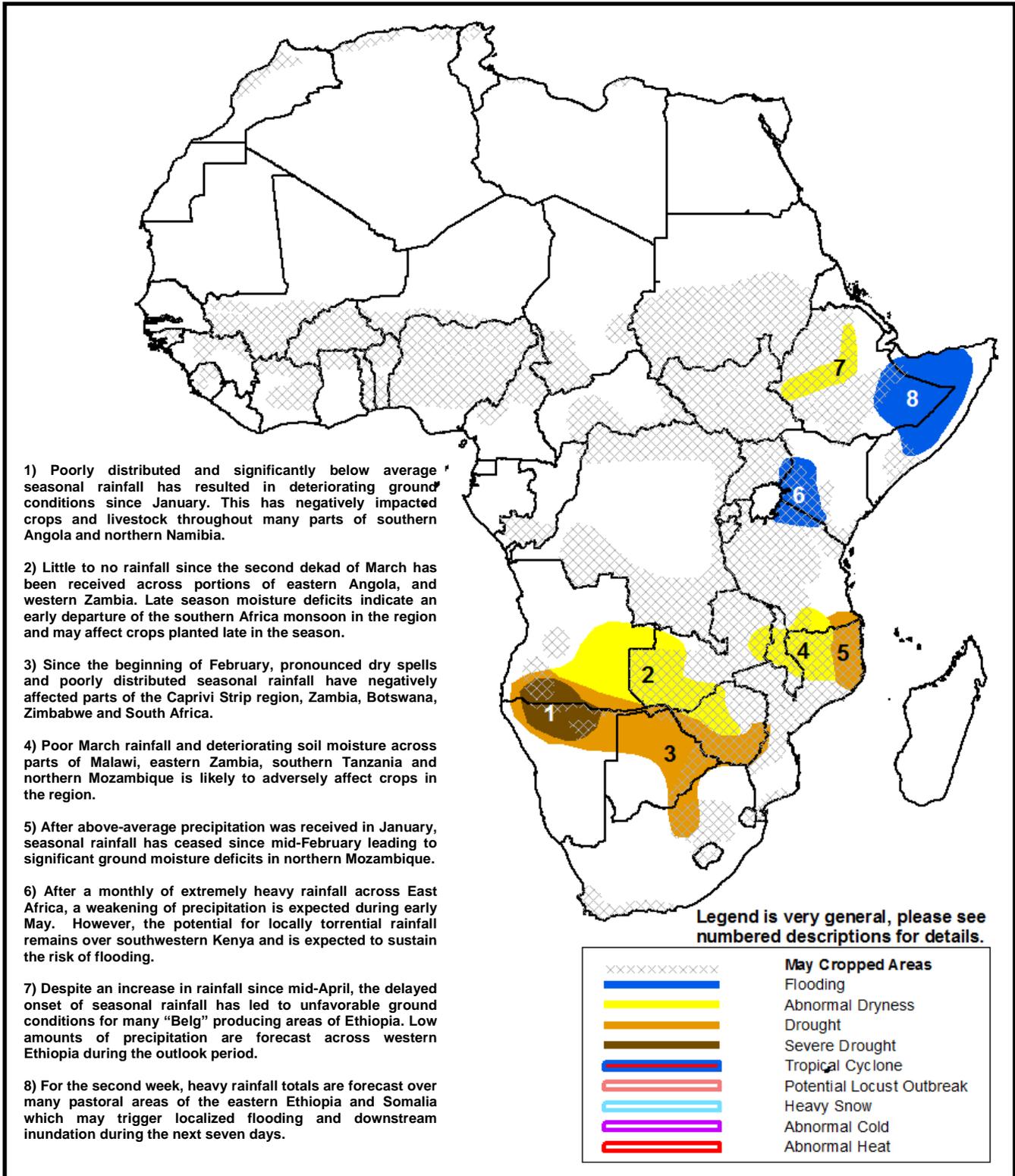


## Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET May 2 – May 8, 2013

- Heavy, torrential rainfall expected over many parts of eastern Ethiopia and northern Somalia.



## Heavy rains across the east, light rains across the west in Ethiopia.

During the last week of April, a gradual reduction of enhanced rainfall was observed following several consecutive weeks of robust, above-average precipitation across the Greater Horn. The highest seven day precipitation accumulations were received (>75mm) across the Somalia region of Ethiopia and northern Somalia, with lesser, but high amounts received across southern Somalia, southern Ethiopia and southwestern Kenya (**Figure 1**). Throughout many parts of northern and western Ethiopia, eastern Kenya and central Tanzania, low to moderate precipitation amounts were estimated for another week.

While above-average rains observed during April is expected to continually improve pastoral, agro-pastoral conditions, as well as, increase water availability throughout many local areas in East Africa, overly saturated ground conditions have sustained a high risk for localized flooding and river basin inundation in parts of Kenya and Somalia. Since the beginning of April, precipitation surpluses exceeding 100mm have been observed over the western half of Kenya, as well as, throughout many pastoral parts of southern and eastern Ethiopia, and Somalia (**Figure 2**). A continuation of average to above-average rainfall may trigger additional flooding in the region and downstream river inundation during the next several weeks.

Further north, however, below-average precipitation associated with a delayed start and poorly distributed seasonal precipitation has been observed over parts of Ethiopia during the past several weeks. Many local areas in western Ethiopia have observed less than half of their normal rainfall since March. The anomalously dry conditions are likely to lead to unfavorable ground conditions for cropping activities, as the NDVI analysis during the latter half of April depict departures from normal consistent with stressed vegetation in parts of the western Oromia, Gambella, Benishangul-Gumuz, and Amhara regions of Ethiopia (**Figure 3**). However, seasonal rainfall deficits along the higher elevations of eastern Amhara and Tigray regions have become less pronounced due to increased rainfall during the last three weeks. The persistence of below average rains during the remainder of April further increases the likelihood of a poor *Belg* crop production for the season.

Precipitation forecasts indicate continued suppressed rains throughout many parts of western Ethiopia and neighboring areas of Sudan and South Sudan. However, an increase in rainfall is again expected throughout much of eastern Ethiopia, Somalia, and around the Lake Victoria basin during the next seven days. While enhanced rainfall may help continue to alleviate seasonal dryness in the *Belg*-producing regions of Ethiopia, torrentially heavy rainfall over the pastoral areas of the Somali region of Ethiopia and northern Somalia may lead to localized flooding during the outlook period. In Kenya, locally heavy rainfall over the Lake Victoria region is also expected to sustain the risk of flooding during the first week of May.

East Africa Satellite Estimated Rainfall (mm)  
Valid: April 21<sup>st</sup> – April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2013

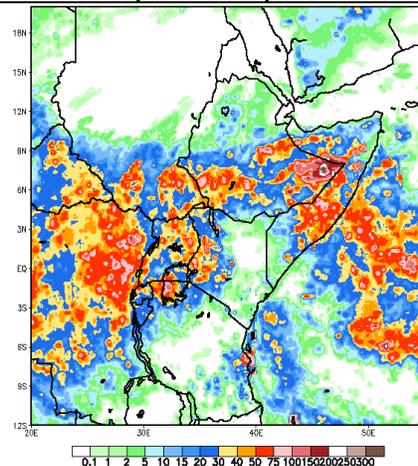


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

30-Day Total Precipitation Anomaly (mm)  
Valid: March 30<sup>th</sup> – April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2013

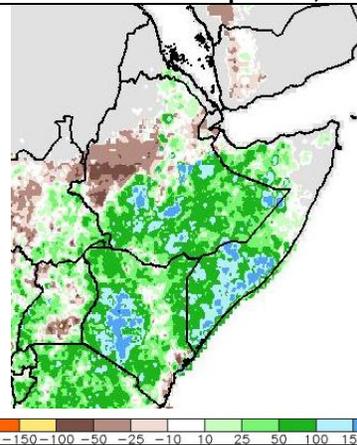


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

NDVI Percent of Normal  
Valid: April 16<sup>th</sup> – April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2013

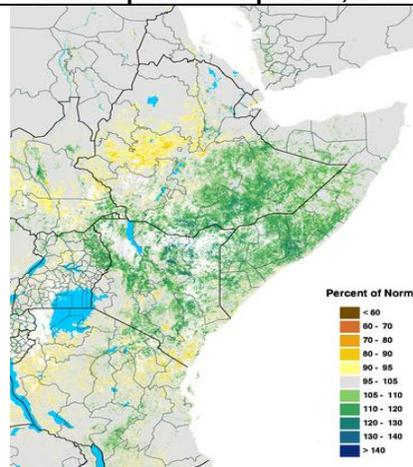


Figure 3: USGS/EROS

**Note: The hazards outlook map on page 1 is based on current weather/climate information and short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week). It assesses 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.**

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