**Africa Weather Hazards**

1. Very poor rainfall since February, combined with five consecutive weeks of virtually no rainfall since mid-March, has led to large moisture deficits and rapidly deteriorating ground conditions in Ethiopia, Djibouti, and eastern Eritrea.

2. Seasonally above-average rainfall, combined with heavy rainfall forecast across eastern Ethiopia and Somalia, is expected to increase the risk for localized flooding along the Jubba and Shabelle River basins in Somalia.

3. Torrential rainfall triggered flooding across Nyanza and Nairobi Provinces of southern Kenya during the last week. Above-average rainfall is forecast for the next week.

4. Below-average rainfall since March has affected crop conditions over bi-modal northern Tanzania.

5. Untimely rains and prolonged dry spells have resulted in crop failure in unimodal areas in the Dodoma, Singida, Shinyanga, Tabora, and Kigoma Regions of central Tanzania.

6. Late-season moisture deficits associated with an early end of the Southern Africa monsoon has negatively affect cropping conditions for parts of northern Malawi and northern Mozambique.

7. Poorly distributed rainfall and extended dry spells since January have led to large rainfall deficits and below-average vegetation cover in southern Angola and northern Namibia.

8. Since late December, below-average and poorly distributed rainfall has led to abnormal dryness across a broad portion of southern Africa. Below-average seasonal rainfall and untimely dry spells are likely to lead to reductions in crop production in parts of southern Angola, Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Lesotho, Zambia, and South Africa.

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**FEWS NET**

Global Weather Hazards Summary

**May 8-14, 2015**

Rainfall expected in abnormally dry areas of northern Ethiopia

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Africa Overview

Rainfall expected in abnormally dry areas of northern Ethiopia

Northern Ethiopia still remains extremely dry, but a favorable spatial distribution of rains has been observed across the rest of the Greater Horn during the past week. Over the past week, locally heavy rainfall was received across portions of southern Kenya and northern Tanzania, with lesser, but well-distributed rainfall across parts of southern Ethiopia and much of Somalia (Figure 1). Northern Ethiopia received almost no rain for the 6th consecutive week. Only some western portions of Amhara Region received any shower activity. Moisture deficits continue to increase for many Belg-producing areas of Ethiopia and pastoral regions located to the north in the Afar Region and bordering Djibouti and Eritrea. Any significant reduction of deficits appears increasingly unlikely as seasonal rainfall should begin to wane climatologically during May.

Analysis of satellite rainfall anomalies since the beginning of February shows how extreme the seasonal dryness is becoming across northern Ethiopia. Large portions of the Afar, northeastern Oromia, and northern Somali Regions show deficits in excess of 100 mm over the past 90 days (Figure 2). Deficits of this magnitude also now extend into northwestern Somalia. Favorable rainfall in recent weeks has improved the situation across parts of the SNNP and Oromia Regions, though longer term rainfall deficits remain. The absence of mid-season rainfall in the region is significant, with the current Belg season ranking as one of the worst over the past 30 years.

During the next week, precipitation models indicate a welcome change to the pattern that has persisted throughout the season. Moderate to heavy rainfall is expected across all of Ethiopia, even into regions that have not received rain for many weeks. Favorable rainfall is also likely in bordering Djibouti, Eritrea, and northern Somalia. Any relief to parched ground is probably too late to benefit cropping activities. Locally heavy rains are expected to persist for areas of southwestern Kenya that have reported flooding during recent weeks. Much-needed rainfall is also expected for bimodal Tanzania during the next week.

Rainfall below average for another week across West Africa

Rainfall was below average across much of West Africa for another week, as early season precipitation remains confined to the lower coastal Gulf of Guinea region. Slower-than-normal progression of the Inter-Tropical Front (ITF) across West Africa can be blamed for the delayed onset of rains. Dryness caused by the delayed onset of rainfall is already negatively affecting conditions on the ground, which shows up clearly in the strip of low VHI values stretching across western Africa (Figure 3). Additional monitoring during the next couple of weeks is necessary to identify potential adverse effects on early season cropping activities.
Central Asia Weather Hazards

1. Flooding risks remain across northeastern Afghanistan and Tajikistan due to the expected continuation of snowmelt during the next week.

Central America and the Caribbean Weather Hazards

1. Below-average rainfall since late March has increased moisture deficits and negatively impacted the grounds of northeastern Haiti and northwestern Dominican Republic. Dry weather is forecast to continue during the next week, which could worsen dryness.
Central America and the Caribbean Overview

Heavy rains alleviate dryness in many areas of Central America

During the past week, well-distributed and above-average rain fell throughout northern Central America. The highest rainfall amounts (>75 mm) fell over parts of northern Guatemala, southern Honduras, and El Salvador, marking the most weekly rainfall observed since the beginning of the year. Since the beginning of April, portions of eastern Guatemala, the western and southern parts of Honduras, and northwestern Nicaragua had accumulated moisture deficits between 50-100 mm, with rainfall less than 50 percent of average. However, the broad increase in precipitation during the last week alleviated much of the dryness, as rainfall is now closer to average in several of these regions.

During the next week, enhanced rains are expected to shift eastward over the Caribbean leaving many local areas in Guatemala much drier compared to the previous week. The highest rainfall accumulations are expected over Costa Rica, with a more seasonal distribution of rains over Nicaragua, Honduras and El Salvador. If the return of dryness persists over parts of Guatemala into the month of May, this may negatively impact early season Primera cropping activities.

Below-average rainfall expected to continue throughout Hispaniola

During the last week, rainfall was below average throughout Hispaniola. The highest weekly amounts (10-25 mm) were received throughout east-central Haiti and the Dominican Republic. Over the last 30 days, many local areas in Hispaniola have experienced a delayed onset of seasonal rainfall. Since late March, rainfall has been below average and rainfall deficits have strengthened across the Nord-Est Department of Haiti and northwestern parts of the Dominican Republic. The poorly distributed rainfall has negatively impacted ground conditions over northeastern Haiti and northwestern Dominican Republic, according to NDVI. During the next week, a continuation of below-average rainfall is expected to further strengthen moisture deficits throughout Hispaniola.

ABOUT WEATHER HAZARDS
Hazard maps are based on current weather/climate information, short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week) and 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.