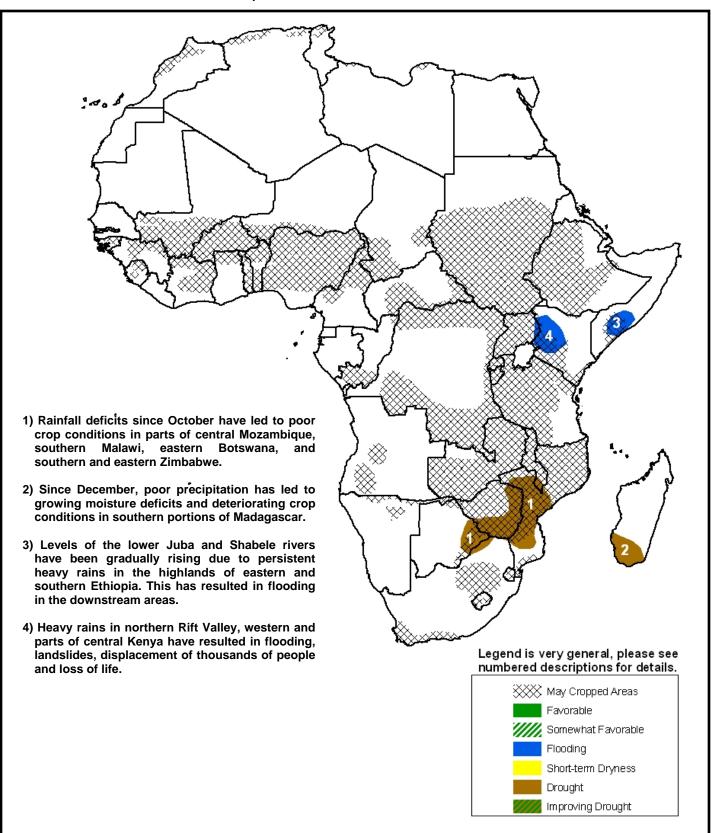


## The USAID FEWS NET Weather Hazards Impacts Assessment for Africa May 13 – May 19, 2010



- Heavy rains in northern Rift Valley, western and parts of central Kenya have resulted in flooding, landslides, displacement of thousands of people and loss of life during last week.
- Above average rainfall continues to help relieve areas after a delayed seasonal rains onset in seasonal rainfall in parts
  of southern Sudan and southwest Ethiopia.



## Moderate to heavy rains continue in western and central parts of Africa, and southern Sudan

During the last observation period, much of the Gulf of Guinea countries continued to receive moderate to heavy rainfall, with the weekly total rainfall exceeding 75mm in parts of Liberia, southern Cote D'Ivoire, and western Cameron. Enhanced rainfall was also observed in eastern Benin and western Nigeria, while the weekly total rainfall continued to remain below 30mm in much of the remaining parts of Nigeria. The weekly total rainfall exceeded 50mm in parts of Central African Republic and much of DR Congo. Another week of enhanced rainfall was also observed in many places of southern Sudan. The weekly total rainfall exceeded 50mm in Bahr el Ghazal and western Equatoria states of Sudan, with the highest rainfall event occurring in parts of Western Equatoria (Figure 1). The observed rainfall enhancement in southern Sudan continued to provide relief to earlier moisture deficit in the region.

## Massive rainfall in the Horn of Africa results in flooding, landslide and loss of life

Enhanced rainfall was observed across a large portion of Ethiopia, with the western part of the SNNP region of Ethiopia receiving the highest weekly total rainfall (>75mm). Meanwhile, the moderate to heavy Belg rains expanded northwards into Amhara and Tigray regions of Ethiopia, and southern Eritrea. The heavy rains in southwest Ethiopia were beneficial in bringing relief to the areas where early agricultural activities were affected by delays in seasonal rainfall. Enhanced rainfall was also observed over much of the Belg-rain-benefiting areas of Ethiopia (Figure 2). The abundant rainfall in the highlands of eastern and southern Ethiopia resulted in localized flooding in the Somali region of Ethiopia and continued to raise the levels of the Shabelle and Juba Rivers.

Heavy rains in parts of Kenya have resulted in flooding that led to loss of life and displacement of thousands of people in Lodwar, Marigat, Nandi, Rachuonyo, Ugenya, Nyando and Gucha districts of the northern Rift Valley and western sector of Kenya. Enhanced rainfall in parts of central Kenya has also resulted in landslides and loss of life in Mathira and Mukurwe-ini Divisions of Nyeri district. Heavy rains were also received in the coastal areas of southern Somalia, eastern Kenya, and northeast Tanzania.

The increasing levels of fungi due to increased rains/humidity and poor maize storage conditions in eastern sector of Kenya may lead to production loses.

Precipitation forecasts show another week of enhanced rainfall across much of Ethiopia, southern Somalia, and in the vicinity of Lake Victoria, while rainfall is expected to decrease across much of the Gulf of Guinea countries, and parts of central African region. The basin excess rainfall (Figure 3) and the forecasted heavy precipitation raise concern for continued flooding across areas at risk.

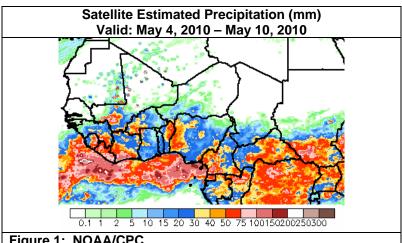


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

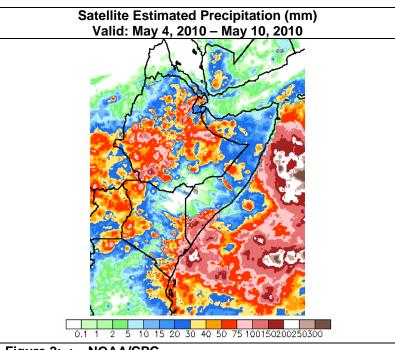
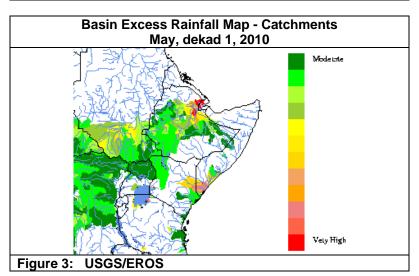


Figure 2: : NOAA/CPC



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.

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.