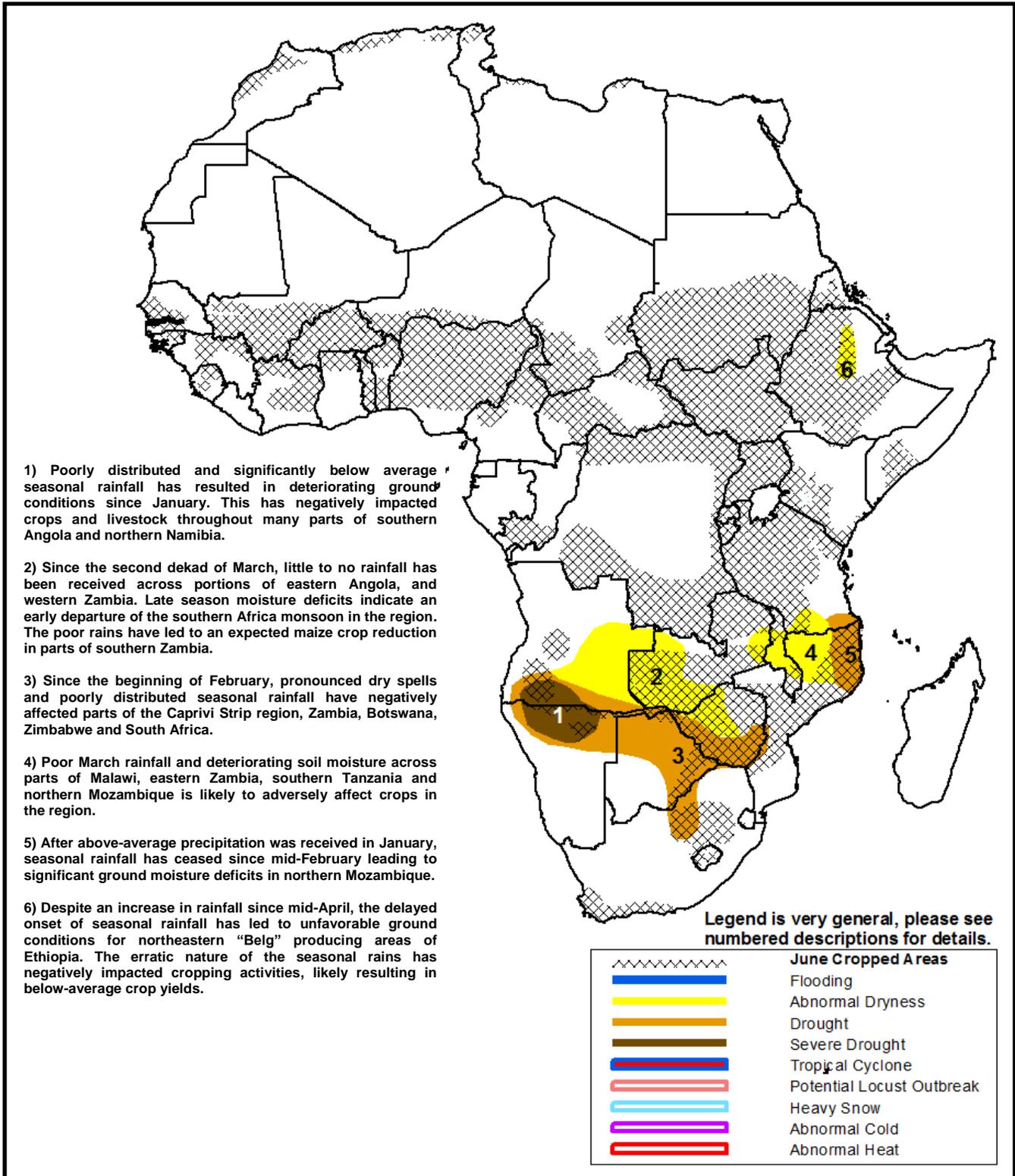


## Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET May 30 – June 5, 2013

- Thirty-day rainfall surpluses continue to grow across western Ethiopia and western South Sudan.



## Above-average rains fell in western Ethiopia and South Sudan.

Rains during the past seven days were heavy (>50mm) across western/northwestern Ethiopia and western South Sudan. The weekly rains in the Benishangul-Gumaz, Amhara, Gambela, western Oromia and Tigray regions of Ethiopia and in western South Sudan were the third to fourth consecutive weeks of above-average rain. This has grown thirty-day rainfall surpluses to over 100 mm. The well-distributed rains will provide good ground moisture for the planting of long season meher crops in Ethiopia. In contrast, little to no rain (<10mm) was observed around Lake Victoria in Uganda and Kenya as well as in southern Ethiopia and Somalia (**Figure 1**). While the lack of rains has continued to provide relief to saturated conditions in Kenya and Uganda, the early cessation of rains in eastern/coastal Kenya and in parts of Rwanda could negatively impact late-season crops. Meanwhile, the below-average rains in southern Ethiopia and Somalia have led to the thirty-day rainfall deficits, indicating an early end to seasonal rains.

After three to four weeks of above-average rain, ground conditions have improved in western South Sudan and the western Oromia, Gambella, Benishangul-Gumaz and Amhara regions of Ethiopia. Poor ground conditions developed over these regions due to a poor start to seasonal rains during April. The impact of these rains is still evident in the negative NDVI anomalies during the middle of May across western Ethiopia. However, NDVI anomalies have improved during the last several dekads as heavy rain has fallen. Meanwhile, positive NDVI anomalies have been maintained across much of Kenya, Somalia, southern Ethiopia, Uganda and southeastern South Sudan (**Figure 2**), reflective of a very wet month of April.

Heavy rains (>50mm) are forecast for western Ethiopia and western South Sudan for a fourth to fifth consecutive week, likely increasing already moderate to large thirty-day rainfall surpluses. In contrast, light rains (<10mm) are expected elsewhere across eastern Africa.

## Heavy rains were recorded along the Gulf of Guinea.

During the past week, heavy rains (>50mm) fell along the coast in Nigeria and Cote D'Ivoire and areas farther north in Guinea and localized areas in northern Nigeria. Elsewhere, moderate rain (10-40mm) was observed across West Africa. While rains were widespread during the past week, weekly rains were below-average in central Nigeria and coastal Ghana. This has led to developing thirty-day and early season rainfall deficits (25-100mm) across both areas. In contrast, moderate thirty-day rainfall surpluses (25-100mm) are located along the Gulf of Guinea in Nigeria, Togo, Benin and Cote D'Ivoire (**Figure 3**). Ground conditions remain average to above-average across much of West Africa; however, some areas in central/northern Nigeria and coastal Ghana are below-average, consistent with early season rainfall deficits. For the next week, heavy rains (>50mm) are forecast for Ghana, Togo, Benin, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, while moderate rains (10-40mm) are expected elsewhere. In contrast, light rains (<10mm) are forecast for Mali and Burkina Faso.

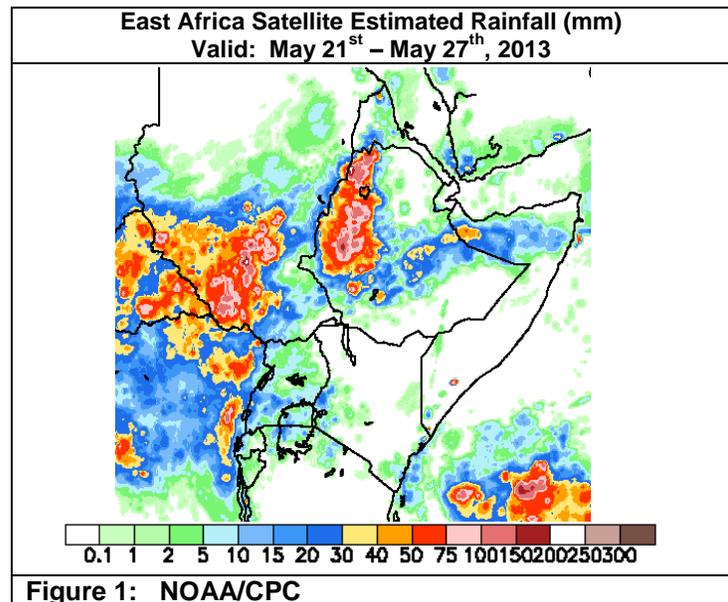


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

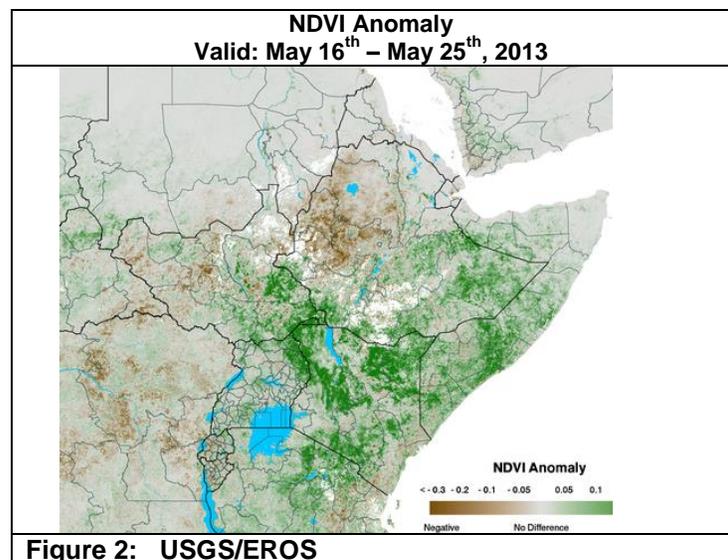


Figure 2: USGS/EROS

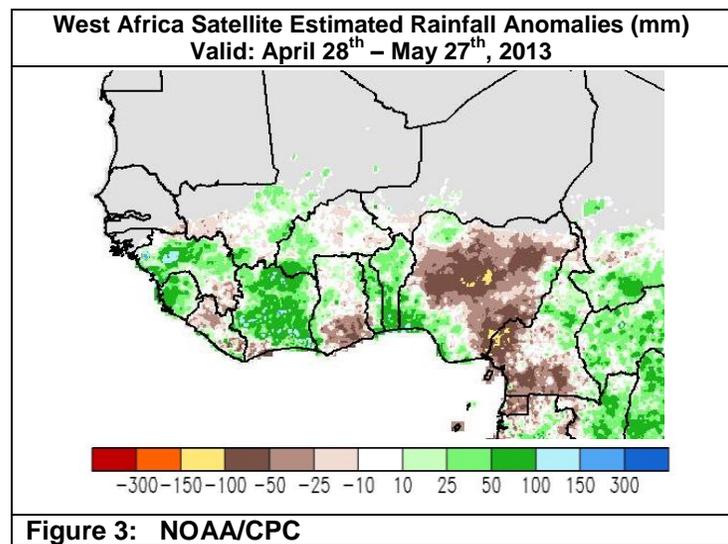


Figure 3: NOAA/CPC

**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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