Abnormally dry conditions develop in Nigeria following another week of below-average rainfall

Africa Weather Hazards

1. Rainfall deficits since the beginning of the southern African monsoon have negatively affected many countries in the region, including southern Angola, northern Namibia, southern Zambia, and northern Zimbabwe.

2. Continued below-average rainfall and high temperatures have strengthened dryness in South Sudan, Ethiopia, Uganda, Kenya, Somalia, and Tanzania.

3. Below-normal rainfall since April has resulted in early-season deficits and abnormal dryness.

4. Heavy rainfall along the coast of Tanzania has caused flash flooding in Dar es Salaam. Heavy rainfall is forecast to continue next week.

Source: FEWS NET/NOAA
Africa Overview

Below-average rainfall continues throughout East Africa

Last week, Ethiopia and Somalia received a significant increase in rainfall with rainfall totals of 100mm or more recorded in southern Ethiopia and central Somalia (Figure 1). More moderate rainfall was received in parts of South Sudan and Uganda, and heavier rainfall (100-200mm) in eastern Tanzania. Much of Kenya, southern Somalia, and parts of Tanzania received very little rainfall with 7-day deficits between 10-25mm present in Ethiopia and western Kenya.

Despite receiving increased rainfall in dry parts of eastern Ethiopia and Somalia, much of East Africa continues to experience below average seasonal rainfall which has prevailed since March. Many areas in Uganda, Kenya, Somalia, and Ethiopia are experiencing less than 80 percent of their normal rainfall accumulation, with the poorest conditions (<25 percent of normal) concentrated over more climatologically arid areas of southeastern Kenya, eastern Ethiopia, and neighboring provinces of Somalia (Figure 2). Until this past week that South Sudan received heavier than normal rainfall, dryness strengthened throughout the country. Similarly, in Kenya, Ethiopia, and Somalia, continued below-average rainfall has led to drought-like conditions. Throughout the Greater Horn, poor rainfall performance from the previous year is likely to maintain dry conditions and increase water shortages and food insecurity.

Next week, increased heavy rainfall is forecast over Ethiopia and northern Somalia. Heavier rains are also likely in coastal Tanzania, eastern DRC, and Uganda. Light rains are forecast elsewhere in the region.

Seasonal deficits are expanding in Nigeria and Western Gulf of Guinea countries

Many parts of Ghana, Togo, Benin, and Nigeria received 25-75mm of rainfall last week, with lighter amounts received in far-western Gulf of Guinea nations. These totals resulted in negative anomalies both in the western Gulf of Guinea countries and in Nigeria. Over the last month, the far-western Gulf of Guinea countries have been drier than normal, but the largest anomalies are present in Nigeria with negative 30-day anomalies of more than 100mm or less than 50 percent of normal. Though rainfall has been frequent, ground conditions remain dry. Meanwhile, in Ghana and Burkina Faso, positive 30-day anomalies have reached 50-100mm. Next week, below-average rainfall is forecast for Nigeria, though generally seasonable precipitation is expected elsewhere in West Africa.
Central Asia Weather Hazards

Temperatures
Last week, temperatures averaged above normal throughout the region with the largest positive anomalies (7—11 °C) observed across northern Kazakhstan. Maximum temperatures reached 30 °C into northern Kazakhstan, while maximum temperatures ranged from 35—37 °C in the lower elevations of western and southern Afghanistan. Maximum temperatures will remain above normal across Kazakhstan through mid-May with near normal temperatures across Afghanistan.

Precipitation
Last week, there was mostly dry weather throughout the region with little to no precipitation. Precipitation has averaged at or above normal for much of the region although there are small negative anomalies across parts of northeast Afghanistan and Kyrgyzstan.

Next week, locally heavy rain exceeding 50mm is forecast across northeast Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan. A flooding hazard is posted for parts of northeast Afghanistan due to the forecast heavy rain and recent snowmelt.

Central America and the Caribbean Weather Hazards

1. Poor early season rainfall performance since March has caused abnormal dryness in northeastern Haiti and northwestern Dominican Republic.
Central America and the Caribbean Overview

Heavy rainfall forecast across Central America

Last week, northern areas of Central America and the southern Caribbean received heavy rainfall, with more than 100mm over southwestern and northern Guatemala, western Honduras, southern Costa Rica, and western Panama. Meanwhile, eastern Honduras and Nicaragua continued to receive below-average rainfall. Since early April positive rainfall anomalies were recorded over Guatemala, central El Salvador, the Gulf of Honduras, and western Honduras with moisture surpluses exceeding 100mm in Petén, Guatemala, western Honduras, and central El Salvador. Although this precipitation should supply favorable soil moisture and benefit agricultural activities, the increased rainfall mixed with rocky debris could cause mud slides near many eruption-prone areas. Across the Gulf of Fonseca and the southern Caribbean, moderate negative thirty-day rainfall anomalies persist.

Next week, above-average rainfall is likely along Central America and the southern Caribbean. Light to locally moderate and near average rainfall is expected across Honduras and Nicaragua. Meanwhile, above-normal surface temperatures are likely with maximum temperatures forecast to average between 4 – 8 °C.

Irregular rainfall results in abnormal dryness in parts of Hispaniola

Last week, drier weather with light to locally moderate rainfall concentrated over the north, and little to no rainfall elsewhere, was observed over Hispaniola. 30-day negative rainfall anomalies have increased across the southern Peninsula, Ouest departments of Haiti, and the northern and eastern parts of the Dominican Republic. Meanwhile, thirty-day positive rainfall anomalies have remained, though reduced in space, over northeastern Haiti and bordering northwestern Dominican Republic. Unfavorable and below-average conditions persisted over a wide area from northeastern Haiti to northwestern and north-central Dominican Republic due to infrequent and poorly distributed rainfall during the past several weeks. The return of good rainfall distribution is needed to offset accumulated moisture deficits and ensure favorable cropping activities over the dry portions of Hispaniola. Next week, some increase in moisture, with moderate to locally heavy rainfall is forecast over central Haiti and western Dominican Republic and widespread, light rainfall elsewhere. However, a dominating high-pressure system to the east of the Caribbean could suppress rainfall in the region.

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.