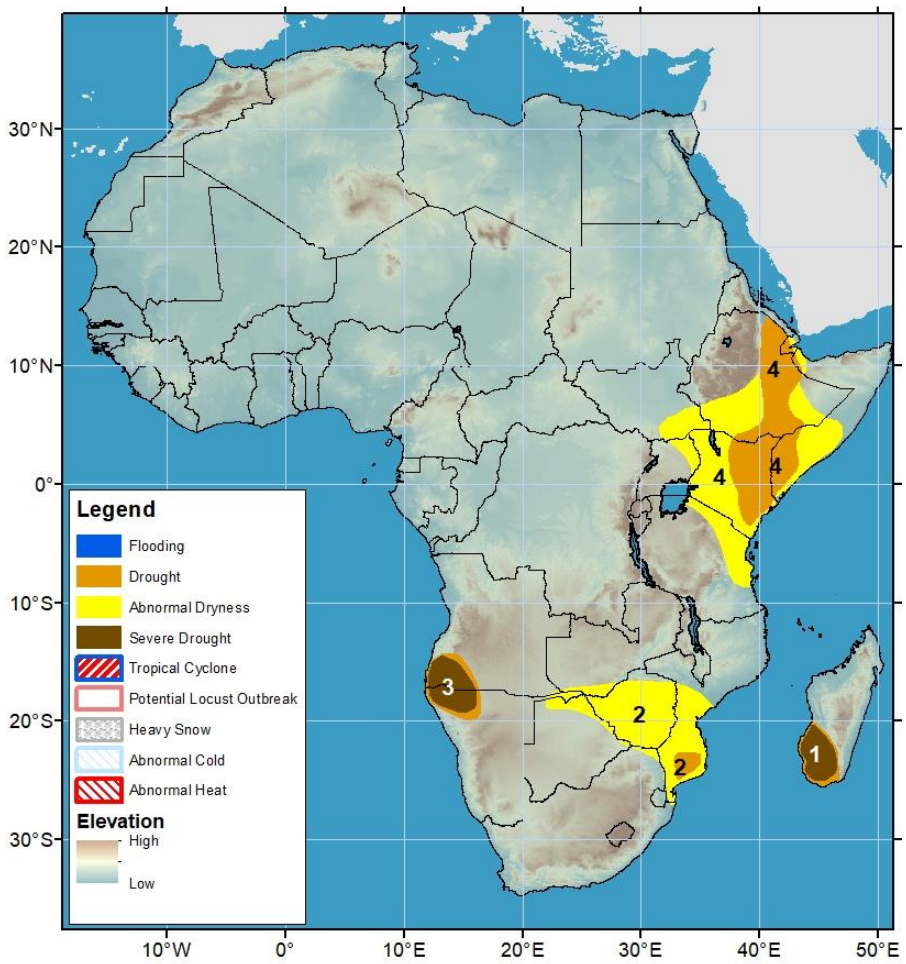
Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
For USAID / FEWS-NET
05 April – 11 May 2022

- **Drought conditions are present in the Greater Horn of Africa due to insufficient rains since late February.**
- **The West Africa rainfall season is off to a healthy start.**



1) The seasonal performance exhibited severe drought over southern Madagascar with tremendous loss of agriculture and pastoral activities.

2) Recent increase of rainfall might help restore grass land coverage from the robust moisture deficits across southern Mozambique, a major part of Zimbabwe, and portions of northern Botswana.

3) Inconsistent rainfall and dry spells since late December have caused strengthening moisture deficits which led to severe drought by the end of rainy season.

4) Erratic and uneven distribution of rainfall developed abnormal dryness across several regions of eastern Africa. Longer period of moisture deficits led to expanding drought conditions across northeastern Ethiopia, northeastern Kenya, and far southern Somalia now that the season is more than half over.

Note: The Hazards outlook map is based on current weather/climate information, short and medium-range weather forecasts (up to 1 week), sub-seasonal forecasts up to 4 weeks, and assesses the potential impact of extreme events on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed and predicted to continue during the outlook period. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at the spatial scale of the map. This product considers long-range seasonal climate forecasts but does not reflect 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 outlook process and products include participation by FEWS NET field and home offices, NOAA-CPC, USGS, USDA, NASA, and several other national and regional organizations in the countries concerned.

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Questions about the USAID FEWS NET activity may be directed to Dr. James Verdin, Program Manager, FEWS NET/USAID, jverdin@usaid.gov

East Africa received widespread rains that were near to or wetter than average in total.

The most prolific rainfall to date was received throughout the region this past week. Rainfall totals from 25mm to 50mm were widespread. Areas such as southwest Ethiopia, the Lake Victoria region, and south-central Somalia received larger amounts. The evolution of the March-May rainfall season over the Greater Horn of Africa has been characterized by poor rainfall performance. Despite the recent wetter regional pattern, good rains failed to show up during March and April throughout several portions of the Horn of Africa. An analysis of the cumulative rain since 1 March exhibits wide areas, including northern Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia, excepted its western part, southern and central Somalia, and northern Tanzania experiencing well-below normal rainfall (**Figure 1**). The prolonged lack of rain since the beginning of the season led to abnormal dryness and even drought conditions for some parts such as northeastern Ethiopia, northeastern Kenya, and southern Somalia. Those drastic conditions have already adversely affected vegetation coverage and cropping activities over some local areas of southern Ethiopia, according to reports. Given the relative shortness of the *Belg* season and the importance of rain for agricultural and pastoral activities over many areas, the current favorable pattern of rainfall is helpful but may not be enough to significantly salvage the season and mitigate the ongoing moisture stress.

During the next outlook period, drier conditions are expected to return to East Africa, with light rains over southern Ethiopia and southern Somalia. Much of Kenya could remain dry as well as central and northern Ethiopia. This will make the recovery short-lived in the region.

3-Month Satellite Estimated Total Percent of Normal Rainfall (%)
Valid: 1 March – 3 May 2022

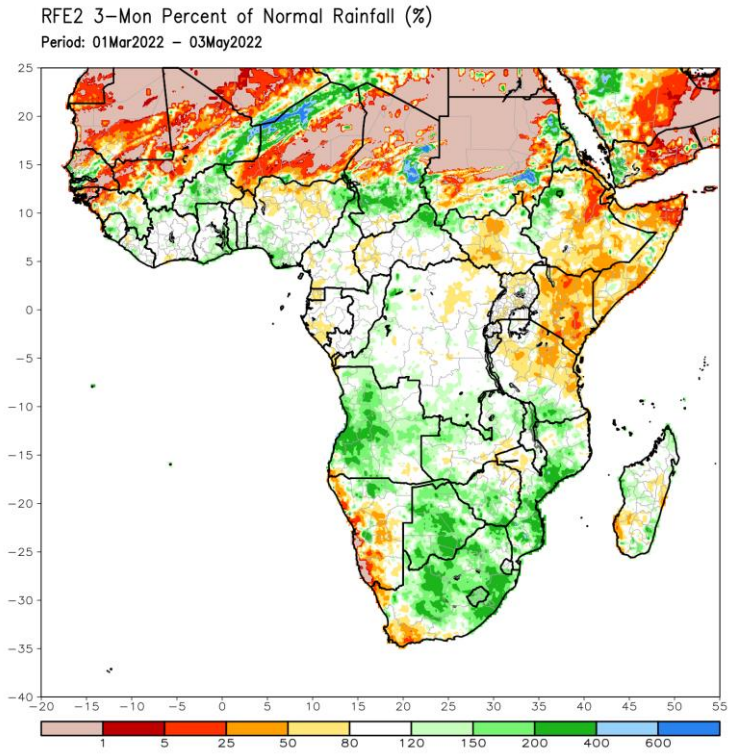

Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

Recent rainfall helped alleviate moisture deficit across southeastern Nigeria.

This past week, moderate to locally heavy rains prevailed across the Gulf of Guinea countries. At least 10mm was observed in most parts of these countries (**Figure 2**). The region's heaviest rainfall was observed in southern Nigeria and southern Burkina Faso where 100mm or more was observed. This was well above average for those regions. Rainfall was fairly typical for the end of April across the region, except small areas of southern Liberia and Cote D'Ivoire, as well as southern Cameroon were suppressed by up to 50mm. Performance since the start of the rainy season is generally favorable throughout the region. Many areas, especially in the south-central portion of the region show 30-day rainfall surpluses. A few parts of southern Cameroon, Guineas and Sierra Leone show 30-day deficits more than 25mm. The NDVI vegetation index exhibited growing vegetation across Ivory Coast, Ghana, Togo, Benin, and Guinea. Some other areas, including much of Nigeria still show vegetation health lagging a bit.

During the next week, near or wetter than average conditions are forecasted. The greatest rainfall totals, more than 50mm are likely in Liberia, Sierra Leone and southern Guinea. Rains may also be enhanced in Cameroon.

7-Day Satellite Estimated Total Rainfall (mm)
Valid: 27 April – 03 May 2022

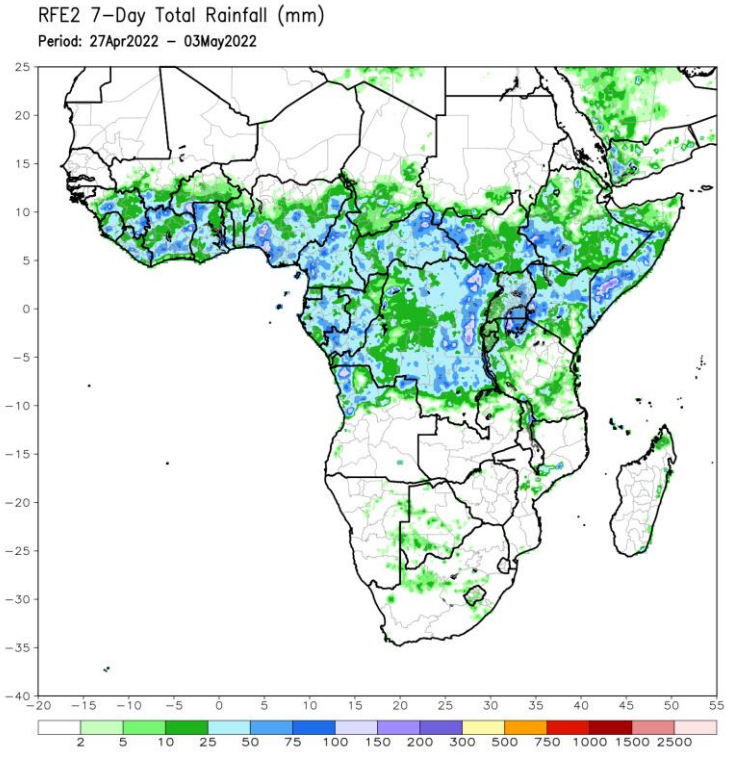

Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

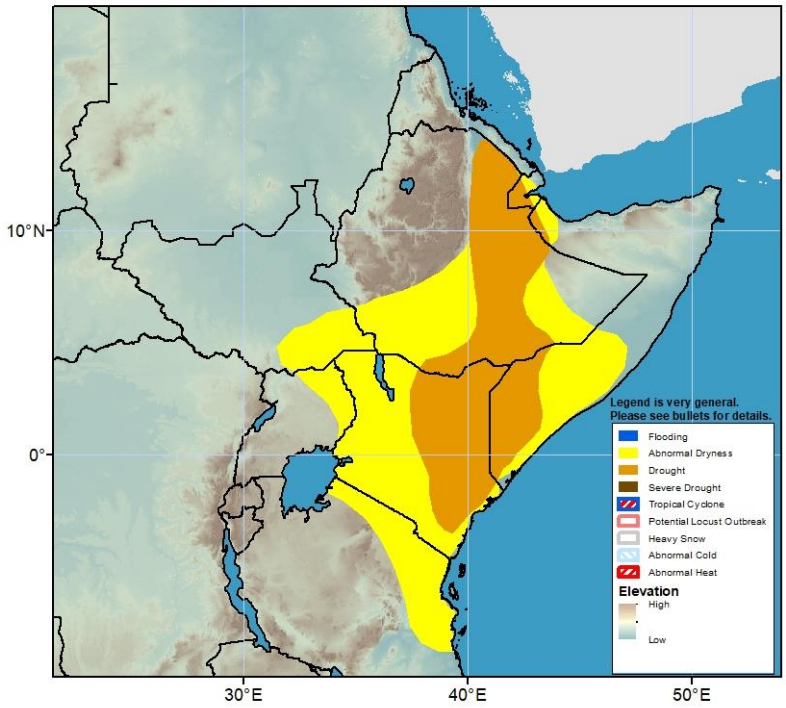

Figure 3: Hazards, focused over eastern Africa

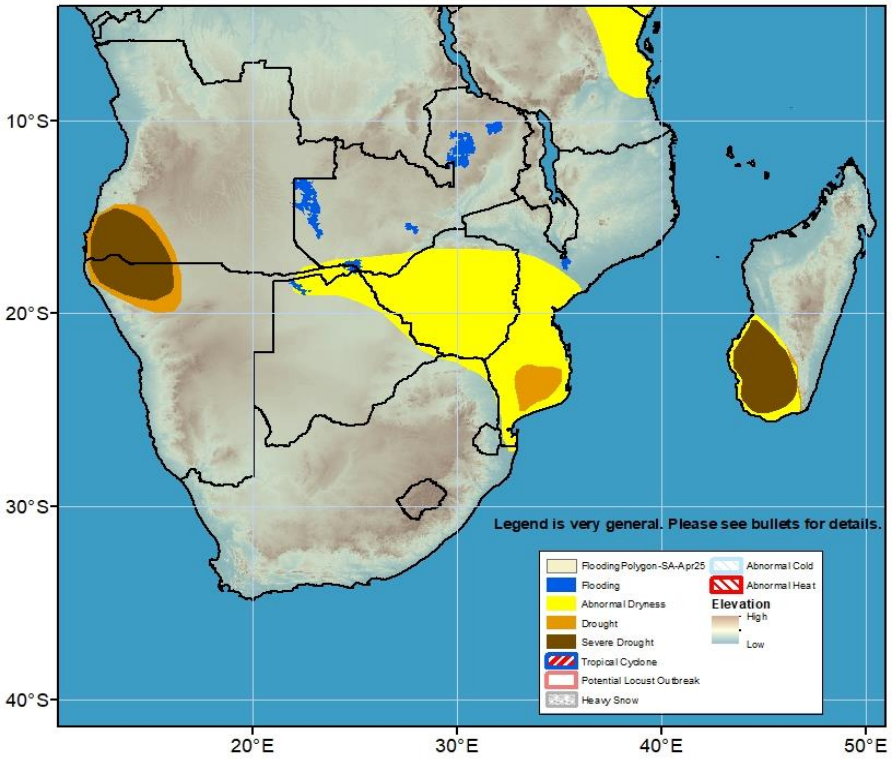

Figure 4: Hazards, focused over southern Africa