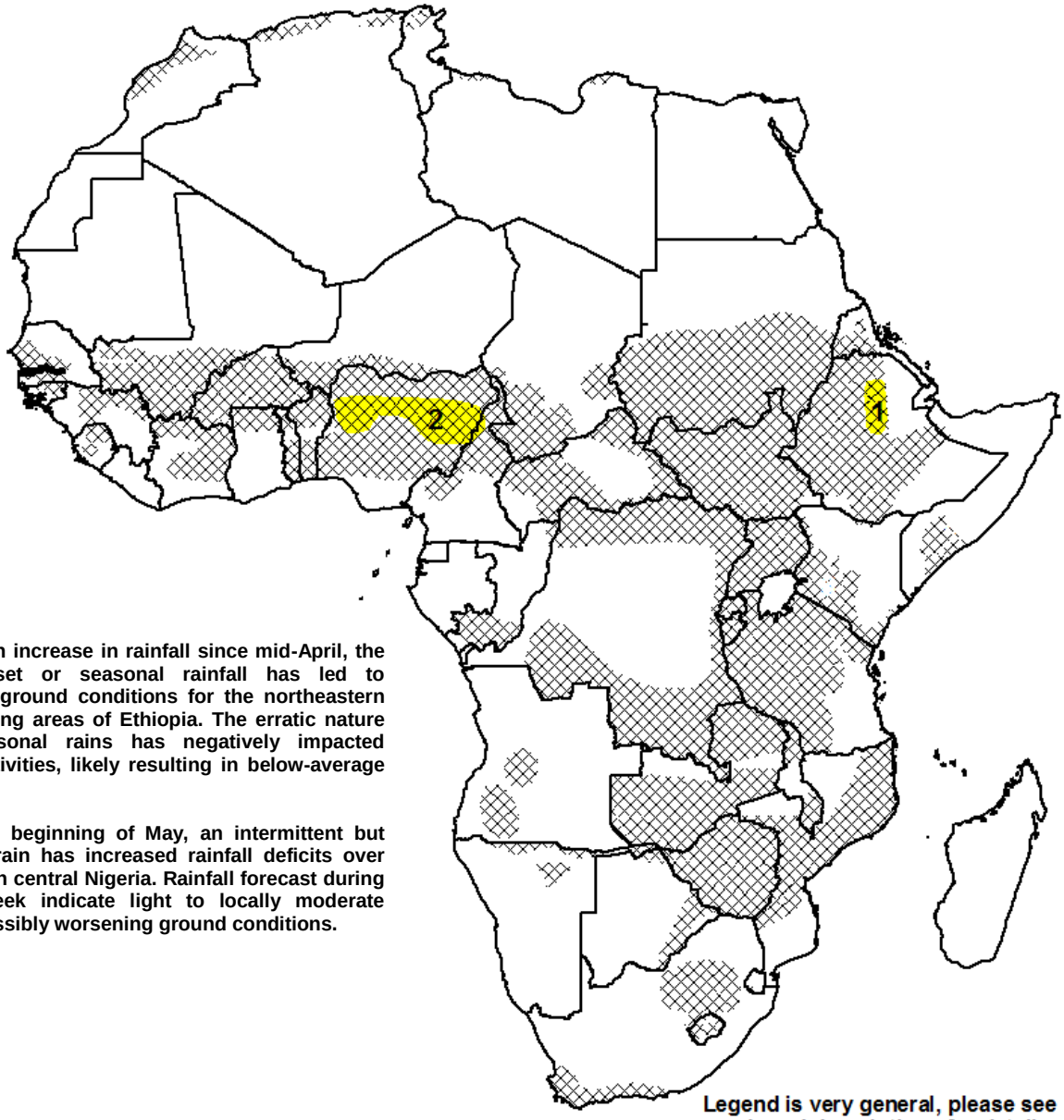
Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
For USAID / FEWS-NET
June 6 – June 12, 2013

- **An insufficient rain since the start of the season has resulted in abnormal dryness across parts of northern Nigeria.**



1) Despite an increase in rainfall since mid-April, the delayed onset or seasonal rainfall has led to unfavorable ground conditions for the northeastern *Belg*-producing areas of Ethiopia. The erratic nature of the seasonal rains has negatively impacted cropping activities, likely resulting in below-average crop yields.

2) Since the beginning of May, an intermittent but insufficient rain has increased rainfall deficits over parts of north central Nigeria. Rainfall forecast during the next week indicate light to locally moderate showers, possibly worsening ground conditions.

A poor March-May performance registered in eastern Amhara.

Rainfall during the March-May season was unevenly distributed across eastern Africa. While most of the Greater Horn of Africa countries received average to above-average rainfall, the *Belg*-producing areas of the eastern Amhara of northern Ethiopia and parts of the low-lying areas of southeastern Sudan accumulated only up to 25 percent of their averages during the entire season (**Figure 1**). In Ethiopia, the deficits were mainly attributed to a delayed onset of the season despite a subsequent increase in rainfall over the last two months. This will likely reduce seasonal yields in the region. Also, above-average rain caused flooding, destroying crops, and negatively impacting livelihoods of population in the pastoral and agro-pastoral zones of downstream locations in southern Somalia and many local areas of Kenya.

An analysis of the Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) anomaly during late May indicates wide areas with above-average biomass, reflecting adequate soil moisture supply across the sub-region over the past several weeks (**Figure 2**). These areas include southeastern South Sudan, northeastern Uganda, western and northern Kenya, eastern Ethiopia, and much of Somalia. While vegetation conditions have improved significantly in western Ethiopia due to the observed increased rain during the past several weeks, pixels with negative anomalies persist. In addition, unfavorable conditions were observed over parts of Rwanda, resulting from an early cessation of rain since the second dekad (10-day period) of May.

During the next seven days, rainfall forecast suggest seasonal, moderate to locally heavy rain to continue in western Ethiopia and parts of eastern Sudan. The continued rain should help to provide favorable soil moisture for the next *Meher*, June – September crop cycle in Ethiopia. Light rain is generally expected over South Sudan.

Satellite Estimated Rainfall Percent Normal (%)
Valid: March 1st – May 31st, 2013

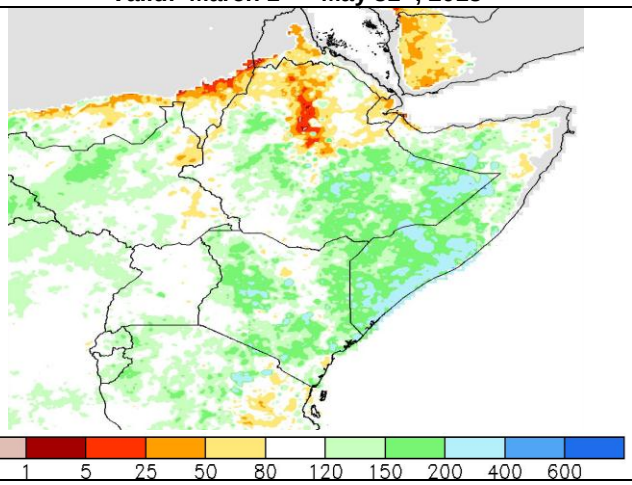


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

NDVI Anomaly
Valid: May 21st – May 31st, 2013

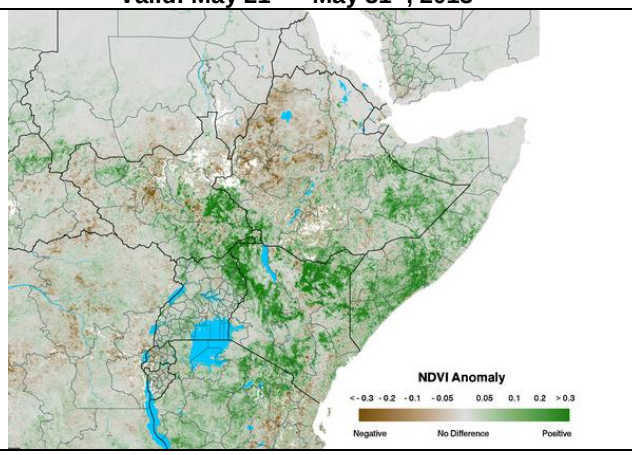


Figure 2: USGS/EROS

A robust rainfall distribution observed in the Gulf of Guinea.

During the past week, widespread, moderate to heavy rain was observed along the Gulf of Guinea, with the heaviest (> 75 mm) rain recorded in western Guinea, Sierra Leone, localized areas of Burkina Faso, and coastal Cote d'Ivoire, and Ghana (**Figure 3**). The above-average rain during the past week has helped to maintain rainfall surpluses across much of the region except parts of central Nigeria, where moderate (50 – 100 mm) moisture deficits were recorded over the past thirty days. Analyses of remote sensing data also indicated a degradation of vegetation conditions across north-central Nigeria during late May due to a lack of rainfall since the beginning of the season. For next week, while heavy and above-average rainfall is expected across the western portions of the Gulf of Guinea, including Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, and coastal Cote d'Ivoire, light rain is generally forecast across northern Ghana, Togo, Benin, and northern Nigeria. The forecast light rain during the next week will unlikely be sufficient to compensate for the accumulated deficits in the region.

Satellite Estimated Rainfall (mm)
Valid: May 28th – June 3rd, 2013

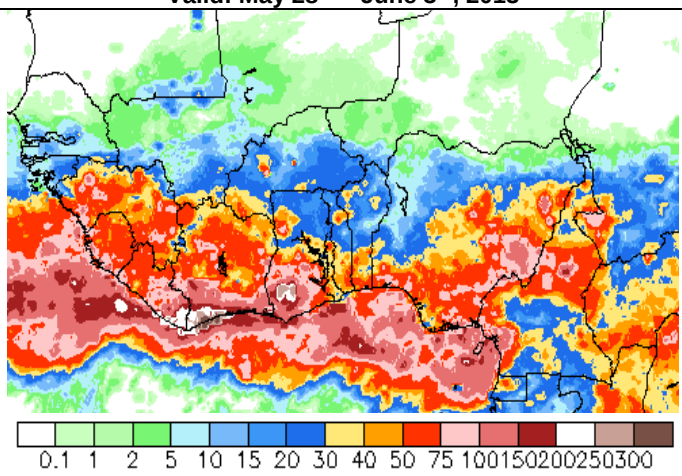


Figure 3: NOAA/CPC

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.