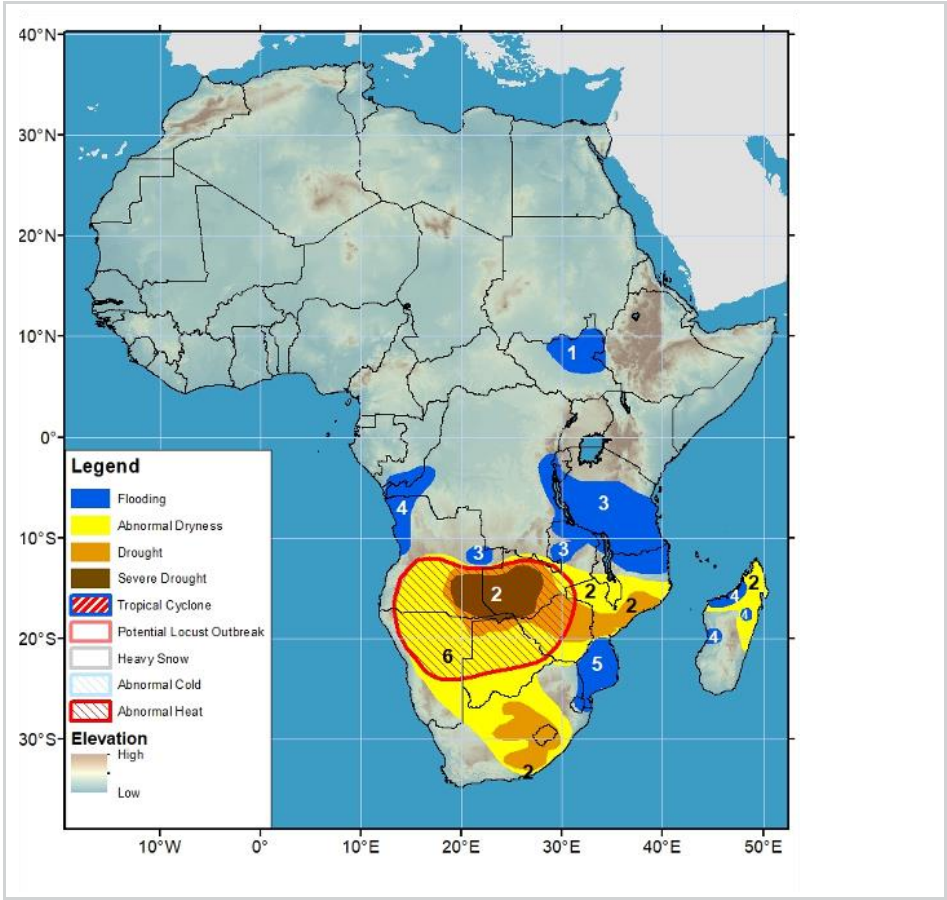
FEWS NET
Famine Early Warning Systems Network

Global Weather Hazards Summary March 22–28, 2024

Many parts of Southern Africa are in drought, while flooding persists in parts of Eastern Africa

Africa Weather Hazards

1. Flooding conditions continue in the Sudd wetlands in South Sudan.
2. Many parts of Southern Africa are abnormally dry, with drought in eastern Angola, western and central Zambia, northeastern Namibia, northern Botswana, much of Zimbabwe, central Mozambique, central and eastern South Africa, and Lesotho.
3. Flooding is ongoing in eastern DRC, Burundi, Tanzania, eastern Angola, the northern region of Zambia in the Gisenyi sector, and Rubavu District, Western Province, Rwanda.
4. Recent heavy rainfall has caused flooding in southern Congo, western DRC, northwestern Angola, and northern and central Madagascar.
5. After Tropical Storm Filipo, heavy rainfall, strong winds, and storm surges are forecasted for southern Mozambique, Eswatini, and northeastern South Africa.
6. Much of Southern Africa is forecasted to be abnormally hot next week.



Note

The Hazards outlook map is based on current weather/climate information, short and medium-range weather forecasts (up to one week), sub-seasonal forecasts up to four weeks, and assesses the potential impact of extreme events on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed and predicted to continue during the outlook period. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at the spatial scale of the map. This product considers long-range seasonal climate forecasts but does not reflect current or projected food security conditions. FEWS NET is a USAID-funded activity whose purpose is to provide objective information about food security conditions.

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Africa Overview

Reduced rainfall received in Southern Africa

During the past week, moderate to locally heavy rainfall fell across central and northern Angola, central Zambia, southern Mozambique, Eswatini, and parts of northern Madagascar. The heaviest rainfall occurred in southern Mozambique, where Tropical Storm Filipo made landfall on March 12. In Malawi, high river levels in the south have increased the likelihood for flooding in the region. The rest of the subregion received reduced rainfall amounts, with little to no rainfall (Figure 1). Over the past 90 days, rainfall has been well below average across a wide portion of central and eastern southern Africa, including eastern Angola, Zambia, Zimbabwe, northeastern Namibia, northern Botswana, western and central Mozambique, southern Malawi, and central and eastern South Africa, resulting in moderate to severe drought in many areas of the subregion.

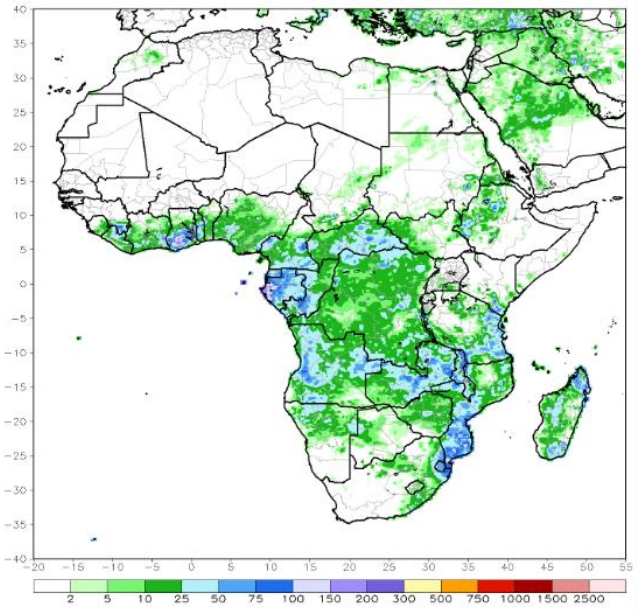
Next week, drier conditions are forecasted across southern Angola, southern Zambia, northern Namibia, northern Botswana, much of Zimbabwe, and central and western Mozambique. Meanwhile, abnormally hot conditions are expected across western and northern southern Africa.

Wet conditions observed in Eastern Africa

During the past week, scattered moderate rainfall was received in western and central Ethiopia and coastal eastern Tanzania, whereas little to no rainfall was observed elsewhere. Most of eastern Africa received above-average accumulated rainfall since the beginning of January (Figure 2). In Ethiopia, above-average rainfall may indicate an on-time and favorable *belg* rainfall season from March to May. In contrast, cumulative rainfall has been below-average in parts of South Sudan, eastern highlands of Ethiopia, Rwanda, Burundi, and western Tanzania.

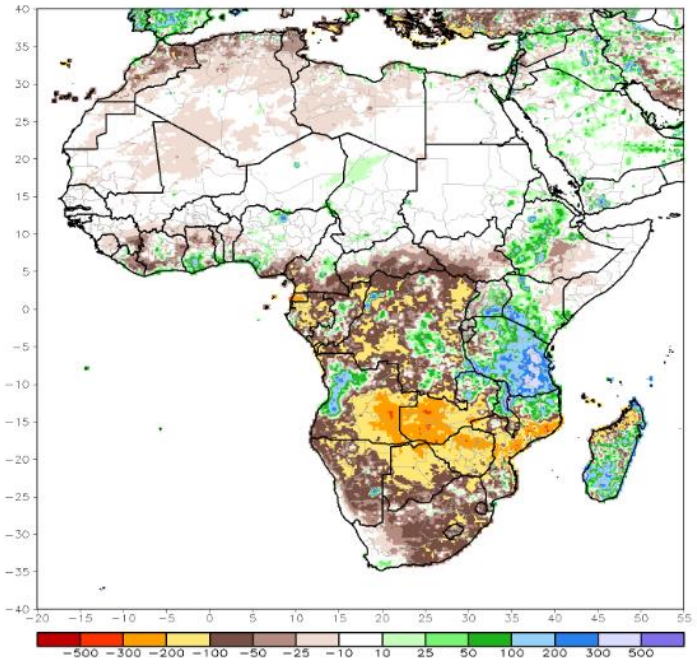
Next week, rainfall forecasts suggest that little to light below-average rainfall is likely in southern Ethiopia, while marginally above-average rainfall is forecasted for northeastern Ethiopia. Conversely, moderate to heavy and above-average rainfall is expected in Rwanda, Burundi, and Tanzania, increasing the risks for flooding in many previously flooded and flood-prone areas.

Figure 1 **7-Day Satellite Estimated Total Rainfall (mm)**
Period: March 12–18, 2024



Source: NOAA/CPC

Figure 2 **3-Month Satellite Estimated Total Rainfall Anomaly (mm)**
Period: January 01–March 18, 2024

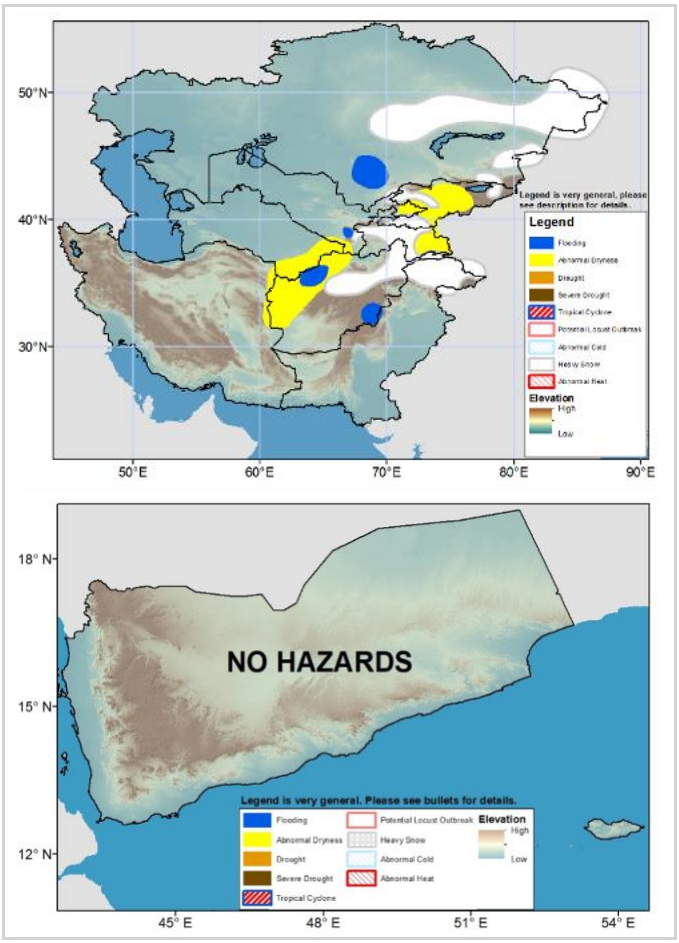


Source: NOAA/CPC

Central Asia Overview

Temperatures

During the past week, minimum temperatures were below average in parts of Kazakhstan, Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, and central Tajikistan. Minimum temperatures were above average in parts of northeastern Kazakhstan. In north-central Kazakhstan and parts of central and southeastern Kyrgyzstan, minimum temperatures averaged from -20 to -15 °C. Minimum temperatures ranged between -15 and -5 °C in most of Kyrgyzstan, central, eastern, and northern Kazakhstan, northern Pakistan, northwestern, central, and eastern Tajikistan, and northeastern and parts of central Afghanistan. Next week, below-average minimum temperatures are expected in parts of north-central and northeastern Kazakhstan, central and western Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan, central Tajikistan, and southwestern Kyrgyzstan. Weekly average minimum temperatures are forecasted to be above average in much of eastern and southern Kazakhstan, eastern Iran, eastern and central Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, most of Kyrgyzstan, eastern and western Tajikistan, and most of Pakistan. Weekly mean minimum temperatures are forecasted to range from -20 to -10 °C in parts of northeastern Kazakhstan, southeastern and parts of southwestern Kyrgyzstan, central and parts of eastern Tajikistan, northeastern Afghanistan, and much of northern Pakistan. Minimum temperatures are expected to be colder (-25 to -20°C) in eastern Tajikistan and parts of northeastern Pakistan.



Precipitation

During the past week, moderate precipitation fell in much of the region, with flooding reported in the Herat province of western Afghanistan. Snow depth values are below average in many areas, but precipitation over the last 30- and 90-day periods has been above average in much of Afghanistan, eastern Turkmenistan, and western Tajikistan. Next week, moderate precipitation is expected across many areas of the region. Heavy precipitation is expected particularly in western Iran, western Tajikistan, parts of northeastern Afghanistan, and northwestern Pakistan. Heavy snowfall is expected in northeastern and central Afghanistan, western and central Tajikistan, northern Pakistan, northeastern and southeastern Uzbekistan, western and parts of eastern Kyrgyzstan, and south-central, eastern, and parts of central Kazakhstan. Flooding is possible in central portions of the Turkistan province (Kazakhstan) and western and southern Iran. Snowmelt and precipitation may also contribute to flooding in southeastern Uzbekistan (northeastern parts of Qashqadaryo) and northwestern (Faryab) and eastern (Paktika) Afghanistan.

Yemen Overview

Temperature

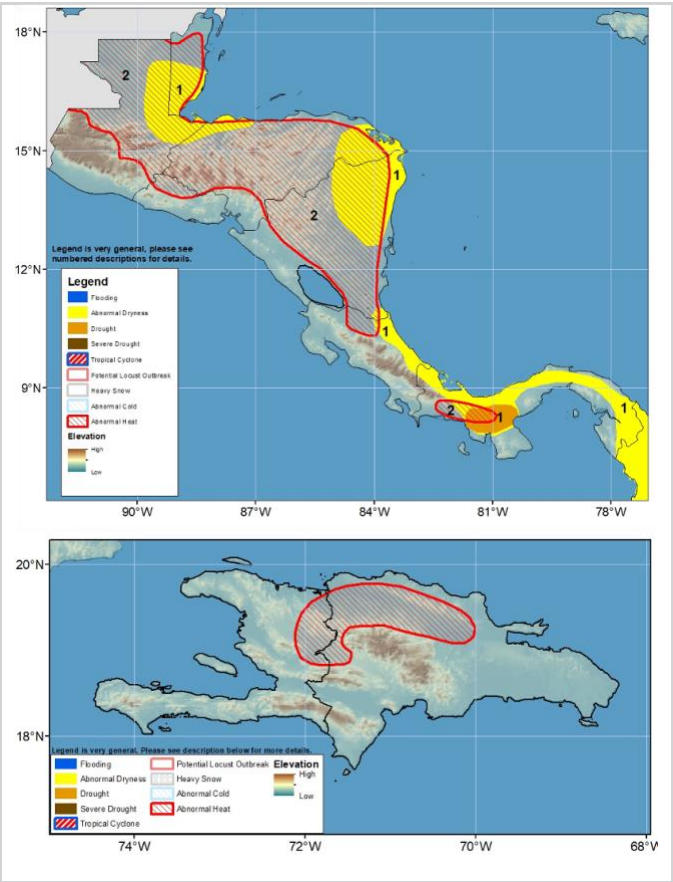
During the past week, above-average temperatures were observed in Yemen. While maximum temperatures were near-average in most of Yemen, minimum temperatures were well above-average, ranging from 15 to 25 °C across Yemen. Next week, warmer weather conditions are forecasted to continue in Yemen, particularly over the central and northern governorates, where mean temperatures are expected to range between 20 and 30 °C.

Precipitation

During the past week, scattered moderate rainfall was received in western Yemen. Over the past 30 days, areas in western Yemen registered above-average rainfall, whereas the rest of the country experienced seasonably dry conditions. Next week, little to light, near-average rainfall is forecasted for western Yemen, while marginally dry conditions are expected in the rest of the country.

Central America Overview

Hot, dry conditions expected to persist



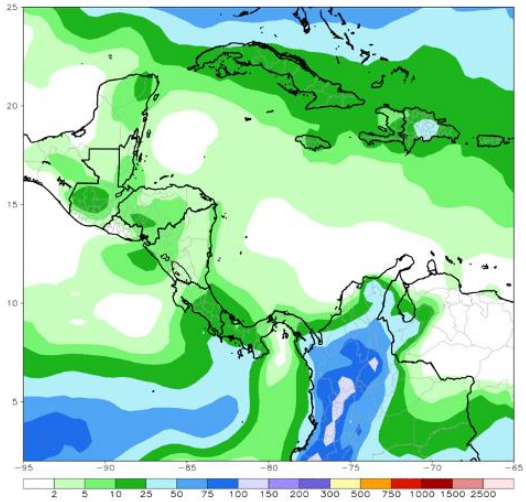
During the past week, Central America received little rainfall. Some light precipitation occurred along the northern coast of Honduras and central Guatemala, while moderate to locally heavy rainfall occurred in Costa Rica and some coastal portions of Panama. Over the past 30 days, rainfall deficits have been present in parts of northern and central Guatemala, southern Belize, northwestern and eastern Honduras, northeastern Nicaragua, and small portions of Costa Rica and Panama. North-central Nicaragua and central Guatemala have registered 90-day rainfall deficits. In addition, abnormally hot temperatures have continued in many areas of the region. Next week, moderate rainfall is forecasted for eastern and southern Panama. Scattered light rainfall is anticipated across the remainder of the region. Maximum temperatures are expected to be well above average across the region, exceeding 35 °C in some areas.

Hispaniola Overview

Little rainfall during the past week

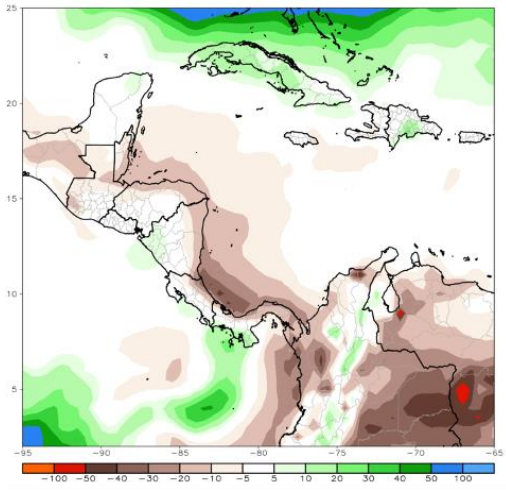
During the past week, there were a few scattered showers, primarily in coastal regions. The island's interior remained mostly dry. This is largely typical of mid-March. Over the past 30 days, Haiti experienced mostly near-average or below-average conditions, while portions of eastern Dominican Republic experienced small rainfall surpluses. Next week, light rainfall is forecasted for Hispaniola, with locally higher amounts in Dominican Republic. The forecast calls for near-to-average or slightly above-average rainfall for late March in Hispaniola. Maximum temperatures are expected to continue to be warmer than average across the island.

Figure 3 **Ensemble Mean Total Rainfall (mm)**
Period: March 21–27, 2024



Source: NOAA/CPC

Figure 4 **CMORPH Climatological Rainfall (mm)**
Period: March 21–27, 2024

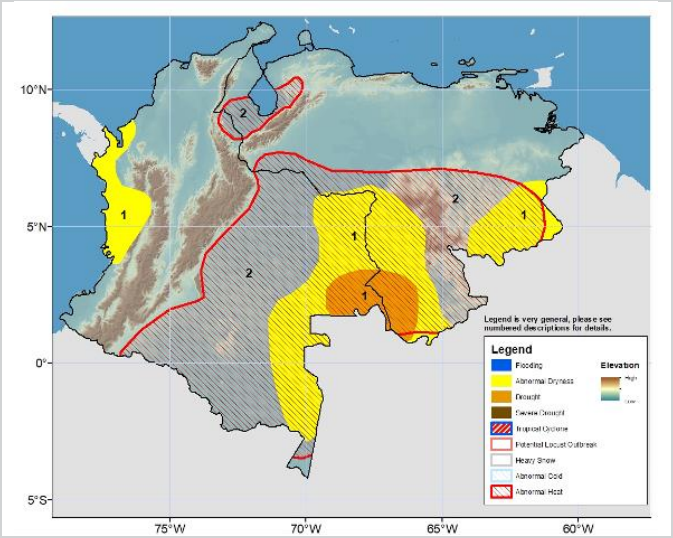


Source: NOAA/CPC

South America Overview

Colombia and Venezuela

During the past week, scattered moderate to locally heavy rainfall occurred in central and parts of western Colombia, as well as far-southern Venezuela, whereas dry conditions dominated in the north. Most areas outside of central Colombia registered below-average rainfall for the week. Many areas of the region have experienced 30-day and 90-day rainfall deficits, and portions in the south and west of the region are abnormally dry. Next week, moderate to heavy rainfall is expected across western Colombia, and moderate rainfall is likely in southern Colombia. However, despite some light to moderate rainfall in the south, forecasted amounts will likely be much below average in Venezuela, which may increase dryness in the region. Southern and central Venezuela, central and southern Colombia, and northwestern Venezuela are forecasted to be abnormally hot.



About Weather Hazards

Hazard maps are based on current weather/climate information, short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week) and 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.