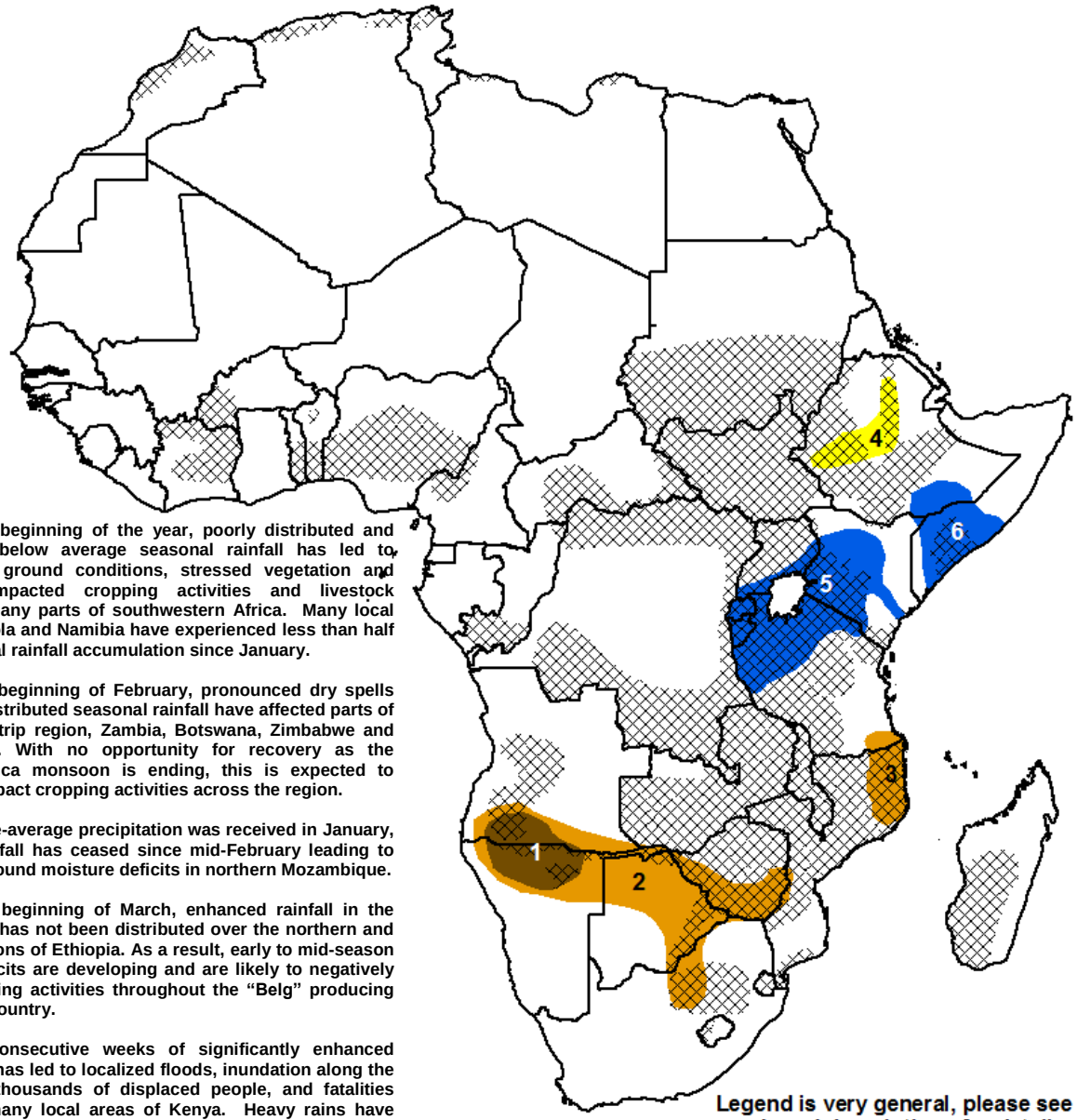
Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
For USAID / FEWS-NET
April 18 – April 24, 2013

- **Heavy, flood inducing precipitation continues across many regions of East Africa.**



1) Since the beginning of the year, poorly distributed and significantly below average seasonal rainfall has led to deteriorating ground conditions, stressed vegetation and negatively impacted cropping activities and livestock throughout many parts of southwestern Africa. Many local areas in Angola and Namibia have experienced less than half of their normal rainfall accumulation since January.

2) Since the beginning of February, pronounced dry spells and poorly distributed seasonal rainfall have affected parts of the Caprivi Strip region, Zambia, Botswana, Zimbabwe and South Africa. With no opportunity for recovery as the southern Africa monsoon is ending, this is expected to negatively impact cropping activities across the region.

3) After above-average precipitation was received in January, seasonal rainfall has ceased since mid-February leading to significant ground moisture deficits in northern Mozambique.

4) Since the beginning of March, enhanced rainfall in the Greater Horn has not been distributed over the northern and western portions of Ethiopia. As a result, early to mid-season moisture deficits are developing and are likely to negatively impact cropping activities throughout the "Belg" producing areas of the country.

5) Several consecutive weeks of significantly enhanced precipitation has led to localized floods, inundation along the Tana River, thousands of displaced people, and fatalities throughout many local areas of Kenya. Heavy rains have also led to floods, landslides, damage to infrastructure, and crop losses across parts of Uganda, Rwanda, and Burundi. The potential for locally torrential rainfall across Kenya and northwestern Tanzania is expected to further saturate ground conditions and possibly lead to additional flooding during the upcoming outlook period.

6) Significantly heavy rainfall during the last two weeks has led to flooding, damaged crops, and the displacement of thousands of people along the Shabelle River. A slight reduction of rains is expected with average to locally above average rainfall forecast over eastern Ethiopia and southern Somalia during the next seven days.

Flooding threats grow throughout part of Greater Horn.

During the second week in April, there was a continuation of significantly above-average precipitation across much of East Africa. The highest rainfall accumulations were received throughout central and western Kenya, where ground reports recorded more than 200mm of precipitation during the last seven days. In other areas of Kenya, well-distributed moderate to locally heavy precipitation amounts (>50mm) were received (**Figure 1**). In Somalia, another week of enhanced rainfall was concentrated over the Jubba and Shabelle River basins, with much of the heavier rainfall amounts extending northward into southern Oromia, and Somali regions of Ethiopia. Further south, significantly heavy rains were also received across Rwanda, Burundi, and northwestern Tanzania.

The onset of continuous, enhanced rainfall since the second dekad of March has led to a deepening and expansion of seasonal precipitation surpluses throughout much of East Africa. Many local areas have now experienced some of the wettest seasonal rainfall accumulations in 30 years according to percentile analysis since the beginning of March (**Figure 2**). Consequently, parts of Somalia, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi have reportedly experienced numerous floods, inundated River basins, landslides, crop losses, damage to infrastructure, fatalities, and the displacement of thousands of people. Conversely, poorly distributed and below-average rains have been observed over parts of Ethiopia during the past several weeks. The Gambella and western Oromia regions of Ethiopia have observed seasonal precipitation deficits higher than 100mm since March. However, seasonal rainfall deficits along the higher elevations of eastern Amhara and southern Tigray have become less pronounced due to a slight increase in rainfall during the last two weeks. The persistence of below average rains during the remainder of April further increases the likelihood of a poor *belg* crop production for the season.

During the upcoming outlook period, model forecasts indicate a southward shift in the enhanced rains into late April. The highest rainfall accumulations are forecast (>100mm) across northwestern Tanzania, Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda and southwest Kenya. The continuation of heavy rainfall over these areas is expected to exacerbate ground conditions and possibly trigger additional flooding.

Anomalous ITF position provides a favorable early start of rains across parts of West Africa.

During March and April, many local areas in the Gulf of Guinea region saw the northward migration of the ITF accompanied with an increase in seasonal rainfall. The highest rainfall accumulations during the 1st dekad of April were received throughout parts of Cote d'Ivoire, Benin and Nigeria. Analysis of the ITF position indicates an anomalous poleward position over parts of Burkina Faso, northern Benin and western Nigeria and this is expected to be favorable for early season cropping activities. Further east, over parts of Sudan and South Sudan, the ITF was several degrees below its climatological normal position during early April. This position corresponds to a minor delayed start to seasonal rainfall in the region.

East Africa Satellite Estimated Rainfall (mm)
Valid: April 7th – April 13th, 2013

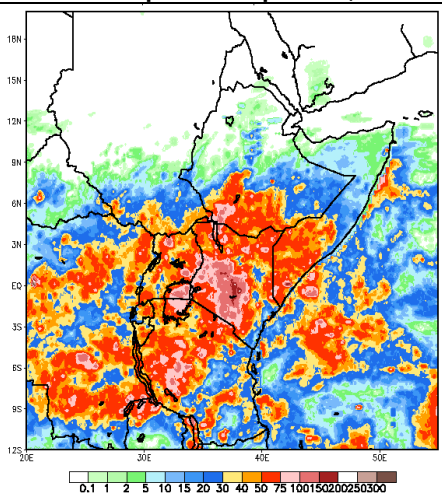


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

Satellite Estimated Seasonal Rainfall Percentile (%)
Valid: March 1st – April 13th, 2013

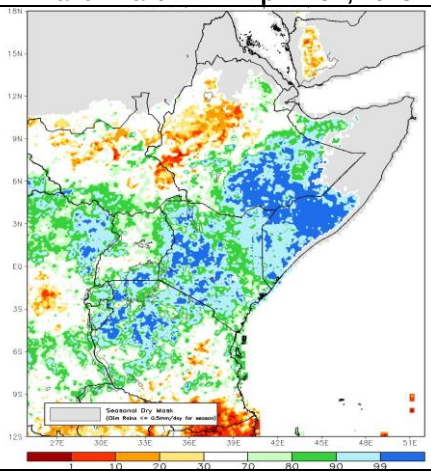


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

West Africa Inter-Tropical Front (ITF) Position and Satellite Estimated Rainfall (mm)
Valid: 1st Dekad of April, 2013

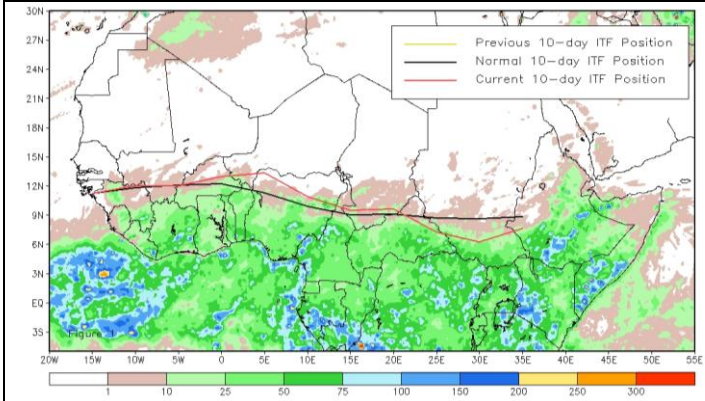


Figure 3: NOAA/CPC

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.

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