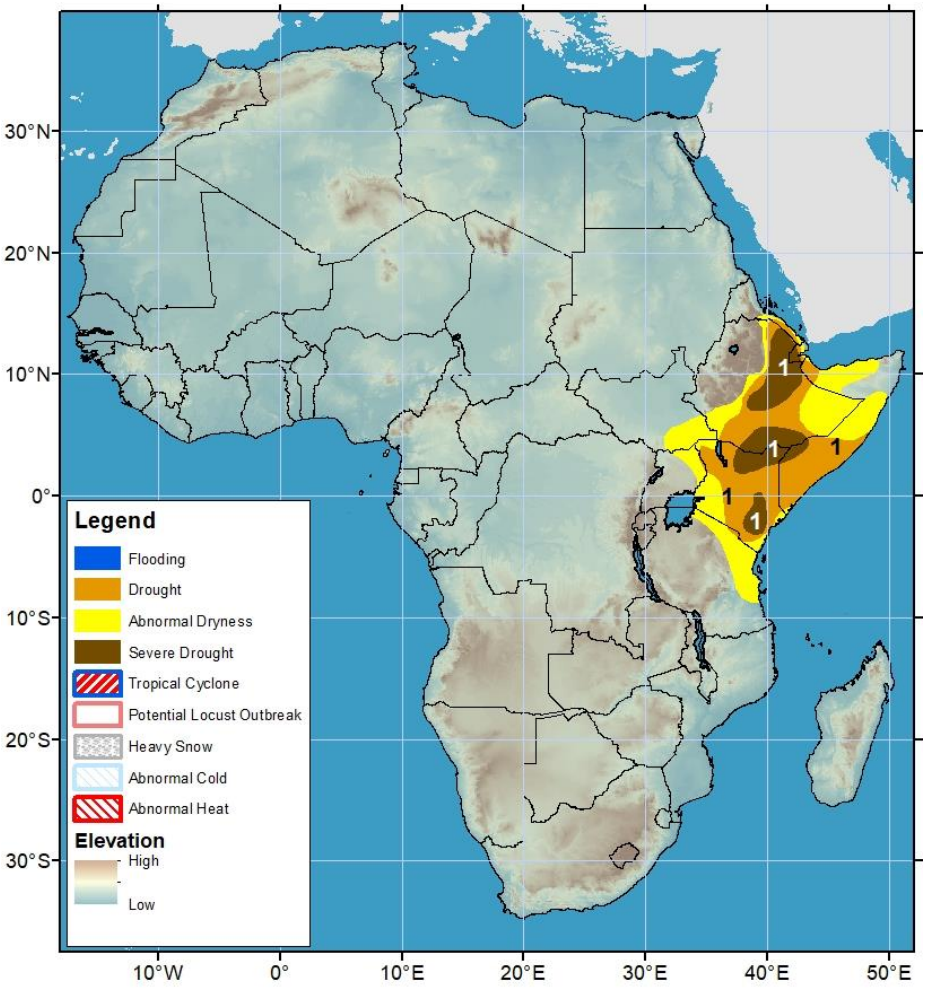
# Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
# For USAID / FEWS-NET
# 26 May – 01 June, 2022

- **Drought persists and is transitioning to severe drought in parts of the Horn of Africa.**
- **Mixed rainfall performance has been observed so far this season over West Africa.**




**1) A poor distribution of rainfall since the beginning of the March-May season developed abnormal dryness and drought across a large portion of East Africa. Areas, including north-central Ethiopia, along the Kenya-Ethiopia border, and southern Kenya where dryness is most acute (less than 50% of normal) and most persistent are now classified under severe drought.**

**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.**

**Questions or comments about the hazard's outlooks may be directed to Dr. Wassila Thiaw, Head, International Desks/NOAA, wassila.thiaw@noaa.gov.**
**Questions about the USAID FEWS NET activity may be directed to Dr. James Verdin, Program Manager, FEWS NET/USAID, jverdin@usaid.gov**

## The failure of the March–May rainy season has led to severe drought over the Horn of Africa.

This year, the *Belg*, March–May, rainfall season has performed poorly over the Horn of Africa. Rainfall accumulation since March is well below-average throughout the sub-region. Seasonal rainfall deficits exceeded 100mm over many areas, including southwestern and central Ethiopia, much of Kenya, southern Somalia, and northern Tanzania (**Figure 1**). In many cases these anomalies correspond to more than 50% of normal rainfall. Similar deficits are spreading through Uganda and South Sudan as well. The delayed onset to the season and poorly-distributed rain during March through May has led to droughts, affecting southern and central Ethiopia, Kenya, and southern Somalia. Much of the region is now experiencing failed cropping activities, degraded ground conditions, and low water reserves. This past week, the heaviest rains, 50-100mm were relegated to western Ethiopia and small portions of western Kenya and northern Somalia. Most of the region received little and below average rainfall. Northern South Sudan and Sudan have received persistent moderate early-season rains, causing those areas to be the only ones registering positive rainfall anomalies during the past month.

**3-Month Satellite Estimated Total Rainfall Anomaly (mm)**
**Valid: 01 March – 24 May 2022**

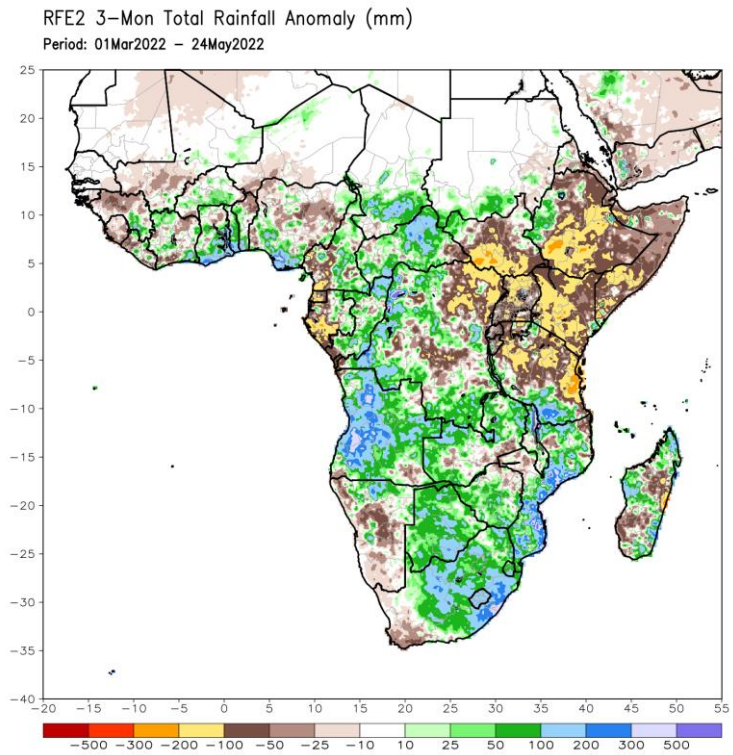



**Figure 1: NOAA/CPC**

The latest vegetation products show that below-average and unhealthy conditions spread from central, southern, and eastern Ethiopia, to Kenya and Somalia.

During the next outlook period, reduced and limited rains are again forecast over much of East Africa. While enhanced rains are favored over southwestern Ethiopia and Uganda, light and likely below-average rain amounts are expected elsewhere.

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## Enhanced rainfall spread over central and southern coastal parts of the sub region.

During the 3rd week of May, a favorable spatial distribution of rainfall was observed over West Africa. Moderate to locally heavy rains fell along the Gulf of Guinea, with the largest (> 75 mm) amounts over localized areas in southern Cote D'Ivoire and southern Ghana (**Figure 2**). Farther north, light to moderate rains were also received over the Sudanian-Guinean region in northern Ghana, northern Togo, northern Benin, southern Burkina Faso, and northwesterm Nigeria. An analysis of this past 30 day's cumulative rain indicates that wetter-than-average conditions were present over the southern Gulf of Guinea regions and drier conditions were present to the north.

**7-Day Satellite Estimated Total Rainfall (mm)**
**Valid: 18 May – 24 May 2022**

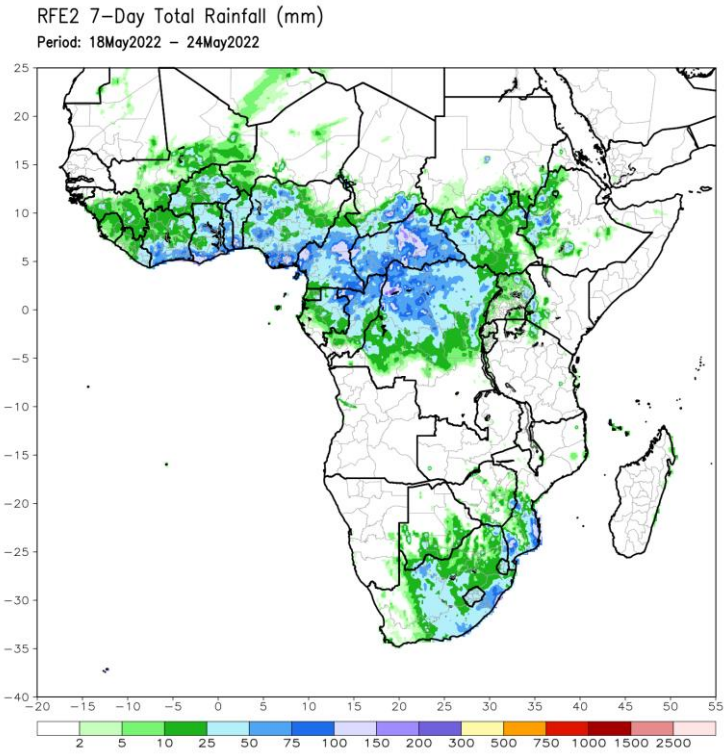


**Figure 2: NOAA/CPC**

According to the latest agro climatic products, biomass conditions are a bit mixed. Lush conditions are reported in parts of Nigeria and Ghana while some degradation is visible in Liberia and some regions of the Sahel.

During the next week, while moderate to locally heavy rains are forecast over Sierra Leon and Liberia. widespread light, and possibly less than average, rains are expected over the remainder of the sub-region, especially Nigeria and Cameroon.

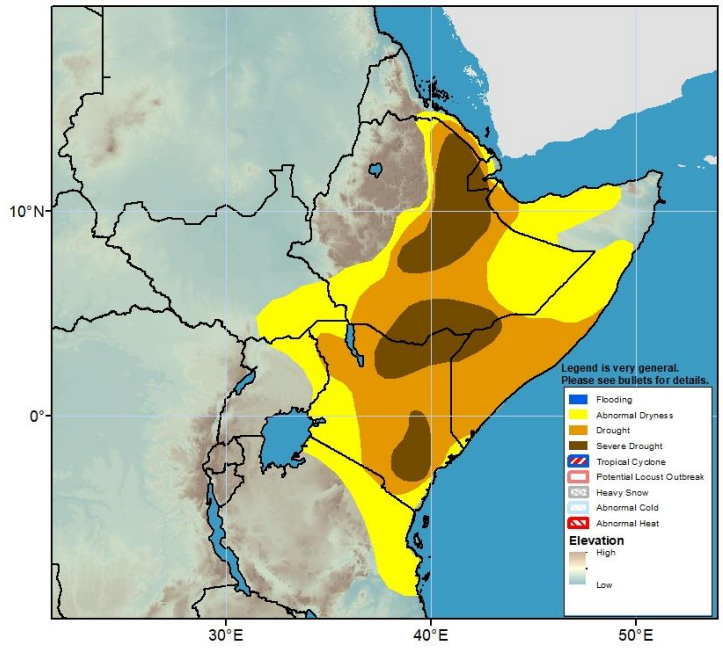


**Figure 3:** Hazards, focused over eastern Africa

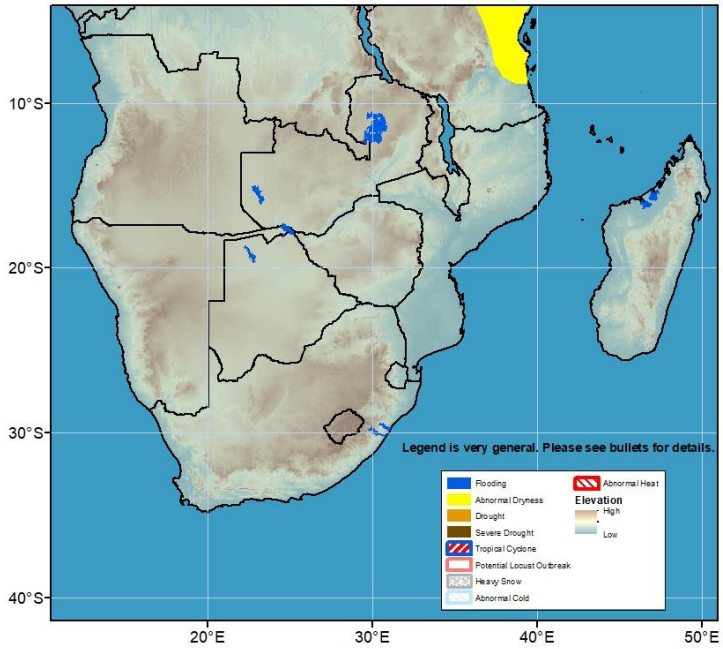


**Figure 4:** Hazards, focused over Southern Africa

Lingering inundation and saturated soils remain detected in central and western Zambia, the Caprivi Strip region and northern Botswana. Torrential rains on 21-22 May led to destructive flash flooding in Kwazulu-Natal South Africa, especially in and around Durban.