









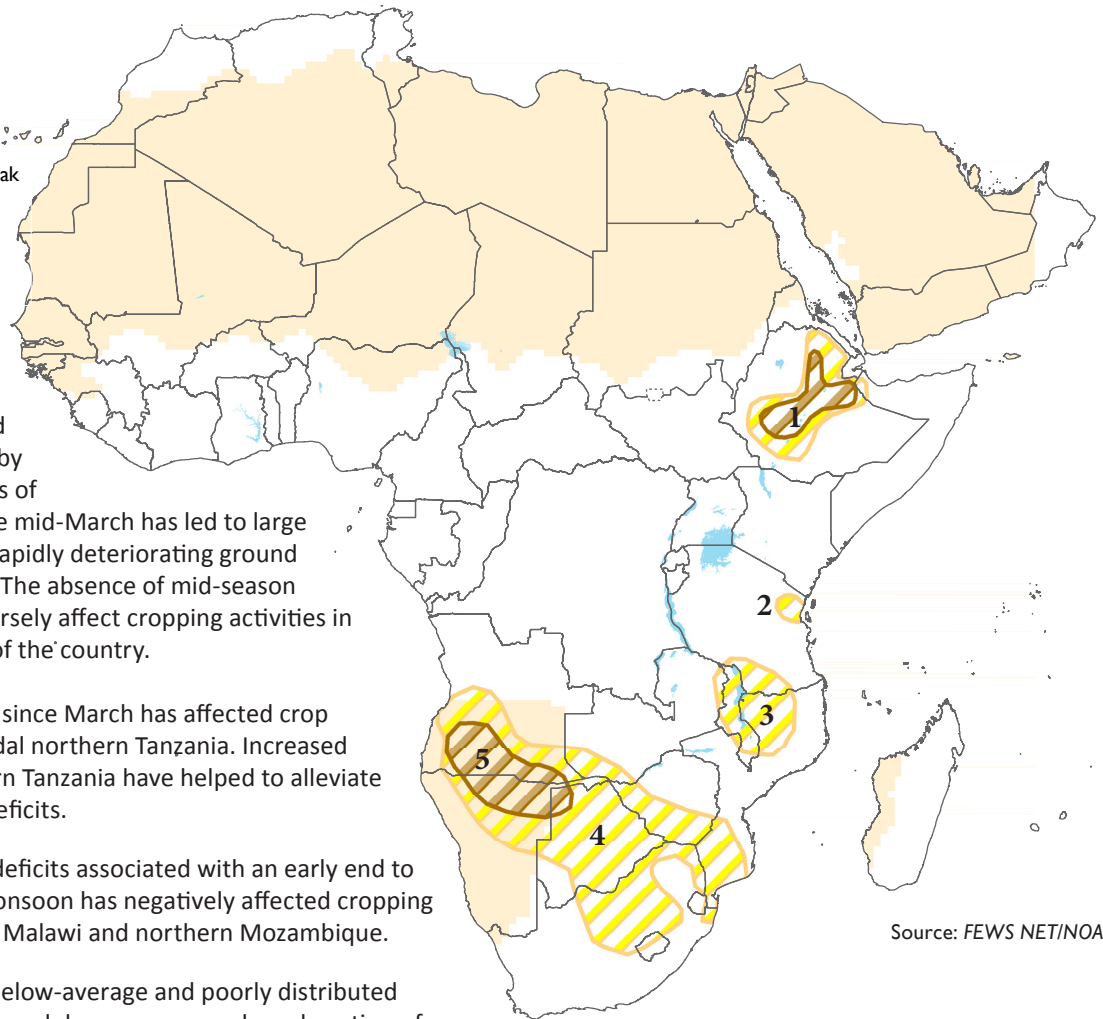


Little rainfall expected over atypically dry areas of northern Ethiopia

Africa Weather Hazards

-  Flooding
-  Abnormal Dryness
-  Drought
-  Severe Drought
-  Tropical Cyclone
-  Potential Locust Outbreak
-  Heavy Snow
-  Abnormal Cold
-  Abnormal Heat
-  Seasonally Dry



1. Erratic, below-average rainfall in February and early March, followed by four consecutive weeks of little to no rainfall since mid-March has led to large moisture deficits and rapidly deteriorating ground conditions in Ethiopia. The absence of mid-season rainfall is likely to adversely affect cropping activities in *Belg*-producing areas of the country.

2. Below-average rainfall since March has affected crop conditions over bi-modal northern Tanzania. Increased rains over northwestern Tanzania have helped to alleviate short-term moisture deficits.

3. Late season moisture deficits associated with an early end to the Southern Africa monsoon has negatively affected cropping conditions in northern Malawi and northern Mozambique.

4. Since late December, below-average and poorly distributed rainfall has led to abnormal dryness across a broad portion of southern Africa. Below average seasonal rainfall and untimely dry spells are likely to lead to reductions in crop production in parts of southern Angola, Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Lesotho, Zambia, and South Africa.

5. Poorly distributed rainfall and extended dry spells since January have led to large rainfall deficits and below-average vegetation growth in southern Angola and northern Namibia.

Source: FEWS NET/NOAA

Africa Overview

Little to no rainfall over northern Ethiopia during the last month

Since the beginning of April, there has been little shift in the spatial distribution of seasonal rainfall throughout the Greater Horn of Africa. Consistent with the first week in April, rainfall has been above average across much of eastern Ethiopia, southern Somalia, Kenya, and northern Tanzania, and below average in northern Ethiopia. The highest weekly amounts (>75 mm) fell in southern Somalia, with well-distributed but lighter rains falling to the south (Figure 1). A slight reduction in rainfall has also been observed near the Lake Victoria region, which is expected to provide some relief to flooding conditions in northern Tanzania and western Kenya.

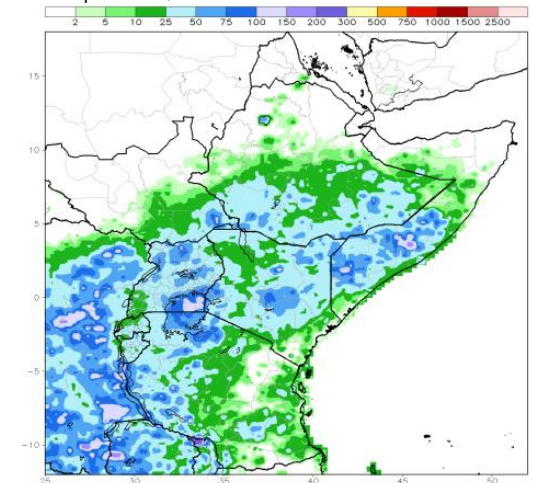
While rainfall has generally increased since the middle of March, a poor distribution of rainfall has led to considerable seasonal dryness and mid-season moisture deficits over northern Ethiopia. Analysis of satellite rainfall estimates and frequency of precipitation suggest that much of northern Ethiopia has received less than three days of rainfall since the middle of March (Figure 2). In eastern Amhara Region, seasonal rainfall has occurred only during a brief period of shower activity during the second dekad (10-day period) of March, followed by four consecutive weeks of no rainfall. Further south in Oromia Region, rainfall has been more frequent, but below average in quantity since March. Combined with a late onset of seasonal rainfall, the continuation of atypically dry conditions throughout April is expected to adversely impact cropping and pastoral activities in the region.

During the next week, precipitation models suggest another week of below-average rainfall for northern Ethiopia, with the potential for average to above-average rainfall over the pastoral regions of eastern Ethiopia. The continuation of poor mid-season Belg rains is expected to worsen dryness in already moisture-stressed regions of the country. Further south, average to above-average rainfall remains likely for much of southern Kenya, Uganda, northern Tanzania, and southern Somalia.

Dryness observed in West Africa during middle of April

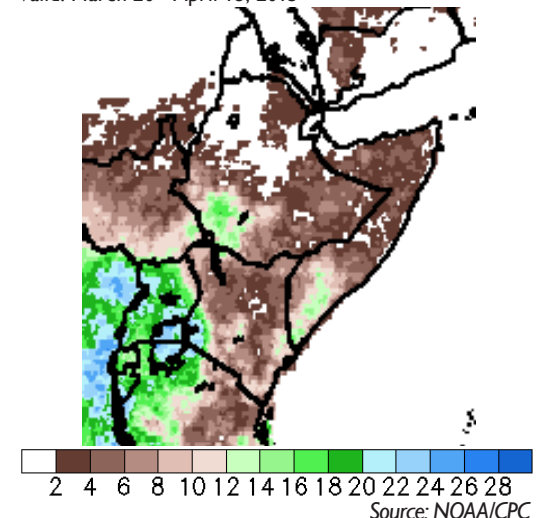
During the last week, a large-scale suppression of rains was observed according to satellite rainfall estimates and gauge reports over West Africa. Although seasonal rainfall is typically confined to the Gulf of Guinea region, with moderate shower activity throughout Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin and Nigeria, little to no rains were recorded, except along coastal areas of these countries, mainly during the 2nd dekad (10-day period) in April (Figure 3). The below-average rains were likely associated with strong, atypical northerly winds that transported dry air into the region. During the next week, precipitation forecasts suggest another week of below-average rainfall is likely across parts of southern Nigeria and Cameroon.

Figure 1: Satellite-Estimated Rainfall (mm)
Valid: April 13-19, 2015



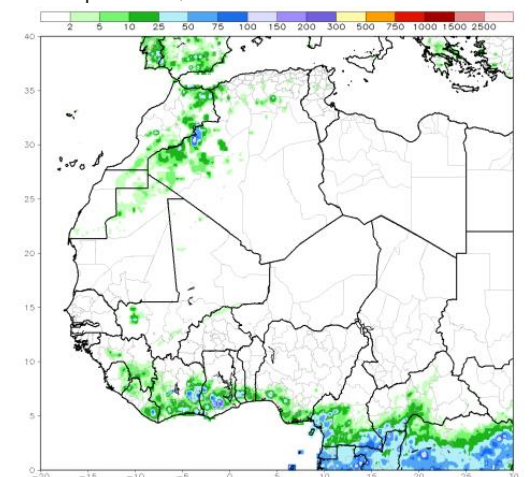
Source: NOAA/CPC

Figure 2: Total Number of Rain Days (≥1 mm)
Valid: March 20 - April 18, 2015



Source: NOAA/CPC

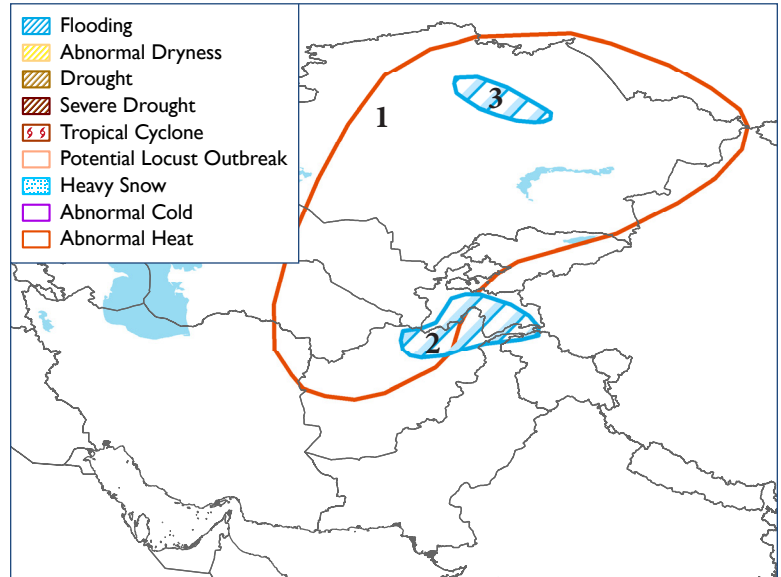
Figure 3: Satellite Estimate Rainfall
Valid: April 13 - 19, 2015



Source: NOAA/CPC

Central Asia Weather Hazards

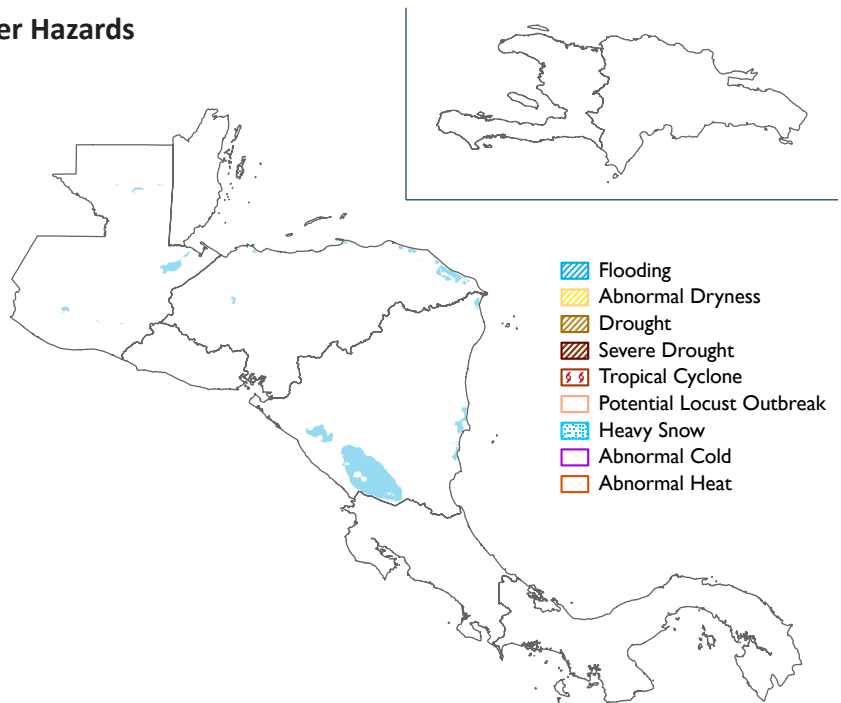
1. Abnormal heat is expected across Kazakhstan, western Tajikistan, and northern Afghanistan, with maximum temperatures reaching more than 8°C above average. Maximum temperatures are expected to exceed 35°C as far north as southwest Kazakhstan.
2. Rapid snowmelt, combined with above-average temperatures and increased rainfall, increases the risk of flooding across northeastern Afghanistan and Tajikistan during the next week.
3. Flooding may continue in Karagandy Region of northern Kazakhstan, with additional rainfall expected during the next week.



Source: FEWS NET/NOAA

Central America and the Caribbean Weather Hazards

No hazards are posted for Central America and the Caribbean.



Source: FEWS NET/NOAA

Central America and the Caribbean Overview

Rainfall expected to be below average across Central America during the next week

Since the third week of March, rainfall has been below average over many western and east-central Guatemala, western and southern Honduras, and northwestern Nicaragua. The largest rainfall deficits have been observed across the northern parts of the Quiché, Alta Verapaz, and southern Petén Departments of Guatemala and southwestern Honduras, where 30-day rainfall deficits ranged between 50-100 mm. During the past week, heavy and above-average rains fell across the Pacific region of Guatemala and western El Salvador, while little to no rain was observed throughout much of the inland areas of the region. Although the ongoing December-April rainy season is not a main growing season in Central America, many winter crop-producing areas still need adequate soil moisture for crop development and maturation. Since December of last year, most countries of Central America have received below-average rainfall, accounting for only between 25-80 percent of their average. The continuation of inconsistent rains could adversely impact crops and reduce yields over many local areas. During the next week, dry weather is forecast over Central America, with little to no rainfall throughout much of the region. Though light to locally moderate rains are possible over southwestern Guatemala, coastal El Salvador, and the Southern Caribbean, the forecast rainfall totals will likely remain below-average across much of the region.

Figure 1: Seven-Day Total Rainfall Forecast (mm)
Valid: April 22-29, 2015

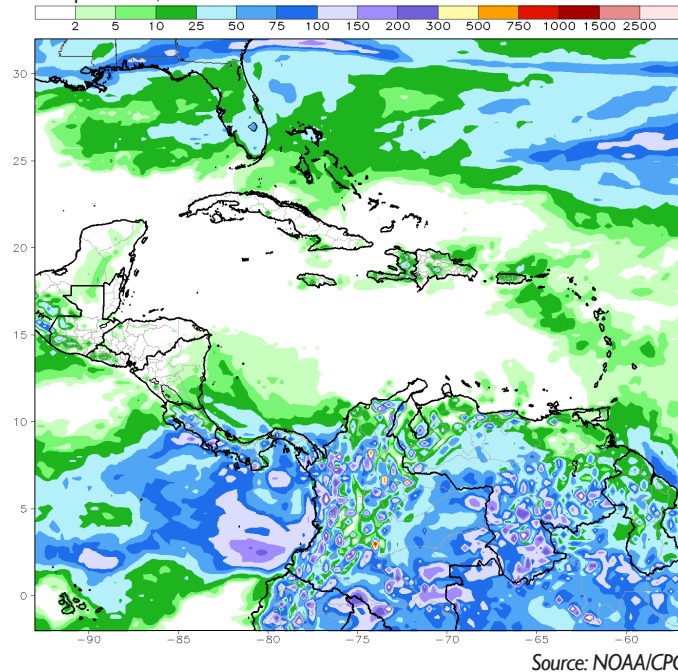
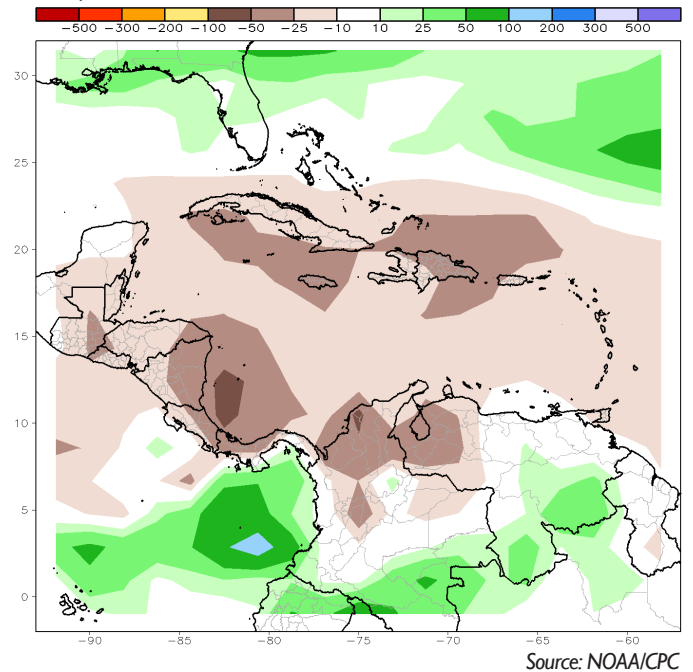


Figure 2: Seven-Day Rainfall Anomaly Forecast (mm)
Valid: April 22-29, 2015



Dry weather forecast to continue over Hispaniola during the next week

During the past week, heavy and above-average rains fell across the Centre, Ouest, and parts of Artibonite Department in Haiti. In contrast, little to no rain was recorded throughout the Dominican Republic. Since the third week of March, below-average rains have fallen in northeastern Haiti and the northern half of the Dominican Republic, while above-average rains have fallen over central Haiti. The largest 30-day rainfall deficits (50-200 mm) were registered across northern Dominican Republic. As a result, the first rainy season has been delayed over some parts of the island. Recent vegetation indices (NDVI) currently suggests that vegetation growth is below average in the eastern parts of Centre and Nord-Est Departments of Haiti and the northwestern and eastern provinces of the Dominican Republic. The continuation of drier than average conditions could adversely affect cropping activities over the dry portions of Hispaniola during the current season. During the next week, dry weather is forecast to persist over the island, with little to light rains over Haiti and mostly below-average rainfall across the Dominican Republic.

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.