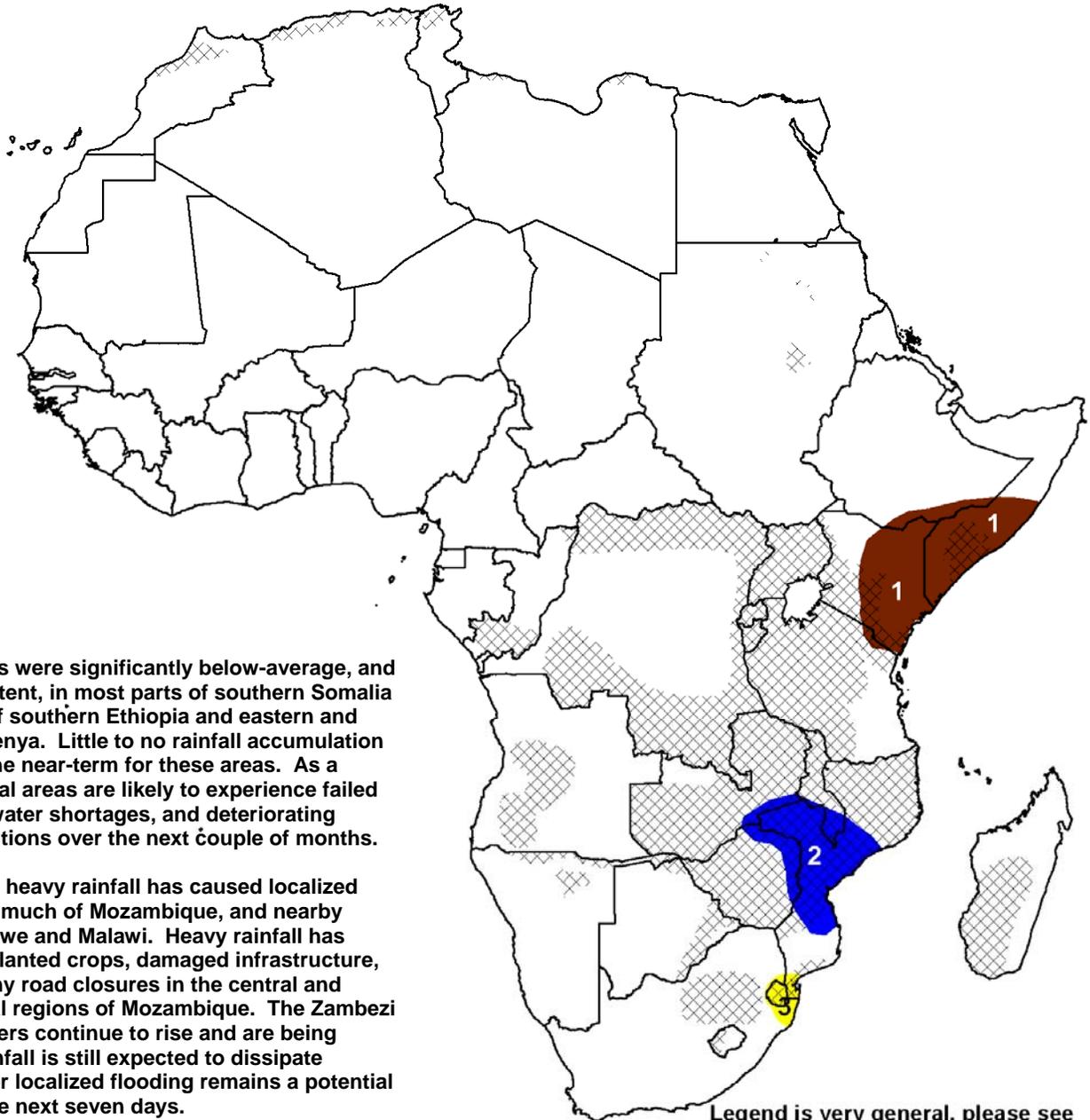


- Since late December, anomalously wet rainfall in Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi has resulted in flooding across many portions of along the Pungue, Buzi and Zambezi River Basins. If conditions persist, rising river levels, damages to infrastructure, and washed away crops may be expected for many local areas.
- Pasture and crop conditions have deteriorated across southern Somalia, southern Ethiopia, and eastern Kenya following a poor end of the October-December rainy season. No relief may be expected in these regions until the return of the 'Belg' rains in March.



1) The *Deyr* rains were significantly below-average, and almost non-existent, in most parts of southern Somalia and into parts of southern Ethiopia and eastern and southeastern Kenya. Little to no rainfall accumulation is expected in the near-term for these areas. As a result, many local areas are likely to experience failed crop harvests, water shortages, and deteriorating rangeland conditions over the next couple of months.

2) One month of heavy rainfall has caused localized flooding across much of Mozambique, and nearby areas of Zimbabwe and Malawi. Heavy rainfall has impeded early planted crops, damaged infrastructure, and caused many road closures in the central and southern coastal regions of Mozambique. The Zambezi and Pungue Rivers continue to rise and are being monitored. Rainfall is still expected to dissipate slightly, however localized flooding remains a potential problem over the next seven days.

3) The area around Maputo and Swaziland continues to experience below-average rainfall totals. While rainfall has been sufficient recently, additional rainfall is required to offset seasonal deficits. This short-term dryness is also extended further west into parts of the Maize Triangle.

Legend is very general, please see numbered descriptions for details.



Vigorous rainfall continues in parts of Mozambique and Zimbabwe

During the last observation period, many areas in Mozambique continue to experience consistently heavy and widespread rainfall. In the lower Zambezi River basin, many local areas in the Sofala, Manica, Tete, and Zambezia provinces saw precipitation totals ranging between 50 to 75 mm, with much lesser totals observed in the Inhambane and Gaza provinces. This departure of rainfall over the last seven days is expected to provide a much needed break for areas near the Save, Changane, and Limpopo rivers. These areas in southern Mozambique have been recently affected by the majority of heavy rains, receiving more than 200 percent of the seasonal rainfall accumulation in the last 3-4 weeks. In parts of Malawi, northern Mozambique, and eastern and southern Zambia, rainfall also continues to remain abnormally heavy. Towards the west, locally heavy precipitation in excess of 125 mm was observed in the higher elevations of Zimbabwe, and along the western Zimbabwe and Botswana border in the last seven days (Figure 1).

Due to the rainfall distribution and recent increase in water discharge from the Cahora Bassa Dam, the most at-risk areas for further flooding are located downstream in the Zambezi River basin near Caia, Tete, and Villa de Sena. At present, these areas currently under flood watch (Figure 2); however, reports indicate residents have remained in resettlement camps set up following last year's floods. Near the Mozambique / Zimbabwe border, flooding along the Pungue River basin has led to the displacement of hundreds of people, fatalities, and destroyed roadways.

Precipitation forecasts indicate another week of moderate to heavy rains expected for parts of southern Malawi, Zimbabwe, and central Mozambique. While a break in rainfall may be expected across the Inhambane and Gaza provinces of Mozambique, heavy rains and increased moisture forecast in the Manica region (> 100 mm) have the potential to exacerbate floods, wash away recently planted seeds, and threaten crop development.

Marginal dryness in some parts of the Maize Triangle and central Botswana.

Despite heavy rains to the north, some local areas around Maputo, Swaziland, and parts of the Maize Triangle have experienced an uneven distribution of rainfall since December. As a result, latest satellite crop analyses show some deterioration and lack of soil moisture in parts of the Maize Triangle and for some cropped regions near central Botswana (Figure 3). In the next week, precipitation forecasts suggest the possibility of increased rains along the Mozambique and South Africa border. This rainfall is expected to relieve residual dryness and benefit crops for areas that have experienced slightly below-average rainfall over the Maize Triangle in the last couple of weeks.

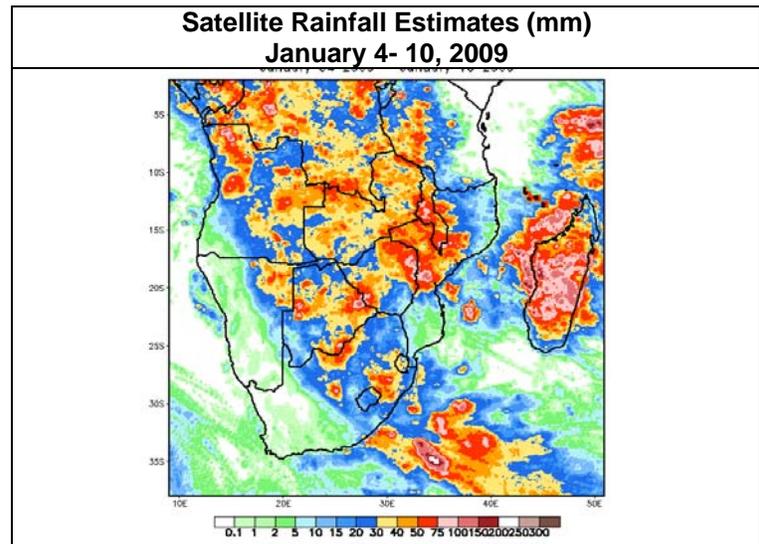


Figure 1:
Source: FEWS-NET / NOAA

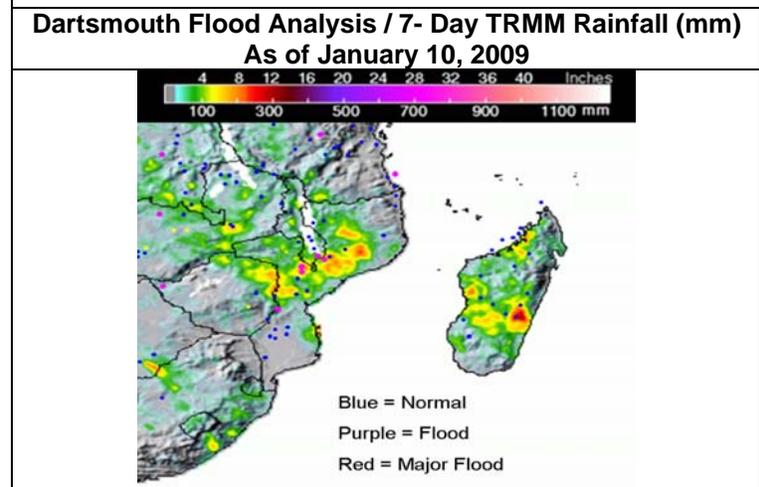


Figure 2:
Source: Dartmouth Flood Observatory/TRMM

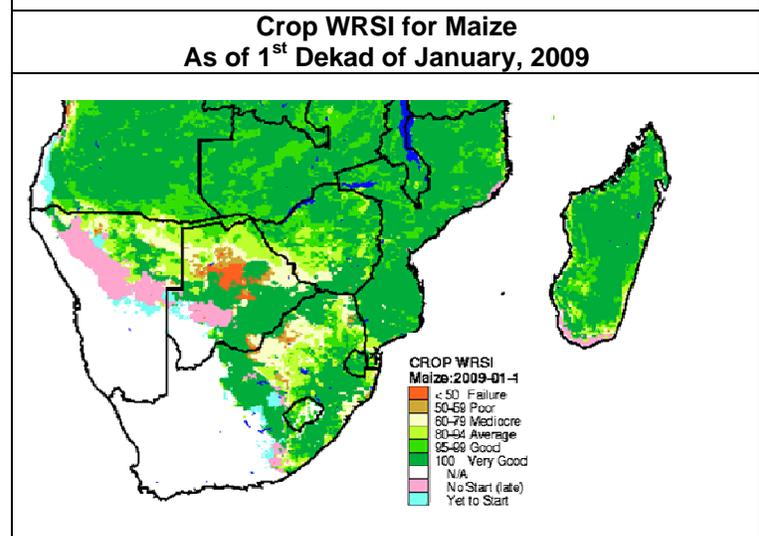


Figure 3:
Source: FEWS-NET / USGS