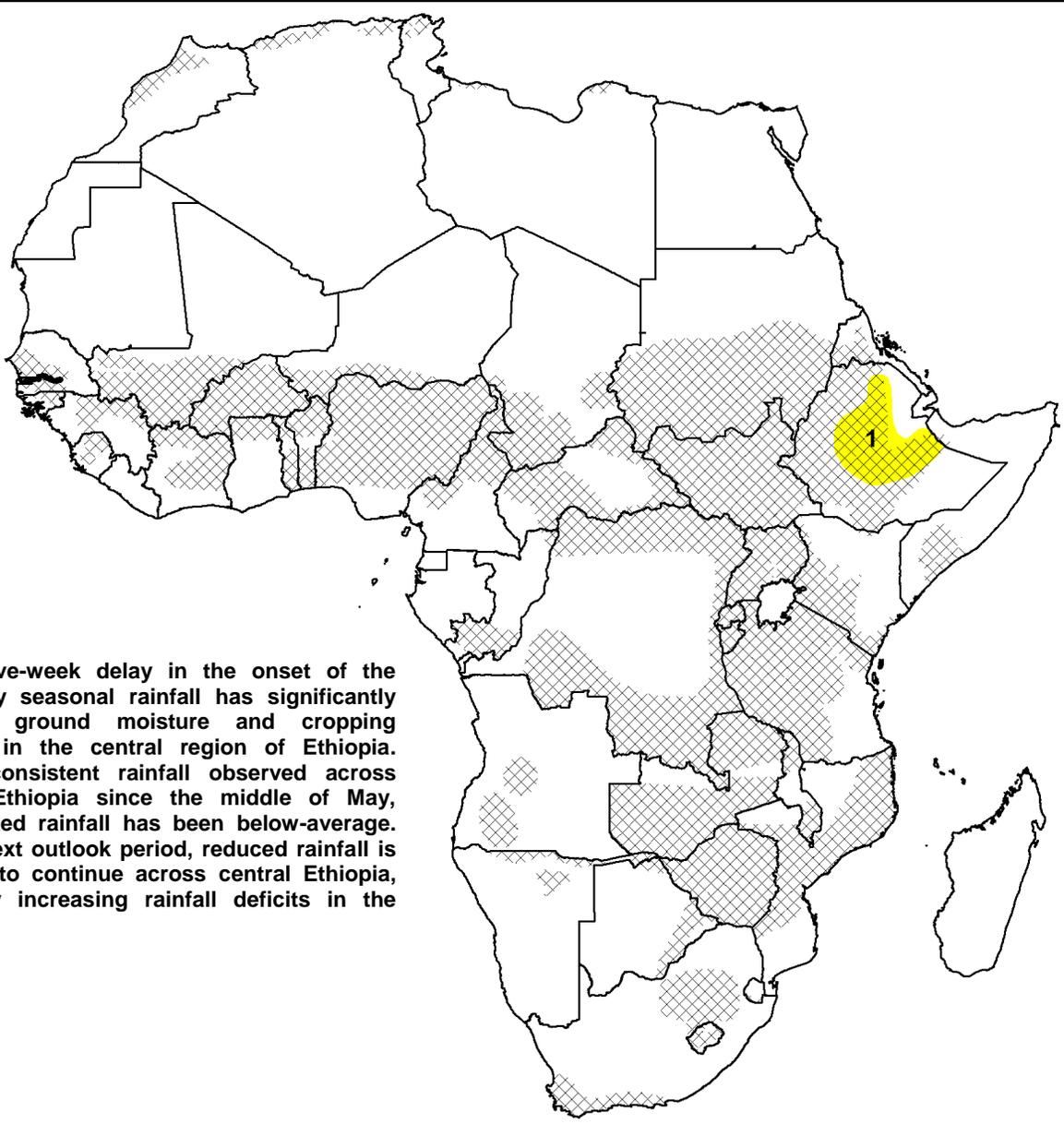


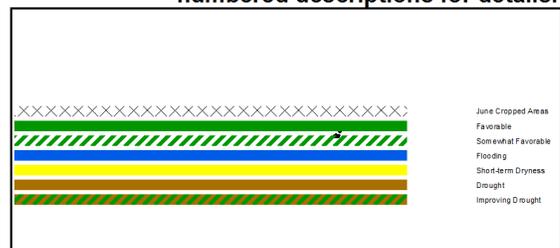
Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET June 14 – June 20, 2012

- Below-average rainfall continues in eastern Africa, while above-average rainfall was observed over the central portions of the Sahel during the last seven days.



1) The five-week delay in the onset of the March-May seasonal rainfall has significantly impacted ground moisture and cropping activities in the central region of Ethiopia. Despite consistent rainfall observed across western Ethiopia since the middle of May, accumulated rainfall has been below-average. For the next outlook period, reduced rainfall is expected to continue across central Ethiopia, potentially increasing rainfall deficits in the region.

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



Enhanced rainfall observed across the central portions of the Sahel.

Over the past seven days, the Inter-tropical Front (ITF) has advanced further north in West Africa, bringing moderate to locally heavy (30 – 75 mm) rainfall over the southern half of Mali and northern Burkina Faso. However, the weekly-accumulated rainfall was not evenly-distributed spatially as the western and central parts of West Africa, including Senegal, Cote D'Ivoire, and Ghana received only little to no rainfall (< 10 mm) (**Figure 1**). In contrast, the heaviest (> 75 mm) rainfall amounts were observed over localized areas of northern Nigeria and along coastal areas of the region. In Nigeria, the moderate to locally heavy rainfall has helped to compensate thirty-day rainfall deficits in many local areas of the country. In general, West Africa has experienced average to above-average rainfall since the beginning of the season due to a timely migration of the ITF rain bearing system. The continuation of seasonal rainfall is expected to provide favorable ground moisture for agricultural activities in the region.

During the 1st dekad (10-day period) of June, the poleward movement of the ITF has led to above-average rainfall over Guinea, western Mali, northern Burkina Faso, and parts of Niger. An analysis of the moisture index during the same period indicates adequate (> 80 percent) soil moisture across much of the Gulf of Guinea region (**Figure 2**). However, areas including central Burkina Faso, northern Ghana, northeastern Benin and parts of Nigeria, which have also experienced drier than average conditions over the past thirty days observed moderate (40 – 60 percent) soil moisture.

For next week, the enhanced phase of the Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO) is expected to bring above-average rainfall across the central parts of the Gulf of Guinea and Sahel regions. While the heaviest (> 100 mm) rainfall is forecast along coastal Nigeria, locally heavy rains are expected throughout southern Mali, Guinea, Liberia, and western Cote D'Ivoire.

Dryness persists in central Ethiopia.

Despite the continuation of the ongoing June – September seasonal rainfall in western Ethiopia, rainfall has been below-average for the second consecutive week. This has increased both spatial extent and magnitude of rainfall deficits over central Ethiopia, where negative anomalies range between 50 and 100 mm over the past thirty days (**Figure 3**). The prolonged delay of the onset of the March – May rainfall season has substantially depleted moisture availability and negatively impacted cropping activities. For the upcoming week, while seasonal rainfall is expected to continue in the west, reduced rainfall is forecast over central Ethiopia, eastern Sudan, and eastern South Sudan. However, there are chances for moderate rains in the southern Darfur of Sudan and western parts of South Sudan.

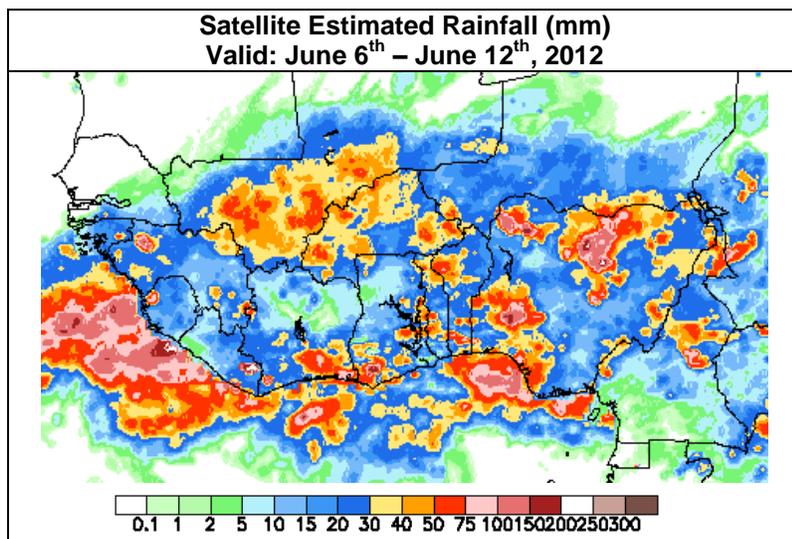


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

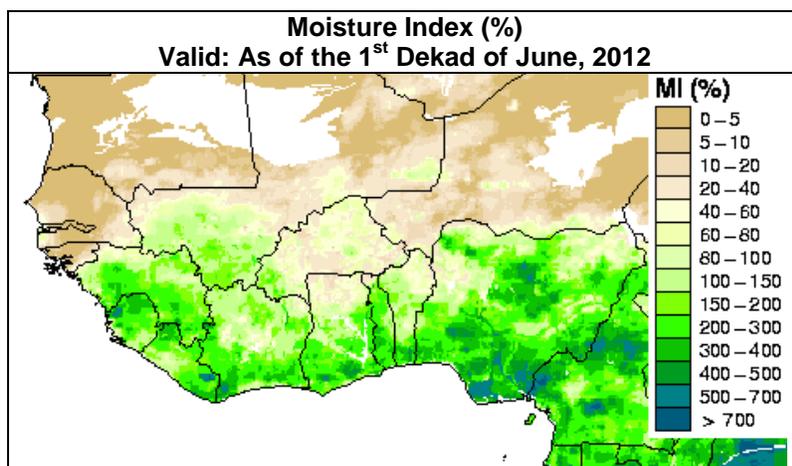


Figure 2: USGS/EROS

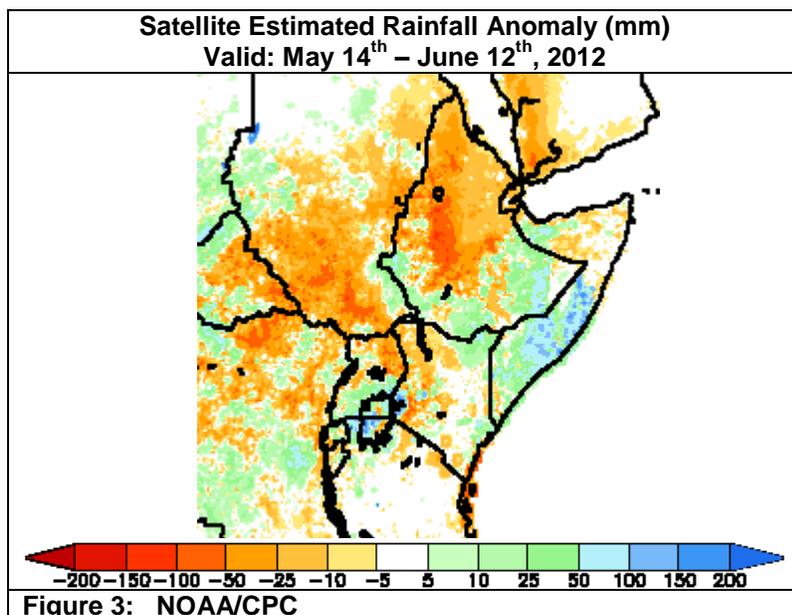


Figure 3: NOAA/CPC

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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