Climate Prediction Center’s Africa Hazards Outlook
April 16 – 22, 2020

- Flash flood has been reported over Haut-Lomami Province in Democratic Republic of Congo
- An increasing number of new swarms give rise to a high risk of food security over Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia

1) The widespread rainfall from the last decade of March has maintained the growing stage of new swarms and allow them to multiply substantially in Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda.

2) An uneven rainfall distribution for the past several months has led progressively from abnormal dryness to droughts over areas covering southern Mozambique, central Zimbabwe.

3) A delay onset of the rainfall season followed by an irregular rainfall distribution over far western Namibia and southwestern Angola has contributed to an abnormal dryness over the region which will not much evaluate since the rainy season is ending over the area.

4) Below average rainfall is expected for the coming outlook period which will not help recover from the abnormal dryness installed in southern Madagascar with more drastic outcome over its southern coastal areas.

5) A suppressed rainfall over the past two months has increased moisture deficit inducing an abnormal dryness over central Mozambique and more drastic over southern Malawi and northwestern Mozambique.

6) Moderate to heavy rainfall is expected over area already flooded which could aggravate the saturation water ground conditions during the coming outlook period.
An onset of rainy season over the Gulf of Guinea countries has been observed.

During the past week, a visible northward movement of the ITCZ has been observed over the northern part of Cote d'Ivoire, Togo, Ghana and Benin (Figure 1). Light to moderate rainfall has been registered over the western part of Ethiopia, western South Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo and surrounding countries boundaries.

During the past 30 day, a weak deficit of rainfall has been observed over the northern part of Ethiopia with could sign of a delay onset of rainy season (Figure 2).

The vegetation NDVI has showed an unfavorable vegetation conditions over the northern part of Ethiopia and southern eastern part of Ethiopia while its western part is showing a growing conditions which could be explained by the regular amount received over that area for the past two weeks.

During the coming outlook period, light rainfall is expected over the Gulf of Guinea countries which will be consider as a below-normal rainfall including over Central Africa. Light to moderate rainfall is expected over the countries in the central part of Africa. Moderate rainfall is expected over Ethiopia, northern Somalia, Uganda and Kenya.

Unexpected increase of rain over eastern part of South Africa.

This past 7 days, a very localized rainfall pattern has been registered over the central Mozambique, eastern Zimbabwe, central-western Botswana, northern Namibia and central South Africa covering Lesotho. Tanzania has received a good distribution of moderate rainfall overall the country.

The lack of rainfall during its rainy season in the southern part of Africa has been very hard on the agriculture occasioning loss of crops and dryness even ending to drought in southern Malawi, central Zimbabwe and southern Mozambique. Despite the late start of the rainy season flowed by regular rainfall amount, the season ended below-normal rainfall which led to an abnormal dryness over the coastal area of far west Namibia and southwestern Angola.

During the coming outlook period, moderate rainfall is expected over the coastal area of Tanzania which could aggravate the actual saturation ground water condition including the southeastern area in Democratic Republic of Congo. Moderate rainfall is expected over the eastern part of South Africa including Lesotho and EsSwatini. A seasonal rainfall is expected over Mozambique, Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe which could not unfortunately help alleviate the abnormal dryness installed in the region due to the ending rainy season over the areas.

Note: The hazards outlook map on page 1 is based on current weather/climate information and short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week). It assesses 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.

Questions or comments about this product may be directed to Wassila.Thiaw@noaa.gov or 1-301-683-3424.