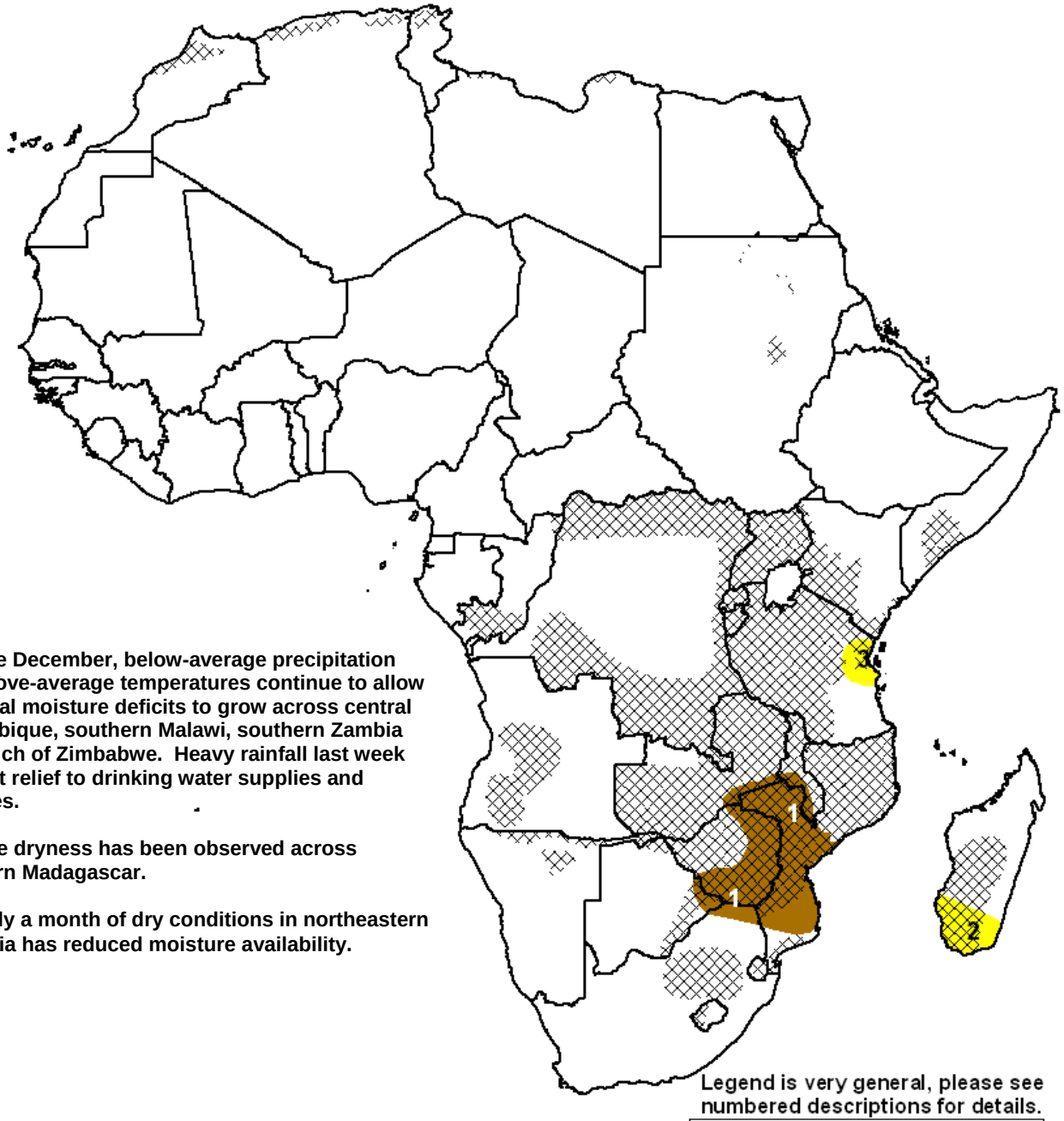
# The USAID FEWS NET Weather Hazards Impacts Assessment for Africa
# February 4 - 10, 2010

- **Poorly distributed rains and above average temperatures across portions of Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Zambia and southern Malawi are expected to degrade ground moisture impeding crops in southern Africa.**




**1) Since December, below-average precipitation and above-average temperatures continue to allow seasonal moisture deficits to grow across central Mozambique, southern Malawi, southern Zambia and much of Zimbabwe. Heavy rainfall last week brought relief to drinking water supplies and pastures.**

**2) Some dryness has been observed across southern Madagascar.**

**3) Nearly a month of dry conditions in northeastern Tanzania has reduced moisture availability.**

**Short-term relief does little to counter season long precipitation deficits in southeastern Africa**

During the last observation period, heavy rainfall was observed in southeastern Africa. The precipitation has brought short-term relief to an area that has been parched since December. Heavy rainfall has improved drinking water and pastures across central and southern Mozambique, as well as eastern parts of Zimbabwe. Further west, moderate to high precipitation amounts over the last seven days continue to provide ample ground moisture in portions of northwestern Zimbabwe and the Caprivi Strip region. Seasonally wet rainfall totals were also observed in portions of northern Mozambique, and in northern Malawi and Zambia.

Southern Angola and northern Namibia continued on a drying trend after a soaking wet first half of the season. Recent trends across much of Tanzania show a drying trend, with below normal precipitation observed for the last three weeks. (**Figure 1**)

The recent increase in moisture over Mozambique and Zimbabwe is counter to the season long trend of dryness in southeastern Africa (**Figure 2**). Seasonal rainfall deficits have stopped growing this week, however many local areas in central and western Mozambique still have only received 50-70 percent of average rainfall accumulation since October. In addition to the below-average totals for the season, many of these areas have also experienced a significantly low occurrence of precipitation, with many local areas in central and southern Mozambique having received only 3-5 days of measurable rain in the last 30 days with less than 50% of normal rainfall over that same period.

Temperatures have regularly exceeded 40 degrees Celsius in Mozambique and Zimbabwe during the last two months; this has negatively impacted available ground moisture for the development of crops in many local areas. The arrival of rainfall during the last week however, has brought temperatures down to more seasonable levels. The rainfall has also allowed soil moisture to recover, with the latest soil water analyses suggesting large areas that had been parched in southern portions of central and southern Mozambique, as well as southern Zimbabwe and eastern portions of Botswana (**Figure 3**), have improve drastically over the last seven days.

Late January is the time of the year when rains typically reach their maximum intensity and frequency over central and southern Mozambique. Last week was consistent with this. However, the current forecast shows that changing over the coming week. Precipitation is likely to ease over the next seven days, although light rains will remain in the area.

**Satellite Estimated Precipitation (mm)**
**Valid: January 24, 2010 – January 30, 2010**

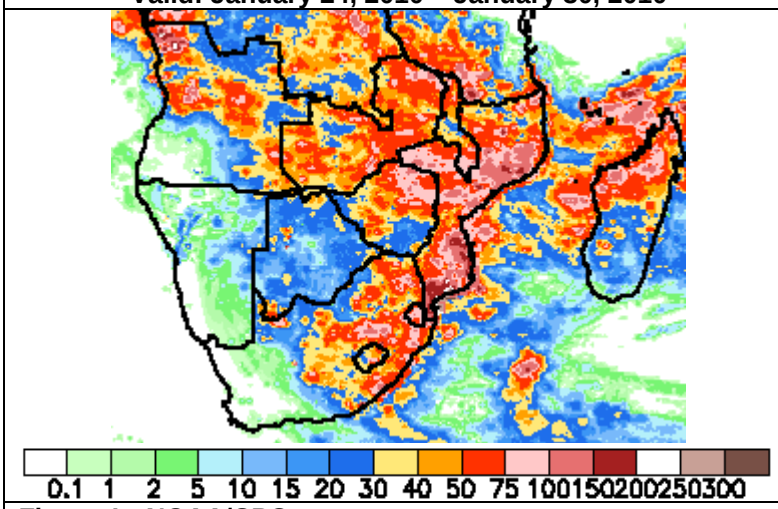



**Figure 1: NOAA/CPC**

**Satellite Estimated Precipitation Anomaly**
**Valid: October 1, 2009 – January 30, 2010**

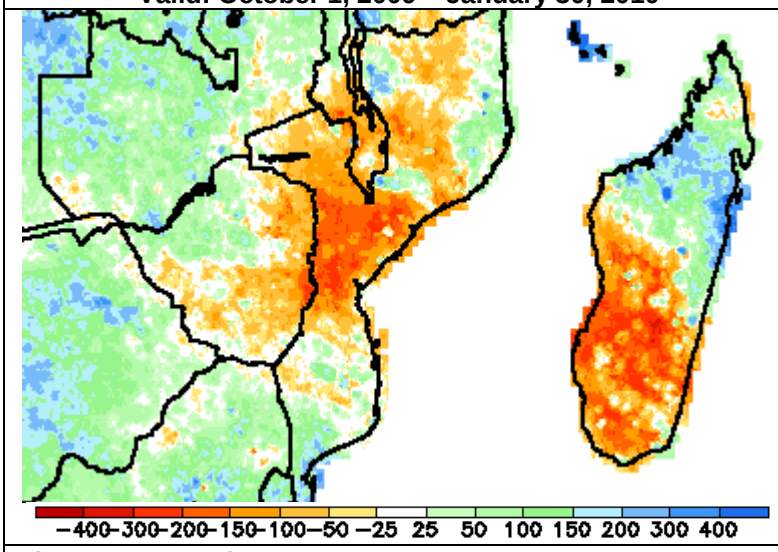



**Figure 2: NOAA/CPC**

**Daily Soil Water Index**
**Valid: January 30, 2010**

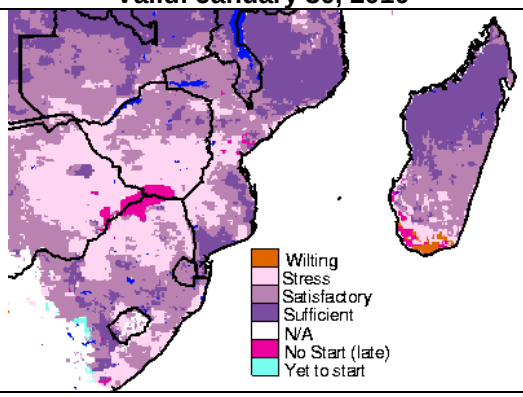



**Figure 3: USGS/EROS**

**Note: This product 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.**

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