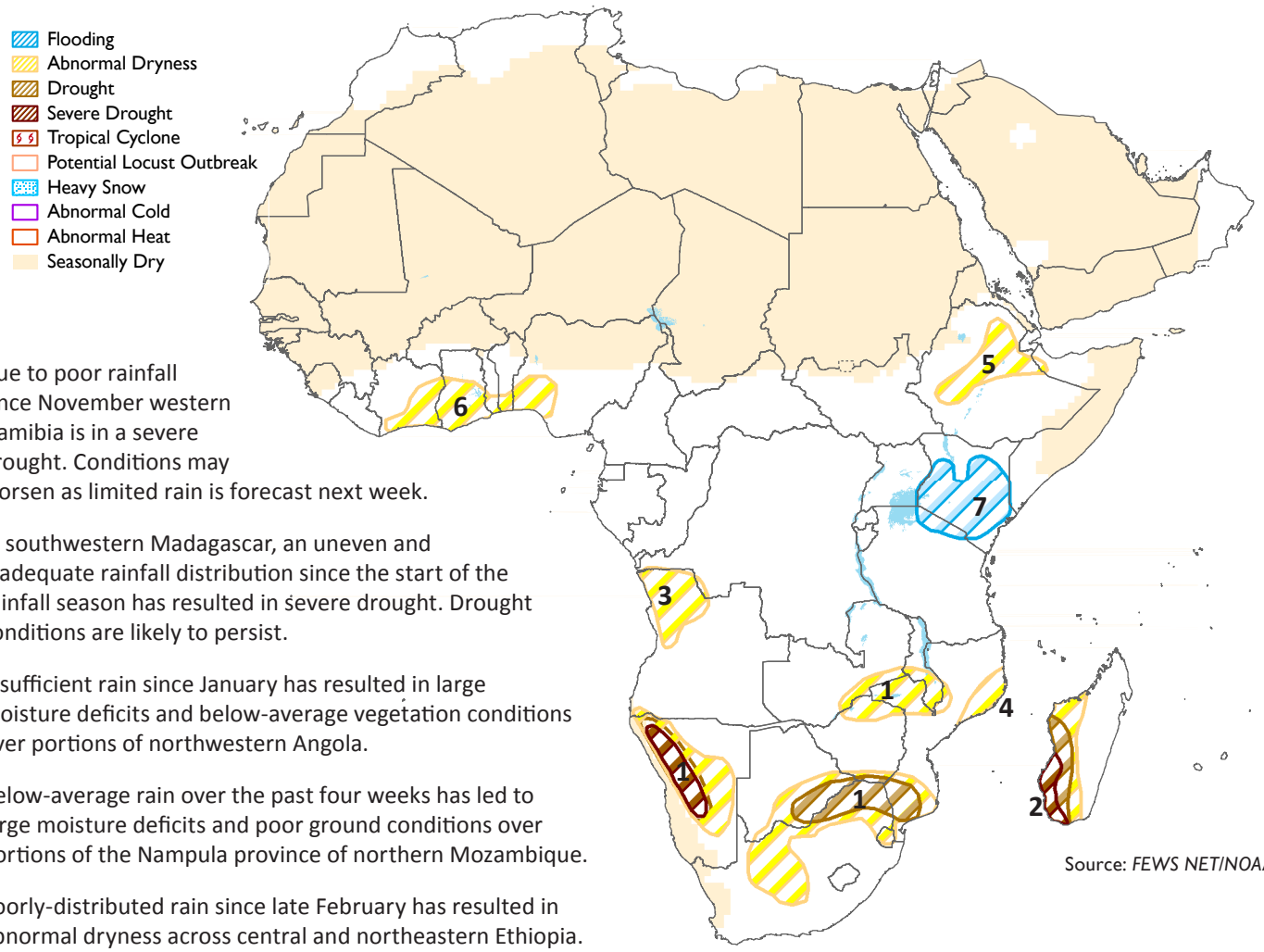
FEWS NET
FAMINE EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS NETWORK

Global Weather Hazards Summary

April 13 - 19, 2018

Rainfall brings some relief to Ethiopia, but causes flooding and fatalities in Kenya

Africa Weather Hazards



Source: *FEWS NET/NOAA*

1. Due to poor rainfall since November western Namibia is in a severe drought. Conditions may worsen as limited rain is forecast next week.
2. In southwestern Madagascar, an uneven and inadequate rainfall distribution since the start of the rainfall season has resulted in severe drought. Drought conditions are likely to persist.
3. Insufficient rain since January has resulted in large moisture deficits and below-average vegetation conditions over portions of northwestern Angola.
4. Below-average rain over the past four weeks has led to large moisture deficits and poor ground conditions over portions of the Nampula province of northern Mozambique.
5. Poorly-distributed rain since late February has resulted in abnormal dryness across central and northeastern Ethiopia.
6. A slow onset to seasonal rainfall across the southern Gulf of Guinea countries has led to strengthening moisture deficits throughout the region.
7. Heavy rain in Kenya has led to flooding and fatalities. Continued heavy rainfall is forecast into mid-April which is likely to trigger additional floods.

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USAID FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Africa Overview

Rainfall brings some relief to Ethiopia

During the last week, several locations in eastern Ethiopia and Somalia received rainfall for the first time this season. Further south, rainfall was also recorded in Uganda, Kenya and northern Tanzania. The highest weekly totals (>75mm) were recorded near the Lake Victoria region of Kenya and areas in the Oromia and SNNP provinces of Ethiopia **(Figure 1).** Towards the west, average rainfall was recorded in South Sudan and southern Sudan.

While the above-average rainfall during early April has helped to mitigate dryness in some areas, there are still many areas in the northern Oromia, eastern Amhara, eastern Tigray, and northern Somali that remain very dry since early March **(Figure 2).** The largest moisture deficits remain near Dire Dawa over the Shinile zone of Ethiopia, where many local areas have experienced less than a quarter of their normal rainfall accumulation for period. There is not much opportunity for moisture recovery before rains stop in May.

Further south, high moisture surpluses (100-200mm) continue to encompass much of Kenya and northern Tanzania, due to heavy rainfall during March. With last week's moderate to locally heavy rainfall over the Garissa and Isiolo regions, and Tana River basin, risk of flooding remains.

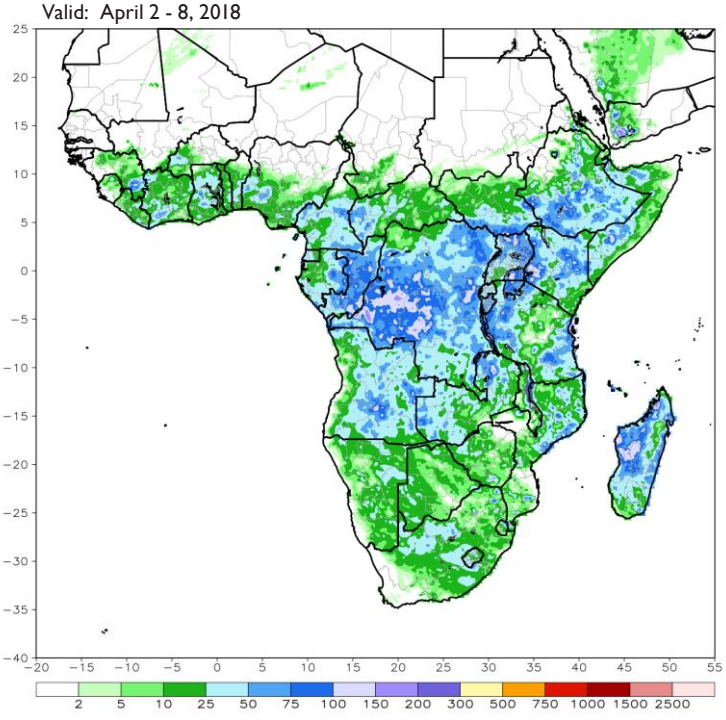
Next week, models suggest heavy rainfall in Ethiopia (>50mm) which will continue to alleviate seasonal dryness.

Delayed rainfall in Gulf of Guinea countries

For the several consecutive weeks, little rain has been recorded in Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin and southwestern Nigeria. Since early March, moisture deficits have increased, leaving many local areas with less than half of their normally accumulated rainfall.

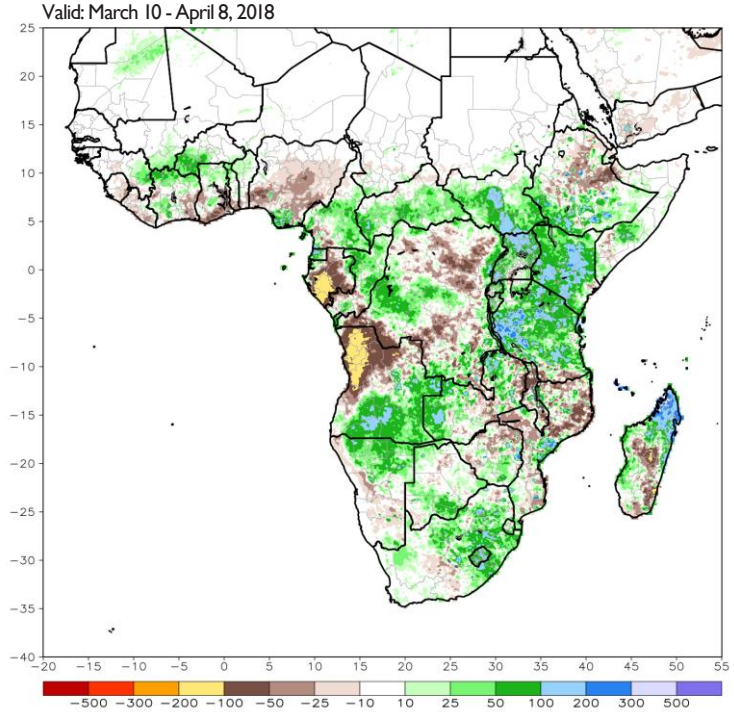
During the next week, above-average rainfall is forecast for many western Gulf of Guinea countries, with more seasonable rainfall amounts expected for Ghana, Togo, Benin and Nigeria during mid-April.

Figure 1: RFE2 Satellite Estimated Rainfall (mm)
Valid: April 2 - 8, 2018



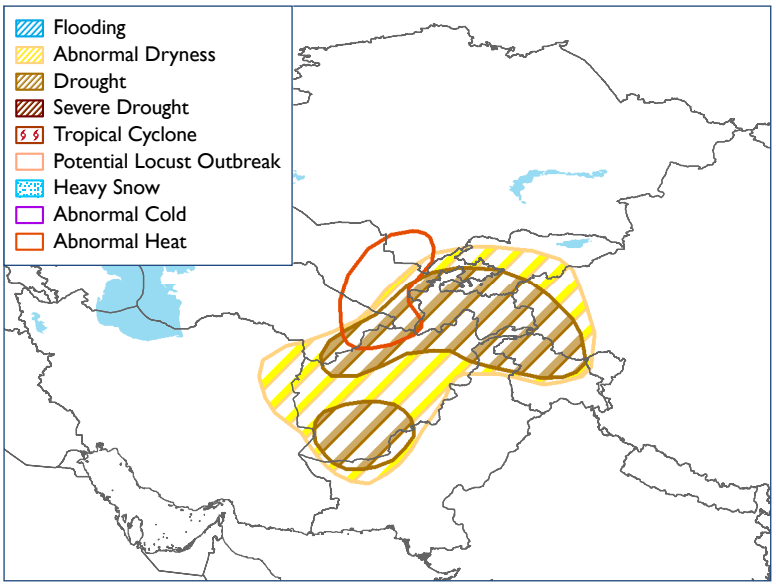
Source: NOAA/CPC

Figure 2: ARC 30-day Total Rainfall Anomaly
Valid: March 10 - April 8, 2018



Source: NOAA/CPC

Central Asia Weather Hazards



Source: *FEWS NET/NOAA*

Temperatures

Near to above-normal temperatures prevailed during the first week of April with the largest anomalies (>6°C) across parts of Afghanistan and Tajikistan. Maximum temperatures were observed as high as 33°C in southern Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. An abnormal heat hazard is posted for areas where the weekly temperatures average more than 6°C above normal and maximum temperatures are forecast to exceed 30°C. The above-normal temperatures are likely to cause an early snow melt across northeast Afghanistan and Tajikistan.

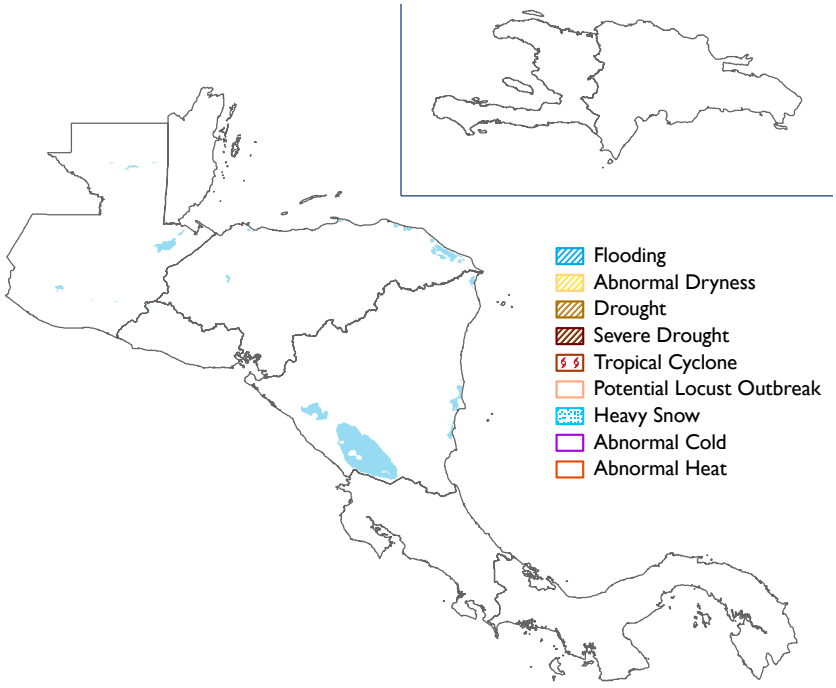
Precipitation

Precipitation (2-20mm) was mostly observed across southern Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan during the first week of April. Precipitation during March generally averaged 25-75% of normal across much of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and bordering areas of Afghanistan. Drought hazards are posted for much of Afghanistan and portions of adjacent countries based on: large 90-day precipitation deficits, low snow water content, and expected negative impacts to agriculture.

Next week, rain and high-elevation snow should continue across Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan. The highest amounts (> 25mm, liquid equivalent) are forecast across the highest elevations of northeast Afghanistan and Tajikistan. This precipitation may provide limited drought relief.

Central America and the Caribbean Weather Hazards

No hazards reported



Source: *FEWS NET/NOAA*

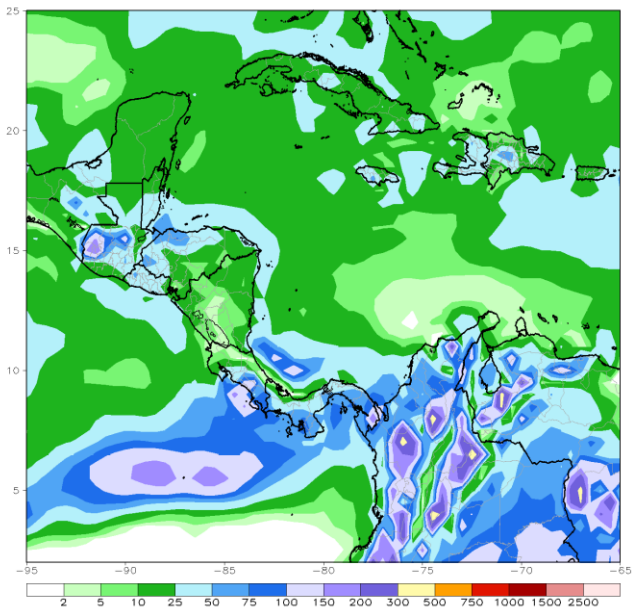
Central America and the Caribbean Overview

Early *Primera* rains recorded in Central America

During the first week in April, seasonal precipitation increased across southern Guatemala and along the Gulf of Fonseca and Gulf of Nicoya regions of Central America. The highest weekly accumulations (>50mm) were recorded in southern Guatemala. Towards the Atlantic/Caribbean side, many other regions in Central America remained dry, with little to no rains received. Over the past 30 days, analysis of early *Primera* season moisture anomalies suggest a slight strengthening of below-average conditions. However, remotely sensed vegetation health indices indicate generally satisfactory ground conditions, with little evidence of degradation despite the seasonably dry conditions during February and March.

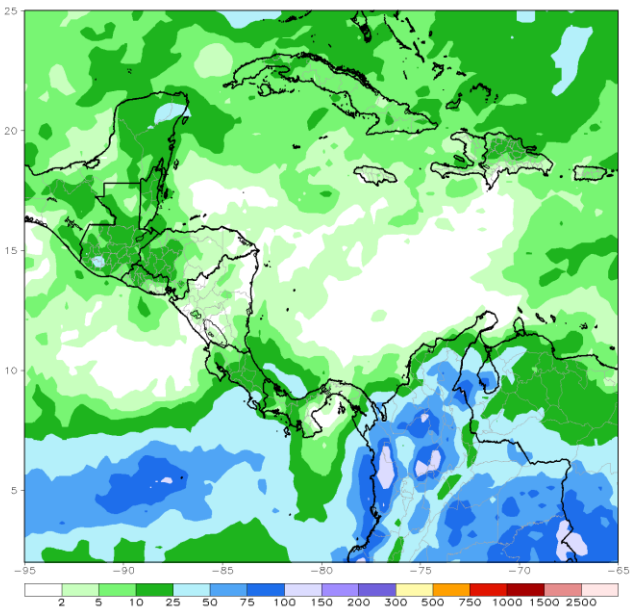
Next week, rainfall is expected in Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras and eastern Nicaragua – consistent with a typical Primera onset. Potentially heavy rainfall accumulations >75mm appear most likely across southwestern Guatemala, with rainfall amounts >25mm throughout western Honduras and El Salvador. Heavy rainfall also is forecast for many parts of Costa Rica.

Figure 4: GEFS mean total rainfall forecast (mm)
Valid: April 11 - 18, 2018



Source: NOAA/CPC

Figure 5: CMORPH rainfall climatology (mm)
Valid: April 11 - 18, 2018



Source: NOAA/CPC

Light rains received over Hispaniola during early April

Light rainfall was registered during early April. The highest totals (10-25mm) were received over central Dominican Republic, with lighter amounts along the coastal areas of the island. Seasonal rainfall has been below average so far. Since early March, moisture conditions have transitioned from mostly average/above-average to below-average categories over the last couple of weeks. However, remotely sensed vegetation health indices still depict generally favorable ground conditions, with a few local pockets where some deterioration has been observed. During the next week, seasonable rains are forecast with the potential for enhanced rainfall (25-50mm) over central and southern portions of Haiti.

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.