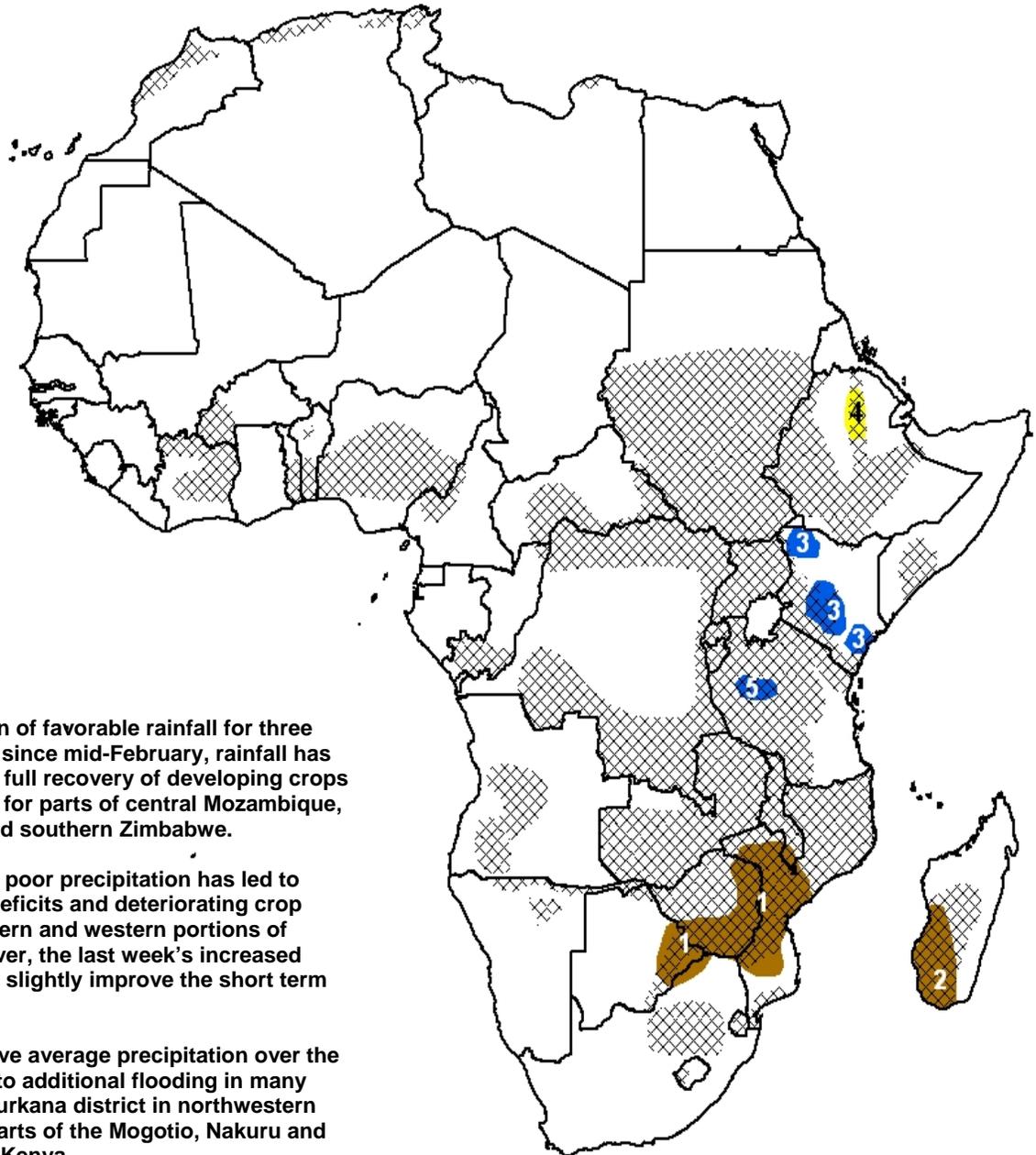


- In the last 7 days there was little or no rainfall over much of central and southern Mozambique. This persistence dryness has worsened the seasonal and short-term moisture deficits over central Mozambique. Zimbabwe, southern Malawi and western Botswana also continued to experience moisture deficits. However, there was slight increase in rainfall amounts over southwestern Madagascar.



1) Despite the return of favorable rainfall for three consecutive weeks since mid-February, rainfall has again ceased and a full recovery of developing crops will remain unlikely for parts of central Mozambique, southern Malawi and southern Zimbabwe.

2) Since December, poor precipitation has led to growing moisture deficits and deteriorating crop conditions in southern and western portions of Madagascar. However, the last week's increased rainfall activity may slightly improve the short term dryness.

3) Significantly above average precipitation over the last month has led to additional flooding in many local areas of the Turkana district in northwestern Kenya, as well as parts of the Mogotio, Nakuru and Malindi districts of Kenya.

4) Since the beginning of March, light precipitation has led to developing dryness for some local areas in the Afar, Wello, and Tigray regions of northern Ethiopia. Because this dryness has occurred early in the season, there remains ample opportunity for improvement in the next couple of months.

5) Heavy rainfall during the last week could worsen the previous localized flooding over parts of western Tanzania.

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



### Below-average rainfall continues in southern Africa.

During the last observation period, little or no rainfall was observed over much of central and southern of Mozambique. The heavier rainfall amounts (> 30 mm) were mainly limited to Angola and scattered over parts of northeast Namibia, western and northeast Zambia, Malawi and northern Madagascar. There was a general decrease in rainfall activity between previous and last week over much of southeast Africa. The increase in rainfall activity observed over northwest and southwest Madagascar may bring slight relief to the dryness condition, but seasonal rainfall deficits will remain in the region. Rainfall continued to be favorable in parts of South Africa, Lesotho and Swaziland in the last 7 days (Figure 1).

After a very poor December and January rains in southern Africa, the onset of above-average rainfall from mid-February to mid-March helped to eliminate both short term and long-term negative rainfall anomalies across much of central Mozambique and southern Zimbabwe. However, the return of below-average rainfall during the last two weeks has resulted in increasing moisture deficits across many parts of Mozambique and Zimbabwe. Both the recent dryness and the inconsistency of rainfall since December has already led to deteriorating crop conditions for a number of local areas in Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe, and will likely lead to reductions of crop production by the end of season (Figure 2).

Precipitation forecasts suggest for increased rainfall over northern Mozambique. However, little to no rainfall is expected for central Mozambique, with more moderate totals (15-30mm) expected for parts to the north and southern Mozambique over the next seven days.

### Enhanced rains continued over western Kenya and Tanzania.

Heavy rainfall events continued to be observed over East African countries. Especially, the heavy rainfall amounts that exceeded 100mm in parts of western and southwestern Kenya have contributed to the flooding events in local areas of Turkana district in northwestern Kenya, the Rift Valley districts of Mogotio and Nakuru as well as parts of the Malindi district that resulted in displacement of hundreds of people and property damage. Moreover, enhanced precipitation was observed across southern Ethiopia, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and Tanzania. The rainfall amount has exceeded 50mm over many of these places. The heavy rainfall events over western and central Tanzania could worsen the previous flooding events of central and southern regions (Figure 3). In general, rainfall amounts have been moderate to heavy over much of the Lake Victoria region and its adjacent areas.

**Note: The hazards assessment map on page 1 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.**

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 assessment process and products include participation by FEWS NET field and home offices, NOAA-CPC, USGS, USDA, NASA, and a number of other national and regional organizations in the countries concerned. Questions or comments about this product may be directed to Wassila.Thiaw@noaa.gov or 1-301-763-8000 x7566. Questions about the USAID FEWSNET activity may be directed to Gary Eilerts, USAID Program Manager for FEWSNET, 1-202-219-0500 or geilerts@usaid.gov.

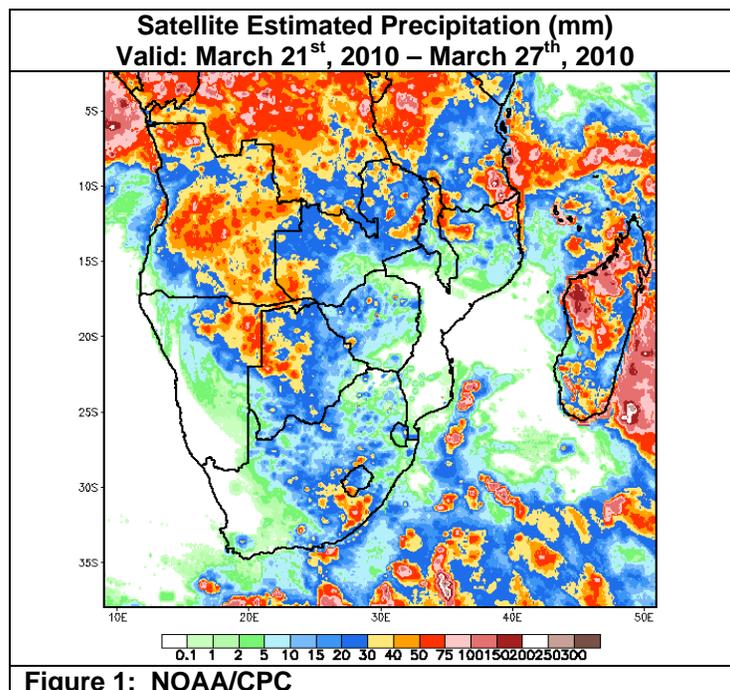


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

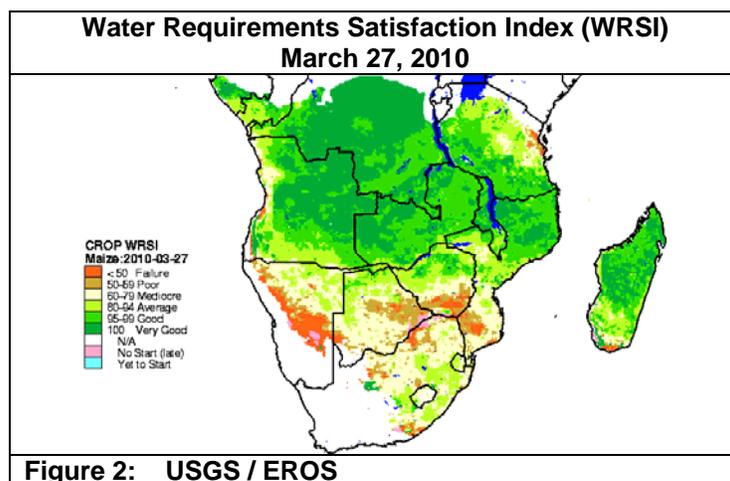


Figure 2: USGS / EROS

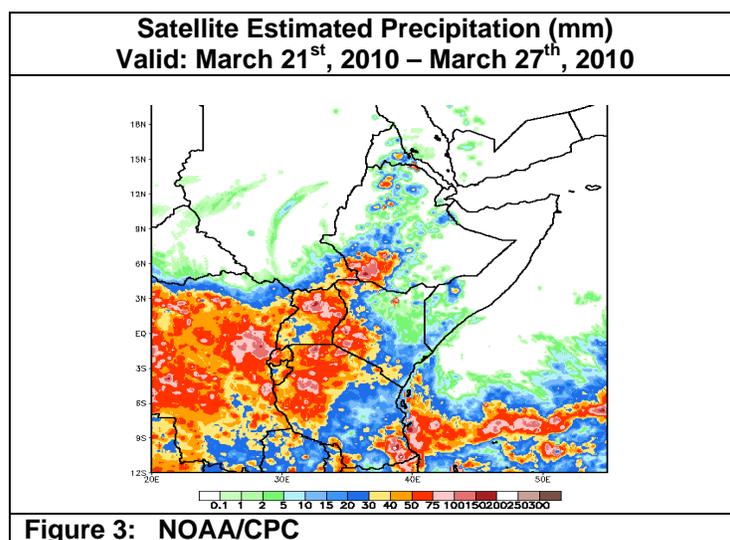


Figure 3: NOAA/CPC