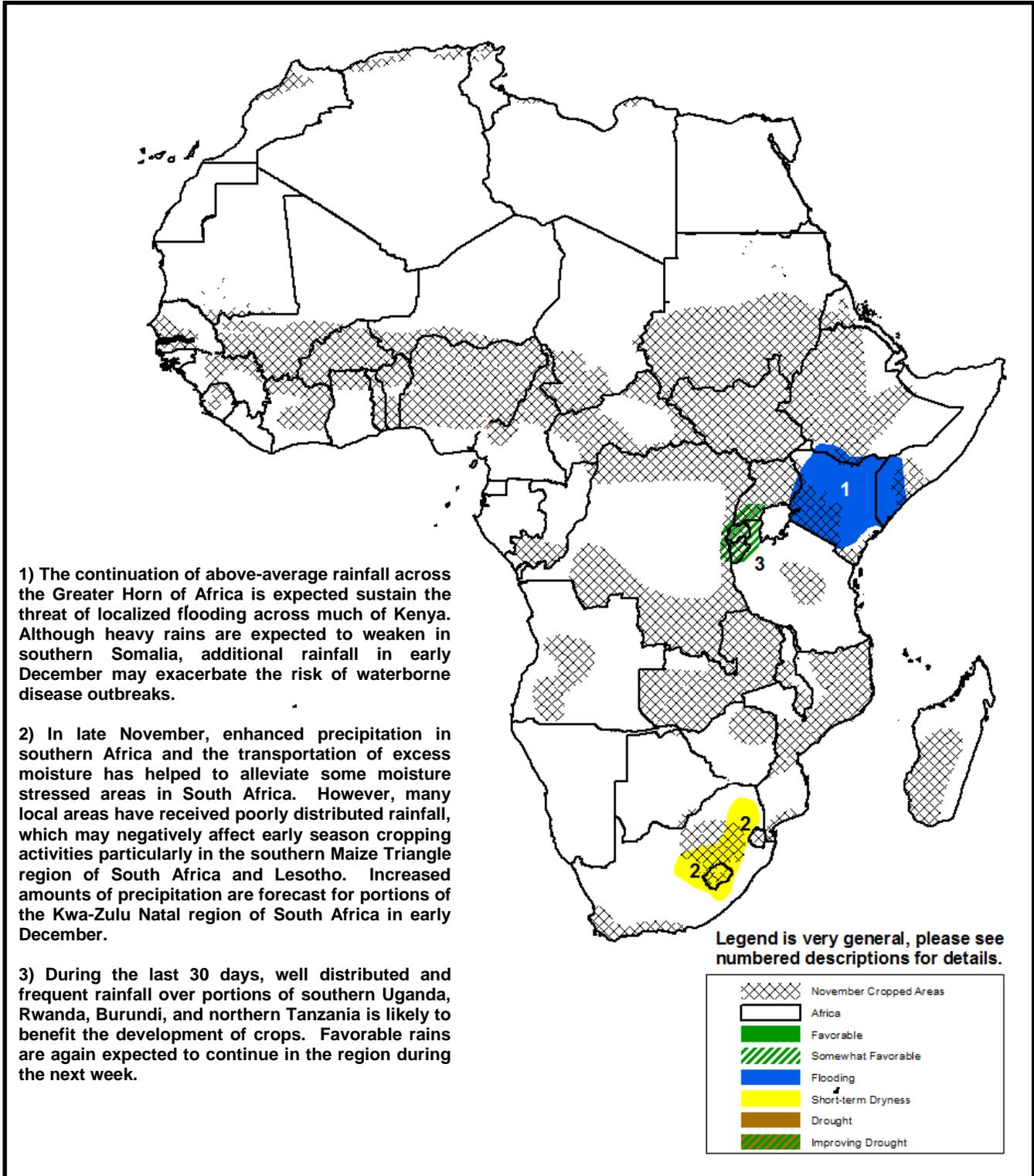


Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET December 1 – December 7, 2011

- Widespread heavy rainfall across much of Kenya is expected to prolong the threat of flooding into early December.
- An increased precipitation in South Africa may help mitigate many pastoral and agropastoral areas affected by dryness in November.



No break to torrential rainfall in East Africa.

In late November, significantly heavy amounts of precipitation were observed throughout many parts of Kenya, southern Somalia, and southern Ethiopia. In Somalia, seven day precipitation amounts in excess of 50mm were received in the Gedo and Juba regions, with locally higher amounts (>75mm) along the Juba River. Further west, excessively high rainfall amounts ranging between 50-100mm were observed in Mandera region of east Kenya, as well as in the Eastern, Rift Valley, and Nyanza provinces of the country (Figure 1). Much of these heavy rains and excess moisture were also received further north in southern Ethiopia, however, seven-day rainfall totals were not as abundant.

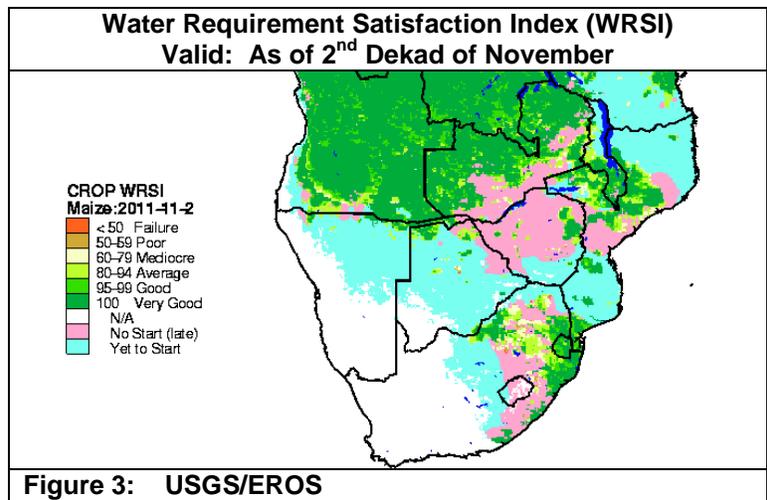
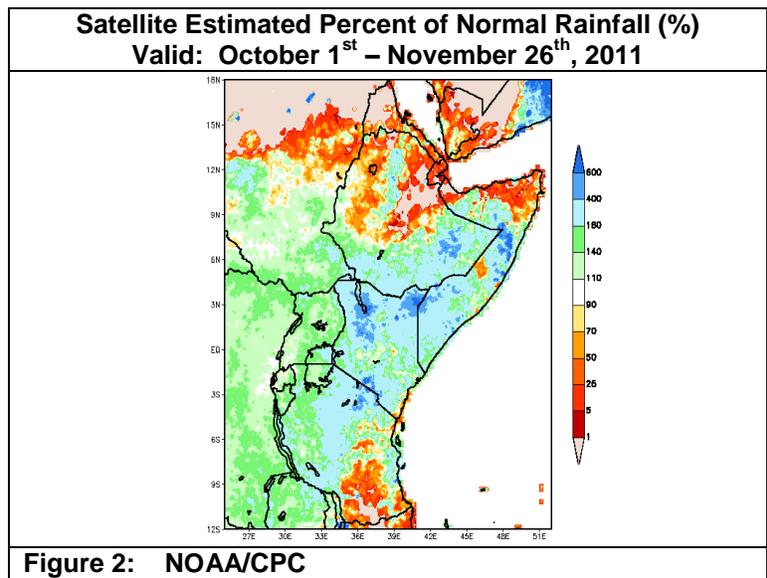
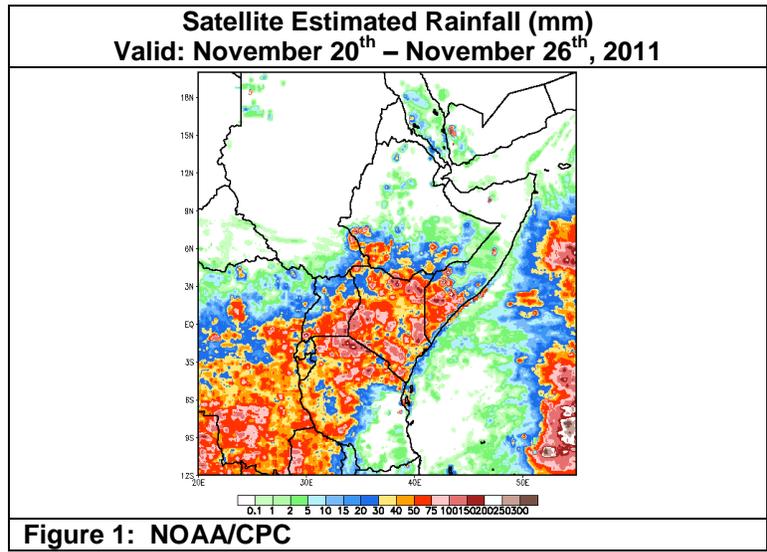
Following a period of reduced rainfall in mid-November, the heavy rains observed during the last week continue to sustain considerably high rainfall and moisture anomalies going back since the start of October. Seasonal rainfall surpluses ranging between 100-200mm cover a broad area in the Greater Horn, as many local areas in eastern Kenya and southern Somalia have received over 4 time their normal rainfall accumulation during the last two months (Figure 2). In the last several weeks, the spatial extent of these anomalously heavy rains have shifted southward and continue to over saturate many portions of Kenya that had received near average rains during November. Since October, torrential rainfall, flash flooding and river inundation have already resulted in inaccessible roads and damages to infrastructure, waterborne disease outbreaks and have displaced thousands of people in Somalia, Kenya and Ethiopia.

Precipitation forecasts suggest a continuation of heavy rainfall across much of Kenya which sustains the threat for localized flooding in early December. Seven-day rainfall accumulations between 50-100mm are expected for portions of southern Rift Valley province, as well as in the north-central and northeastern regions of Kenya. In southern Somalia, seven-day rainfall amounts are expected to be much lower (30-50mm) compared to previous weeks.

More rains needed to offset early season dryness in South Africa

Although an increase in rainfall was observed throughout southern Africa during the last week, some areas in South Africa and Lesotho did not receive adequate rainfall for late November. Since the beginning of October, poorly distributed rainfall has resulted in the expansion of unfavorable cropping conditions throughout many local areas the Maize Triangle region (Figure 3). A continuation of below-average rainfall is expected to strengthen moisture deficits, and negatively affect crops in early development and/or further delay the planting of crops into December.

For the upcoming observation period, precipitation forecasts suggest a increase in rainfall over southern Africa. Similar to the previous week, however, the heaviest rains are not expected over some of the driest parts of South Africa, Lesotho and southeastern Botswana.



Note: The hazards outlook 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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