Highlights

- The first 10 days of December were marked by relatively normal rainfall with below normal tendency in southern parts. In the following 10 days, above normal rainfall was experienced in most areas except part of East (Figure 2).

- Most staple prices are higher than long term, previous year and last month averages in a significant number of markets.

- Typical lean season expected to be reversed following seasonal harvests.
Rainfall in the first 20 days of December ranged between slightly below normal and moderately above normal: Most areas experienced normal rainfall in the first 10 days of November, except southern parts which recorded a deficit of 10-25 mm. However, the following 10 days were generally wetter than normal, with a surplus ranging from 25 to 50 mm; and localized pockets in the North experienced around 70 mm above average. Enhanced moisture conditions are in line with forecast reports, indicating above-normal rainfall, which will likely peak in the last quarter of the year and last until early 2016, as a result of El Niño.

Most staples were generally more expensive than normal in November: Referring to calculations based on e-soko/MINAGRI data, staple prices exhibited a rising tendency in most markets. They were generally higher than long term, last year and previous month averages. This poses limited access to the most vulnerable as their purchasing power deteriorates. Prices are expected to continue rising steadily till harvest time from end of December to January.

Typical lean season expected to be reversed due to seasonal harvests: December to January marks harvest time for most farmers; and households stocks are expected to be seasonably replenished. This will result in less reliance to markets, and overall household food security will consequently improve.
Figure 2: Rainfall anomalies. This depicts the deviation of current rainfall from the long-term mean. In other words, current rainfall minus the long-term average might result in positive (above average) or negative (below average) figures.

Source: USGS/Early Warning Explorer