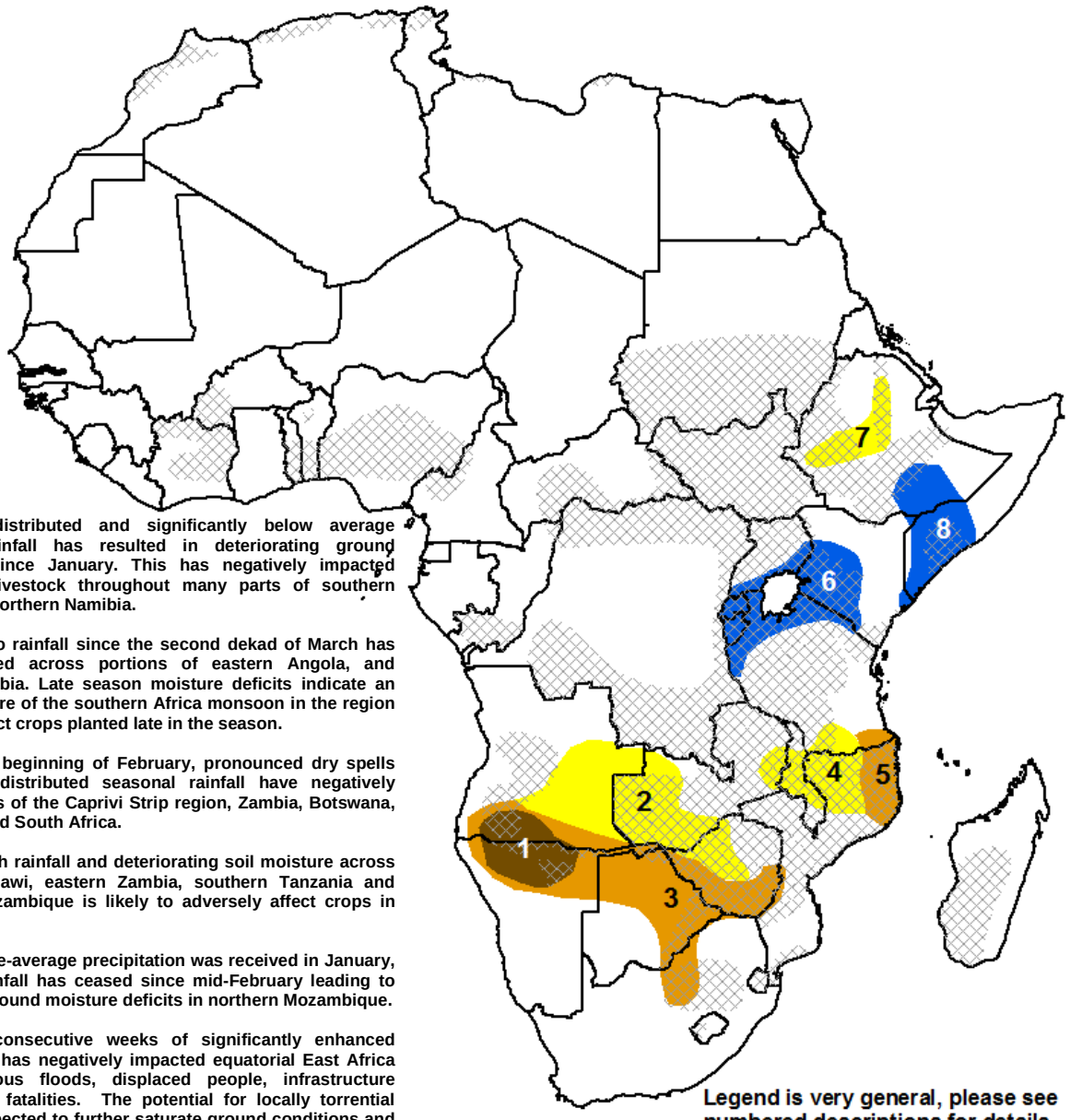
Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
For USAID / FEWS-NET
April 25 – May 1, 2013

- **Increased amounts of rainfall expected throughout much of Ethiopia and around the Lake Victoria region in late April.**



1) Poorly distributed and significantly below average seasonal rainfall has resulted in deteriorating ground conditions since January. This has negatively impacted crops and livestock throughout many parts of southern Angola and northern Namibia.

2) Little to no rainfall since the second dekad of March has been received across portions of eastern Angola, and western Zambia. Late season moisture deficits indicate an early departure of the southern Africa monsoon in the region and may affect crops planted late in the season.

3) Since the beginning of February, pronounced dry spells and poorly distributed seasonal rainfall have negatively affected parts of the Caprivi Strip region, Zambia, Botswana, Zimbabwe and South Africa.

4) Poor March rainfall and deteriorating soil moisture across parts of Malawi, eastern Zambia, southern Tanzania and northern Mozambique is likely to adversely affect crops in the region.

5) After above-average precipitation was received in January, seasonal rainfall has ceased since mid-February leading to significant ground moisture deficits in northern Mozambique.

6) Several consecutive weeks of significantly enhanced precipitation has negatively impacted equatorial East Africa with numerous floods, displaced people, infrastructure damage and fatalities. The potential for locally torrential rainfall is expected to further saturate ground conditions and possibly lead to additional flooding during the upcoming outlook period.

7) Although a slight increase in precipitation has been experienced since mid-April, the delayed seasonal rainfall has resulted in moderate moisture deficits across many "Belg" producing areas and western parts of the country.

8) Significantly heavy rainfall during the last several weeks has led to flooding, river basin inundation, damaged crops, and the displacement of thousands of people throughout parts of Southern Somalia and eastern Kenya. Enhanced rainfall is expected further north into parts of the Oromia and Somali regions of Ethiopia during the next seven days.

Rains increase throughout some parts of Ethiopia.

During the middle of April, heavy amounts of weekly precipitation continued throughout much of East Africa. Compared to the previous couple of weeks, the distribution of weekly rainfall was not as robust during the last seven days, but remained quite heavy over southwestern Ethiopia, southern Somalia and southwestern Kenya. According to satellite rainfall estimates, the heaviest precipitation accumulations were over the SNNP region of Ethiopia, with local amounts in excess of 100mm during the last week (**Figure 1**). In the higher elevations of Ethiopia, locally moderate to high rains were also received across parts of the Oromia, Amhara and Tigray regions of the country. Further south, significant precipitation amounts (>50mm) continued for the fourth consecutive week across southern Somalia, and throughout many Kenyan and Tanzanian provinces neighboring Lake Victoria.

Several weeks of heavy precipitation since March has resulted in seasonal moisture surpluses in excess of 100mm across a broad portion of East Africa. While above-average seasonal rains are expected to continually improve pastoral, agro-pastoral conditions, as well as, increase water availability, overly saturated ground conditions have sustain the risk for localized flooding and river basin inundation during April. Basin Excess Rainfall Analysis during the 2nd dekad of April depicts moderate excess rainfall throughout portions of Ethiopia, Kenya, and Tanzania, with high excess over southern coastal Somalia (**Figure 2**). A continuation of average to above average rainfall is expected worsen ground conditions, and possibly lead to additional flooding for many local areas.

Further north, below-average precipitation associated with a delayed start and poorly distributed seasonal precipitation has been observed over parts of Ethiopia during the past several weeks. Many local areas in the Gambella and western Oromia regions of Ethiopia have observed less than half of their normal rainfall since March However, seasonal rainfall deficits along the higher elevations of eastern Amhara and Tigray regions have become less pronounced due to a slight increase in rainfall during the last three weeks. The persistence of below average rains during the remainder of April further increases the likelihood of a poor B*elg* crop production for the season.

Precipitation forecasts indicate an increase in rainfall throughout much of Ethiopia, as well as around the Lake Victoria basin during the next seven days. While above-average rainfall may help alleviate seasonal dryness in the *Belg*-producing regions of Ethiopia, heavy rains are expected to sustain the risk of flooding across parts of Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and Tanzania during late April.

An early departure of the southern Africa monsoon is being experienced across Angola, Zambia and Malawi.

Since the second dekad of March, little to no rainfall has been received across parts of eastern Angola and western Zambia. Although rains typically weaken during March and April, the lack of rainfall has been characterized as anomalously dry, as many local areas have experienced considerably low rainfall percentiles since late March (**Figure 3**). An early departure of the southern Africa monsoon in the region is expected to negatively impact cropping activities especially for crops that were planted late in the season.

East Africa Satellite Estimated Rainfall (mm)
Valid: April 14th – April 20th, 2013

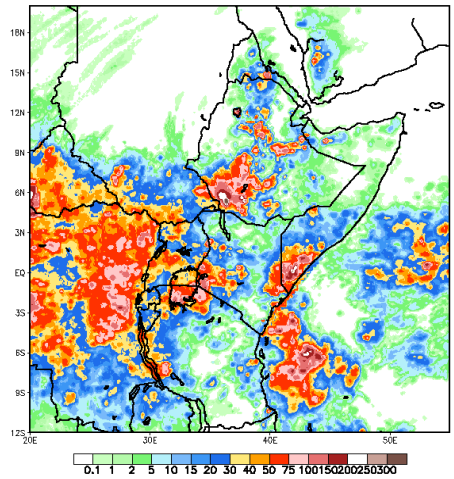


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

Basin Excess Rainfall Map (BERM)
Valid: As of 2nd dekad of April, 2013

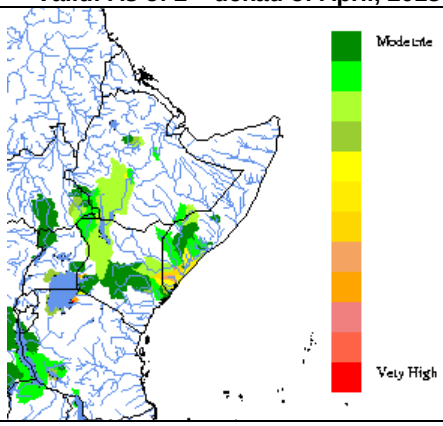


Figure 2: USGS/EROS

Running 30-day Satellite Estimated Rainfall Percentile
Valid: March 22 - April 20, 2013

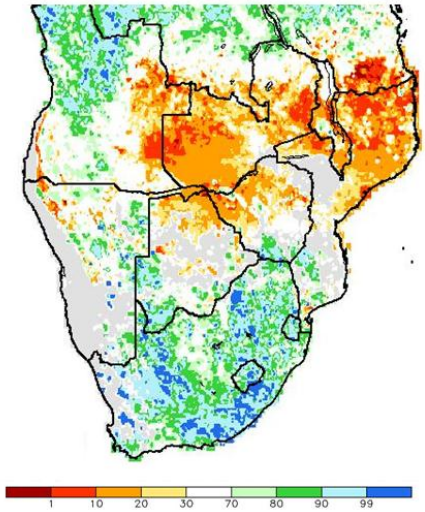


Figure 3: NOAA/CPC

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.