern Kenya and southern Somalia. Heavy rains that continued in eastern Ethiopia and northern Somalia during the last observation period have resulted in localized flooding in Erer, Gorogutu, Meta and Dire Dawa areas of Ethiopia, and parts of northern Somalia. The flood events in Erer, Gorogutu and Meta districts have resulted in damages to crops and infrastructure. The Belg rains also continued to increase in northeast Ethiopia. In general, many places in southern and eastern Ethiopia, and western Kenya had above-average rainfall during the last observation period due to the moderate to heavy rainfall that persisted in the regions **(Figure 2)**.

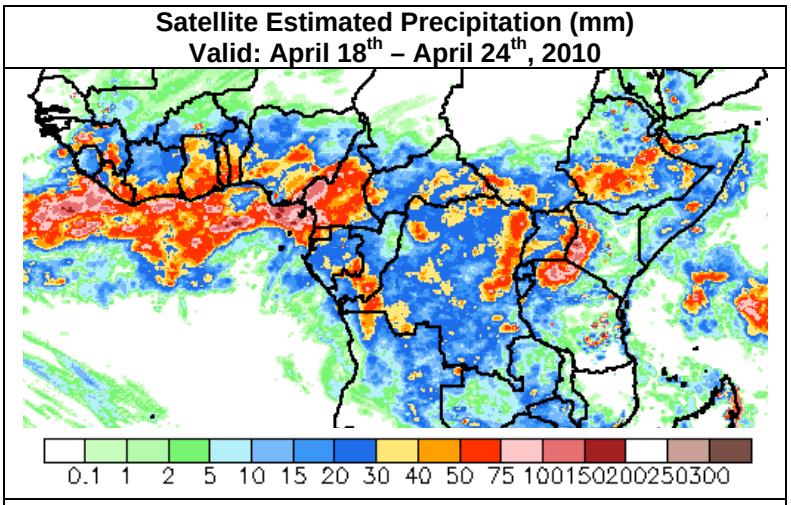


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

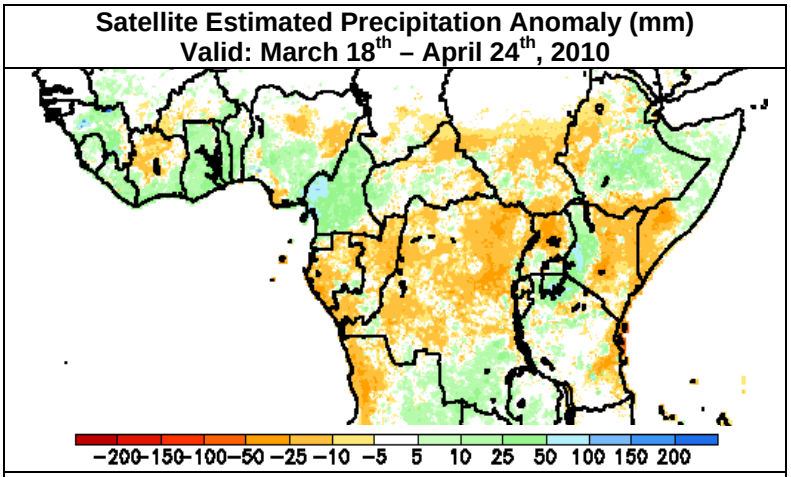


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

Rains continue to be below average in southwest Ethiopia, and parts of southern Sudan

Despite the slight increase in rainfall observed during the last observation period, the weekly rainfall in many places of southwest Ethiopia, and parts of southern Sudan remained below average. The rainfall deficits and high temperatures have affected land preparation and planting of long-cycle crops in the Gambella region of Ethiopia. The recent WRSI analysis of long cycle crops clearly depicts the delay in rainfall in parts of southwest Ethiopia (**Figure 3**). However, if the recent slight increase in rainfall continues, it may gradually improve the persistent dryness in the region.

Much of the Gulf of Guinea countries are expected to have enhanced rainfall in coming week. The predicted heavy rainfall in this region may result in localized flooding in parts of the Gulf of Guinea. The forecasts for coming week also indicate a high probability of moderate to heavy rainfall in parts of the Horn of Africa, including southern Ethiopia, northern and eastern Kenya, and parts of southern Somalia.

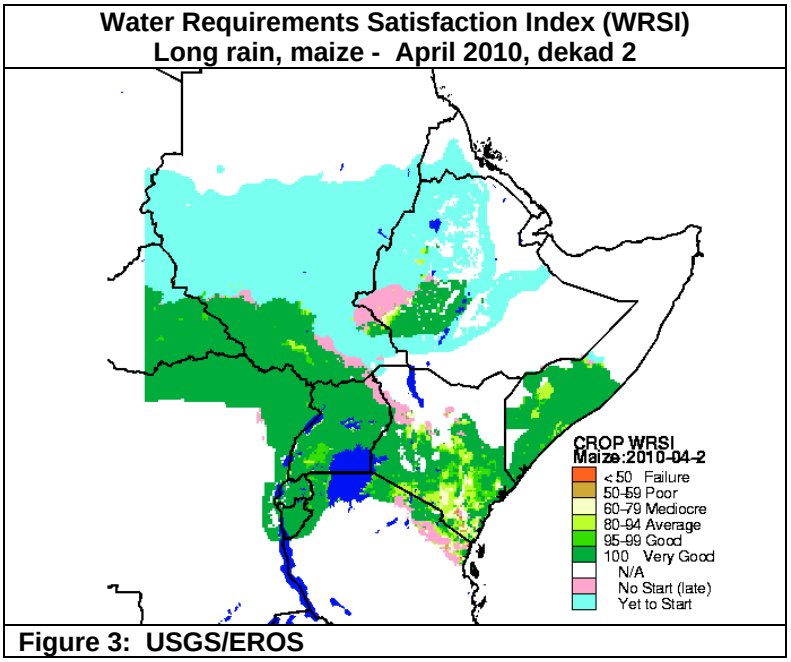


Figure 3: USGS/EROS

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.

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