

June to September rains began with below average performance in many areas

KEY MESSAGES

- The March to May rains were average to above average in most parts of the East Africa region. The rains, however, subsided earlier than normal, which resulted in critical moisture deficits for crops and pasture in late May/early June in western, southeastern, and coastal parts of Kenya, much of Uganda, northwestern and northern parts of Somali Region in Ethiopia, and southern parts of Somalia (Figure 1).
- Pastoral conditions have improved with improvement in the regeneration of pasture and browse and recharge of water points in most pastoral and agropastoral parts of East Africa. There are however, exceptions including the northern parts of Djibouti, southern and northern parts of Somali Region, the eastern half of Amhara and Tigray Regions, and the northern parts of Afar Region in Ethiopia, the Sool Plateau, Dharoor Valley Pastoral, East Golis Pastoral, and Coastal Deeh Pastoral livelihood zone in Bari Region in Somalia.
- The delayed onset of June to September rains in the northern sector resulted in drier than normal vegetation conditions in northwestern Ethiopia, neighboring parts of Sudan, parts of South Sudan, and central and western Eritrea (Figure 2).

SEASONAL PROGRESS

Cumulative March to May rainfall amounts were normal to above normal in most of East Africa. In particular, the rains were 200 to 400 percent above average in parts of southern and central Somalia, southeastern Ethiopia, localized areas of central Kenya, and northeastern Tanzania. The rains, however, subsided earlier than normal and resulted in drier than normal conditions for crops and pasture in late May/early June in western Kenya, much of Uganda, northwestern and northern parts of Somali Region in Ethiopia, and most of Somalia.

Pastoral conditions have improved with the regeneration of pasture and browse and recharge of water points in most pastoral and agropastoral parts of the region following the overall average to above average March to May rains. Exceptions include the northern parts of Djibouti, such as around Weima in Tadjourah Region where water trucking is ongoing. Pasture and water availability is also scarce in some southern and northern parts of Somali Region, the eastern half of Amhara and Tigray Regions, and the northern parts of Afar Region in Ethiopia following below average March to May rains. In the Sool Plateau, Dharoor Valley Pastoral, East Golis

Figure 1. July 1-10, 2013 total rainfall total (RFE2 estimates), deviation in millimeters (mm) from 1983-2012 mean (ARC2)

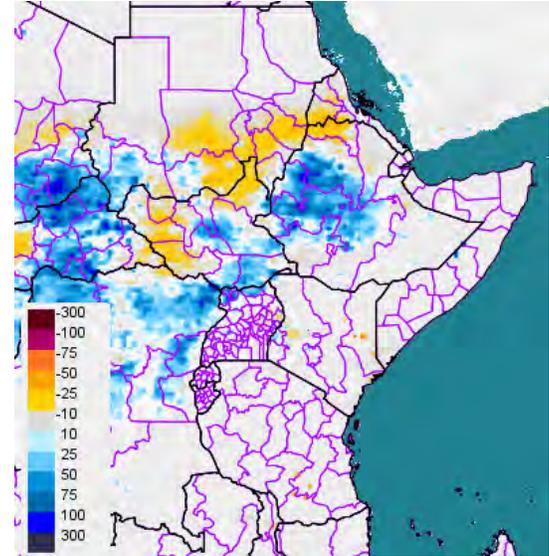
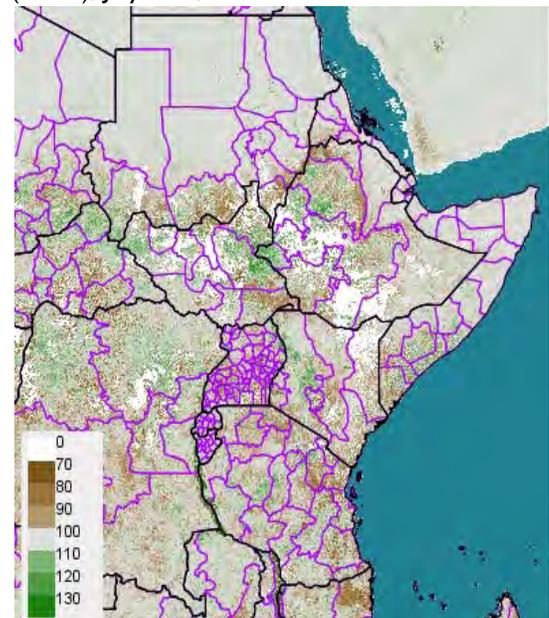


Figure 2. Percent of 2001 to 2012 average eMODIS Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI), July 1-10, 2013



Source: [U.S. Geological Survey \(USGS\)](http://www.usgs.gov/)/FEWS NET

Please see http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/african_desk/cpc_intl/ and <http://earlywarning.usgs.gov/?l=en> for more information on remote sensing.

Pastoral, and Coastal Deeh Pastoral livelihood zone in Bari Region in Somalia, considerably low total rainfall for the season compelled pastoralists and livestock to migrate to adjacent livelihood zones such as Addun and Hawd Pastoral livelihood zones of the Northeast and the Sool Plateau in Sanag Region. In Rwanda and Burundi, following the early cessation of the March to May rains, pasture and water availability are below average. Water scarcity is already reported in Bugesera Cassava livelihood zone in Rwanda.

Crop production was also affected in parts of the region due to erratic performance of the rains since the beginning of the season in the *Belg*-producing parts of East and West Hararghe and parts of Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' Region (SNNPR), which resulted in a likely delay in the harvest by about three to four weeks and a reduction in yields from usual. *Belg* crop production is well below average in Tigray, Amhara, and North Shewa Zone in Oromia Region. In the other parts of the region, the March to May rains were normal to above normal, but the rains ceased about two weeks early. In the southeastern and coastal marginal mixed farming areas in Kenya, early cessation of the rains affected crops, mainly maize as it was at the critical tasseling and kernel development stages. This is expected to lead to below average maize harvest due to reduced yields. Performance of some leguminous crops including cowpeas and pigeon peas, however, continues to be closer to average. In the the Karamoja region of Uganda, the dry spell in May and June severely compromised crop performance, and the harvest, which typically occurs between late September and end of December, is expected to be below average due to poor crop performance. The green harvest that is typically available for consumption at the end of July/beginning of August in Karamoja is likely to be delayed by about one month and start in late August/September this year. Performance of the crops through the remainder of the season will highly depend on the rainfall situation in July and August. Crop performance has also been affected in almost all livelihood zones in Rwanda due to the rains ceasing in May, about one month early. In addition, maize was attacked by a viral infection in Rutsiro, Nyabihu, and Rubavu. Land preparation and planting for Season 'C' have already started in Eastern Congo-Nile Highland Subsistence Farming livelihood zone in Rwanda and in a few marshland areas in Burundi.

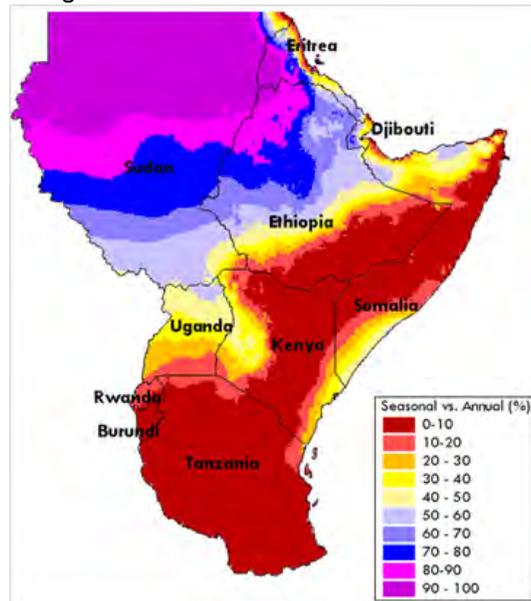
In the bimodal areas of **Tanzania**, the performance of the March to May rains was adequate in amount and distribution, resulting in a likely near average *Masika* harvest starting this month. The *Msiumu* harvest has begun in the unimodal areas, and near average production is expected though most of the country. However, reduced planted area in November and December and a dry spell in February, which reduced yields, will likely lead to well below average production in the central, Dodoma Region.

In the **northern sector** of the East Africa region including Sudan, South Sudan, most of Eritrea, and most of Ethiopia, the June to September rains are the main rainy season contributing between 30 and 100 percent of total annual rainfall (Figure 3). The season also contributes 20 to 50 percent of the total annual rains through most of Uganda and parts of western Kenya. The [June to September rains have thus far had below average totals](#) in the southwestern and eastern parts of Sudan, the northwestern parts of Ethiopia, bordering parts of Eritrea, southern parts of South Sudan, the northern half of Uganda, and the southern parts of western Kenya. However, there has been improvement in the overall performance of the rains in the past several weeks over the northern sector. Crop conditions are expected to respond and improve as the seasonal rains get better established and intensify.

In May and June, there are rains in **coastal areas** in the southern parts of Somalia and Kenya. The coastal rains were lighter than average in June, and they have already ceased for the season.

Despite the thus far below average performance of the rains, normal land preparation and planting of long-cycle *Meher* maize and sorghum is taking place in Ethiopia, but in eastern and western parts of Amhara and Tigray Regions, planted area is

Figure 3. Percentage contribution of June to September rains to annual totals of 1920–1980 average



Source: [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration \(NOAA\)/National Weather Service \(NWS\)/Climate Prediction Center \(CPC\)](#)

only about half compared of the five-year average so far.

Land preparation is ongoing in the surplus-producing parts of **Sudan**, and it is expected to continue until the end of July, which would be within the normal planting window. Below average total rainfall in June, however, meant that pasture did not regenerate well. Therefore, livestock that typically migrate back to wet season grazing areas from southern parts of Sudan to the north in June were not able to migrate back. Similarly, Messeiriya and Rezeghat cattle herders from South Kordofan and East Darfur States have delayed their seasonal return, which typically begins in June, from Northern Bahr el Ghazal in South Sudan to wet-season grazing areas in Sudan.

Although satellite estimates of the total June to September rains appear to have been below average so far in parts of **South Sudan**, reports from the field indicate that there has been sufficient soil moisture for sorghum planting in the western and eastern flood plains and the Western Agropastoral livelihood zone.

FORECAST

The **rainfall forecast** for the coming one to two weeks depict continued moderate to heavy rains across the northern and western sectors of region, especially for western Ethiopia (Figures 4 and 5).

The seasonal-scale forecast by the [European Center for Medium Range Weather Forecasts \(ECMWF\)](#) for the June to September rains, suggests slightly below average rains in western Kenya, Uganda, and parts of South Sudan and Southern Ethiopia from July to September. Much of the eastern sector is expected to remain seasonsally dry, as is normal during this period (Figure 3).

Figure 4. Global Forecast System (GFS) precipitation forecast in mm, July 20-26, 2013

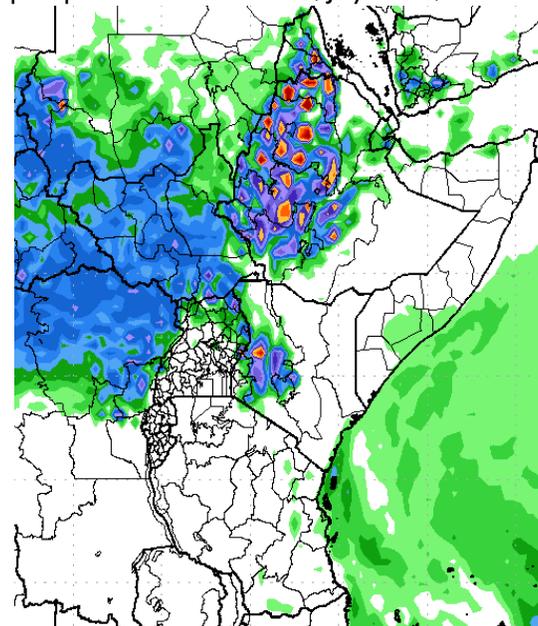
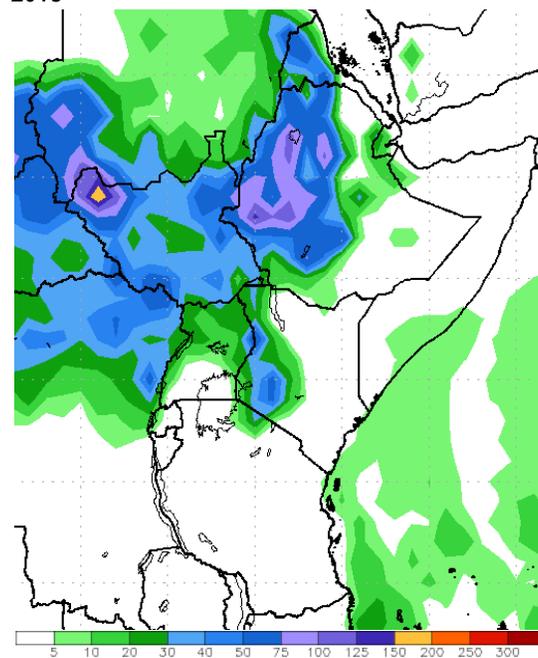


Figure 5. Global Forecast System (GFS) precipitation forecast in mm, July 27-August 2, 2013



Source: [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration \(NOAA\)/National Weather Service \(NWS\)/Climate Prediction Center \(CPC\)](#)