Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

Drought in Eastern Africa, current situation and livelihoods implications

A discussion with the 'Economic Inclusion Exchange Working Group'

Sub-Regional Office for Eastern Africa

The New Normal

2018

Poor rains 5 out of 6 below average rainfall seasons since 2016

Conflict Somalia, South Sudan

2019

Cyclone Somalia

Floods Somalia, Kenya

Conflict Somalia, South Sudan

2020

Covid-19 Global

Desert Locust Regional

Conflict Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan

floods Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan

Cyclone Somalia

2021

Covid-19 Global

Desert Locust Regional

Conflict Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan

floods South Sudan

Drought Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia

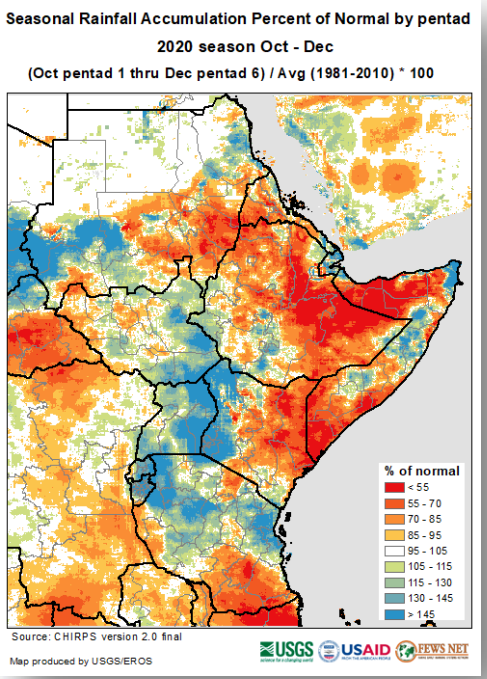
Price increase Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia

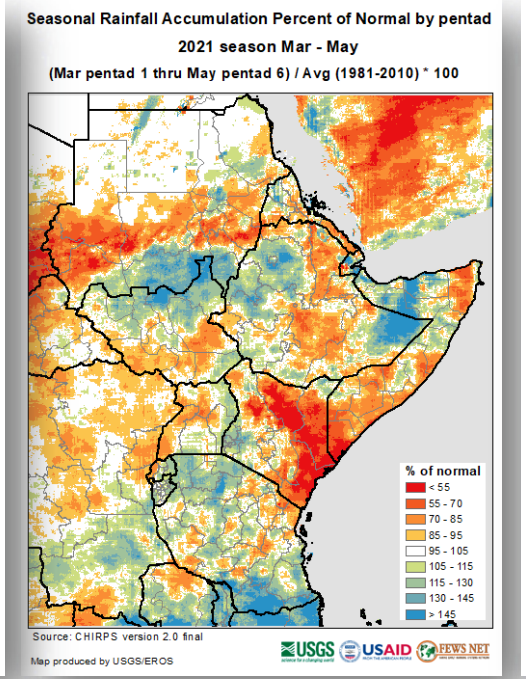
2022

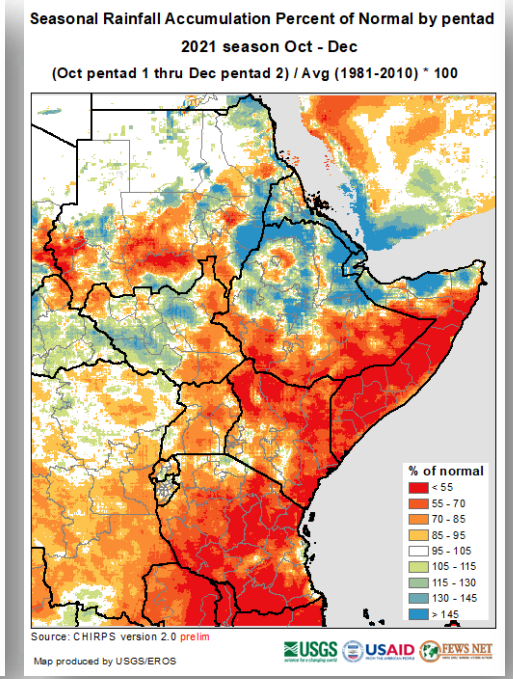
?

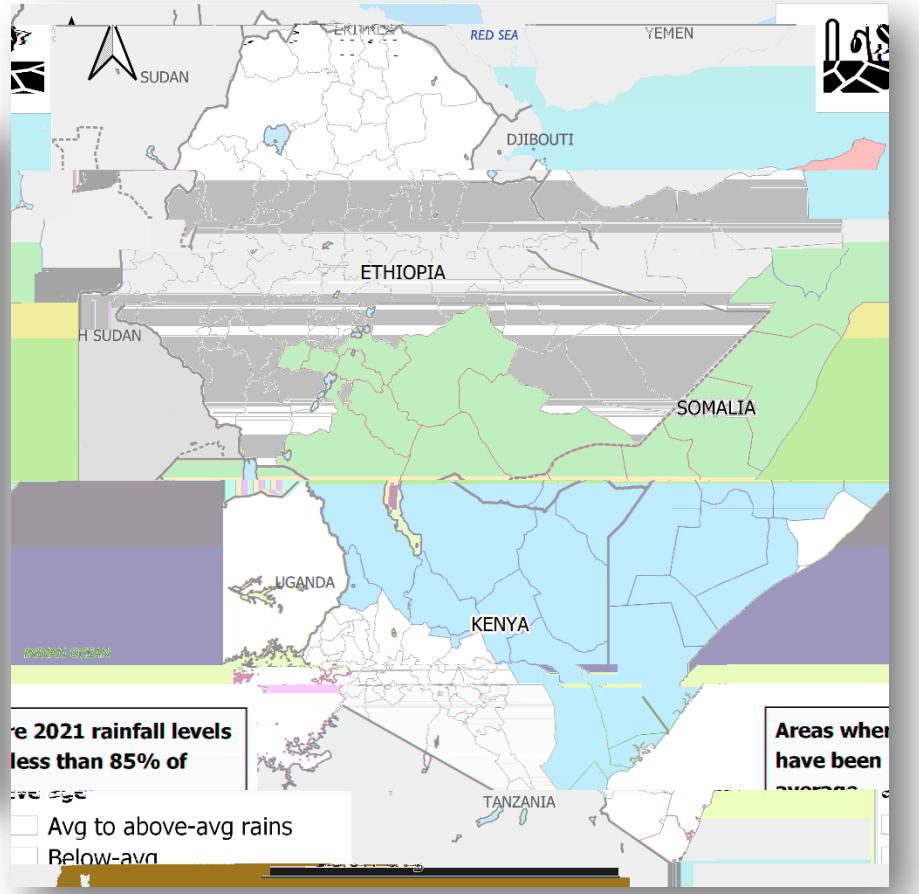
The unfolding drought (2020-2021)

From below average rainfall to drought





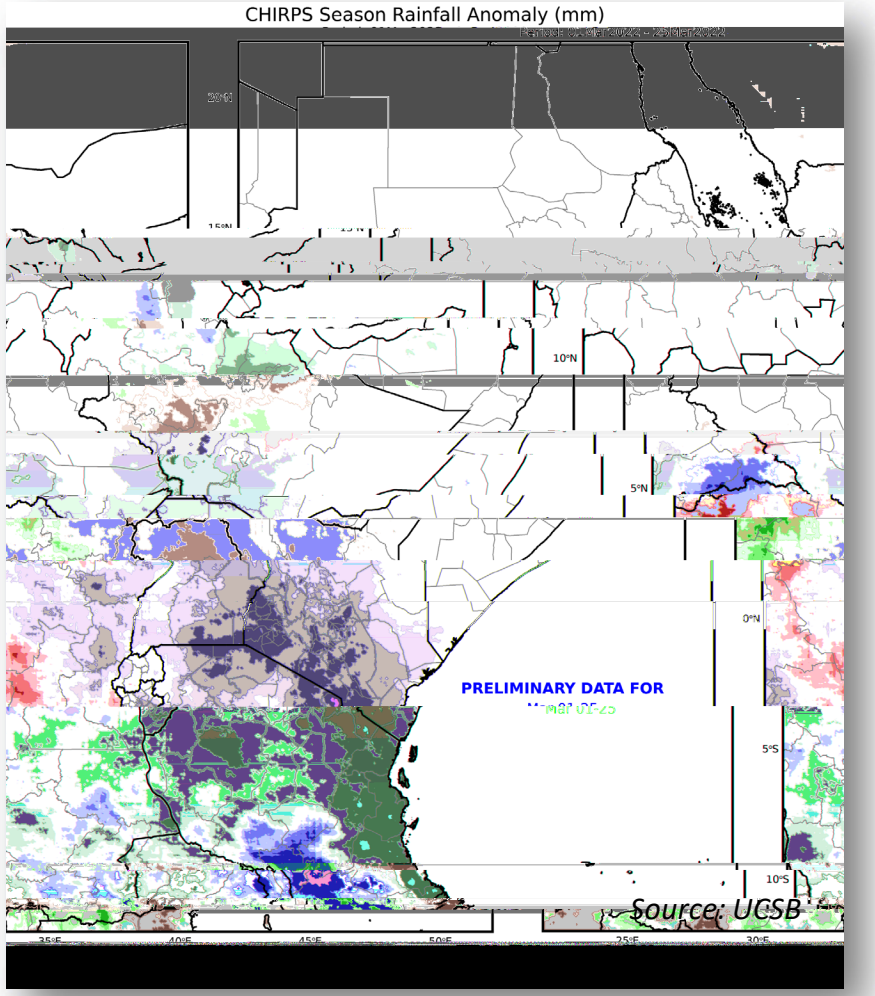




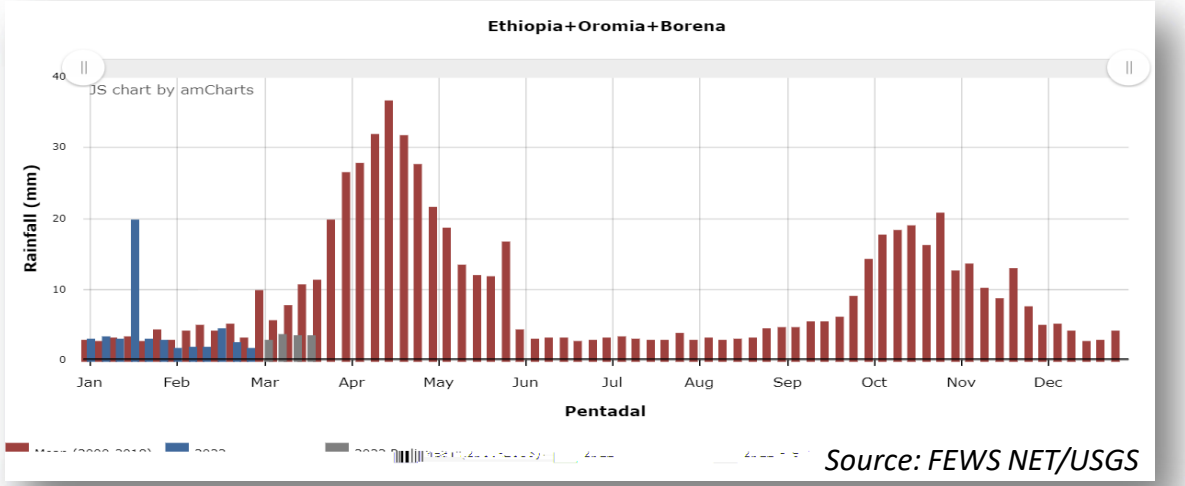
Source of data: USGS/FEWS NET; Source of graphic: FAO

The unfolding drought (2022)

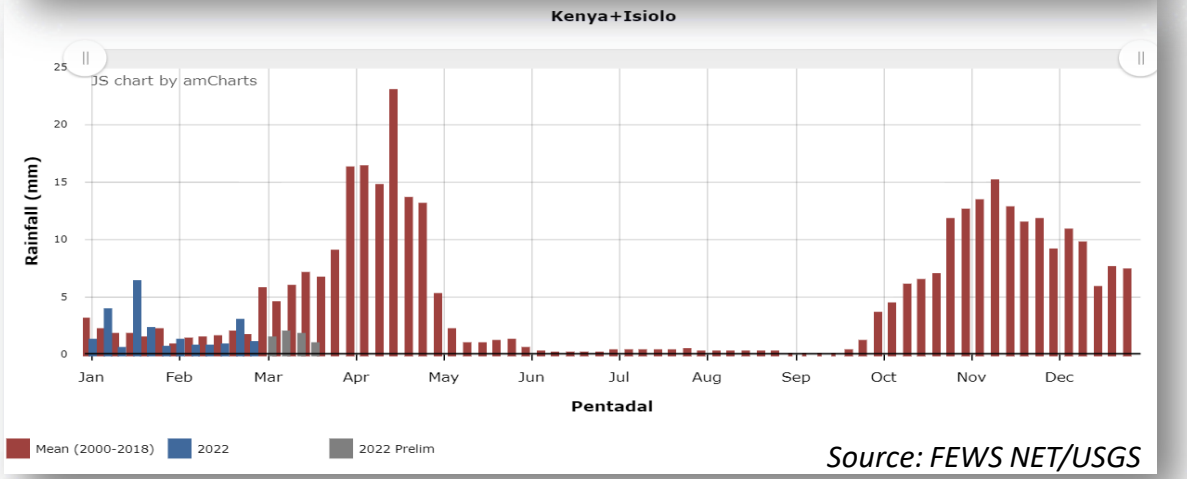
Rainfall anomalies (mm):1 to 25 March 2022



Source: UCSB



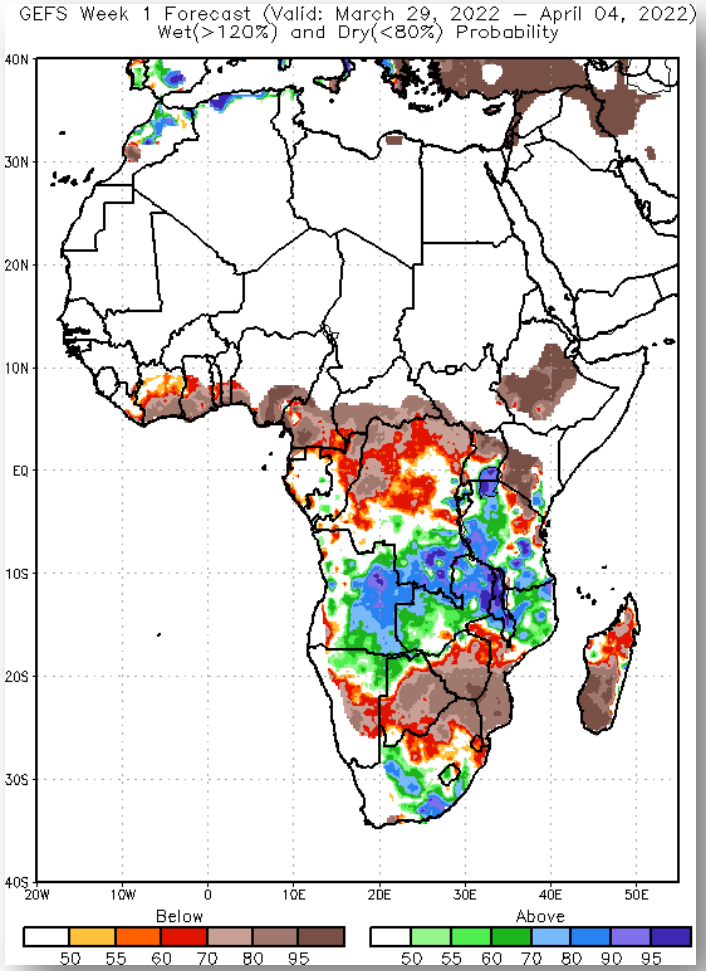
Source: FEWS NET/USGS

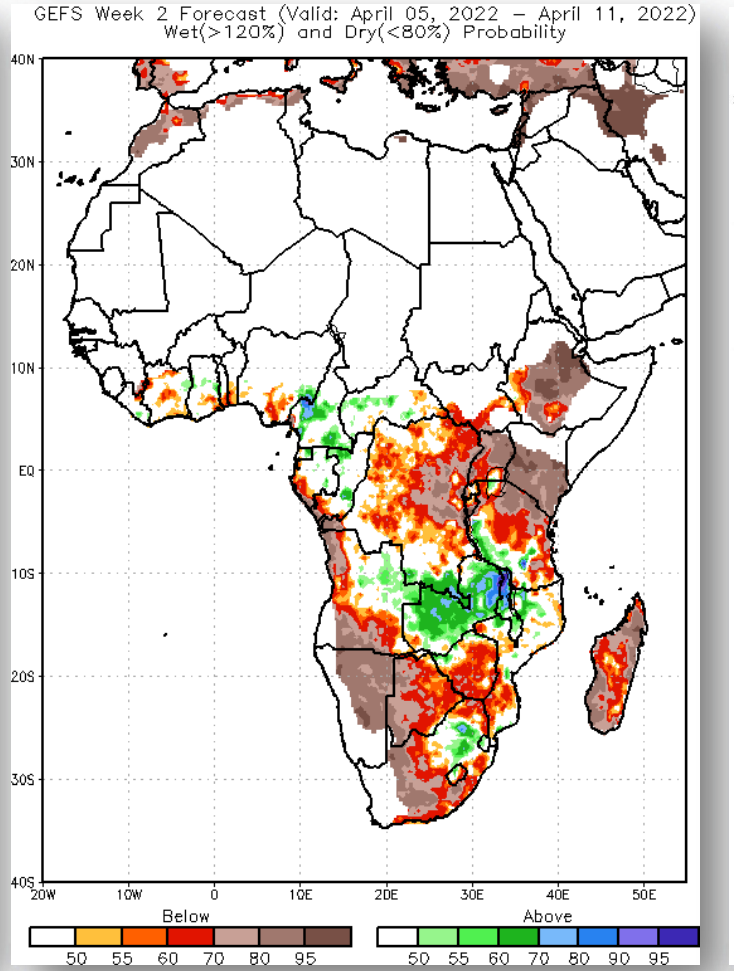


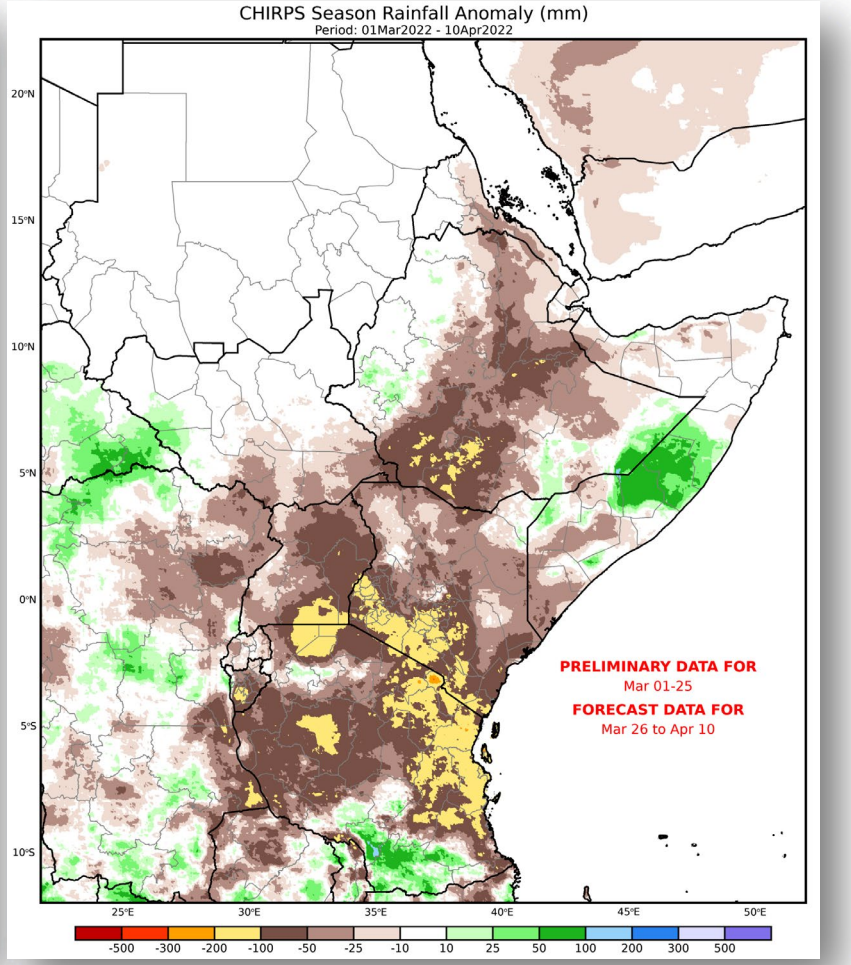
Source: FEWS NET/USGS

The unfolding drought (2022)

Short-term forecast suggests below average

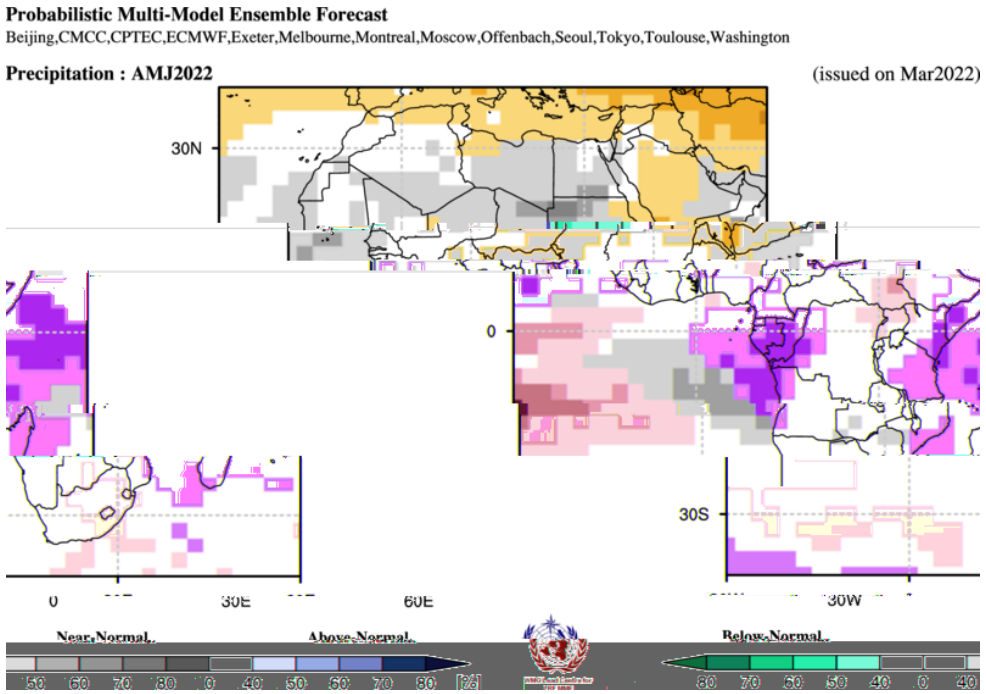


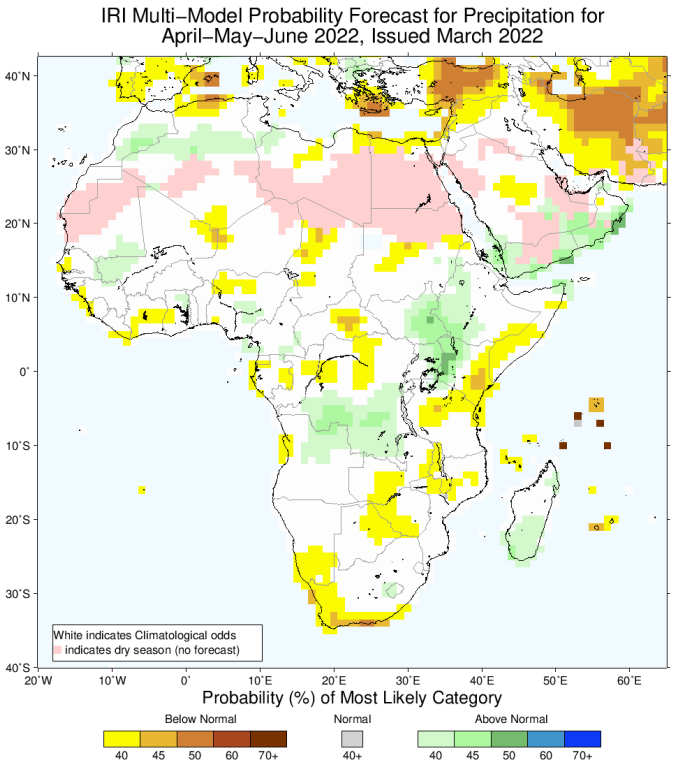


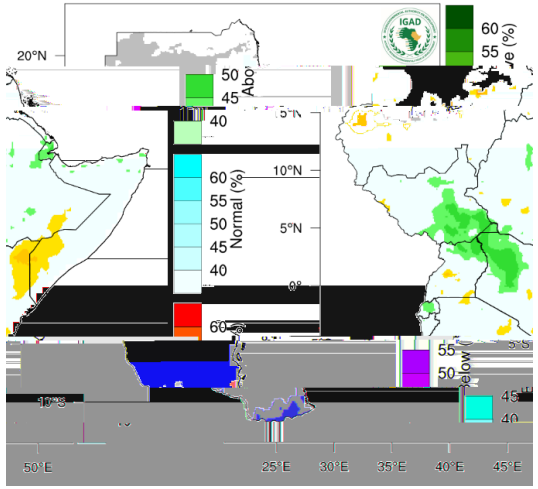


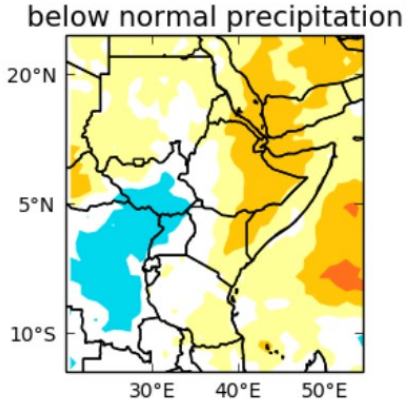
The unfolding drought (2022)

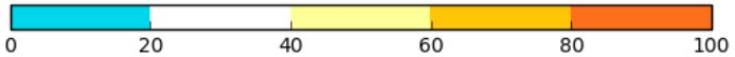
Long-rains seasonal forecast





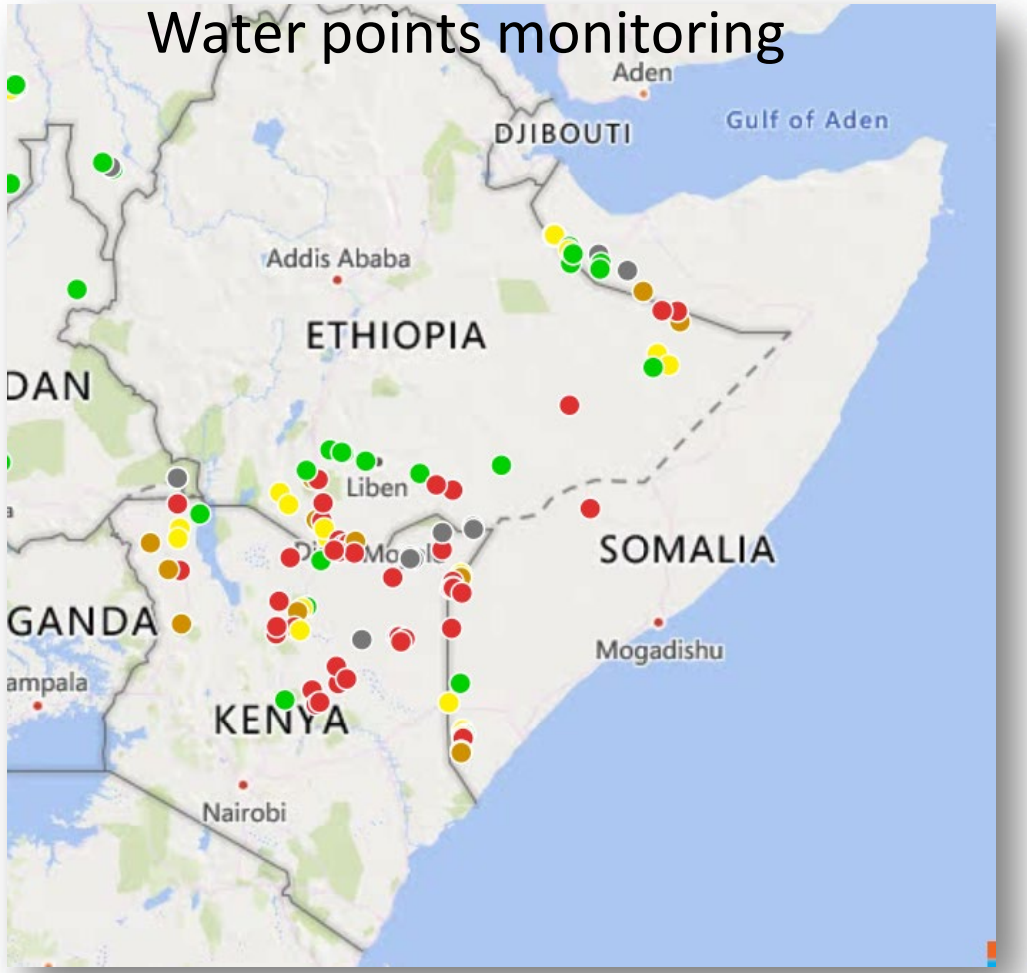


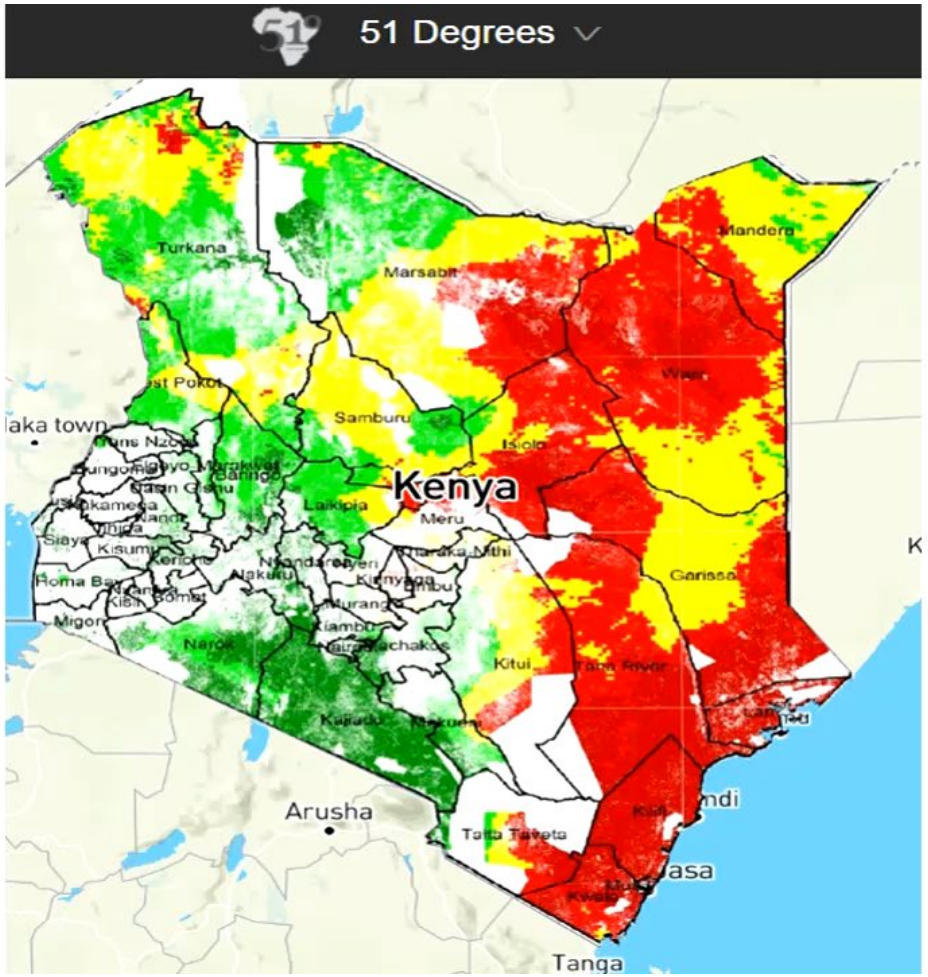




The unfolding drought (2022)

Implication on pastoral communities





Economic impact of drought

"A 1% increase in the area affected by drought can slow a country's gross domestic product (GDP) growth by 2.7% per year"

EU, Science for environment policy

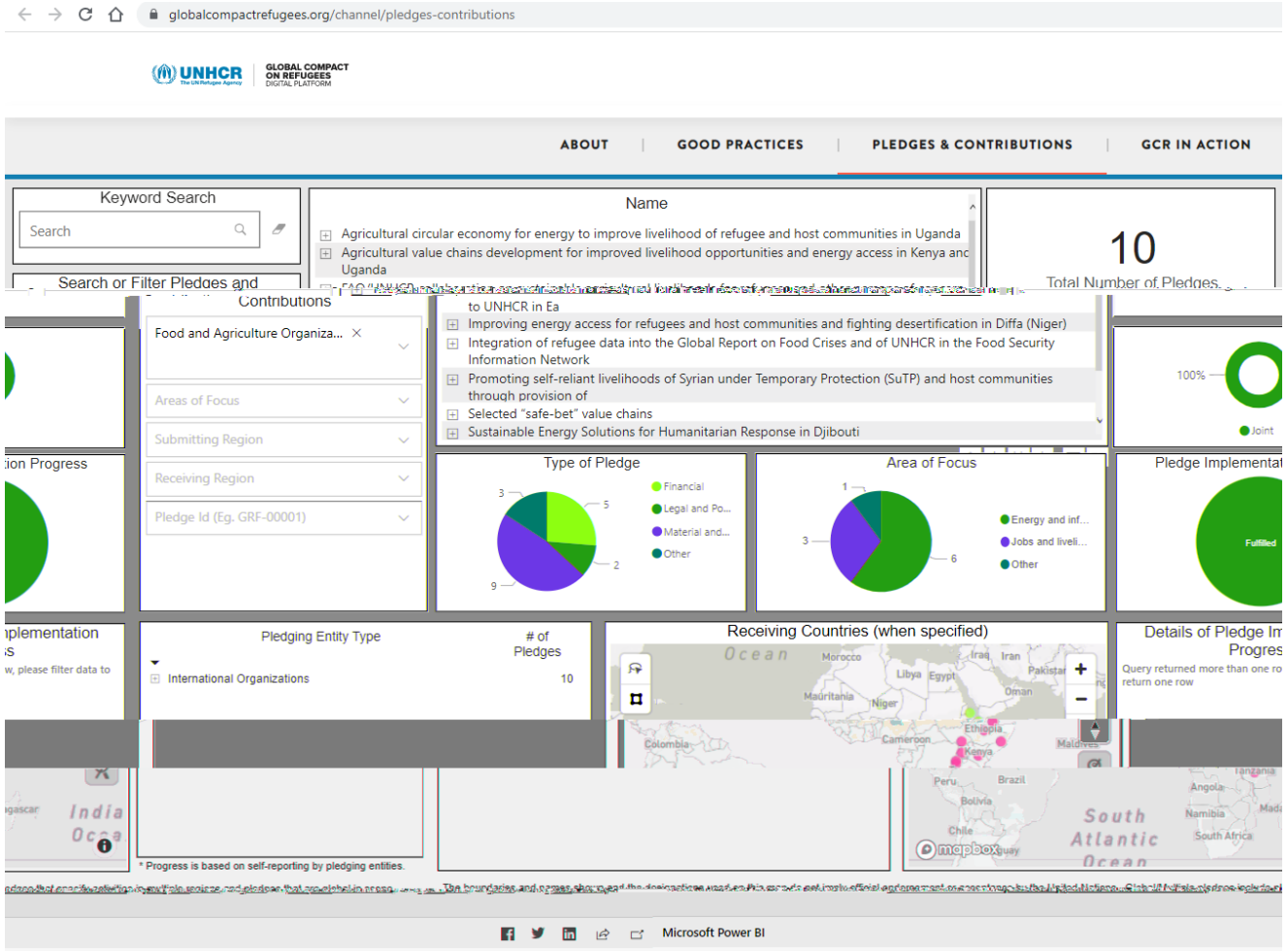
Over 34 percent of crop and livestock production loss in LDCs and LMICs is traced to drought, costing the sector $37 billion overall. Drought impacts agriculture almost exclusively. The sector sustains 82 percent of all drought impact, compared to 18 percent in all other sectors.

FAO, The impact of disasters and crises on agriculture and food security: 2021

Driven out by drought

Addressing displacement, durable solutions

- ✓ Global Refugee Forum pledges
- ✓ Global FAO-UNHCR MoU



Thank you

Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS