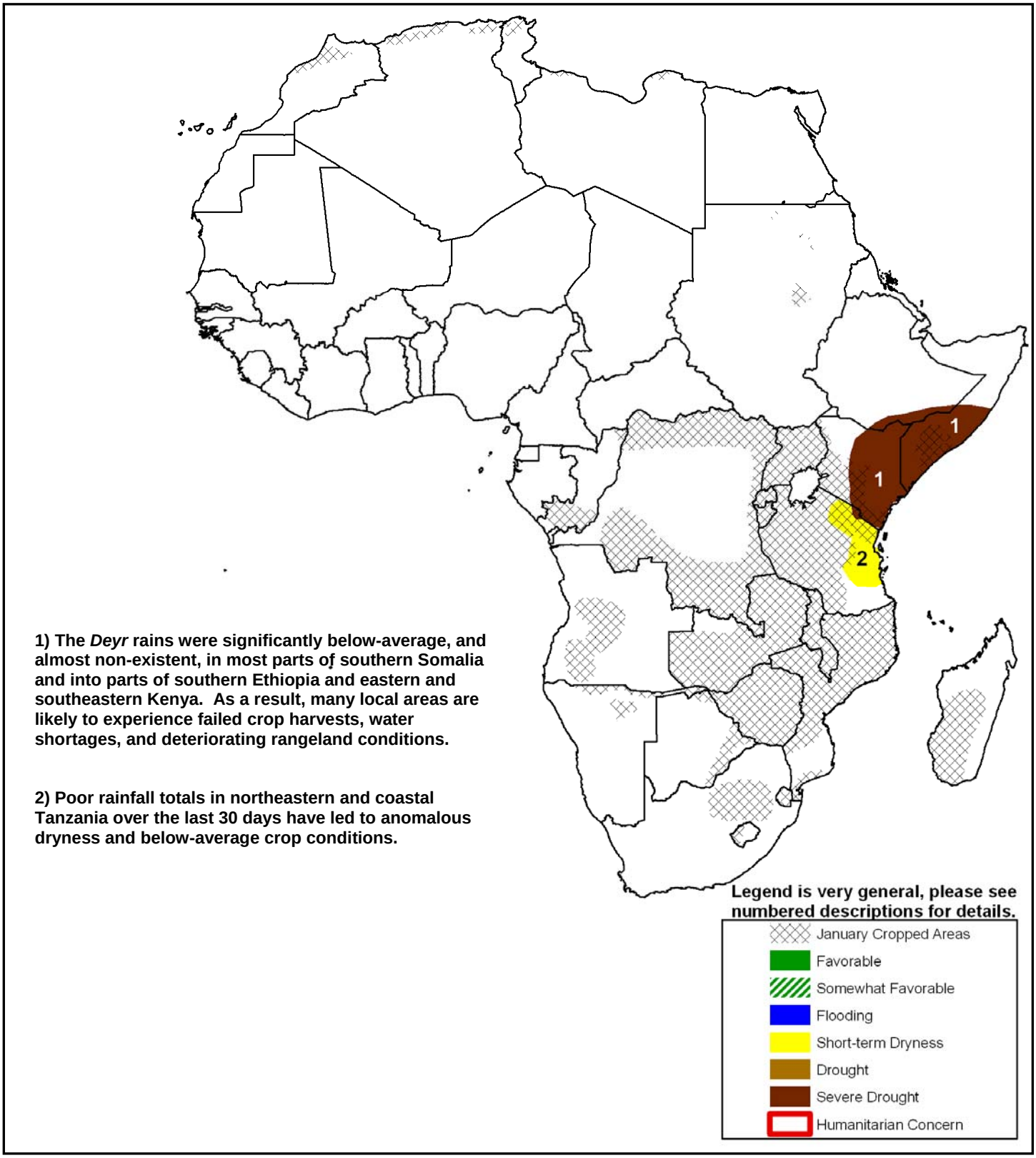
The USAID FEWS NET Weather Hazards Impacts Assessment for Africa
January 29 – February 4, 2009

- **Cyclones Fanele and Eric brought high winds and heavy rains across parts of Madagascar. Fanele was the more powerful storm and mainly impacted Toliara province.**

- **The bimodal areas of Tanzania remain dry with little to no improvement expected during the next week.**



1) The *Deyr* rains were significantly below-average, and almost non-existent, in most parts of southern Somalia and into parts of southern Ethiopia and eastern and southeastern Kenya. As a result, many local areas are likely to experience failed crop harvests, water shortages, and deteriorating rangeland conditions.

2) Poor rainfall totals in northeastern and coastal Tanzania over the last 30 days have led to anomalous dryness and below-average crop conditions.

Fanele rips through Madagascar, Eric tracks along the islands' east coast

Two cyclones developed during the last week near Madagascar. The stronger storm, Fanele, developed in the Mozambique Channel. At about the same time a weaker storm, Eric, formed off the east coast.

Fanele developed over the warm waters of the Mozambique Channel on January 19th. The storm rapidly intensified and made landfall during the early morning hours of January 21st. By that time the storm had maximum winds of more than 100 mph. Landfall occurred to the south of Morondava, Madagascar (**Figure 1**). Damage from the heavy rainfall, winds and storm surge are likely confined to an relatively close to the center of the storm. Fanele traveled in a southeasterly direction across the island and dissipated shortly after emerging into the Indian Ocean.

Eric formed hours before Fanele did, but did not gain as much strength. Eric developed to the northeast of Madagascar and tracked along the east coast of the country. The storm never became very organized and was torn apart by Fanele's circulation as the later emerged into the Indian Ocean. Peak winds were estimated to be near 40 mph.

Overall damage is likely to be concentrated near where Fanele made landfall. Rainfall in this area has been estimated to be as high as 300 mm since January 19th (**Figure 2**). Other areas did not experience as strong winds or as heavy rainfall.

The Track of Cyclone Fanele
January 19- 22, 2009

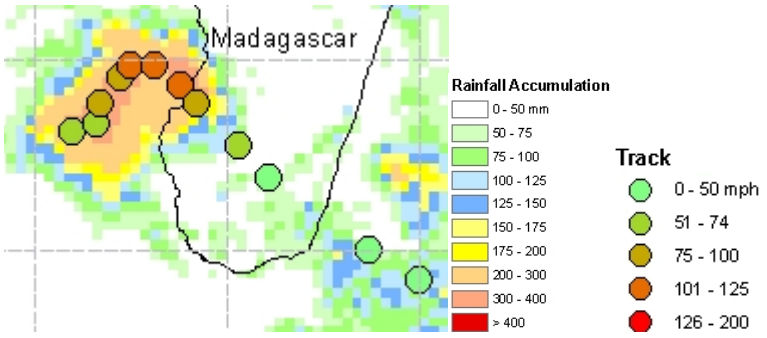


Figure 1: Cyclone Fanele made landfall on the west coast of Madagascar.
Source: FEWS-NET / NOAA

Satellite Rainfall Percent of Average (%)
Since December 20, 2008

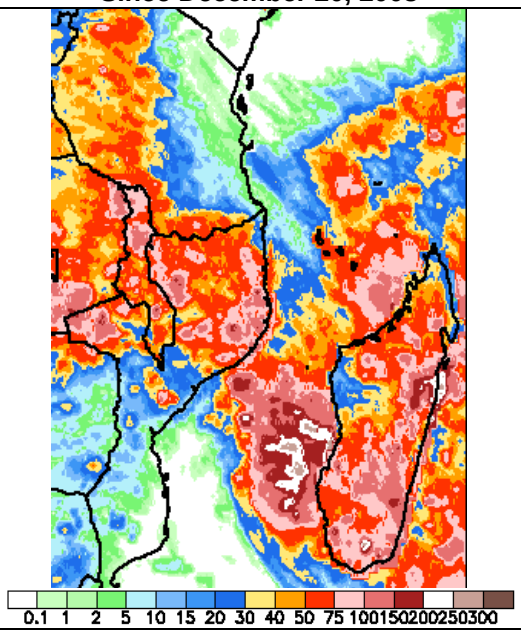


Figure 2: During the last week precipitation was heavy across Madagascar and Mozambique due to Cyclones Fanele and Eric. Meanwhile, the bimodal areas of Tanzania remained dry.
Source: FEWS-NET / NOAA

Dryness Continues in parts of Eastern Tanzania.

Despite heavy rains in southern Africa, many parts of eastern Tanzania have experienced a poor distribution of rainfall since mid to late December (**Figure 2**). Both local gauge observations and satellite estimates indicate the provinces of Arusha, Tanga, Pwani, Morogoro and Lindi have experienced less than 40 percent of their seasonal precipitation totals. This has resulted in insufficient soil moisture conditions, and deteriorating crop development throughout many of the bimodal regions (**Figure 3**).

Local reports indicate unimodal cropping areas are experiencing better crop growth, however additional moisture is also needed in these areas for a successful harvest.

Crop WRSI for Maize
As of January 24th, 2009

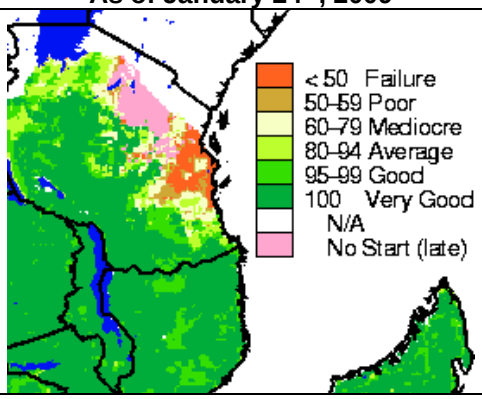


Figure 3: Rainfall has been poor across the bimodal areas of Tanzania.
Source: FEWS-NET / USGS