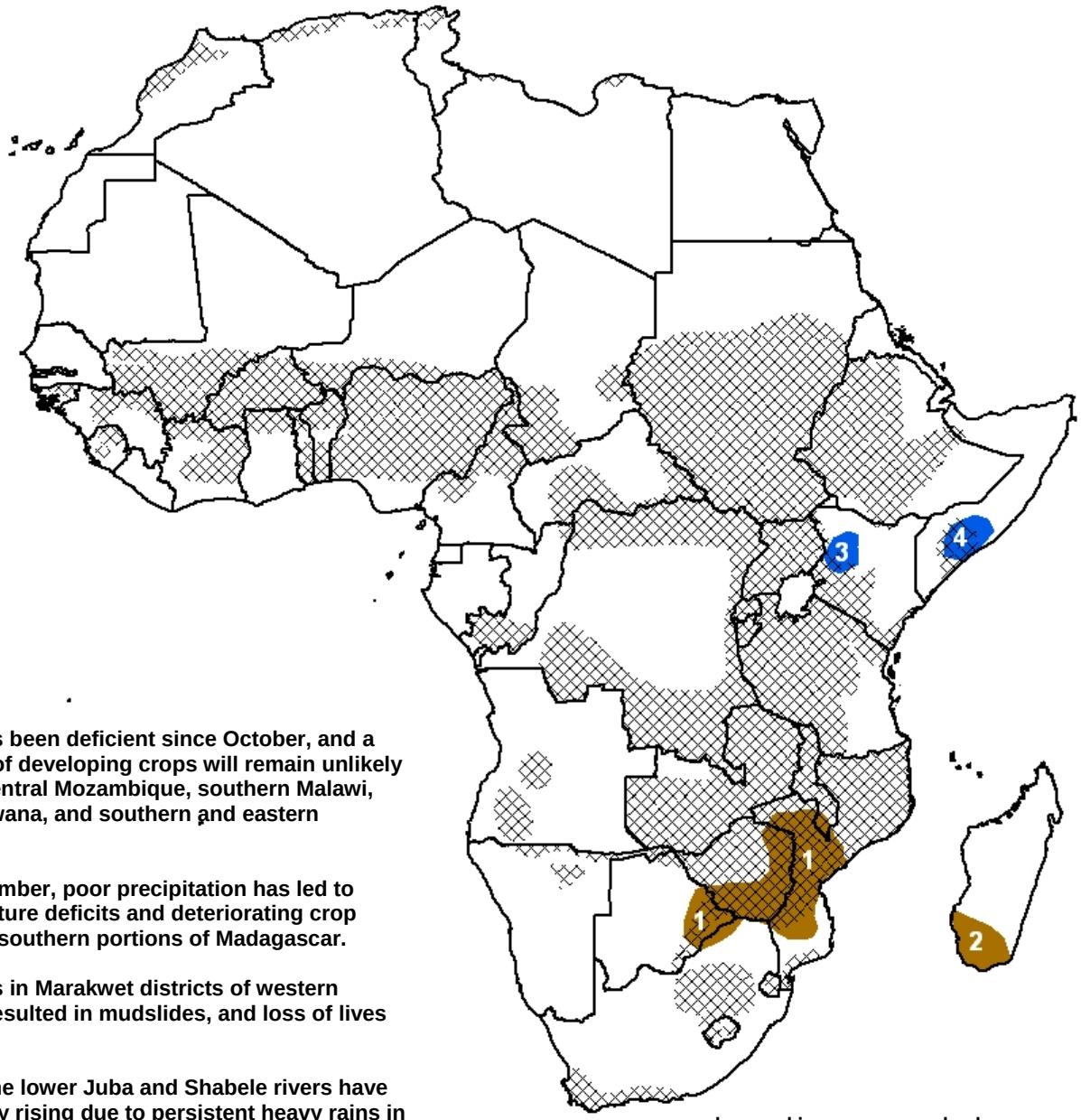
The USAID FEWS NET Weather Hazards Impacts Assessment for Africa May 6 – May 11, 2010

- **During the last observation period, heavy rains in Marakwet and Nyeri districts of Kenya have resulted in mudslides and loss of lives and property.**
- **Gabon and many places in central Africa have also received significantly 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) Heavy rains in Marakwet districts of western Kenya have resulted in mudslides, and loss of lives and property.

4) Levels of the lower Juba and Shabele rivers have been gradually rising due to persistent heavy rains in the highlands of eastern and southern Ethiopia, increasing the risk of floods in the downstream areas.

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

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

Parts of the Gulf of Guinea, much of central Africa and the Horn of Africa continue to have enhanced rainfall

During the last observation period, enhanced rainfall was observed in parts of the Gulf of Guinea, central Africa and the Horn of Africa countries. In the western parts of the Gulf of Guinea, moderate to heavy rains expanded northwards, covering northern Cote D'Ivoire, parts of southern Mali, Burkina Faso. Rainfall has relatively decreased in Nigeria, while continued to be high in many places of Cameroon. Significant rainfall enhancement was observed in Central African Republic, parts of southern Chad, Gabon, Congo, and much of DR Congo, with the weekly total rainfall exceeding 50mm in many of these places (**Figure 1**). Significantly high wet anomalies (>150mm) were observed in Gabon (**Figure 2**).

Rainfall also continued to be enhanced in many parts of the Horn of Africa. Moderate to heavy rains expanded towards southern Sudan, and parts of western northwestern Ethiopia. The Belg rains continued to be enhanced in southern and eastern parts of Ethiopia. Heavy rains have also returned to parts of Kenya, southern Somalia and coastal areas of Tanzania. Enhanced rainfall in southern Somalia has hampered flow of transportation in the Bay, Juba and Shabele regions of Somalia. In addition, levels of the lower Juba and Shabele rivers have been gradually rising due to persistent heavy rains in the highlands of eastern and southern Ethiopia, increasing the risk of floods in the downstream areas.

The heavy rainfall in Marakwet and Nyeri districts of Kenya has resulted in mudslides and loss of lives and property in Marakwet district. Flash floods have also been reported in Turkana and northwestern parts of Moyale districts, resulting in destruction of roads in the area.

Rainfall deficits have improved in southwest Ethiopia

The expansion of moderate to heavy rainfall into parts of southern Sudan and western Ethiopia has helped to improve moisture deficits in the regions, where rainfall delays had affected land preparation and planting of long-cycle crops. The recent WRSI analysis of long cycle crops also depicts the improvement observed in the Gambella and western Oromyia regions of Ethiopia, and parts of southern Sudan (**Figure 3**). However, both the weekly and monthly rainfall anomaly analyses indicate persistence of rainfall deficits in the southeastern corner of Sudan.

Precipitation forecasts for the coming week indicate continuation of enhanced rainfall in many parts of the Gulf of Guinea, central Africa and parts of the Horn of Africa. The heavy rains expected in the Horn of Africa may exacerbate the current flooding events in parts of Kenya and lead to additional flooding events in the region.

Satellite Estimated Precipitation (mm)
Valid: April 24th – May 1st, 2010

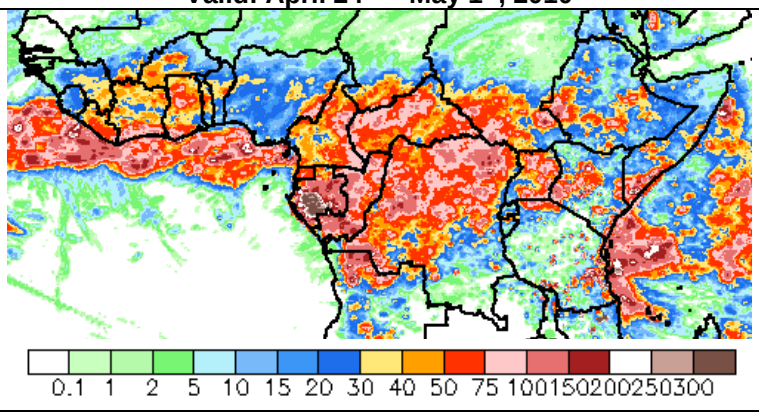


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

Satellite Estimated Precipitation Anomaly (mm)
Valid: April 24th – May 1st, 2010, 2010

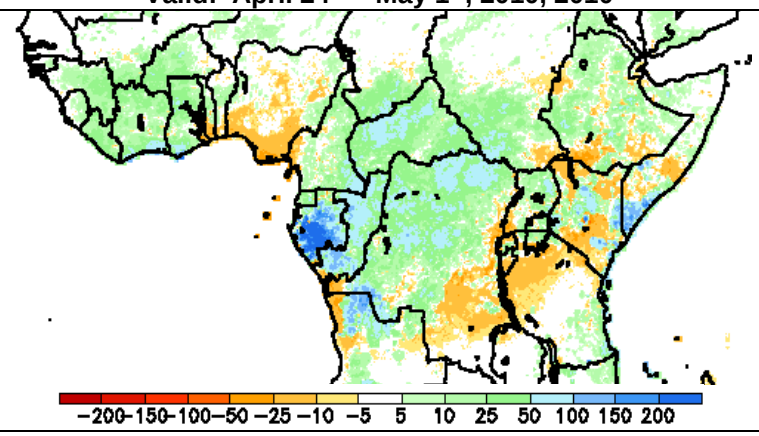


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

Water Requirements Satisfaction Index (WRSI)
Long rain, grains - April 2010, dekad 3

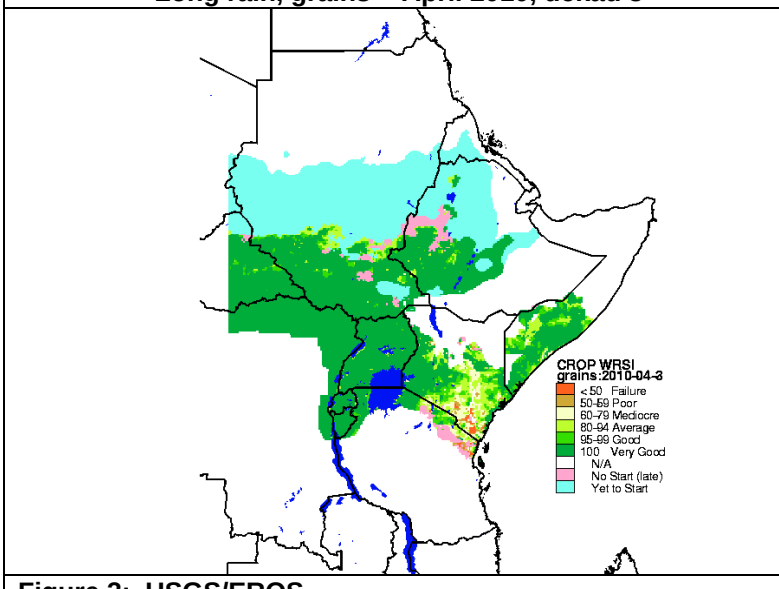


Figure 3: USGS/EROS

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.