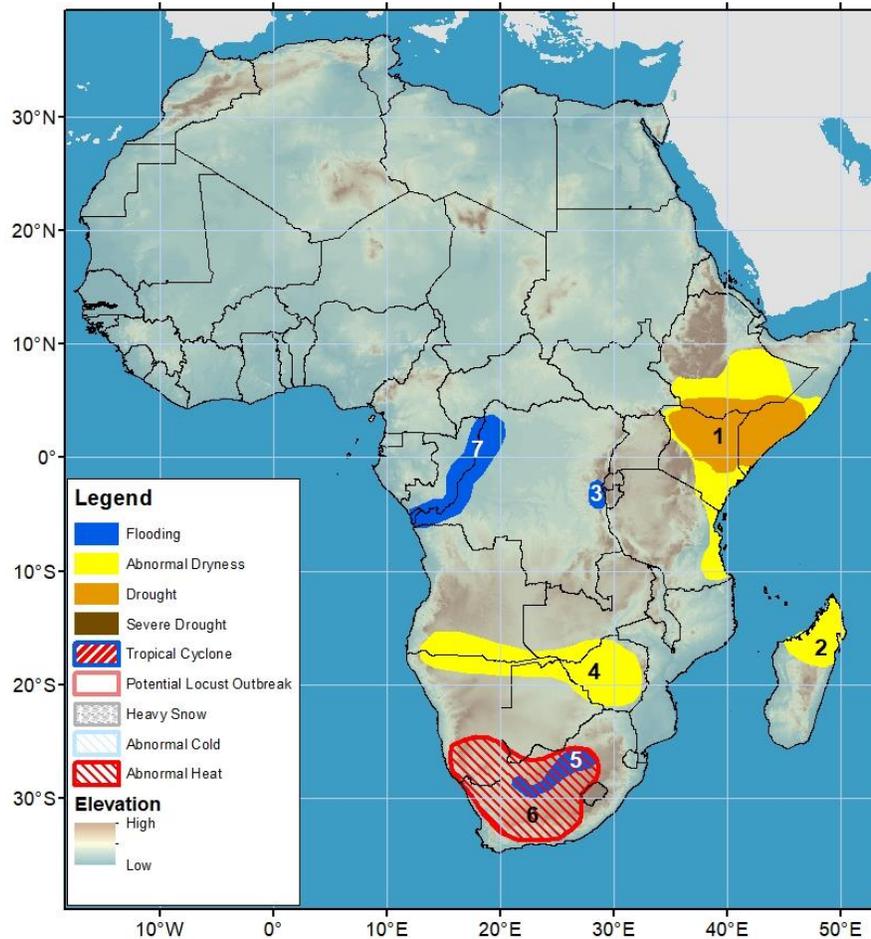


## Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET 12 January – 18 January, 2023

- An erratic October-December rainfall season has led to dryness and drought in Eastern Africa.
- Abnormal heat along with dry conditions is expected in southern Africa this week.



- 1) Dry and erratic conditions since the beginning of the October-December season over Eastern Africa have resulted in abnormal dryness over central and eastern Kenya, southern Ethiopia, and eastern Tanzania. Drought has developed in southern Ethiopia, southern Somalia, and northern Kenya.
- 2) Below-average rain over the past eight weeks has resulted in moderate to large thirty-day moisture deficits, which have led to abnormal dryness in northern Madagascar. Below-average rain is expected in the region during the next week.
- 3) The past few weeks' enhanced rain has overly saturated the soil, which has resulted in flooding and/or landslides, causing fatalities, destroyed infrastructures, and many people affected in South Kivu Provinces in DRC. The forecast additional rain during the next week may exacerbate conditions on the ground.
- 4) An erratic rainfall distribution since November has resulted in abnormal dryness in southern parts of Angola and Zambia, northern portions of Namibia and Botswana, and much of Zimbabwe.
- 5) Recent heavy rains in the country have caused elevated flows in the Orange and Vaal rivers in central South Africa.
- 6) An abnormal heat hazard is posted in South Africa and southern Namibia, where maximum temperature could exceed 35°C and rise more than 4°C above average during the next week.
- 7) Heavy rain in recent weeks has led to flooding along the Congo River and its tributaries.

Note: The Hazards outlook map is based on current weather/climate information, short and medium-range weather forecasts (up to 1 week), sub-seasonal forecasts up to 4 weeks, and assesses the potential impact of extreme events on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed and predicted to continue during the outlook period. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at the spatial scale of the map. This product considers long-range seasonal climate forecasts but does not reflect current or projected food security conditions. FEWS NET is a USAID-funded activity whose purpose is to provide objective information about food security conditions. Its views are not necessarily reflective of those of USAID or the U.S. Government. The FEWS NET weather hazards outlook process and products include participation by FEWS NET field and home offices, NOAA-CPC, USGS, USDA, NASA, and several other national and regional organizations in the countries concerned. Questions or comments about the hazard's outlooks may be directed to Dr. Wassila Thiaw, Head, International Desks/NOAA, [wassila.thiaw@noaa.gov](mailto:wassila.thiaw@noaa.gov). Questions about the USAID FEWS NET activity may be directed to Dr. James Verdin, Program Manager, FEWS NET/USAID, [jverdin@usaid.gov](mailto:jverdin@usaid.gov)

## Scattered moderate rain fell in Eastern Africa.

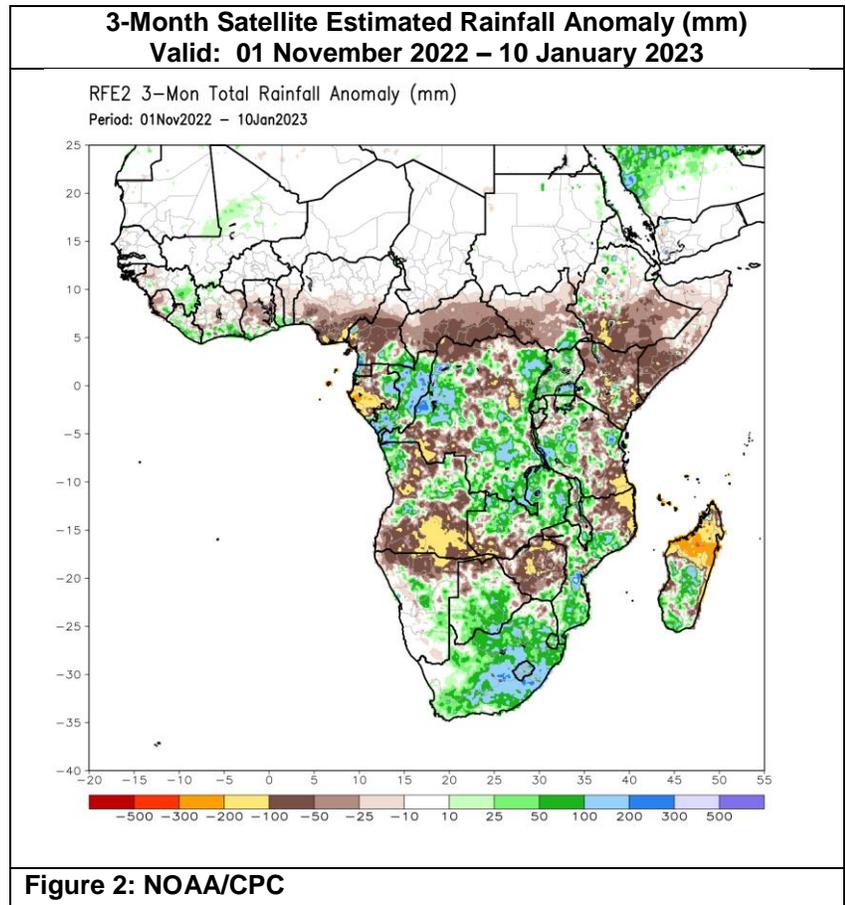
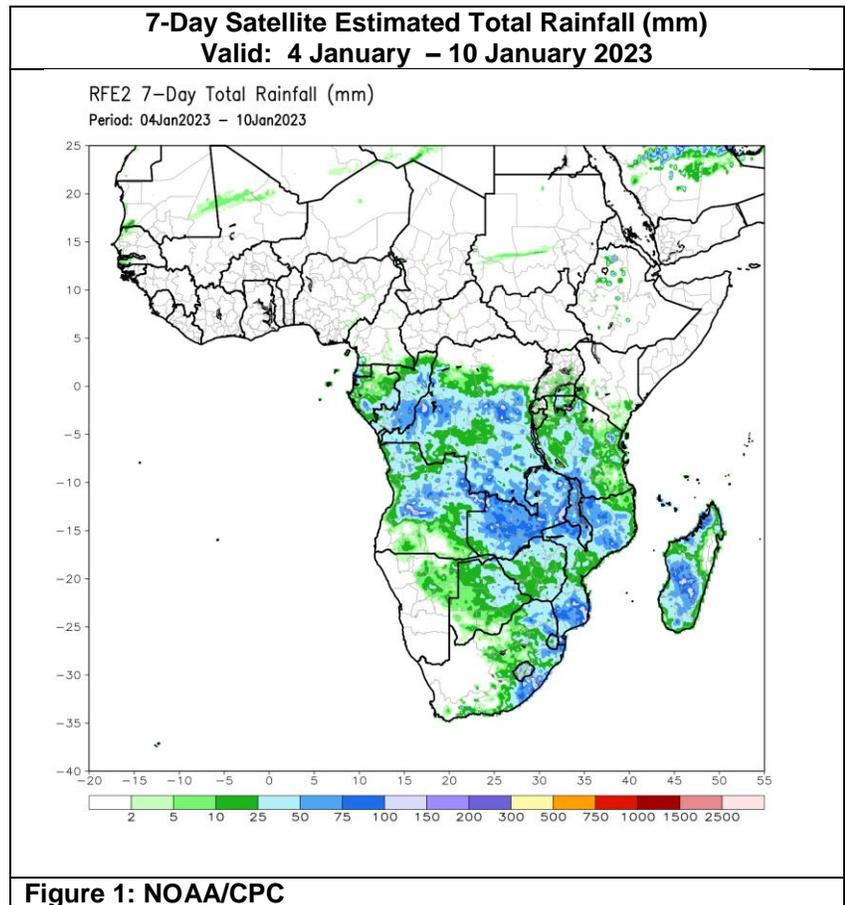
During early January, showers were widely scattered over parts of western Ethiopia and Kenya. Some of these included locally moderate totals well-exceeding 25mm (**Figure 1**). Where shower activity was most robust, the week's rainfall exceeded averages by 25mm. However, Tanzania received more widespread rain that nonetheless still lagged behind normal by 10-50mm. Over the past 30 days, below average rain, with deficits ranging between 10-50mm persisted across southern Ethiopia, many areas in Kenya, as well as northern and southeastern Tanzania, maintaining abnormal dryness over the dry portions of the sub-region. Conversely, above-average rain with surpluses up to 100mm was depicted over localized parts of Kenya, western Ethiopia, and Uganda due to wet episodes through mid-December. Since October, large (up to 200mm) seasonal rainfall deficits are observed across southern Ethiopia, Kenya, and southern Somalia, which have negatively impacted vegetation conditions, water availability, and resulted in drought across the dry portions of Eastern Africa.

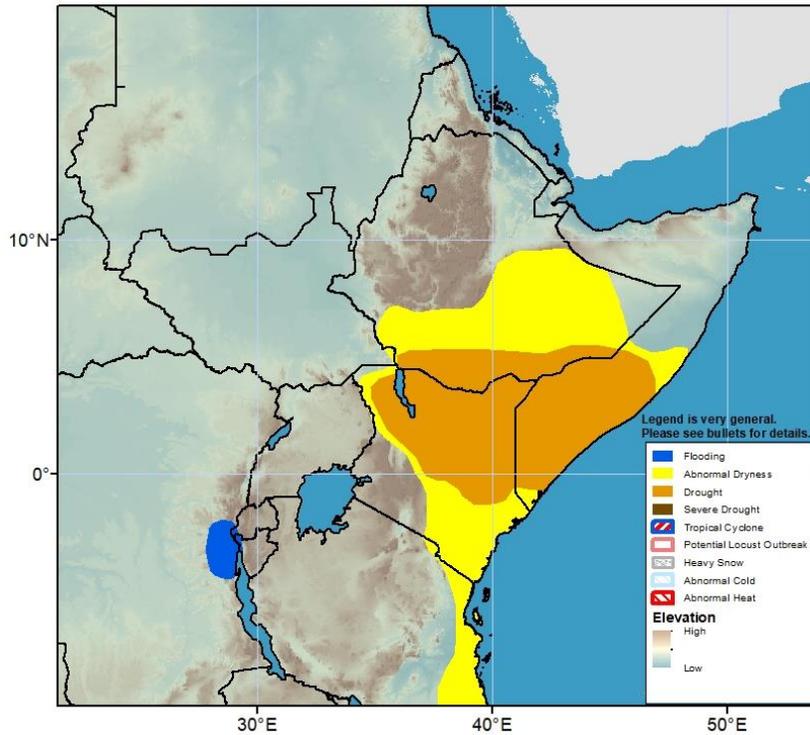
Light rain (5-25mm) is expected over western Ethiopia and southern Kenya during the next week. Much of Somalia, Ethiopia, and Kenya aren't expected to have rain. Heavier rains will likely move into northern Tanzania.

## Drier conditions experienced in the northern sectors of southern Africa since the beginning of the season

Since October, the accumulated rain in the northern sectors of southern Africa has been below average. Seasonal rainfall deficits have ranged between 50-200mm over Angola, northern Namibia, southern Zambia, Zimbabwe, and northern Mozambique (**Figure 2**). Northern Madagascar experienced larger deficits between 100 and 300mm. The drier conditions were attributable to an uneven spatial and temporal distribution in rainfall since the beginning of the season and the ongoing *La Niña* event which also tends to bring above average rain over the southeastern portions of the sub-region. Hence, well-above average seasonal rain, with surpluses of 50-200 mm has been observed across South Africa, Lesotho, Eswatini, parts of Namibia, Botswana, Mozambique, and southern Madagascar, which has already triggered flooding causing fatalities in many areas, including the Huíla Province in Angola. Flows along the Orange and Vaal rivers in central South Africa appear to be elevated after recent rains. For the past week, the heaviest rains occurred in central Angola, Zambia, eastern South Africa, northern and southern Mozambique, and central Madagascar.

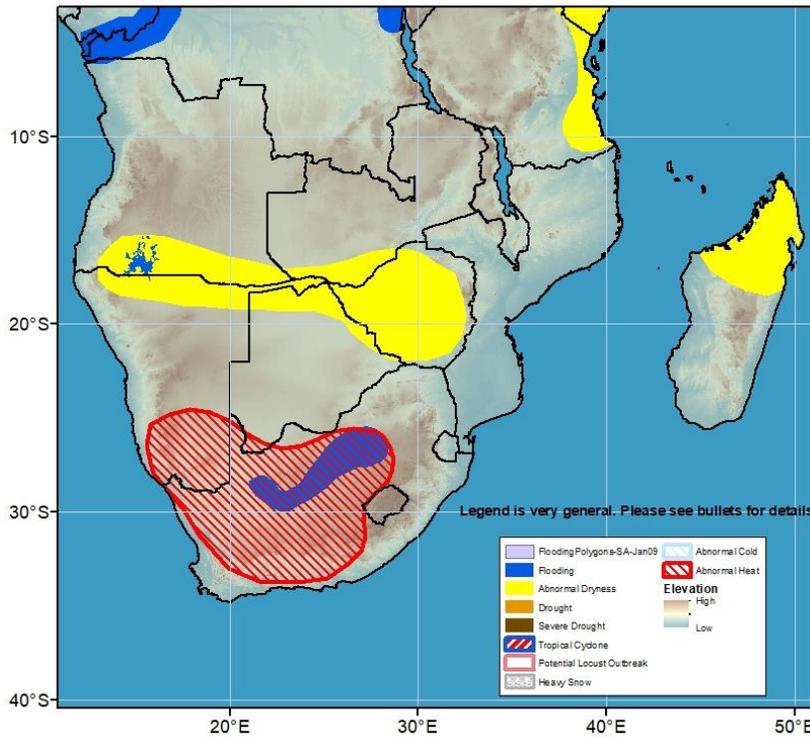
During the next week, heavy and above average rain is expected to continue over northern portions of the region including Angola, Zambia, Malawi, and northern Mozambique where more than 100mm of rainfall is likely. Madagascar is also expected to receive heavy rainfall greater than 100mm. Conversely, only light rains are expected to the South.





Flooding and landslides have resulted in fatalities in South Kivu in eastern DRC.

**Figure 3: Hazards, focused over Eastern Africa**



Flash flood has led to fatalities, destroyed homes, and many people affected in the Huíla Province in Angola in South Africa. The orange and Vaal rivers are elevated in South Africa. An abnormal heat hazard is posted in South Africa and southern Namibia.

**Figure 4: Hazards, focused over southern Africa**