Drought-like conditions continue across Kenya, Somalia, and southern Ethiopia

Africa Weather Hazards

1. Below-average rainfall since late February has resulted in moisture deficits throughout many parts of southern South Sudan, Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia, Somalia, and northern Tanzania.

2. Several consecutive weeks of below-average rainfall has led to early season moisture deficits and deteriorating ground conditions in parts of Ghana.

3. Limited rainfall since March has led to developing moisture deficits across parts of Liberia, Cote d’Ivoire, and southern Guinea.

Source: FEWS NET/NOAA
Africa Overview

Rainfall increases over western Ethiopia
This week, moderate to locally heavy rains fell across the northern half of Ethiopia and eastern Sudan, while many regions towards the south in Kenya and Somalia recorded below-average rainfall. According to satellite rainfall estimates, totals ranging between 50-75mm were received over western Ethiopia, with little to no rain received over southern Ethiopia and central Somalia (Figure 1). In Kenya, coastal showers continued over the flood-affected areas of southeast province. Limited rainfall was recorded throughout the rest of the country. In Uganda and South Sudan, rainfall remained generally seasonable.

Rainfall analysis depicts the development of a dipole pattern across East Africa, with above-average rains concentrated in the north and below-average rains observed in the south. With the exception of flood inducing rains in parts of Kenya, most areas have had below-average rainfall. This is likely to lead to drought like conditions for the remainder of the March-May season. Currently, many regions in northern Kenya, southern and eastern Ethiopia, and central Somalia have experienced less than half of their normal rainfall accumulation since late April (Figure 2).

Next week, models suggest little change to the current rainfall pattern. Moderate to locally heavy rainfall is forecast over western Ethiopia with lesser amounts forecast over northern Somalia.

Rainfall recorded over middle Gulf of Guinea and middle Sahel
During the last week, a large increase in seasonal rainfall was recorded over several parts of northern Cote d’Ivoire, Ghana, Burkina Faso and Mali. The highest weekly rainfall totals (>150mm) were registered in central Burkina Faso, with similar totals in the coastal provinces of southern Ghana. These rains also benefited dry areas of northern Ghana. Despite rains in the north, southern coastal areas of Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Cote d’Ivoire have continued to see a strengthening of seasonal moisture deficits.

Precipitation forecasts suggest an increase in rainfall across parts of Sierra Leone, Guinea and into southern Mali. A seasonable distribution of rains is forecast elsewhere in West Africa.
Central Asia Weather Hazards

Temperatures
Above-normal temperatures (1-5°C) persisted across Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and southern Kazakhstan from May 14 to 20. During the final week of May, near to above-normal temperatures are forecast to continue. An abnormal heat hazard is posted for areas where maximum temperatures are forecast to average 4°C or more above normal and exceed 30°C.

Precipitation
During mid-May, scattered areas of rainfall (5-50mm) extended from southeast Kazakhstan to Tajikistan and northeast Afghanistan. Based on the Vegetation Health Index, an abnormal dryness polygon is maintained for parts of Afghanistan. Next week, isolated rainfall (locally more than 25mm) is expected to be limited to Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, with more widespread rainfall (10-50mm) across northwest Kazakhstan.

Central America and the Caribbean Weather Hazards

No Hazards Posted
Central America and the Caribbean Overview

Another week of above-average rainfall is likely for the region

According to satellite estimates, many areas of Nicaragua received more than 100mm of rain last week. This was the first significant rainfall of the season for this area. However, across nearly all of Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras, rainfall was below-average. Rainfall analysis indicates significant surpluses for Nicaragua and northern Guatemala, and mixed conditions elsewhere. The Vegetation Health Index still indicates poor ground conditions in southern Guatemala and El Salvador. With rains subsiding last week, the awaited improvement in indices has yet to occur. Ground conditions continue to appear quite favorable for central Honduras and Nicaragua.

Next week, above-average rains are expected to shift northwestward. Portions of southern Guatemala could see up to 200mm of rain according to weather models. Heavy rain is likely in western Honduras as well. Rains should remain near-normal in western Nicaragua and lighter in the center and east. Below-average rain is also likely for northern Guatemala.

Flooding reported in southwestern Haiti and southern Dominican Republic

A nearby tropical disturbance brought very heavy rain to southwestern Haiti and southern Dominican Republic last week. Grand’Anse and Sud departments of Haiti received the greatest rainfall totals, well exceeding 200mm according to satellite estimates. Above-average rain was also recorded in many other parts of Haiti and into parts of the Dominican Republic where gauges measured as much as 146mm in Barahona and 126mm in Valverde. Fatalities, damaged homes, and displaced people were reported. Conversely, the northeastern part of the Dominican Republic recorded only light rains. Positive rainfall anomalies exceeded 300mm in southwestern Haiti. As a result of ample moisture, vegetation conditions look quite healthy according to VHI. The only exception is some areas of central Dominican Republic. Next week, below-normal rainfall is expected across the island. This will be beneficial to saturated regions across the island.

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.