Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
For USAID / FEWS-NET
June 30 – July 6, 2011

- **Below-average rainfall during the last three weeks has led to developing dryness in the southern Darfur region of Sudan, while seasonal rainfall continued in the Gulf of Guinea region.**

1) The uneven spatial distribution of rainfall during the past three weeks has led to developing dryness in the southern Darfur region of Sudan despite the seasonal northward advancement of the Intertropical Front across eastern Africa. Moisture deficits could persist as localized moderate to heavy rainfall is forecast in the region during the next week.

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

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

Below-average rainfall has led to developing dryness in southwestern Sudan.

The southern Darfur region of southwestern Sudan continued to receive below-average rainfall during the past seven days despite the continuation of seasonal rainfall further south, which was associated with the movement of the Intertropical Front across eastern Africa. The below-average rainfall during the last three weeks has sustained thirty-day rainfall deficits ranging between 25 and 100mm in the region (**Figure 1**). Although the region climatologically receives between 100 and 175mm of rainfall during the month of June, rainfall accumulated accounted only 50-70% of the long-term average during the last thirty days. The developing dryness was partially attributed to enhanced anomalous northerly winds across northern and central Sudan, suppressing rainfall during the past several weeks. In Somalia, the cessation of rainfall during the *Hagaa*, dry season has led to moderate rainfall deficits in the Shabelle and Juba regions in the southeastern portions of the country.

The lack of rainfall during the past several weeks has impacted vegetation growth in southwestern Sudan as shown by negative anomalies in the Normalized Difference Vegetation Index anomaly during the second dekad of June (**Figure 2**). In contrast, above-average rainfall that fell in southeastern Sudan during the previous week had helped to relieve the dryness and had improved vegetation conditions as shown by positive anomalies in the Jonglei and Upper Nile regions of southeastern Sudan during the second dekad of the month. The persistence of uneven distribution of rainfall could negatively affect cropping conditions in many local areas of Sudan.

During the next seven days, heavy (> 50mm) rainfall is expected in many local areas of southern and southwestern Sudan, while moderate (30-50mm) rains are forecast in the south central portions of the country. Copious (> 150mm) amounts of rain are also expected across much of western and central Ethiopia during the next week.

Seasonal rainfall continues in the Gulf of Guinea.

During the past week, seasonal rainfall continued in the Gulf of Guinea, with widespread heavy (> 50mm) rainfall observed in southeastern Senegal, Guinea, and southern Mali (**Figure 3**). Abundant (> 50mm) rainfall was also observed in southern Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin, and many local areas of Nigeria during the past seven days. In Nigeria, while heavy rains helped to neutralize moisture deficits in the central and eastern portions of the country, torrential (> 50mm) rains were reported to cause fatalities and affect several people in Kano in northern Nigeria. Meanwhile, seasonal rainfall persisted in southeastern Senegal and southern Mali and has resulted in positive rainfall anomalies during the last thirty days. For the upcoming seven days, heavy rainfall is expected to continue across much of the western portions of West Africa, including southern Mali, Guinea, Sierra Leone, and northern Liberia. Copious (> 50mm) amounts of rain are also forecast in coastal and central Nigeria during the next week. Localized moderate to heavy rainfall is expected elsewhere. The continuation of the northward movement of the Intertropical Front is expected to benefit cropping activities in the Sudano-Sahelian and southern Sahel regions of West Africa.

Satellite Estimated Rainfall Anomaly (mm)
Valid: May 29th – June 27th, 2011

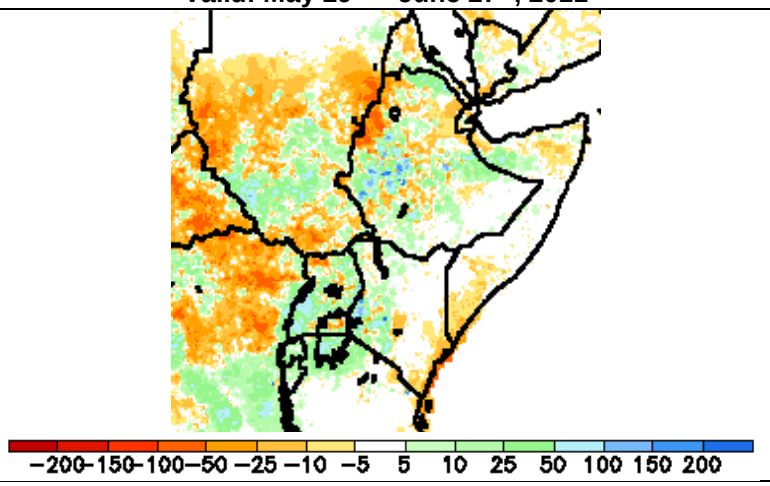

Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

Normalized Difference Vegetation Index Anomaly
Valid: As of 2nd Dekad of June, 2011

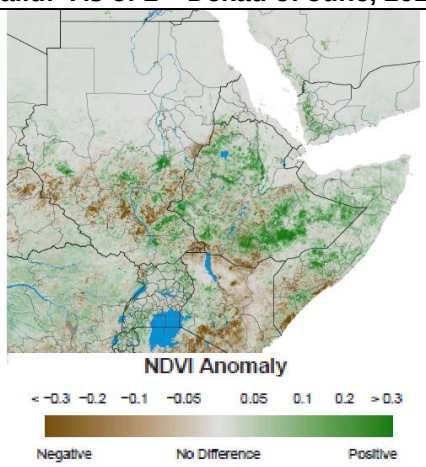

Figure 2: USGS/EROS

Satellite Estimated Rainfall (mm)
Valid: June 21st – June 27th, 2011

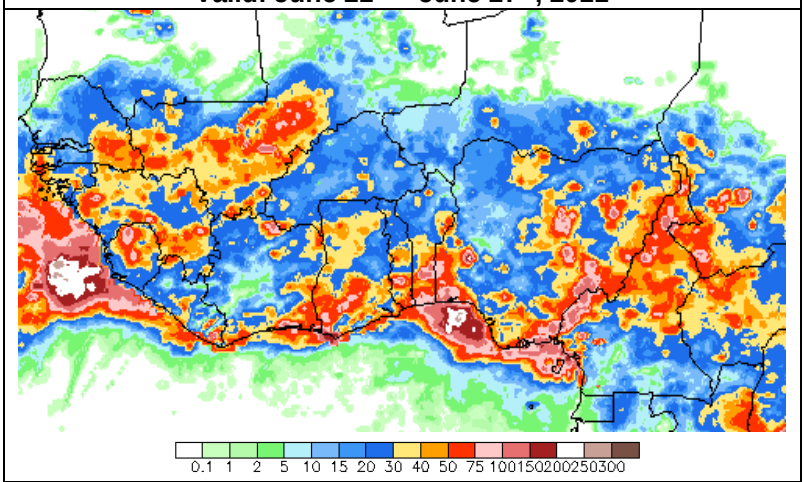

Figure 3: NOAA/CPC

Note: The hazards outlook 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.