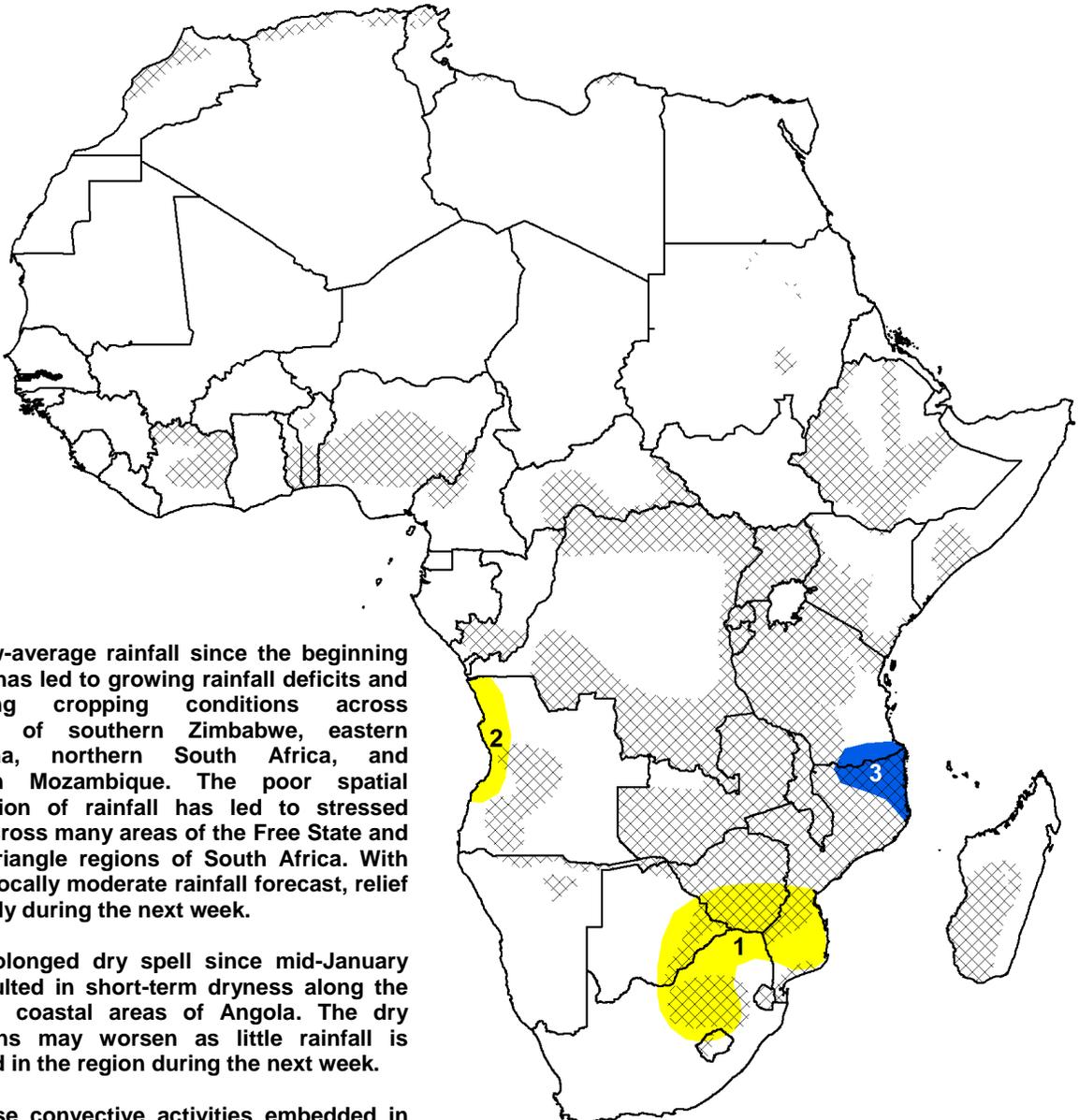


Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET March 8 – March 14, 2012

- Despite active tropical system activities over the Mozambique Channel during February, eastern southern Africa has continued to experience dryness.
- Heavy rainfall was observed across the Lake Victoria region and southern Ethiopia during the past week.

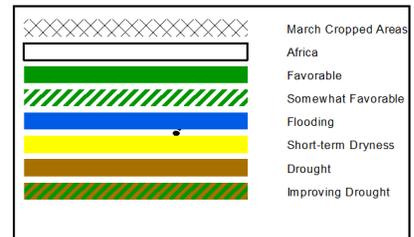


1) Below-average rainfall since the beginning of 2012 has led to growing rainfall deficits and degrading cropping conditions across portions of southern Zimbabwe, eastern Botswana, northern South Africa, and southern Mozambique. The poor spatial distribution of rainfall has led to stressed crops across many areas of the Free State and Maize Triangle regions of South Africa. With light to locally moderate rainfall forecast, relief is unlikely during the next week.

2) A prolonged dry spell since mid-January has resulted in short-term dryness along the northern coastal areas of Angola. The dry conditions may worsen as little rainfall is expected in the region during the next week.

3) Intense convective activities embedded in the Intertropical Convergence Zone could lead to the development of a cyclonic motion over the Mozambique Channel, which could bring heavy rainfall across portions of northern Mozambique and bordering southern Tanzania during the next week. Following two consecutive weeks of above-average rainfall, the forecast heavy rains could trigger flooding in the region.

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



Tropical Cyclone activity has brought heavy downpours across northern Mozambique and Madagascar, while suppressed rain was observed over Zimbabwe.

While the development of Tropical Cyclone Irina has brought torrential (> 50 mm) rainfall across Madagascar, northern and coastal southern Mozambique, low-level moisture divergence has suppressed rainfall across southern Zimbabwe, eastern Botswana, and northernmost South Africa during the past seven days (**Figure 1**). Across the dry portions of southern Africa, thirty-day accumulated rainfall has accounted for only 25 percent of the long-term average. The persistent below-average rainfall has led to moisture-stressed crops over Mt Darwin, Rushinga, Uzumba Maramba Pfungwe, and Mudzi districts of northern Zimbabwe; and several areas of the Free State and Maize Triangle regions of South Africa. Also, a prolonged dry spell since mid-January has resulted in developing dryness along northern coastal areas of Angola. Meanwhile, heavy (> 50 mm) rainfall has continued across central Angola, Namibia, and Tanzania.

The poor spatial and temporal distribution of rainfall since January has substantially impacted rain-fed crops across southern Africa. Unfavorable crop conditions were observed over southern Zimbabwe, eastern Botswana, northern South Africa, southern Mozambique; and coastal northern Angola during the third dekad of February (**Figure 2**). The continued suppression/lack of rainfall could lead to reduced crop yields in many regions of southern Africa.

For the next week, a tropical low could develop over the Mozambique Channel and bring heavy rainfall along northern Mozambique and southern Tanzania. This elevates the risks for flooding along coastal areas of the region. Heavy rainfall is also expected throughout southern Angola, Zambia, northern Zimbabwe, Malawi, and southern Tanzania, while light to locally moderate (< 30 mm) rainfall is forecast elsewhere.

Heavy rainfall observed over portions of eastern Africa.

During the past week, heavy rainfall was observed in local areas of southern Ethiopia, southern Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, the Lake Victoria region of Kenya and Tanzania (**Figure 3**). Since the beginning of March, average to above-average rainfall was observed across much of the region, which could be indicative of a timely onset of the March – May rainy season in the Greater Horn of Africa. In Tanzania, above-average rainfall has continued for the second consecutive week and has helped to compensate thirty-day rainfall deficits, which have resulted from an insufficient accumulated rainfall over the past two months. Meanwhile, light rainfall was recorded across South Sudan; central Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia. For the next week, little to no rainfall (< 10 mm) rainfall is forecast across much of eastern Africa, with localized little rainfall amounts over eastern South Sudan, southwestern Ethiopia, southern Uganda, central and southern Kenya, and neighboring northern Tanzania.

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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