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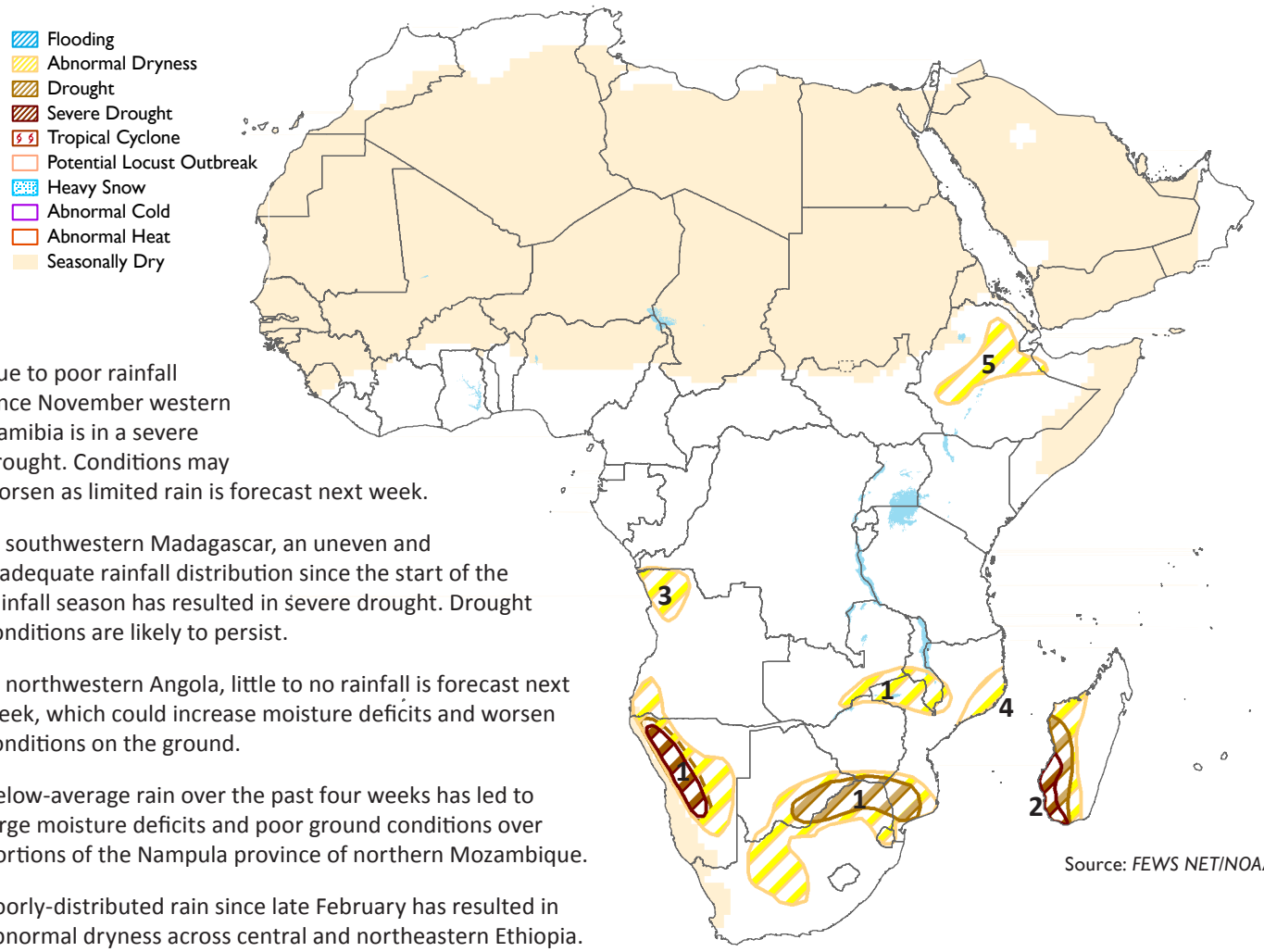
NOAA
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Global Weather Hazards Summary

March 30 - April 5, 2018

Abnormal dryness emerges across Ethiopia

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. In northwestern Angola, little to no rainfall is forecast next week, which could increase moisture deficits and worsen conditions on the ground.
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. Scattered light rain in the region next week may not be sufficient to overcome deficits.

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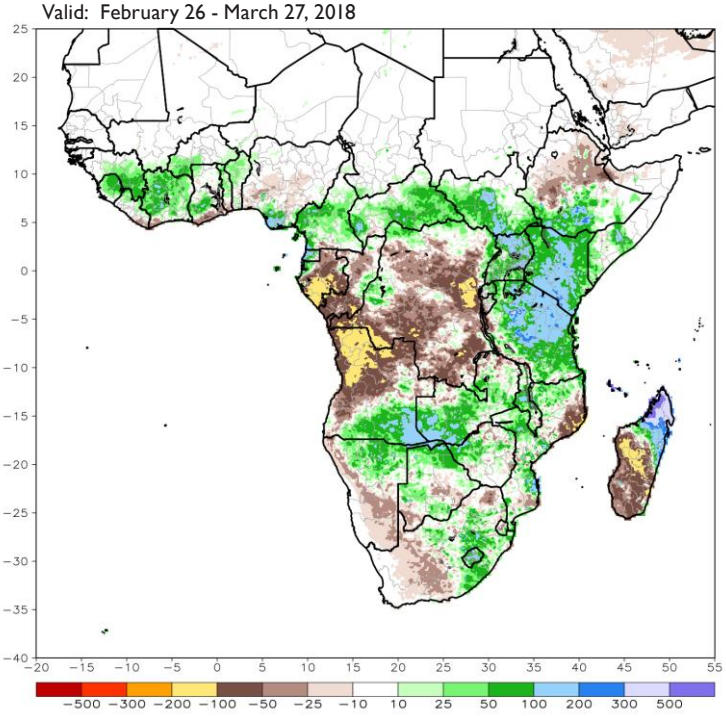
Africa Overview

Below-average rainfall season recorded in northern Ethiopia

Central and northeastern Ethiopia has received poor and below-average rain since late February, while its southern counterpart has accumulated favorable and above-average rain totals **(Figure 1).** Rainfall amounts between 25-50mm were recorded over the Oromiya and SNNPR of southern Ethiopia, while rainfall amounts between 5-25mm only were registered over the north-central. The uneven rainfall distribution over the past thirty days has resulted in deficits ranging between 10-50mm even exceeding 50mm over some areas of central Ethiopia. In contrast, rainfall surpluses between 50-200mm were observed to the south from southern Ethiopia, Kenya, parts of southern Somalia, to Tanzania.

Over southern Africa, large thirty-day negative anomalies persisted over northwestern Angola, portions of northern Mozambique, and southern Madagascar due to a significant decrease in rainfall since late February. Conversely, positive rainfall anomalies were observed over the central portions of southern Africa, including southern Angola, Zambia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, central South Africa, and much of Mozambique. As rain is expected to gradually subside over southern Africa during the upcoming months, dry conditions are likely to worsen.

Figure 1: ARC 30-Day Total Rainfall Anomaly (mm)
Valid: February 26 - March 27, 2018



Source: NOAA/CPC

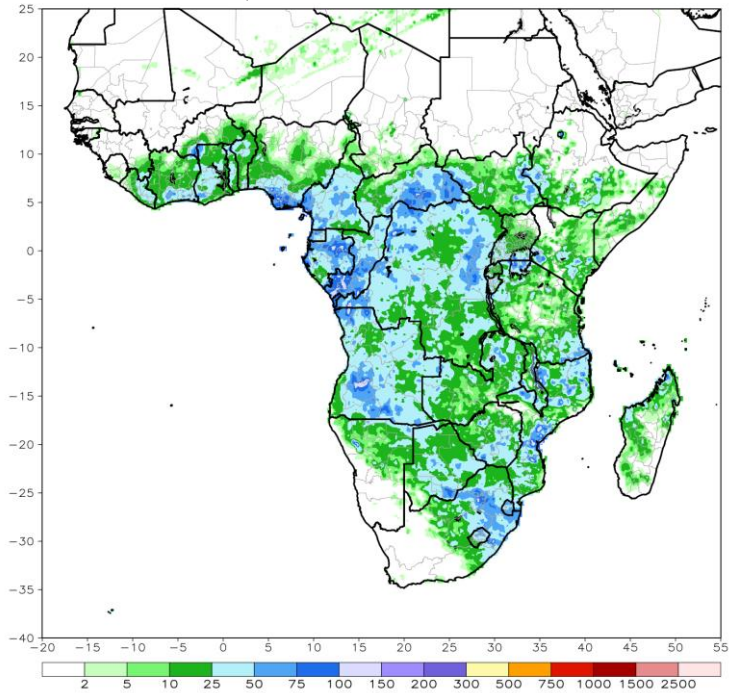
Downpours caused flooding in South Africa last week

Last week, abundant rain fell over southern Angola, northern Namibia, and central South Africa **(Figure 2).** In South Africa, the torrential rain resulted in flooding and sinkholes. While light rain prevailed elsewhere, little to no rainfall was recorded in northwestern Angola, northern Zimbabwe, southern Zambia, central Mozambique, and central Madagascar.

In the Horn of Africa, scattered moderate to heavy rain continued in southern Ethiopia, Kenya, and southern Somalia, while light rain was recorded over north-central Ethiopia. The continuation of wet conditions over the southern portions of Equatorial Eastern Africa may benefit ground conditions over many local areas. However, oversaturation could also cause flooding.

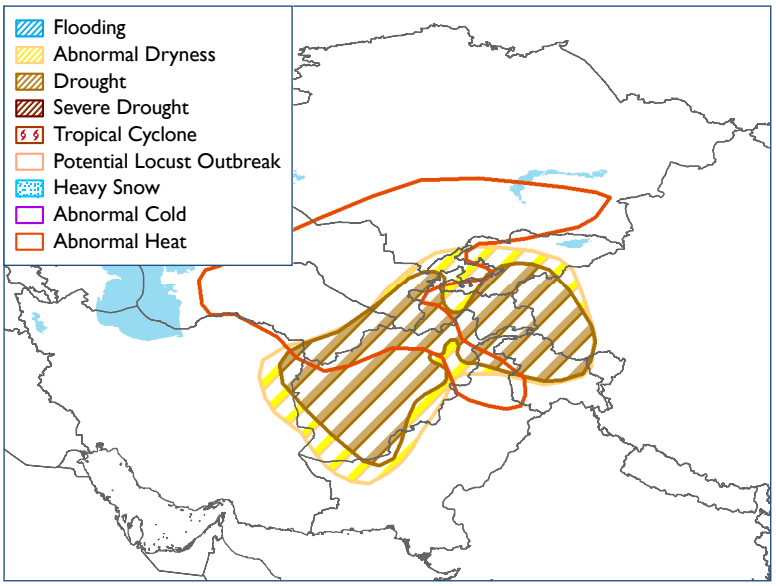
Next week, light rain is forecast over Ethiopia, which could help to partially reduce deficits over some local areas. In southern Africa, moderate to heavy rain is expected to continue over Angola and northern Namibia, while suppressed rain is forecast over Botswana and northern South Africa.

Figure 2: RFE2 Satellite Estimated Rainfall (mm)
Valid: March 21 - March 27, 2018



Source: NOAA/CPC

Central Asia Weather Hazards



Source: *FEWS NET/NOAA*

Temperatures

Last week, above normal temperatures continued in the majority of the region. Mean maximum temperatures were 6-12°C above normal throughout large areas of Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan. Meanwhile, far northwestern Kazakhstan experienced cooler than average conditions. 30°C maximum temperatures were recorded in Afghanistan and Uzbekistan. Maximum temperatures may be more than 12°C above normal in many central portions of the region next week, where an abnormal heat hazard is posted. 30°C highs may be occur as far north as southern Kazakhstan.

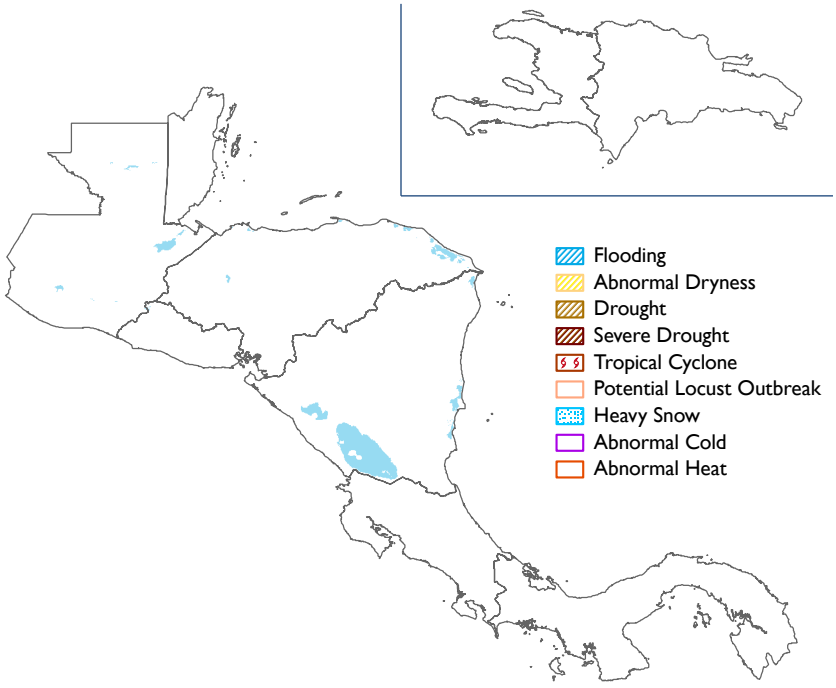
Precipitation

Widespread moderate precipitation (10-50+mm liquid equivalent) was recorded across Kazakhstan during the last 7 days. Moderate and local heavy rain spread farther south across Afghanistan and Pakistan than the previous week. However, low snow water equivalent and large ninety-day precipitation deficits continue to persist over many portions of Central Asia. A drought hazard is posted over much of Afghanistan.

During the next week, a swath of moderate precipitation is expected across Kazakhstan, while more significant precipitation (25-50+mm liquid equivalent) is forecast in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

Central America and the Caribbean Weather Hazards

No hazards reported



Source: *FEWS NET/NOAA*

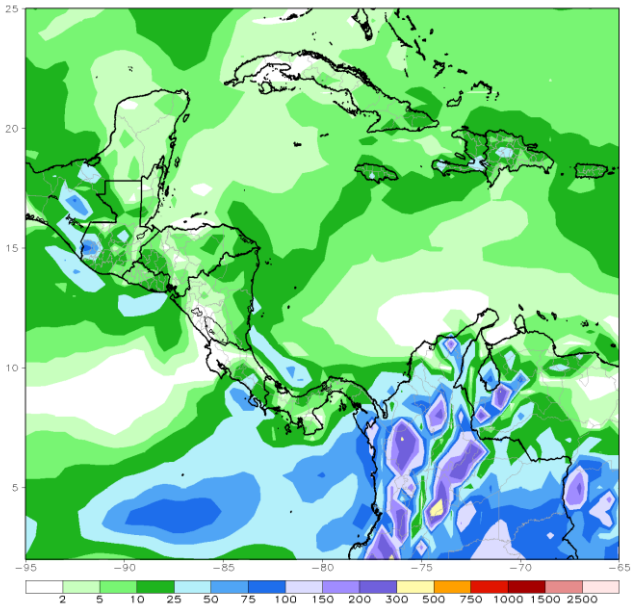
Central America and the Caribbean Overview

Rain forecast signals start of *Primera* Season in Central America

Scattered showers were received across parts of Guatemala and northern Honduras last week. Locally moderate weekly rainfall totals ranged from 10-50mm over the northern departments of Honduras, with little to no rainfall accumulations registered for many other interior departments in Central America. Despite the lack of rainfall during mid-March, several regions in Central America continue to register near-normal conditions towards the end of the *Apante* season. Remotely sensed vegetation health indices also indicate satisfactory ground conditions, with little evidence of degradation despite the seasonably dry conditions during February and March.

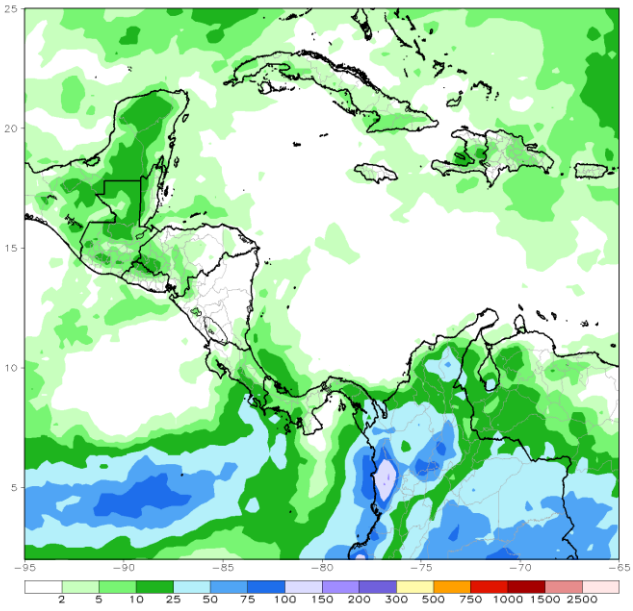
Towards the end of March and early April, increased rainfall is expected which suggests the beginning of the *Primera* rainfall season in parts of Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras. The latest model guidance depicts the highest weekly rainfall accumulations over western Guatemala (>50mm), with lesser but well-distributed totals over many Pacific facing departments of Central America.

Figure 4: GEFS mean total rainfall forecast (mm)
Valid: March 28 - April 4, 2018



Source: NOAA/CPC

Figure 5: CMORPH rainfall climatology (mm)
Valid: March 28 - April 4, 2018



Source: NOAA/CPC

Rainfall forecast for southern Haiti during late March

During the last week, isolated rain showers were recorded across parts of southern Haiti and eastern Dominican Republic. Rain gauge measurements indicate moderate weekly accumulations along the Dominican Republic coast with 31mm reported in Puerto Plata and 42mm reported in Santo Domingo. Lighter amounts (<10mm) were registered elsewhere throughout the country. Since late-February, rainfall continues to range between average to above-average, with light moisture surpluses concentrated over the eastern Dominican Republic and southern Haiti. Favorable ground conditions have also been observed over much of Hispaniola. During the next week, average to above-average rainfall is likely during late March and early April, with the highest amounts (>25mm) forecast over parts of southern Haiti and central 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.