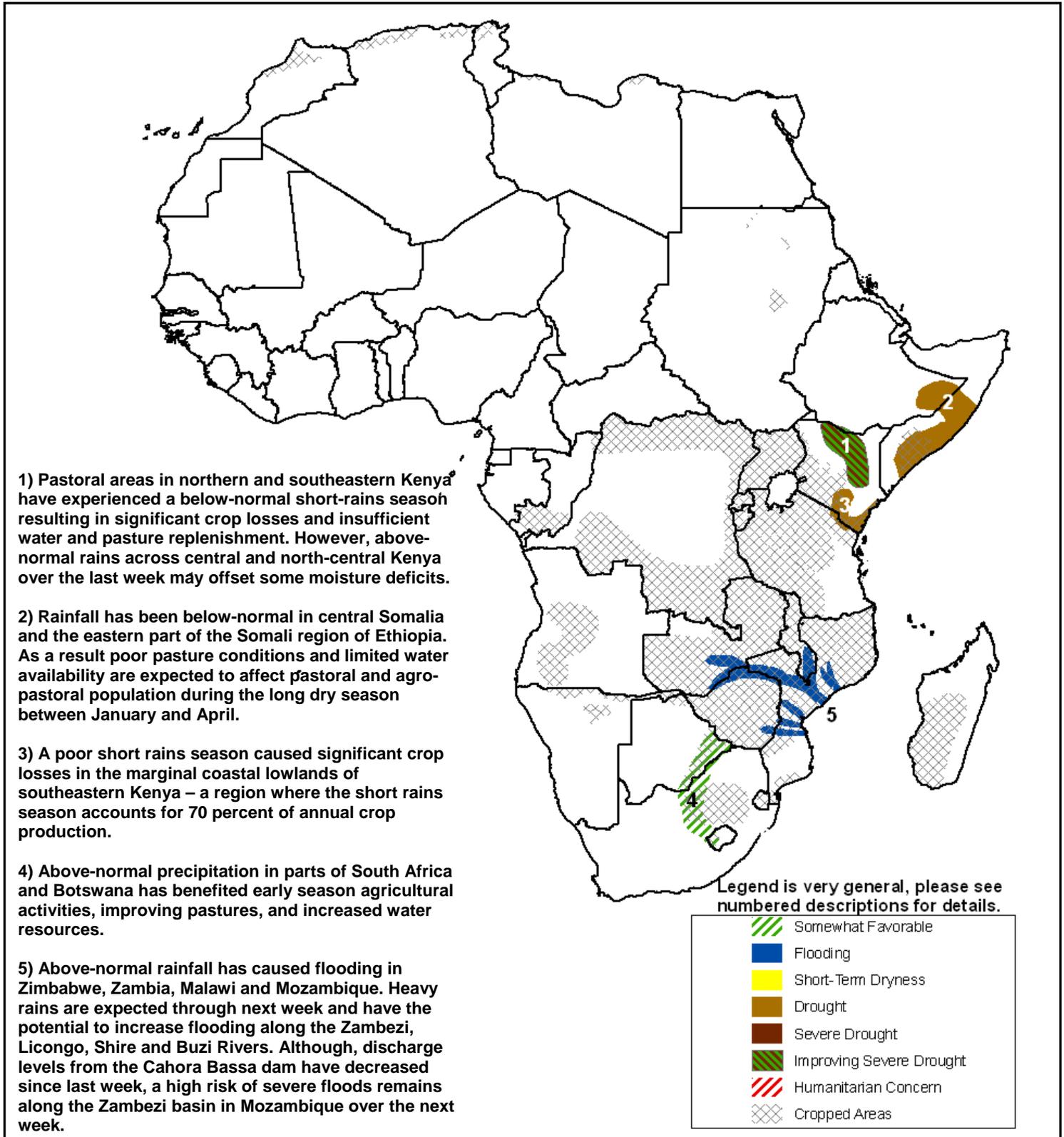


- Persistent rainfall over the last week has exacerbated flooding in Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi and Mozambique. More rains are forecasted over the next week which will likely worsen flooding along the Zambezi, Buzi, Shire and Licongo rivers.
- Unseasonable rains have fallen in drought affected areas of central and north-central Kenya improving water and pasture resources at the beginning of the main dry season. In other parts of southeastern Kenya, southern Somalia and southern Ethiopia, the poor short rains season (October – December) has resulted in crop losses, limited pasture regeneration and reduced water availability.



Flooding will continue in Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Malawi and Zambia, and may occur in parts of Lesotho, Swaziland and northern Namibia.

The Mozambican National Directorate of Water (Direcção Nacional de Águas or DNA) reported that the Cahora Bassa dam has decreased its discharge rate from 6,600 to 4,600 m³s⁻¹ due to reduced inflow along the Zambezi River basin. However, flooding has worsened in the lower Zambezi downstream of the dam. In central Mozambique, the hydrometric levels in Mutarara, Caia and Marrromeu have been well above the alert level [6.20, 7.65 and 7.08 meters, respectively] and have exceeded the maximum flood levels observed in the 2007 floods. At Luabo, reports indicate a serious threat of flooding due to the destruction of a protective dike. At least 180 unprotected households were immediately evacuated to safe areas.

River levels along the Buzi, Licongo and Shire Rivers in Malawi, Zimbabwe and Mozambique have also remained well above the alert level [6.41, 6.60 and 7.65 meters, respectively], although river levels along the Pungue, Save and Limpopo river basins have now begun to stabilize and have fallen below the alert level (Figure 1). Latest reports show that flooding is still present along the Magoye and Lafue rivers in central Zambia.

Precipitation forecasts over the next 72 hours (Figure 2) show that the spatial distribution of rainfall remains concentrated in northern Mozambique, Malawi, Zambia and along the Botswana/South Africa border. Forecasted precipitation is expected to exacerbate flooding along the Zambezi, Shire and Licongo rivers. According to a report by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), more than 37,000 hectares of crops have been lost due to the floods in Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Zambia and Malawi.

Heavy rainfall is also expected near the Caprivi Strip increasing the risk of flooding in northern Namibia. North of Lesotho, above normal rainfall continues to benefit cropping conditions, pasture activities, and improve water resources. However, the persistence of these rains may increase the potential for flooding in parts of South Africa. There has been no observed tropical activity offshore.

Unseasonable precipitation in Kenya provides limited drought relief.

Significant amounts (50 to 75mm) of rainfall occurred in central and north-central Kenya over the last week, extending the rainy season in areas experiencing severe drought (Figure 3). While these rains came too late for crops, they will help replenish water sources and provide additional moisture for pasture regeneration and browse development. This will help alleviate the impact of the drought for the pastoral and agro-pastoral populations. However, despite the unseasonable rains in the last week, post-seasonal maize harvest losses are expected in the north-rift valley of Kenya.

The below-normal precipitation during the short rains season (October to December) caused crop failure that includes areas near Mombassa and Malindi in the lowlands of southeastern Kenya. Reports suggest a 60-70% crop production loss in these short rains dependent areas, which will likely lead to food deficits in 2008 for households in parts of Kenya. In parts of southern Somalia and Ethiopia, the prolonged absence of rains and associated crop failure will also exacerbate the already serious levels of food insecurity in these areas.

River Levels across Mozambique, Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe As of January 20, 2008

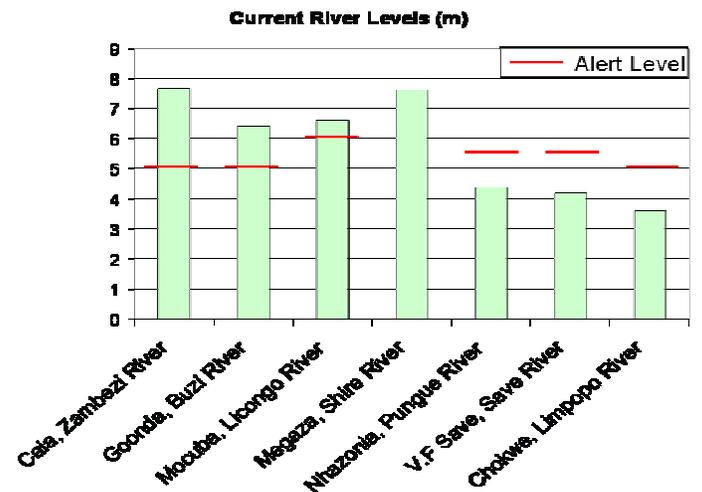


Figure 1
Source: NOAA/USGS/CENOE

3-Day Precipitation Forecast (ETA) As of January 24, 2008

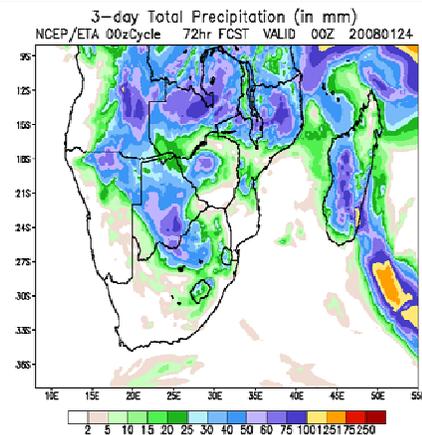


Figure 2
Source: NOAA

7-Day Precipitation Totals (RFE) As of January 20, 2008

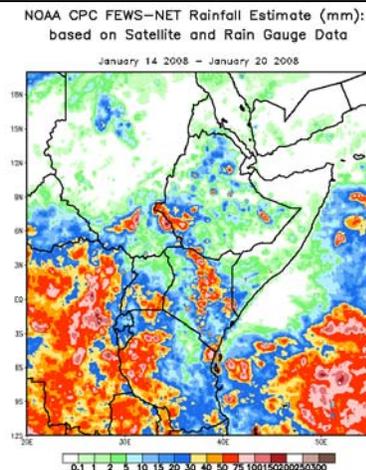


Figure 3
Source: NOAA