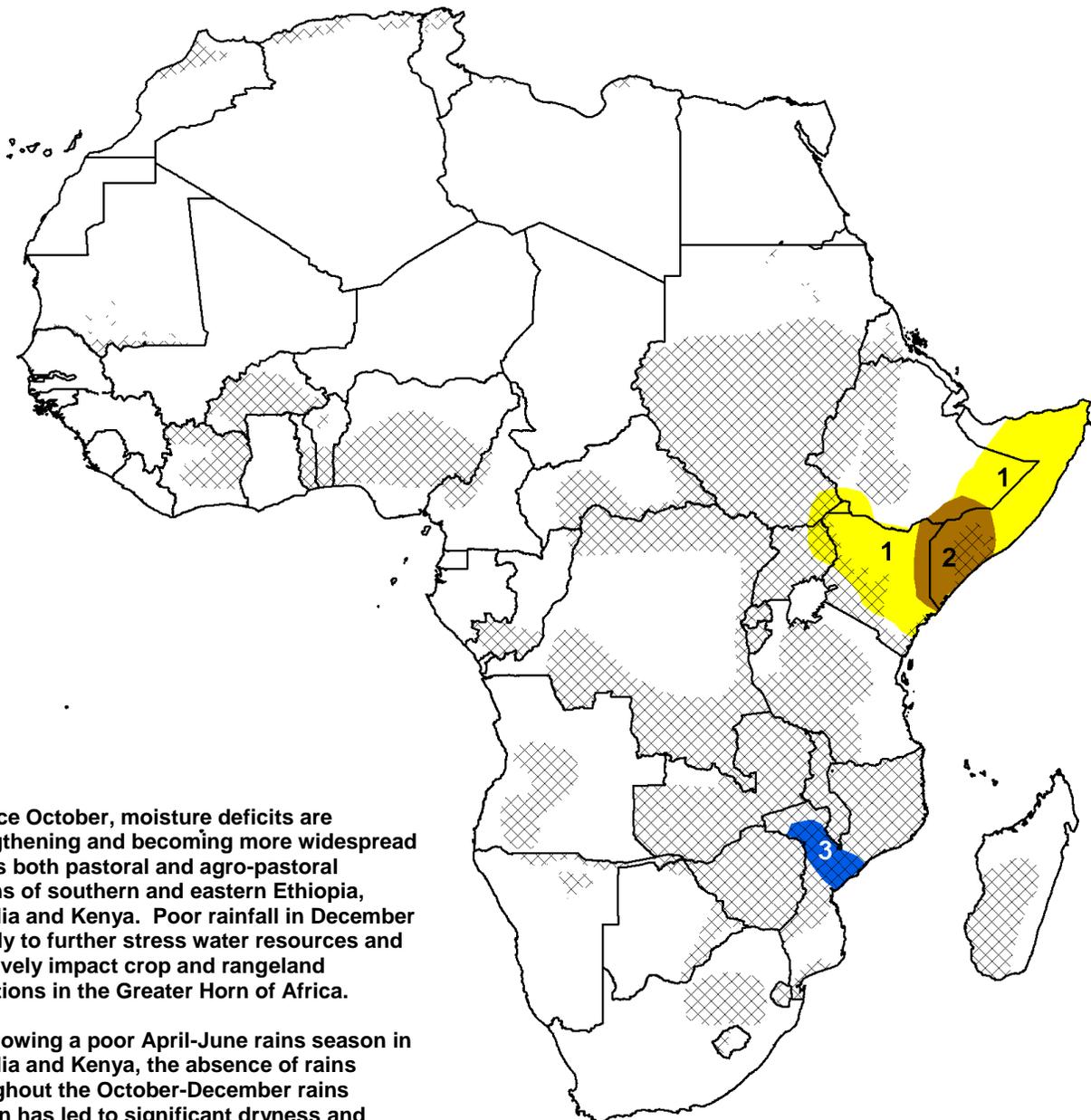


- Above-average rainfall over southeastern Africa over the last several weeks has led to early-season moisture surpluses throughout Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe as well as the potential for inundation along the Zambezi River in Mozambique.

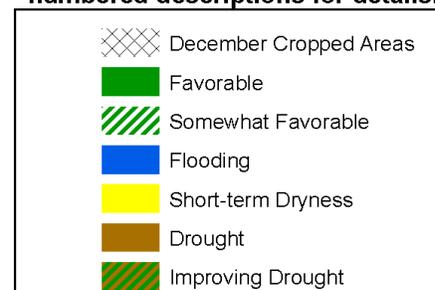


1) Since October, moisture deficits are strengthening and becoming more widespread across both pastoral and agro-pastoral regions of southern and eastern Ethiopia, Somalia and Kenya. Poor rainfall in December is likely to further stress water resources and negatively impact crop and rangeland conditions in the Greater Horn of Africa.

2) Following a poor April-June rains season in Somalia and Kenya, the absence of rains throughout the October-December rains season has led to significant dryness and reduced water availability in Somalia and in parts of eastern Kenya and southern Ethiopia.

3) A continuation of significantly high rainfall, combined with increased discharges from the Cahora Bassa region has resulted in an increased risk for flooding downstream in western and central Mozambique.

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



Continuing heavy rains in southeastern Africa raises flooding concerns along Zambezi River basin.

Another week of enhanced and well-distributed rainfall was observed throughout many portions of southern Africa. The highest weekly rainfall amounts (>70mm) were received along the Zambezi River basin, affecting central, southern and eastern provinces of Zambia, as well as throughout parts of Malawi and the western and central regions of Mozambique. Further west, rainfall was generally lighter, with seven day accumulations ranging between 15-30mm over parts of northern Botswana, the Caprivi Strip region, and southern Angola. In South Africa, rains continued to remain seasonable, with more isolated amounts (40-50mm) along the eastern areas of the Maize Triangle during the last week (**Figure 1**).

Since the beginning of December, precipitation has continued to remain above-average throughout Southern Africa, with the greatest concentration of anomalously wet conditions in the southeast. Many local areas in central and western Mozambique, as well as in parts of southern Zambia and Malawi have received nearly more than twice their normal rainfall accumulation during the last 30 days (**Figure 2**). The extent of these moisture surpluses has begun to expand into parts of Zimbabwe and northern Mozambique over the last two weeks due to the persistence of high rainfall. While abundant rainfall and favorable moisture conditions are expected to benefit early season cropping activities in southern Africa, it has also elevated the risk of localized flooding. If enhanced rainfall continues over these anomalously wet areas in the southeast, increased dam discharges along the Zambezi River basins may negatively impact areas downstream in western and central Mozambique.

Precipitation forecasts suggest a slight decrease in rainfall across southern Africa – however, a high potential for heavy rainfall remains over areas in Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe during the next seven days. An increase in rains are also expected of portions of Angola and the Maize Triangle of South Africa next week

Increased rains in equatorial Africa help relieve short-term dryness in parts of southern Kenya and northern Tanzania.

During the last week, widespread amounts of rainfall in excess of 50mm were received throughout many parts of Tanzania and southern Kenya. This increase in rainfall has helped to mitigate dryness and improve deteriorating crop and rangeland conditions that were becoming more prevalent in northern Tanzania and southern Kenya since November (**Figure 3**). However, the absence of rainfall further north continues to negatively impact many parts of central Kenya, southern Somalia and Ethiopia, with less opportunity for improvement before the end of the October-December rains season in the Greater Horn.

Note: The hazards assessment map on page 1 is based on current weather/climate information and short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week). It 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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