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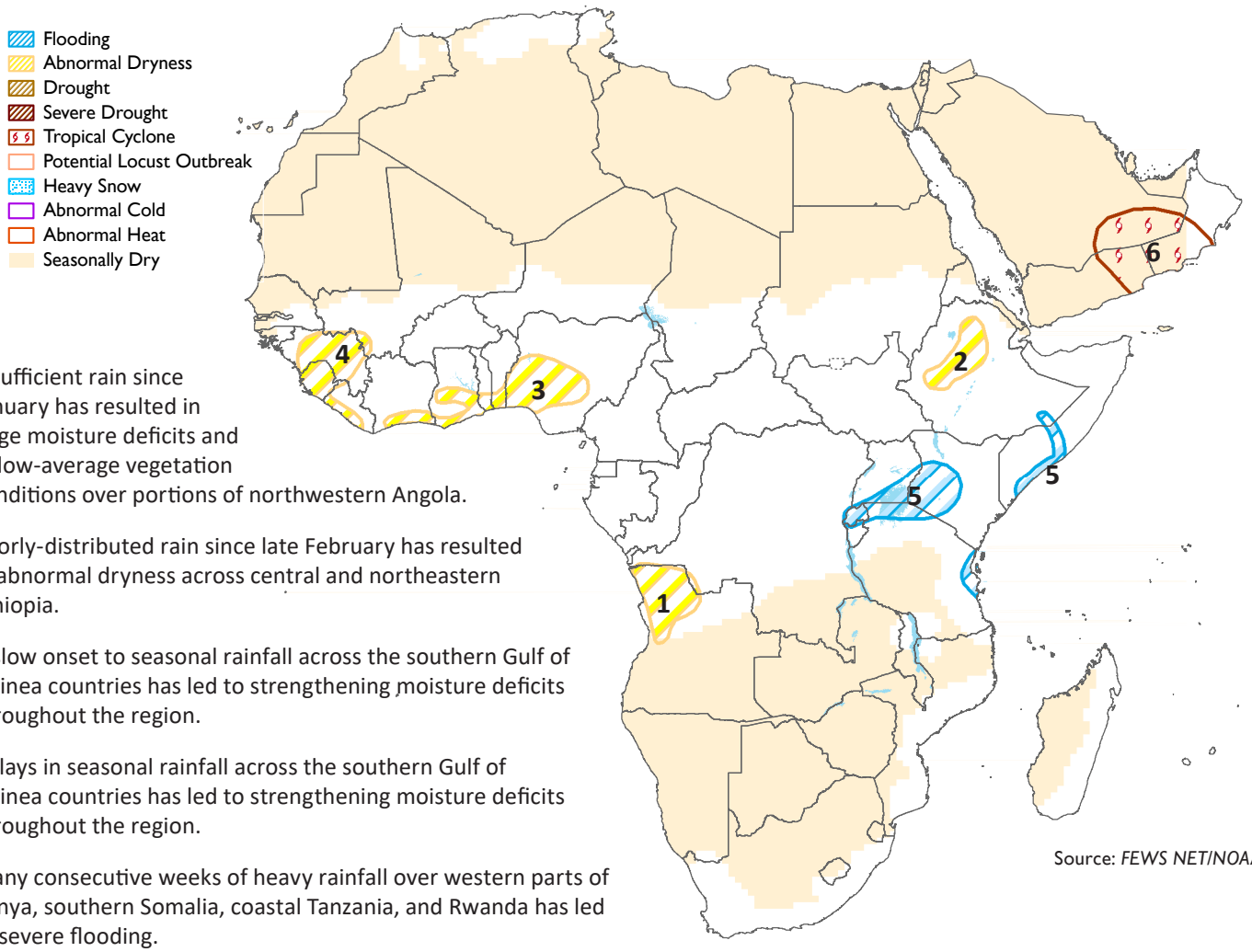
NOAA
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

# Global Weather Hazards Summary

**May 25 - 31, 2018**

*Tropical Cyclone Mekunu is expected to hit Yemen and Oman next week*

## Africa Weather Hazards




Source: *FEWS NET/NOAA*

1. Insufficient rain since January has resulted in large moisture deficits and below-average vegetation conditions over portions of northwestern Angola.
2. Poorly-distributed rain since late February has resulted in abnormal dryness across central and northeastern Ethiopia.
3. A slow onset to seasonal rainfall across the southern Gulf of Guinea countries has led to strengthening moisture deficits throughout the region.
4. Delays in seasonal rainfall across the southern Gulf of Guinea countries has led to strengthening moisture deficits throughout the region.
5. Many consecutive weeks of heavy rainfall over western parts of Kenya, southern Somalia, coastal Tanzania, and Rwanda has led to severe flooding.
6. Tropical Cyclone Mekunu is expected to strengthen and track north through the Arabian Sea and impact Yemen and Oman, bringing winds and heavy rainfall.

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## Africa Overview

**Tropical cyclone Sagar lands in East Africa**

Tropical Cyclone Sagar took a rare path through the Gulf of Aden and made landfall in northwestern Somaliland. The storm brought heavy rains along coastal Yemen, northern Somalia, Djibouti and parts of Ethiopia. Western Kenya, South Sudan, neighboring parts of Ethiopia, and Uganda also received above-average rain. Rainfall totals exceeded 100 mm and locally 200 mm in these regions during the past week **(Figure 1).** Northern Ethiopia received little rain this week and observed 7-day deficits of up to 25 mm. Seasonal dryness is setting in across eastern Kenya. Flooding continues to be a concern.

However, western and northern provinces of Ethiopia exhibit seasonal rainfall deficits, despite recent heavy rains. Thirty-day moisture deficits in several areas are between 25 - 50 mm **(Figure 2)** and less than 50% of normal. Concurrently, vegetation health has degraded. In Yemen, the season so far is slightly drier than normal in the east and wetter to the west. However, vegetation conditions are average.

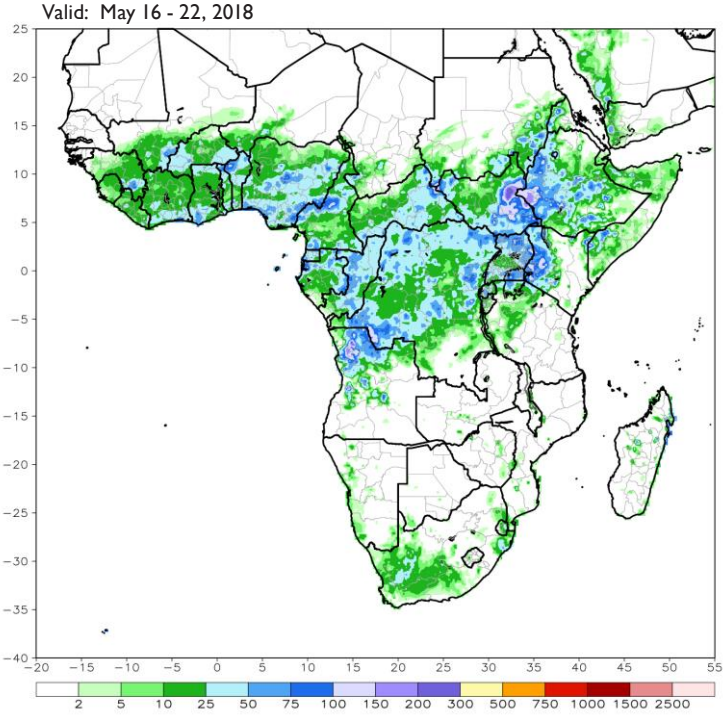
Next week, heavy rainfall is expected to continue over western Kenya, Rwanda, Burundi, South Sudan, and Western Ethiopia. Another tropical cyclone, Mekunu, is strengthening east of the horn. It is expected to track northward towards the Arabian Peninsula and make landfall somewhere near the Oman-Yemen border, where it is likely to bring heavy rains and winds up to 75kts.

**Rainfall was below-average in West Africa last week**

Rainfall was mainly light across the region last week. Heavy rainfall totals approaching 100 mm were only observed in parts of southeastern Nigeria and northern Benin. The rest of the region received around 25 mm or less during the period. Moisture deficits are growing rapidly and negative anomalies are greater than 50 mm during the 30-day period **(Figure 2).** A poor and delayed start to rains is also now observed in Burkina Faso and southern Mali. Some improvement to seasonal deficits has been observed in southern Nigeria, but many other areas along the Gulf of Guinea remain abnormally dry.

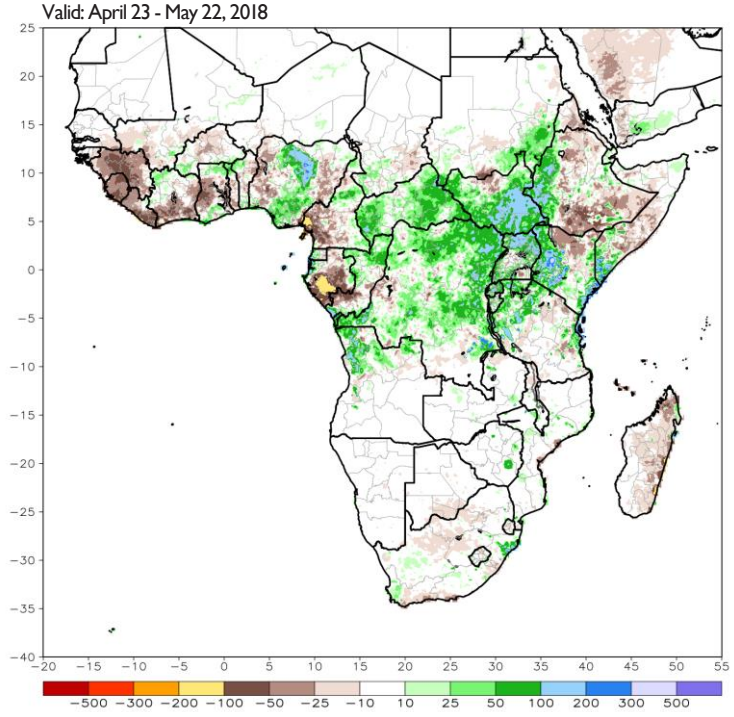
During the next week, the forecast calls for rain in the east and no rain in the west. Between the areas of enhanced and suppressed rains, seasonable rainfall totals of between 25-50 mm are expected.

**Figure 1:** RFE2 Satellite Estimated Rainfall (mm)
Valid: May 16 - 22, 2018



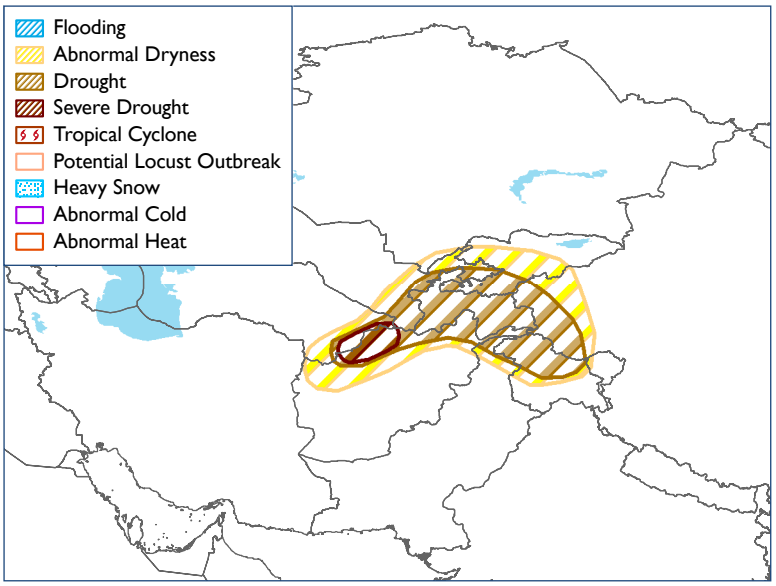

*Source: NOAA/CPC*

**Figure 2:** ARC 30-day Total Rainfall Anomaly
Valid: April 23 - May 22, 2018




*Source: NOAA/CPC*

## Central Asia Weather Hazards




Source: *FEWS NET/NOAA*

*Temperatures*

Below-normal temperatures prevailed across most of the region from May 13- 19 with the largest negative anomalies of -6°C observed across northern Kazakhstan. Minimum temperatures fell below freezing across the northern third of Kazakhstan and the higher elevations of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. Maximum temperatures will average above-normal throughout much of the region during the final week of May. Maximum temperatures are expected to exceed 40°C in the hottest locations of southwest Afghanistan and southern Turkmenistan.

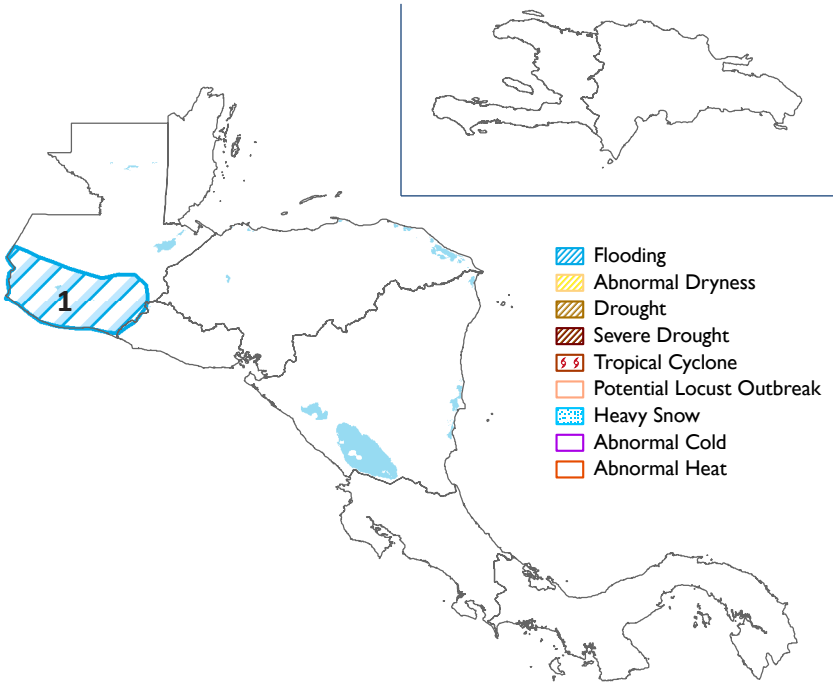
*Precipitation*

Locally heavy rain (more than 50 mm) triggered flash flooding in Balkh and Takhar province of northern Afghanistan during mid-May. The abnormal dryness and drought hazards are posted for parts of Afghanistan and adjacent countries based on large six-month precipitation deficits, low snow water content, and expected negative impacts to agriculture. Based on NDVI percent of median anomalies for irrigated and rainfed areas as of May 10, severe drought is posted for parts of northwest Afghanistan.

Additional precipitation (locally more than 25 mm) is predicted across the higher elevations of northern Afghanistan during the next week. Any locally heavy rainfall coupled with snow melt could cause flash flooding. Widespread rain (10 to 50 mm) is forecast across northern Kazakhstan.

## Central America and the Caribbean Weather Hazards

1. Heavy downpours are forecast over southern and central Guatemala, which could cause flooding and landslides.




Source: *FEWS NET/NOAA*

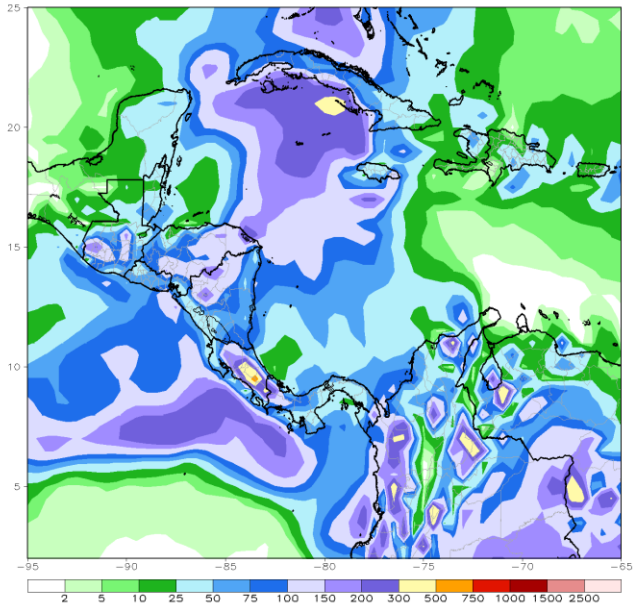
## Central America and the Caribbean Overview

**The risks for flooding and landslides continue**

During the past week, heavy downpours fell over southern Guatemala, the Gulf of Fonseca region, western Nicaragua, and the southern Caribbean. In Guatemala, flooding and landslides were reported over many areas, including the Chiquimula, El Progreso, Guatemala, Petén, Quetzaltenango, Escuintla, Sacatepéquez, Sololá, San Marcos, and Suchitepéquez. Meanwhile, light to moderate rain was widespread across the inland of Central America. An analysis of rainfall anomalies over the past thirty days, however, indicated that portions of Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica received below-average rainfall, with deficits between 25-100 mm.

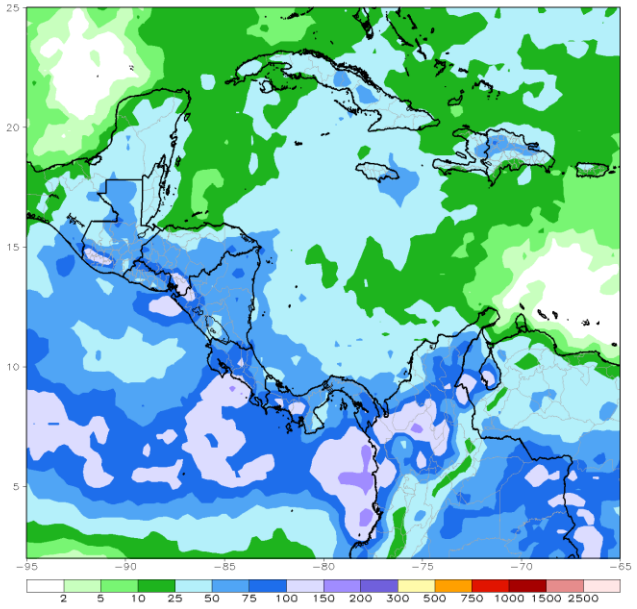
During the next week, above-average rain is forecast across Central America. While this should help to erode moisture deficits over portions of Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica, the consistent, abundant rain could trigger new flooding and landslides.

**Figure 4:** GEFS mean total rainfall forecast (mm)
Valid: May 23 - 30, 2018




*Source: NOAA/CPC*

**Figure 5:** CMORPH rainfall climatology (mm)
Valid: May 23 - 29, 2018




*Source: NOAA/CPC*

**Below-average rain forecast during the next week**

From May 15-21, suppressed rain was recorded over much of Hispaniola. Light rain was received over portions of northwestern Haiti and south-central Dominican Republic. The return of favorable rainfall is needed to offset moisture deficits and provide adequate soil moisture for cropping activities over the dry portions of the Island.

During the next week, reduced and likely to be below-average rain is forecast over Hispaniola. Moderate rain is expected over central and northern Haiti, central and southern Dominican Republic, while little to light rain is forecast elsewhere.

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.