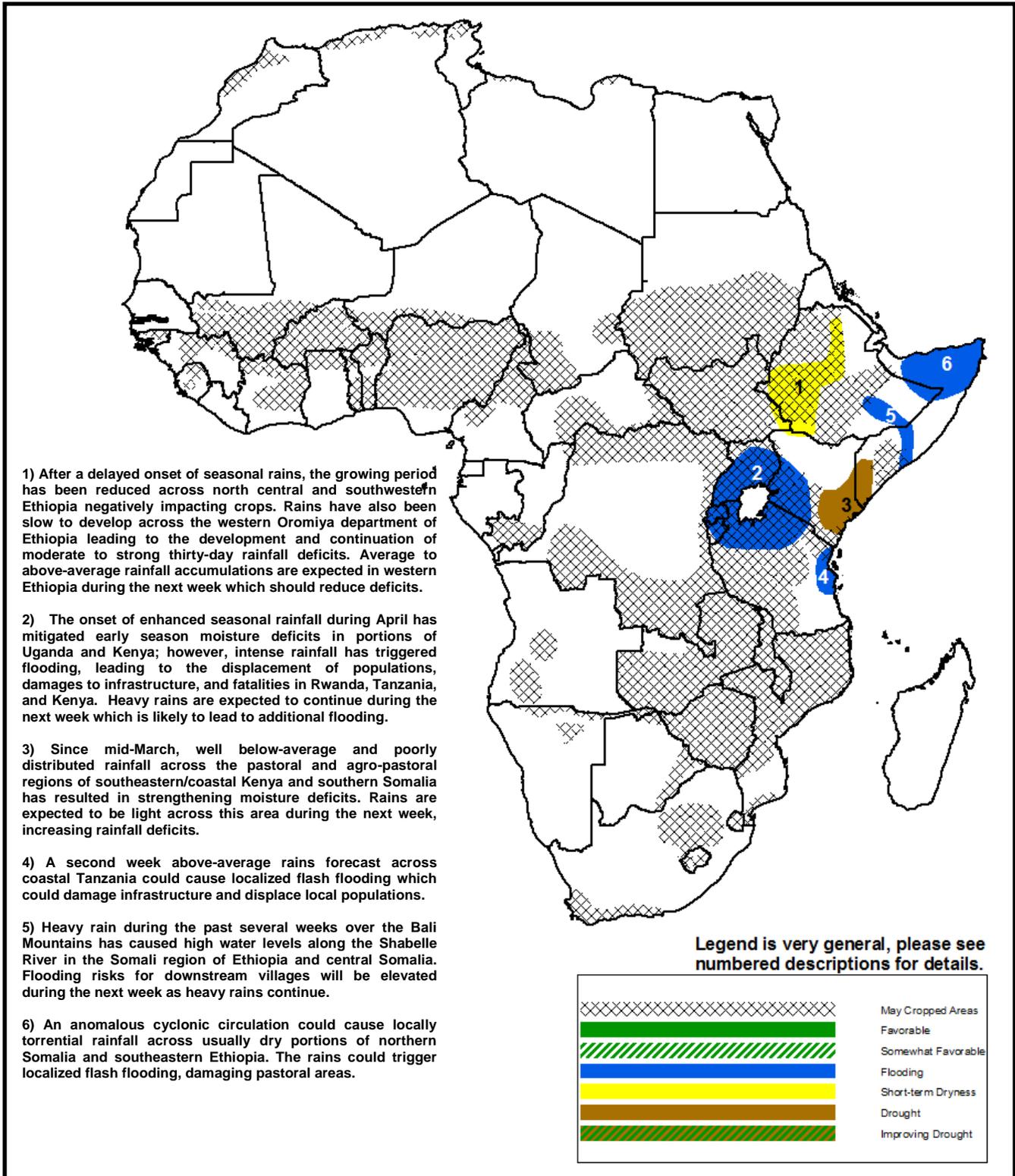


Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET May 10 – May 16, 2012

- Flooding continues in southwest Kenya as above-average rains are observed.



Torrential rains caused additional flooding in Kenya.

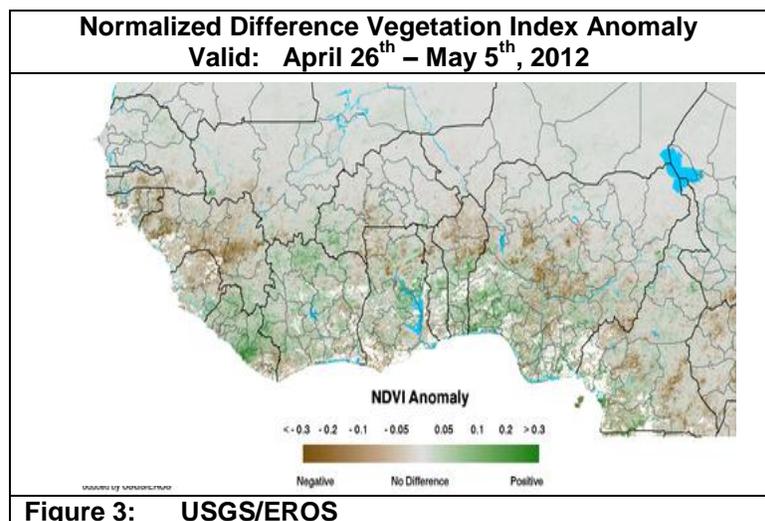
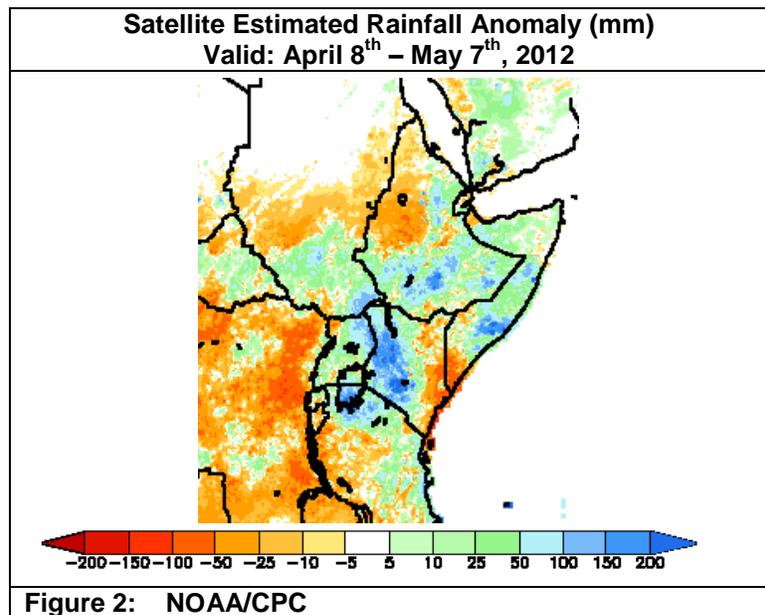
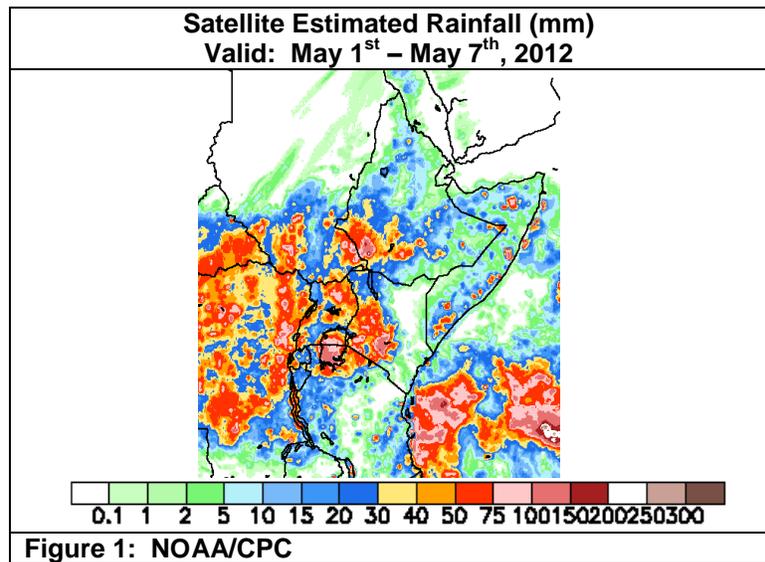
During the past week, moderate to heavy rains (>25mm) were focused around the Lake Victoria region in east Africa. The heaviest rains (>50mm) were observed across already saturated areas in southwest/west Kenya, northern Uganda, northern Tanzania and southern Ethiopia. The torrential rains that were recorded in southwest Kenya caused flooding, damages to infrastructure and fatalities similar to previous weeks. Torrential rains (>50mm) were also observed along coastal Tanzania as a steady stream of moisture impacted the area. Moderate rainfall (10-20mm) was recorded farther north across southern/central Somalia and local areas in eastern Ethiopia. In contrast, light rains (<10mm) fell across western South Sudan, coastal Kenya and northern Ethiopia (**Figure 1**) deepening seasonal rainfall deficits.

Thirty-day rainfall anomalies indicate the spatial extent of the above-average rains across the Lake Victoria region. With anomalies greater than 100mm, Kenya has observed floods which have resulted in 50 fatalities since March. Moderate to locally strong rainfall surpluses (10-50mm to >50mm) have also been observed across southern Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan, Uganda, and northern Tanzania. The rains in Ethiopia have improved Belg cropping and pasture conditions after dry conditions persisted during March although Belg rains failed across northern Ethiopia and seasonal deficits remain. Heavy rains in the Somali region of Ethiopia has led to elevated river levels and flooding concerns along the Shabelle River. In contrast, rains have been below-average during May across eastern Kenya and southern Somalia as rainfall deficits now exceed 50 mm. Farther north, rains have been slow in migrating to northwestern Kenya and western South Sudan as moderate thirty-day deficits (25-50mm) have developed (**Figure 2**).

For the next seven days, models forecast another week of heavy rains (>40mm) around Lake Victoria and the northern Tanzania coastline elevating flash flooding risks. Heavy rains (>40mm) are also expected across Ethiopia including drier than average areas in the west. Farther north, locally torrential rains across northern Somalia could induce flash flooding. In contrast, light to moderate rain (5-20mm) is forecast over South Sudan while coastal Kenya is expected to remain dry.

Above-average rains provide favorable cropping conditions in West Africa.

Rainfall over the past thirty-days across West Africa has been above-average across inland regions while below-average along the coast of Gulf of Guinea. Rains during the past week though were moderate (>15mm) and widespread across much of West Africa. The early season above-average rains across southern Burkina Faso, Cote D'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo and Benin has created good early season ground moisture (**Figure 3**). For the next week, a continuation of moderate to locally heavy rains (>25mm) are forecast across much of West Africa aiding in early season cropping activities.



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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