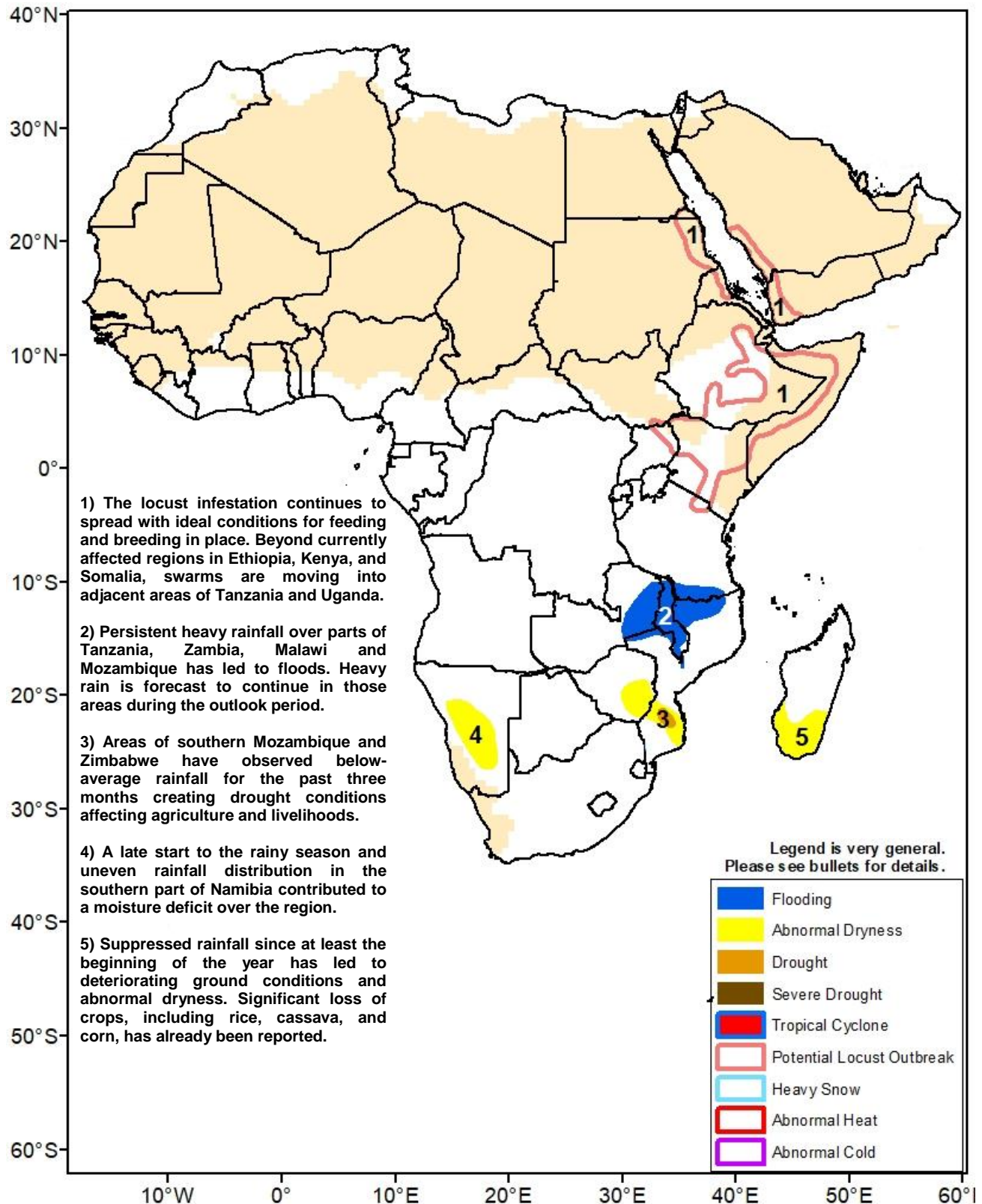




## Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook February 20 – February 26, 2020

- East Africa cropping activities are seriously threatened by the worst locust outbreak in decades.
- The flood risk remains high after weeks of persistent heavy rains over East-central Africa.



## Heavy rains returned to many parts of Tanzania this week.

This past week, rainfall was again light and scattered over Kenya, as well as northern Uganda. However, heavy rains returned to the southern two thirds of Tanzania. Satellite estimates indicate that at least 50mm, and locally more than 100mm, of rain fell during the last 7 days (Figure 1). Light or moderate rains were present over Southern Uganda, eastern DRC, Rwanda and Burundi. Early season showers were also scattered throughout western Ethiopia. More than 25mm were recorded locally.

The past few months brought copious rainfall all across the East Africa region. Flooding has been widespread over many weeks as a result. Recently, thousands in Kilimanjaro Tanzania have been evacuated over fears of the collapsing of the Nyumba Ya Mungu Dam. Over the last 30 days, rainfall surpluses of 100mm or more are extensive across Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania. Analysis of 90-day rainfall percentile reveals that most of Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda have experienced one of their top 10%, or even 3%, wettest periods in our record. Outside of flooding concerns, the rainy pattern over recent months has led to excellent vegetation health throughout East Africa as evidenced by VHI. Additionally, urgent mitigation measures are ongoing to stop the rapid spread of locusts throughout the region. Wet conditions and ample vegetation are helping to drive reproduction of locust populations that are expected to impact the March-May crop season.

During the outlook period, the heaviest rains (> 50mm) will likely be displaced farther south in Tanzania according to the GEFS model. While less rain is expected over Uganda, light or moderate rain is still forecasted in the country and in southern Kenya. Light rains should persist across western Ethiopia this week.

## Rains returned to Madagascar while eastern South Africa & nearby portions of Zimbabwe and Botswana dried out.

Much of the region received beneficial rain last week, with the exception of eastern South Africa and neighboring portions of Zimbabwe and Botswana. The heaviest rainfall was observed in western Mozambique, Malawi, and eastern Zambia, where over 100mm fell according to satellite estimates (Figure 1). Heavy rains (> 100-150mm) returned to the northern two thirds of Madagascar. Elsewhere, moderate rainfall, generally between 25mm and 50mm, was observed in Angola, Namibia, and western Botswana. Little or no rain occurred in southern Botswana eastern South Africa, southern Mozambique, and Eswatini.

Several areas have seen multiple weeks of poor rainfall accumulate into significant rainfall deficits. Analysis of 30-day anomalies shows deficits of more than 100mm across Madagascar and local parts of northern Namibia (Figure 2). Other areas exhibiting rainfall deficits include southeast and northwest Angola, Botswana, northern Mozambique, and eastern South Africa. Recent rainfall has diminished short-term moisture deficits in southern Mozambique, but conditions on the ground still appear relatively poor. Cropping activities are negatively affected in both Zimbabwe and Madagascar with a generally inadequate rainy season to date.

In the next 7 days, below-normal rainfall is expected for central portions of Mozambique. Many other regions are likely to see improved rains this week. This includes beneficial rains for the driest portions of South Africa.

**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.

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