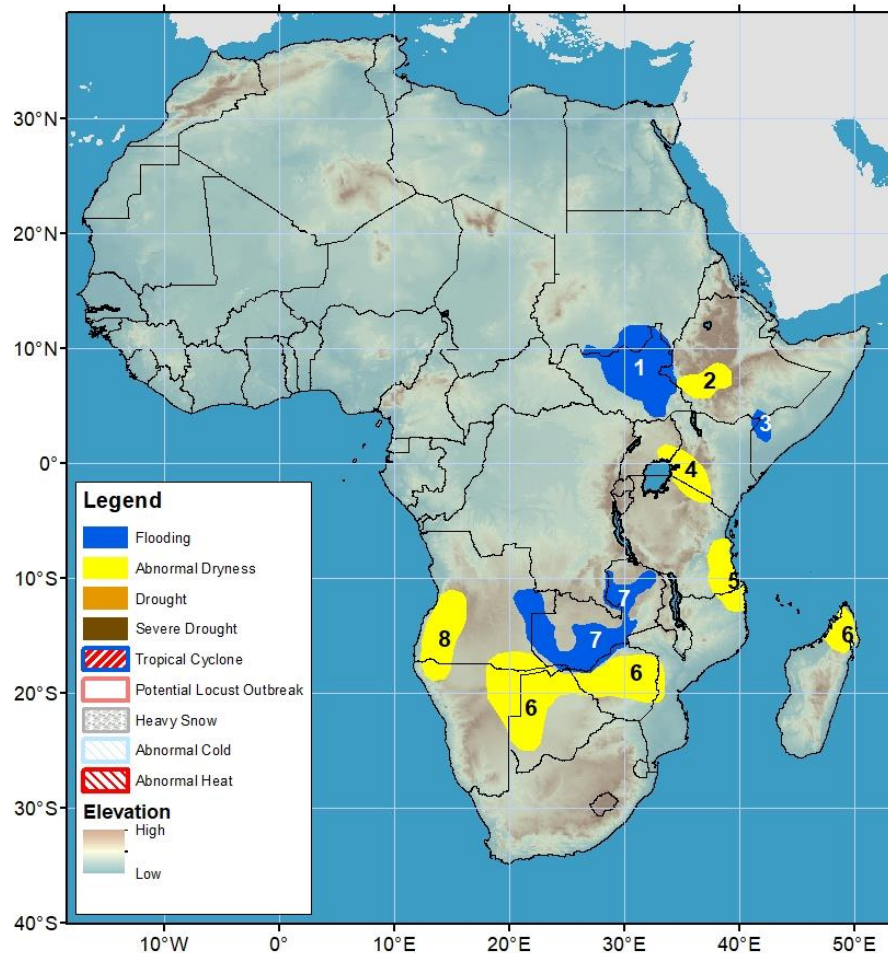


Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET 23 – 29 March, 2023

- It has been a dry start to 2023 in parts of Eastern Africa so far, with abnormal dryness appearing already.
- The first wet spell brought a much needed relief to Belg-benefiting regions of Ethiopia, northeastern Kenya and central Somalia
- Abnormal dryness continued over southeastern Tanzania and parts of southern Africa.



- 1) The extent of inundation remained unchanged in South Sudan.
- 2) Lack of substantial rainfall since the start of 2023 has grown moisture deficits leading to abnormal dryness in southwestern Ethiopia. Recent rainfall events have reduced the dryness over southern and southeastern Ethiopia, northeastern Kenya, and central Somalia.
- 3) Moderate to heavy rainfall in cross border regions of Ethiopia, Somalia, and Kenya has increased Jubba river level.
- 4) Little rain since 1 January has led to growing deficits of more than 50mm and abnormal dryness in western Kenya and Uganda.
- 5) Suppressed rainfall since November last year and corresponding soil moisture ranking less than the 30th percentile have led to abnormal dryness in southeastern Tanzania and northeastern Mozambique.
- 6) An uneven rainfall distribution since November has resulted in abnormal dryness in much of Botswana, central parts of Zimbabwe, central Mozambique, and north-central parts of South Africa. Northern Madagascar has shown significant dryness in recent months.
- 7) Flooding is present along the Zambezi River in eastern Angola and western Zambia and around Lusaka along the Kafue River. The expected moderate rainfall may exacerbate existing flood conditions.
- 8) Lack of rainfall and extended dry spells since the beginning of 2023 have led to abnormal dryness in southwestern Angola.

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.
Questions about the USAID FEWS NET activity may be directed to Dr. James Verdin, Program Manager, FEWS NET/USAID, jverdin@usaid.gov

Although flooding conditions are present in parts of Mozambique and Malawi, rainfall is predicted to decline substantially.

Since early December, the accumulated rain in many parts of southern Africa's northern sectors has been below average. Large negative 3-month anomalies ranging between 100-300 mm still persisted over Zimbabwe, northern Botswana, southern Zambia, and southern and western Angola (Figure 2). On the other hand, heavy rains and flooding have dominated over parts of Malawi and Mozambique. Angola, northern Zambia, and much of DRC received up to 75 mm.

During the next week, a significant decline in rainfall is predicted over much of Mozambique. As a result, a light to moderate weekly rainfall totals of 50-75 mm are expected over northern Mozambique and Malawi. On the other hand, southwestern Tanzania, northern Zambia, southern DRC, central Angola, and parts of northwestern Botswana are expected to experience wetter than average conditions with weekly rainfall totals of 75-100 mm.

Expanding coverage of moderate to heavy rains over Ethiopia, northern Kenya and Somalia.

An extended rain-belt covering much of the Rift Valley from southern to northeastern Ethiopia, Uganda, northern Kenya and central Somalia brought a much needed relief to southern & southeastern Ethiopia, northeastern Kenya and central Somalia. The heaviest rainfall with weekly rainfall totals reaching 100 mm covered Lake Victoria regions and northeastern Ethiopia. Rwanda, Burundi, and northern Tanzania received 25-75 mm rainfall totals (Figure 1). Over the past 30 days, below average rain, with deficits ranging between 10-50 mm persisted at some locations in southwestern Ethiopia, southern Kenya, parts of Uganda, and southeastern Tanzania. As dry spells are present since the start of the year and deficits are increasing above 50mm, abnormal dryness is placed in eastern Tanzania, southwestern Kenya, neighboring Uganda, and southwestern Ethiopia. Last year's OND rainfall season was very poor in these areas. While this dry trend is continuing in these places, the recent wet spells have significantly improved the rainfall situation over northern Kenya, central Somalia, and southern, southeastern, and northeastern Ethiopia.

During the next week, an eastward shift of an extended rain-belt and a gradual increase of rainfall activities will produce wetter than average conditions over much of Kenya, Somalia, and Ethiopia. As a result, some moderate to heavy rain showers are predicted over the larger parts of Eastern Africa. Significant rainfall amount reaching 100-150 mm is predicted in southern Ethiopia, southwestern Kenya. Substantial rainfall in the range of 25-50 mm is predicted over the southern and northern parts of Somalia.

