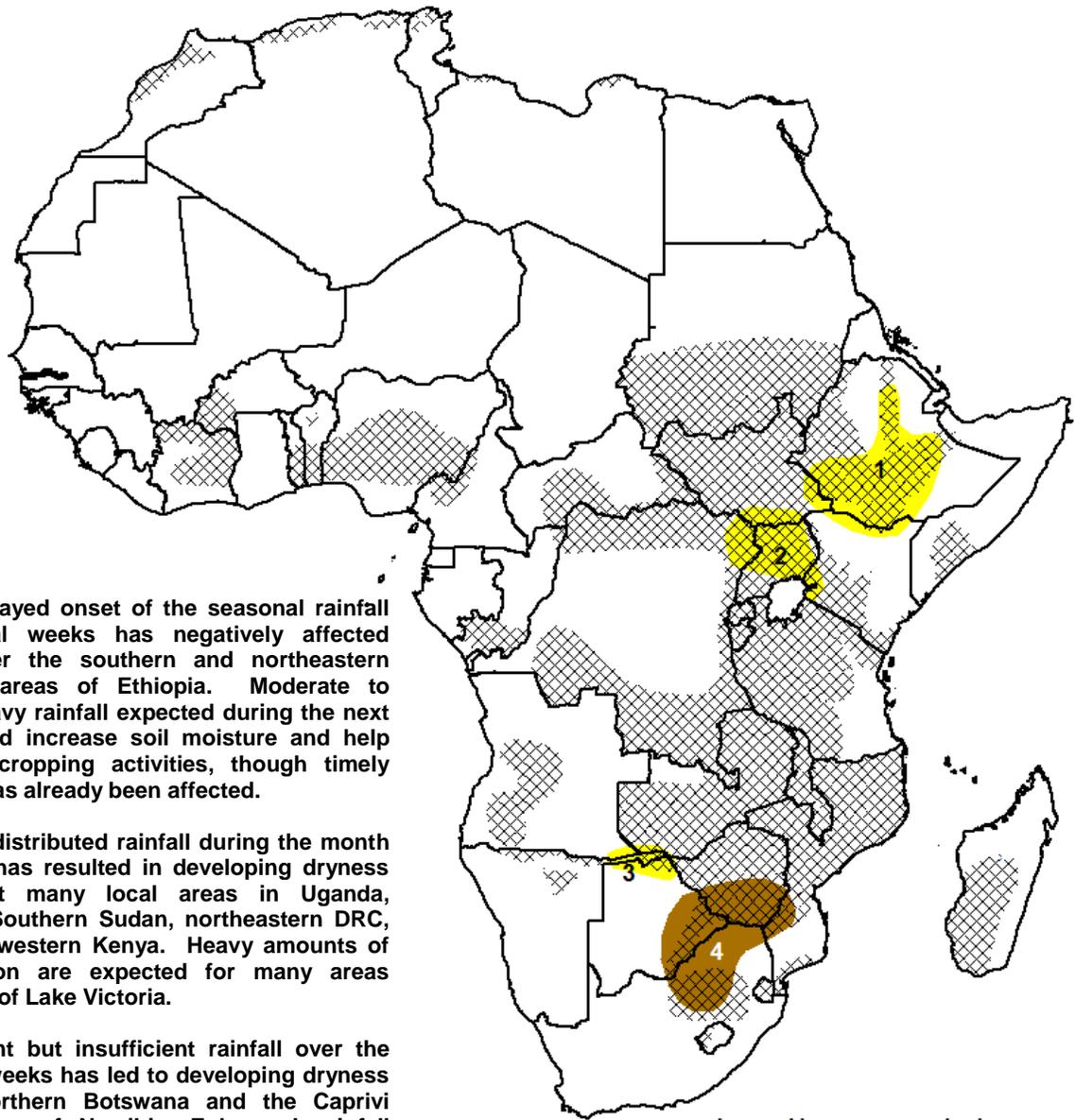


## Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET April 5 – April 11, 2012

- Below average rainfall continues over much of the Greater Horn of Africa.
- Enhanced rains bring some short-term relief for many drought affected areas of southern Africa.



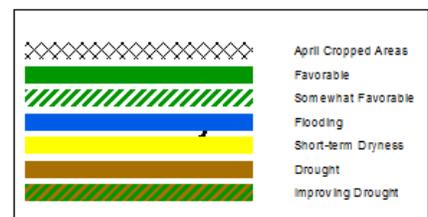
1) The delayed onset of the seasonal rainfall by several weeks has negatively affected crops over the southern and northeastern cropping areas of Ethiopia. Moderate to locally heavy rainfall expected during the next week could increase soil moisture and help seasonal cropping activities, though timely planting has already been affected.

2) Poorly distributed rainfall during the month of March has resulted in developing dryness throughout many local areas in Uganda, northern Southern Sudan, northeastern DRC, and southwestern Kenya. Heavy amounts of precipitation are expected for many areas southeast of Lake Victoria.

3) Frequent but insufficient rainfall over the past five weeks has led to developing dryness across northern Botswana and the Caprivi Strip region of Namibia. Enhanced rainfall during the end of March has helped relieve dryness; however some areas are still experienced moderate moisture deficits.

4) A poor rainfall distribution since the start of the year has led to long-term dryness, which has severely impacted crop development, and harvest yields across portions of southern Zimbabwe, eastern Botswana, and central South Africa.

Legend is very general, please see numbered descriptions for details.



## Developing dryness continues across Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda.

During the last week in March, much of East Africa received fair to moderate amounts of precipitation. Although more localized, the highest weekly precipitation totals (40-50mm) were observed in the Shewa, Wello, and Tigray regions of Ethiopia, with less but better distributed rains along the western mid-lands of the country (Figure 1). Further south, low to fair rainfall accumulations (10- 30mm) were received throughout portions of Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and northwestern Tanzania. Throughout much of Kenya and Somalia, little to no rainfall was received during the last week.

This past week's rainfall distribution marks the 4<sup>th</sup> consecutive week where precipitation was largely below average across the Greater Horn. Over the last 30 days, much of the SNNP region and the Ethiopia highlands have received less than half of the normal rainfall accumulation, with some local areas observing little to no rainfall during March. Since the start of February, anomalously dry conditions are observed to be much more prevalent throughout East Africa, as southwestern Ethiopia and Uganda have experienced the worst seasonal rainfall deficits with as much as 100-150mm (Figure 2). This early season dryness is expected to delay the planting of crops, and impede the development of crops during the next several weeks in April. In addition, this dryness may further deplete water resources for many areas receiving little to no rainfall accumulation in March following their dry season since December.

For upcoming outlook period, model forecasts suggest the return of a more seasonable rainfall distribution for early April, and a high potential for enhanced rains further south in southwestern Kenya and northern Tanzania. Rainfall amounts ranging between 30-50mm are expected for many areas in Ethiopia, with possibly locally heavier amounts are expected for the Ethiopia highlands and southern Kenya during the next seven days.

## A marginal recovery of seasonal rainfall in southern Africa observed during late March.

Across much of southern Africa, above-average rains were received during the 3<sup>rd</sup> dekad of March (Figure 3). This recent wetness has followed a poor southern Africa monsoon season, where many local areas have experienced infrequent and consistently below-average rainfall resulting in drought conditions in southern Zimbabwe, eastern Botswana, and northern South Africa. The onset of late season moisture surpluses are expected to help mitigate the impacts of long-term dryness, however it is likely that any increase in rainfall will be too late to benefit cropping activities at this time. Precipitation forecasts indicate the return of suppressed rainfall during early April, as little to no rainfall accumulations are expected for many drought affected areas.

**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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