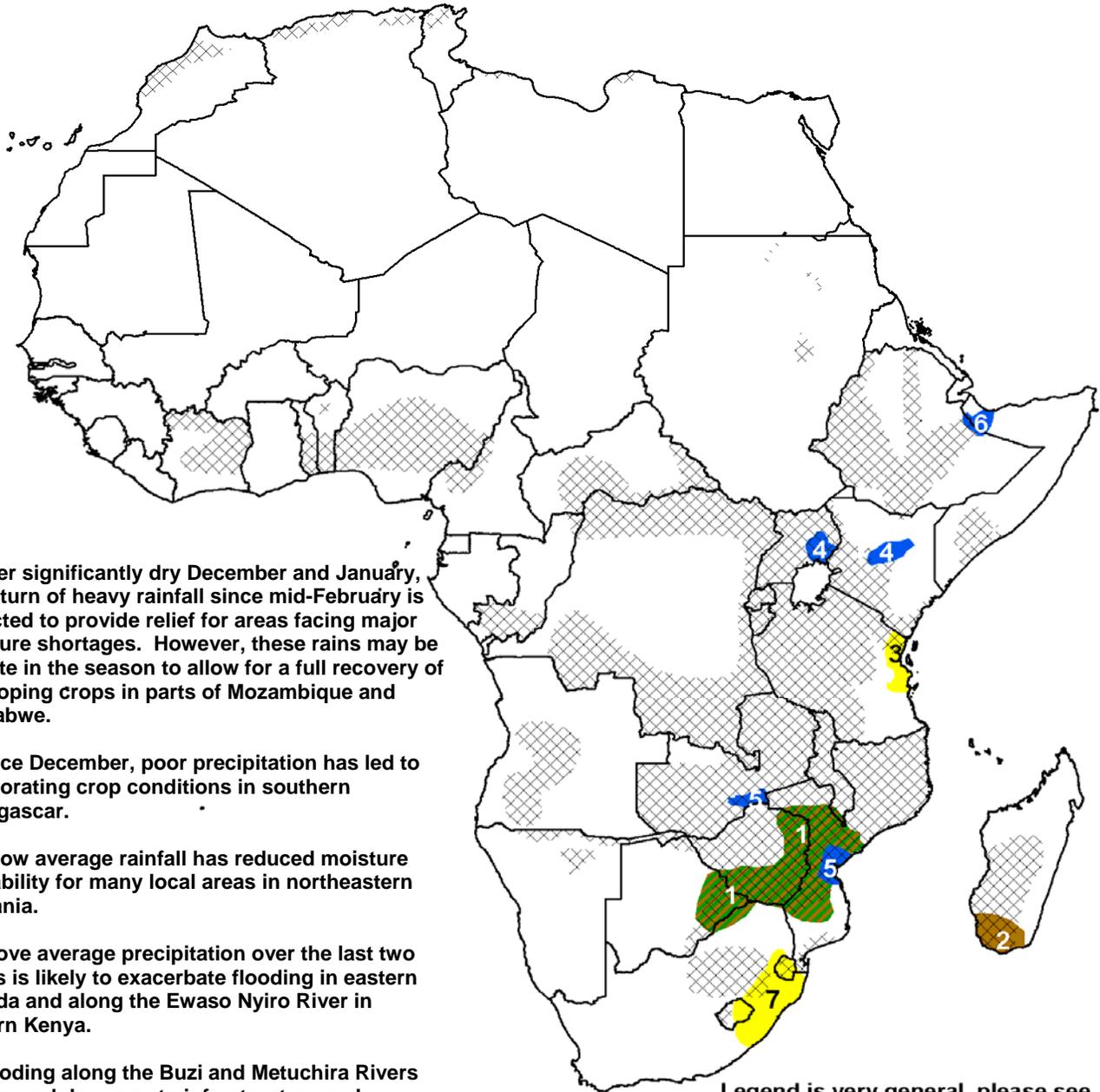


- Above-average rainfall in the last two weeks has resulted in localized flooding in parts of Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia.
- The return of more seasonable rainfall totals in southern Africa may be too late for the development of crops after months of predominant dryness across portions of Mozambique and Zimbabwe.



1) After significantly dry December and January, the return of heavy rainfall since mid-February is expected to provide relief for areas facing major moisture shortages. However, these rains may be too late in the season to allow for a full recovery of developing crops in parts of Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

2) Since December, poor precipitation has led to deteriorating crop conditions in southern Madagascar.

3) Below average rainfall has reduced moisture availability for many local areas in northeastern Tanzania.

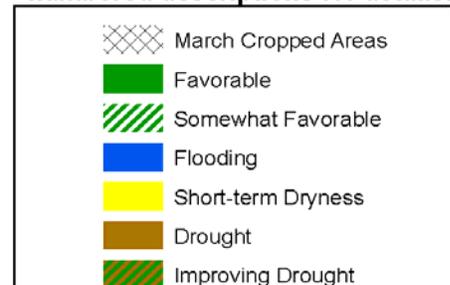
4) Above average precipitation over the last two weeks is likely to exacerbate flooding in eastern Uganda and along the Ewaso Nyiro River in eastern Kenya.

5) Flooding along the Buzi and Metuchira Rivers has caused damages to infrastructure and possible damages to crops in the Sofala province of Mozambique. In Zambia, flooding and poor drainage was also reported in the Lusaka province.

6) Torrential amounts of rain in the last week led to flooding and a large number displaced people in the Gabiley province in northern Somalia.

7) Poor rainfall totals in the last month has resulted in below-average moisture conditions across parts of Lesotho, Swaziland, and the Kwa-Zulu Natal region of South Africa.

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



Enhanced precipitation causes flooding in parts around the Greater Horn.

During the last observation period, copious amounts of precipitation were observed across parts of East Africa. Rainfall amounts ranging between 50-75 mm, with locally heavier amounts in excess of 100mm were observed along parts of the SNNP, Oromiya, and Somali region of Ethiopia. Much of this rain and abundant moisture extended northward into the pastoral areas of Djibouti and Somaliland during the last observation period. In Somalia, favorable amounts of rainfall were also received along the Juba and Shaebelle River basins in southern Somalia in the last seven days.

Further south, many local parts of Kenya, Uganda, and western Tanzania also received another round of heavy shower activity, with rainfall totals ranging between 25-75 mm for the second consecutive week. The heaviest of these rains were concentrated around the Lake Victoria basin (**Figure 1**).

In eastern Uganda, enhanced rainfall during the last two weeks has resulted in a number of localized flooding, landslides and damages to infrastructure. With the addition of above-average rainfall this past week, floods were also reported in the Isiolo district of Kenya along the Ewaso Nyiro River, as well as increased flood risks along the Nzoia River in southwestern Kenya. Further north, a significant rainfall event triggered flooding in the Gabiley region along the border between northern Ethiopia and Somalia resulting in destroyed dams and a large number of displaced people.

Since the start of February, much of east Africa remains well above average in precipitation. In the last 30 days, positive rainfall anomalies generally range between 10-50mm across the Greater Horn, with the deepest moisture surpluses in excess of 100mm around the Lake Victoria basin, as well as in the pastoral regions of Ethiopia and Somalia (**Figure 2**).

Latest soil water analyses indicate widespread positive moisture anomalies across many local areas of Ethiopia, Kenya, and Uganda (**Figure 3**). For areas that have not experienced flooding, the above-average rainfall is expected to benefit both cropping and pastoral areas, and help replenish water resources.

Forecasts suggest more moderate rainfall in East Africa during the upcoming observation period. Rainfall amounts ranging between 15 - 30 mm are expected for much of western and southern Ethiopia, with the possibility of heavier rainfall (> 75 mm) in parts of central and eastern Kenya. Little to no precipitation is expected for Somalia in the next seven days.

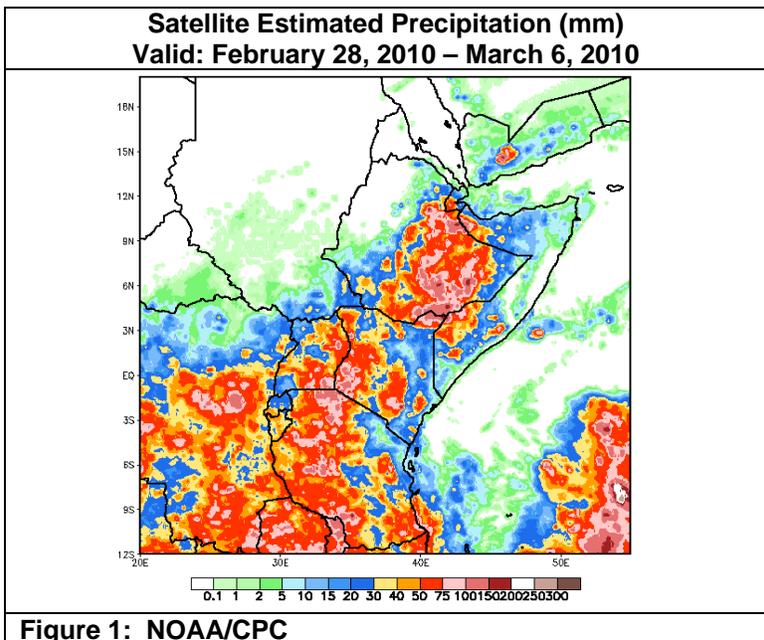


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

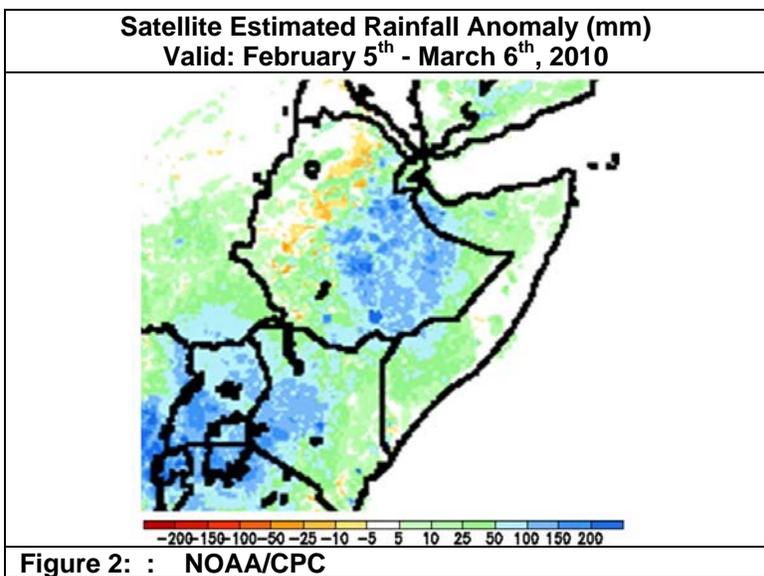


Figure 2: : NOAA/CPC

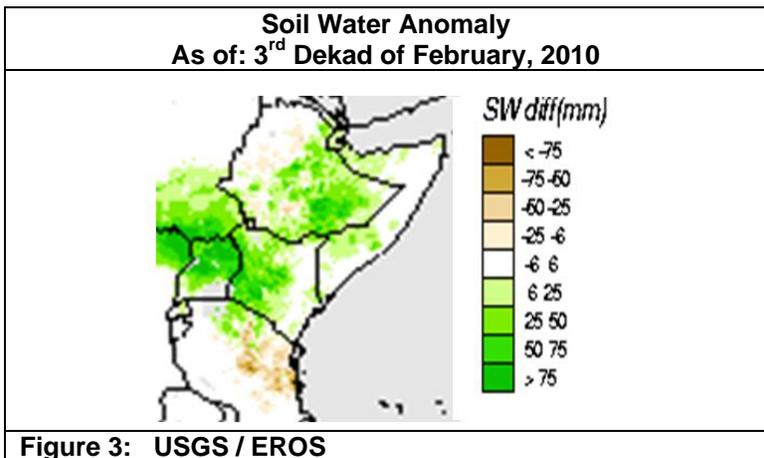


Figure 3: USGS / EROS

Note: This product is based on current weather/climate information, short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week), and 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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