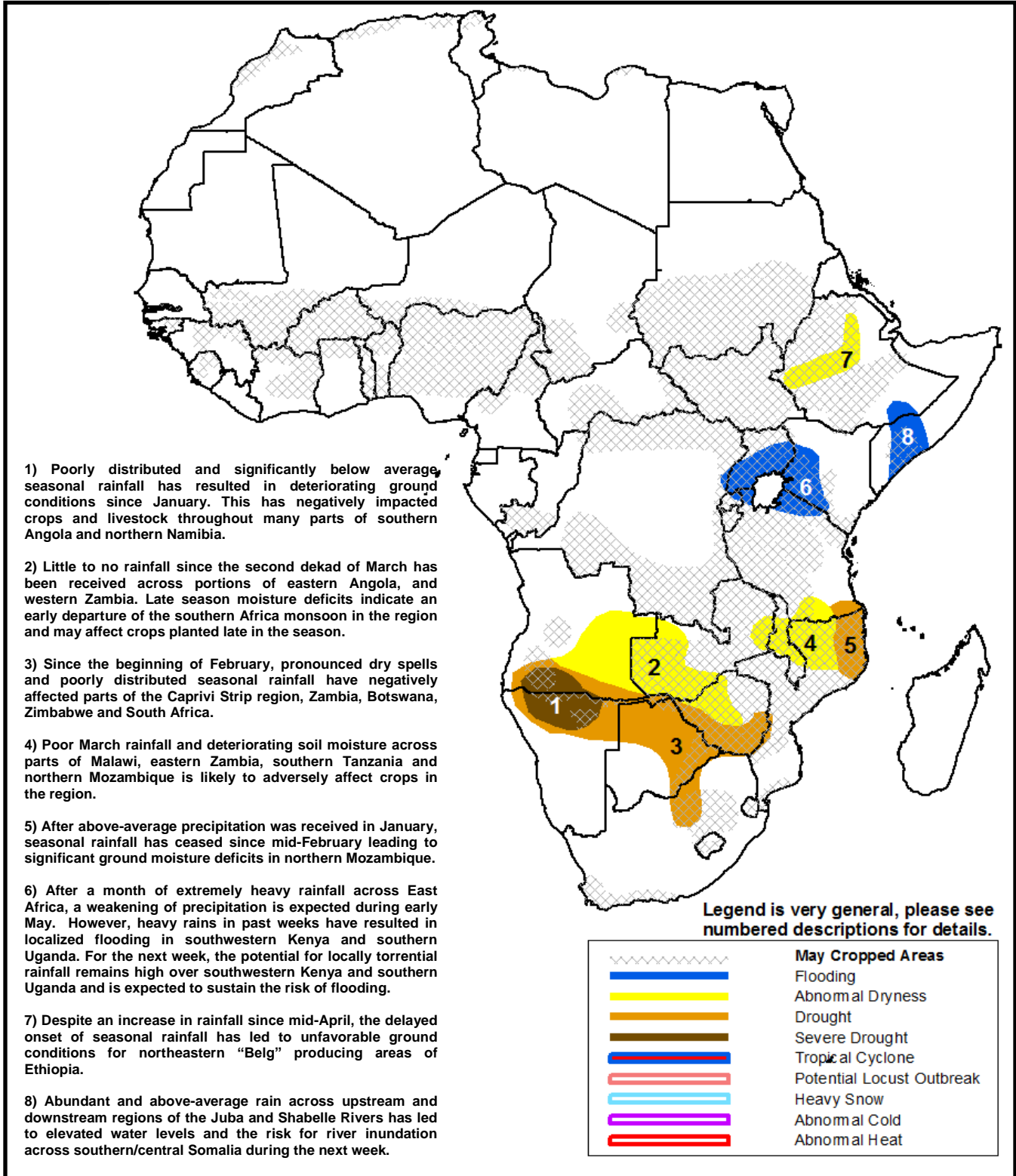


Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET May 9 – May 15, 2013

- Heavy, torrential rain fell over many parts of western Ethiopia, South Sudan, southern Somalia, Kenya and Uganda.



Heavy rains continue across the Greater Horn of Africa.

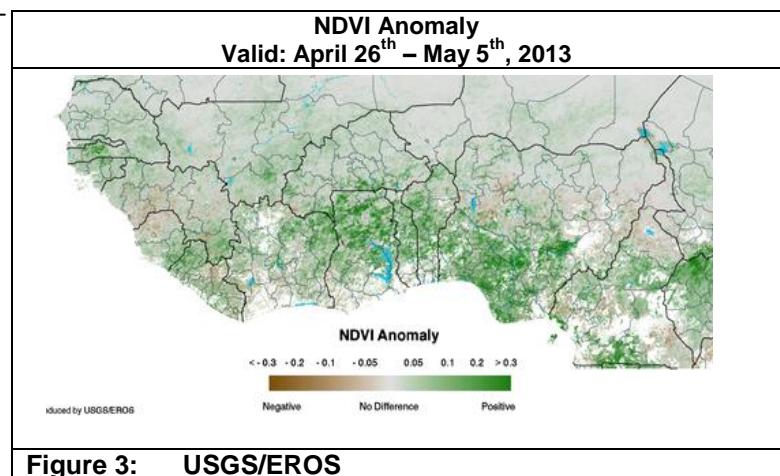
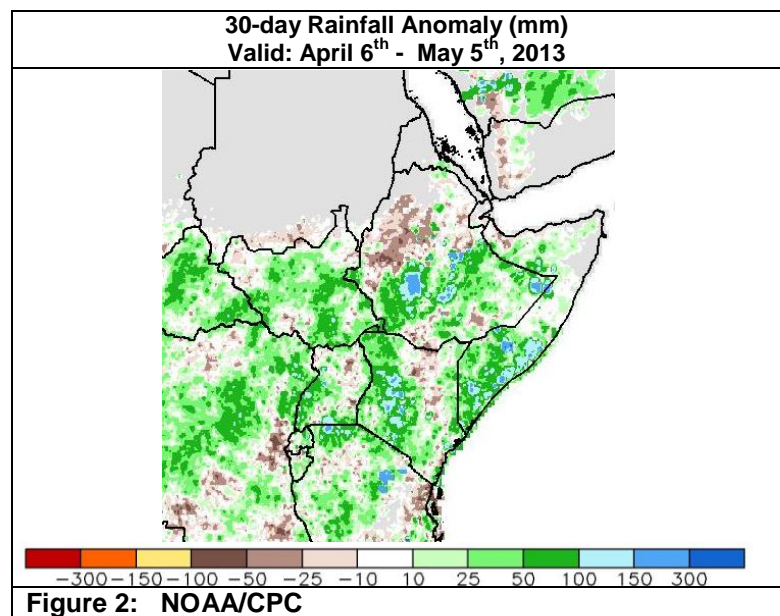
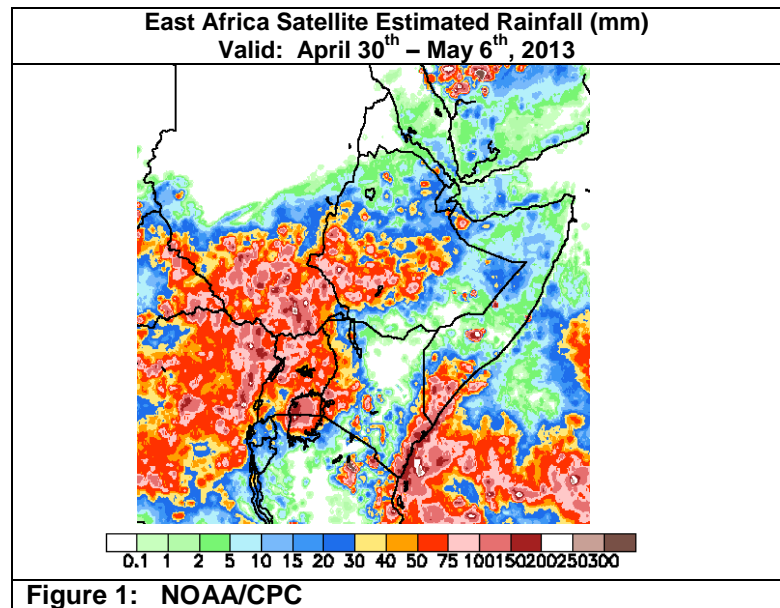
During the past seven days, widespread heavy rain (>50mm) was observed across much of east Africa. The heaviest precipitation (>75mm) was observed in Uganda, southwestern Kenya, southern Somalia, South Sudan and western Ethiopia. The rains followed two to three consecutive weeks of above-average rain in portions of central Ethiopia and locations around Lake Victoria in Kenya and Uganda. In northern South Sudan, torrential weekly rains followed several weeks of suppressed rainfall, which had increased seasonal rainfall deficits. In contrast, light to moderate rains (5-30mm) were observed in central Kenya, and northern Ethiopia (**Figure 1**), although above-average weekly rains were observed in the Afar region of Ethiopia.

The recent above-average rains are expected to improve pastoral and agro-pastoral conditions and increase water availability in many local areas. However, the copious amount of moisture has resulted in saturated ground conditions and localized flooding during the past thirty-days in Ethiopia, Somalia, Uganda and Kenya. Extensive flooding in Kenya and Uganda around Lake Victoria has resulted in damages to infrastructure, fatalities and displaced local populations. Over the past thirty-days, rainfall surpluses exceeding 50 to 100 mm have been observed in southern Somalia, central Ethiopia, southwestern Uganda and southwestern Kenya. Areas in Somalia along the Juba and Shabelle Rivers remain under a high risk for localized flooding and river basin inundation if heavy rains continue. In contrast, thirty-day rainfall deficits (50-100mm) have developed in parts of the western Oromia, Gambella, Benishangul-Gumaz and Amhara regions of Ethiopia (**Figure 2**). The poorly distributed seasonal rains have led to unfavorable ground conditions.

For the next week, heavy rains (>50mm) are forecast for western Ethiopia, southern South Sudan, Uganda and southwestern Kenya. Above-average rains are likely to continue the risk for flooding in parts of Kenya and Uganda. Rains in western Ethiopia, though, should help to improve upon poor seasonal rains.

Seasonal rains off to a good start in West Africa.

During the past week, moderate to heavy rain (>25mm) was observed in West Africa. The heaviest amounts of rain (>50mm) fell in Cote D'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo and Benin. Elsewhere, moderate rains (10-30mm) were observed. In contrast, light rains (<10mm) fell in northeastern Nigeria, increasing early season deficits. Overall, well-distributed early season rains have resulted in favorable ground conditions as indicated in NDVI analysis (**Figure 3**). Above-average conditions are present in Ghana, Togo, Benin and southwestern Nigeria. Neutral conditions, though, are present in northeastern Nigeria. For the next week, moderate to heavy (>20mm) seasonal rains are forecast for much of West Africa.



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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