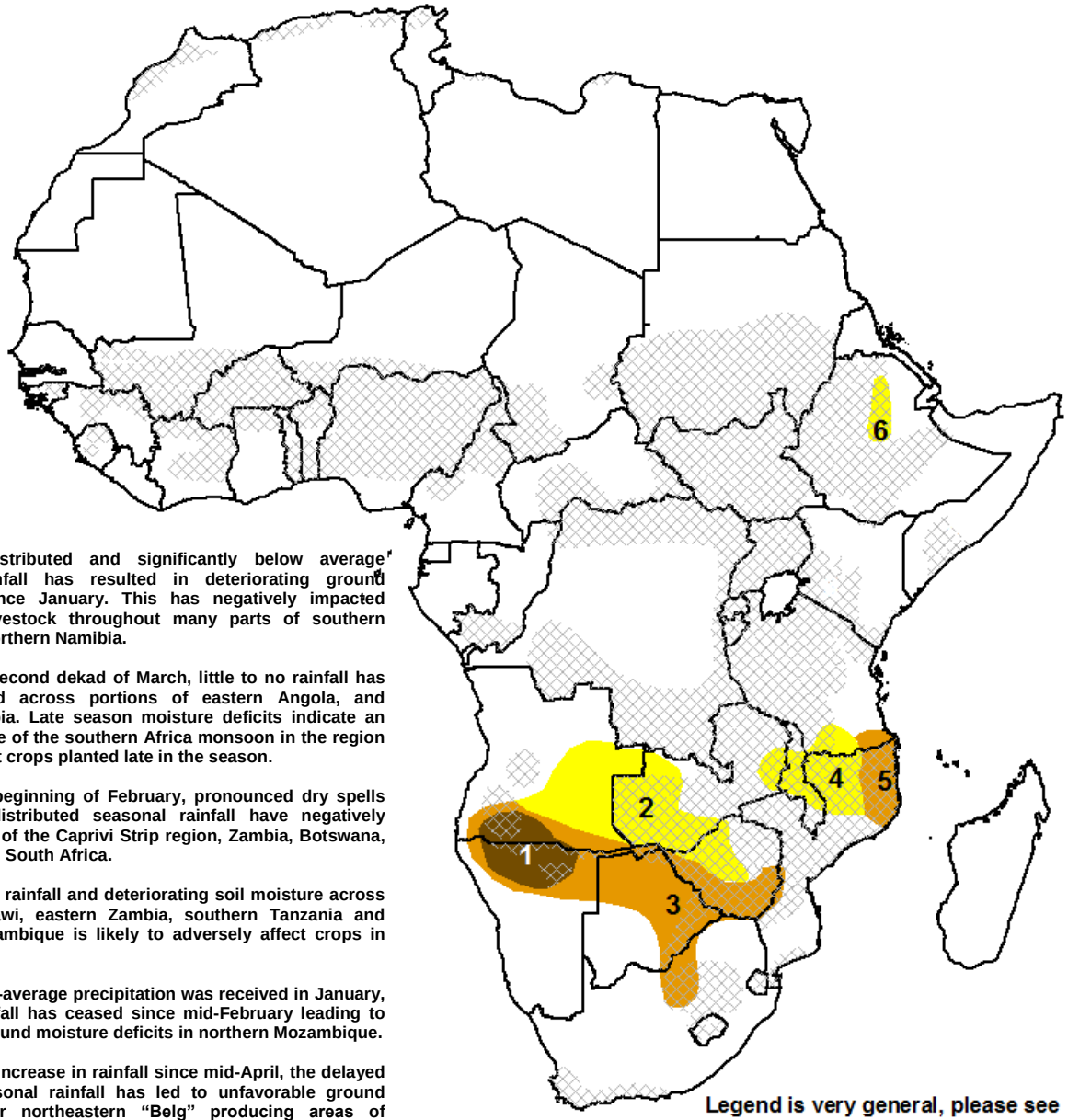
Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
For USAID / FEWS-NET
May 16 – May 22, 2013

- **Heavy rains continued for a second week across previously dry areas in western Ethiopia and South Sudan.**



1) Poorly distributed and significantly below average seasonal rainfall has resulted in deteriorating ground conditions since January. This has negatively impacted crops and livestock throughout many parts of southern Angola and northern Namibia.

2) Since the second dekad of March, little to no rainfall has been received across portions of eastern Angola, and western Zambia. Late season moisture deficits indicate an early departure of the southern Africa monsoon in the region and may affect crops planted late in the season.

3) Since the beginning of February, pronounced dry spells and poorly distributed seasonal rainfall have negatively affected parts of the Caprivi Strip region, Zambia, Botswana, Zimbabwe and South Africa.

4) Poor March rainfall and deteriorating soil moisture across parts of Malawi, eastern Zambia, southern Tanzania and northern Mozambique is likely to adversely affect crops in the region.

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

6) Despite an increase in rainfall since mid-April, the delayed onset of seasonal rainfall has led to unfavorable ground conditions for northeastern "Belg" producing areas of Ethiopia.

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

- **May Cropped Areas**
- Flooding
- Abnormal Dryness
- Drought
- Severe Drought
- Tropical Cyclone
- Potential Locust Outbreak
- Heavy Snow
- Abnormal Cold
- Abnormal Heat

Heavy rains continue across the Greater Horn of Africa.

During the past week, heavy rains (>50mm) were observed across South Sudan, Uganda, southwestern and coastal Kenya and the Gambela, western Oromia, and Benishangul-Gumaz regions of Ethiopia. This marked the second to third consecutive week of above-average weekly rainfall across western Ethiopia and South Sudan. The recent rains have eliminated early season rainfall deficits in South Sudan and provided relief to drier than average conditions in Ethiopia. Farther south, torrential rains in Uganda and southwestern Kenya kept ground conditions saturated and the flooding risks elevated across the country. In contrast, light rains (<10mm) were observed in Rwanda, Burundi and across southern Ethiopia and much of Somalia (**Figure 1)** , which provided relief to saturated conditions and lowered river levels along the Shabelle and Juba Rivers.

Vegetative conditions across east Africa are reflective of rainfall totals over the past thirty days. Across areas which have received copious amounts of above-average rain, NDVI anomalies indicate above-average ground conditions. This includes areas in southern Ethiopia, Kenya, northern Tanzania, Uganda and Somalia. The rains have improved pastoral and agro-pastoral conditions and increased water availability in many local areas. However, the abundant rains have caused numerous flooding events, damaging infrastructure and crops and displacing thousands in Kenya and Uganda. In contrast, below-average thirty-day rains in in parts of the western Oromia, Gambella, Benishangul-Gumaz and Amhara regions of Ethiopia have led to poor ground conditions, according to the NDVI, for the first dekad of May (**Figure 2**). However, two consecutive weeks of above-average rains have greatly reduced seasonal and thirty-day rainfall deficits.

For the next week, a reduction in rain is forecast for much of east Africa, including saturated areas in Kenya, Uganda, northern Tanzania, Somalia, southern Ethiopia and much of South Sudan and southern Sudan. The light to moderate rain (5-30mm) will decrease flooding risks. In contrast, moderate to heavy rain (>30mm) is forecast for western Ethiopia, continuing a recovery of seasonal rains and an improvement in ground conditions.

Moderate rains recorded across the majority of West Africa.

Moderate rains (10-30mm) were observed across much of West Africa during the past seven days. The highest rainfall totals (>50mm) were located in Cote D'Ivoire, Liberia and localized areas along the Gulf of Guinea in Togo, Benin and Nigeria. While widespread moderate rains have been prevalent since the start of season, rains have been below-average across Nigeria and far western West Africa, leading to developing thirty-day rainfall deficits (25-100mm). In contrast, moderate rainfall surpluses (25-100mm) are present across central West Africa (**Figure 3**). Overall at the beginning of May, ground conditions remain neutral to above-average across the majority of West Africa. For the next week, moderate to heavy rain (>30mm) is forecast for much of West Africa, with the heaviest rainfall amounts expected in Sierra Leone and along coastal areas in West Africa.

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

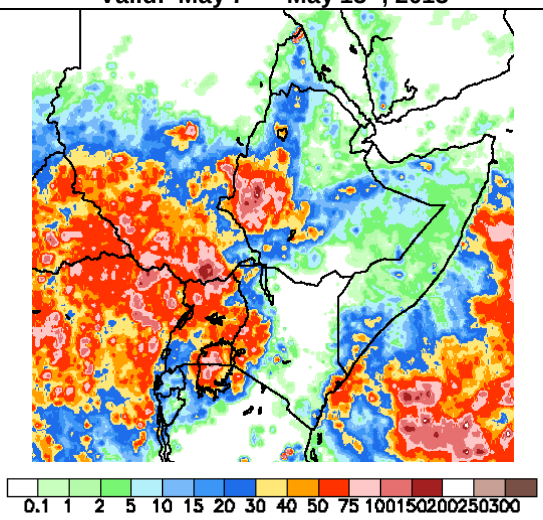


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

NDVI Anomaly
Valid: May 1st – May 10th, 2013

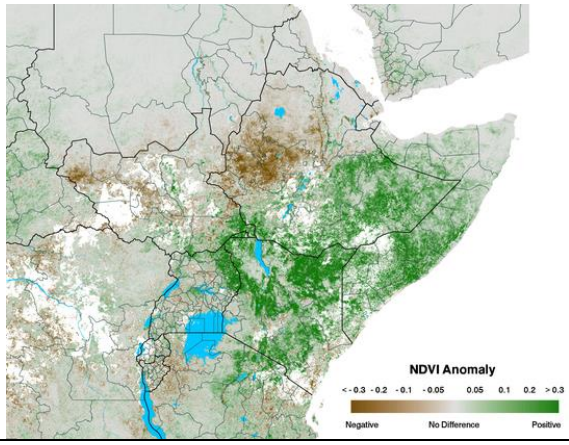


Figure 2: USGS/EROS

Satellite Estimated Rainfall Anomalies (mm)
Valid: April 14th – May 13th, 2013

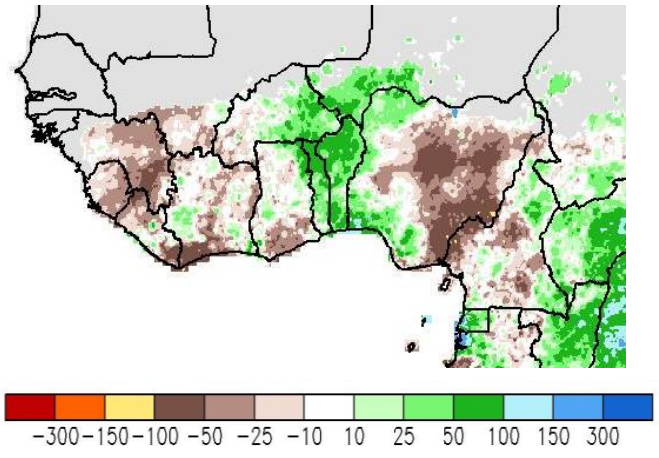


Figure 3: NOAA/CPC

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.