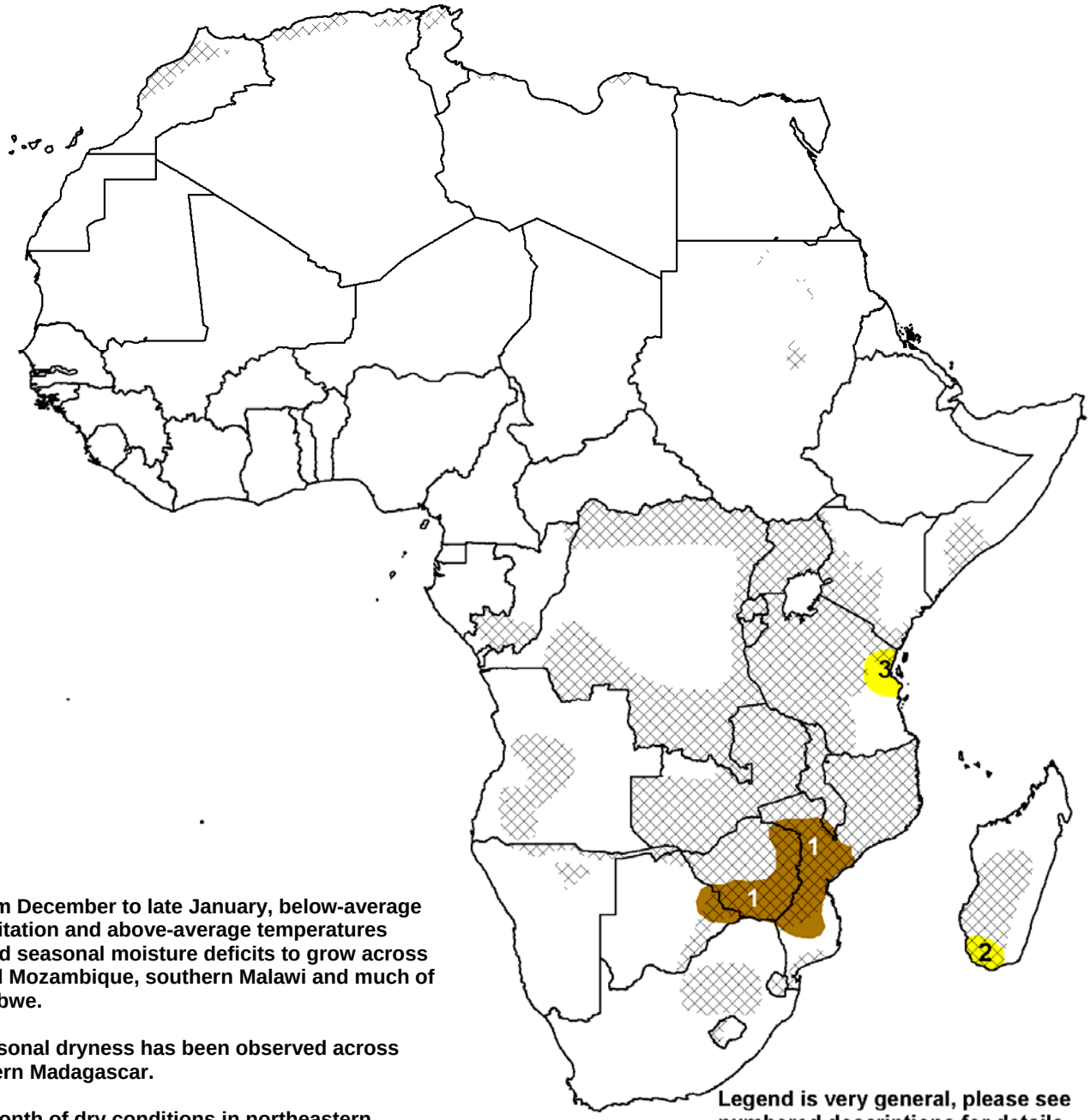
The USAID FEWS NET Weather Hazards Impacts Assessment for Africa
February 18 - 24, 2010

- **Below-average precipitation continues to strengthen seasonal and short-term moisture deficits across parts of Mozambique, Zimbabwe, eastern Botswana and southern Malawi.**



1) From December to late January, below-average precipitation and above-average temperatures allowed seasonal moisture deficits to grow across central Mozambique, southern Malawi and much of Zimbabwe.

2) Seasonal dryness has been observed across southern Madagascar.

3) A month of dry conditions in northeastern Tanzania has reduced moisture availability.

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

- February Cropped Areas
- Favorable
- Somewhat Favorable
- Flooding
- Short-term Dryness
- Drought
- Improving Drought

Predominantly dry conditions observed across much of southern Africa.

During the last observation period, fair to locally moderate amounts of rainfall were received in southern Africa. In Mozambique, seven-day precipitation totals ranged between 5-15 mm across the Manica, Tete, and Sofala provinces, with higher totals approaching 40 mm were observed north of the Zambezi river basin (**Figure 1**). Further west, light rainfall fell across much of Zimbabwe and eastern parts of Botswana, with more favorable weekly totals observed near the Caprivi Strip region, as well as parts of western Zambia and northern Namibia.

Despite a brief recovery of rains in southern Africa two weeks ago, both the magnitude and frequency of precipitation remain markedly below climatology for this time of the year. In the last 30 days, suppressed rains have resulted in deficits ranging between 25 to 50 percent of average covering large portion of central Mozambique and the eastern Zimbabwe. Despite moderate showers in the last seven days across northern Botswana and along the border between Angola and Namibia, rainfall has fallen between 50 and 70 percent of average in the last month. These shorter term anomalies continue to worsen season-long deficits across southern Africa, which has chiefly affected parts of central Mozambique and eastern Zimbabwe since October.

Latest soil water analyses suggest insufficient soil water conditions across much of southern Zimbabwe, eastern Botswana and throughout many local parts of the Maize Triangle and central Mozambique (**Figure 2**). If these conditions persist, degraded soil moisture is likely to impede the development of many active crops for these areas.

Precipitation forecasts suggest a return of heavy rainfall across much of southeastern Africa over the next seven days. Much needed rainfall amounts in excess of 50 mm are expected for many parts of southern and central Mozambique, as well as many dry parts of Zimbabwe.

Above-average early season rains observed in Ethiopia.

In the last two weeks, moderate and isolated, heavy rains were received across the Rift Valley of Ethiopia. Although early, these rains have already led to moisture surpluses for areas that have previously been impacted by long-term drought conditions. Since the beginning of February, positive rainfall anomalies in excess of 50mm, with locally deeper surpluses (>100m) have already been observed across parts of the northern Oromia and Afar regions of Ethiopia (**Figure 3**). Precipitation forecasts suggest rains to continue with amounts ranging between 15-30 mm over the SNNP and Oromia regions during the upcoming observation period.

Satellite Estimated Precipitation (mm)
Valid: February 7, 2010 – February 13, 2010

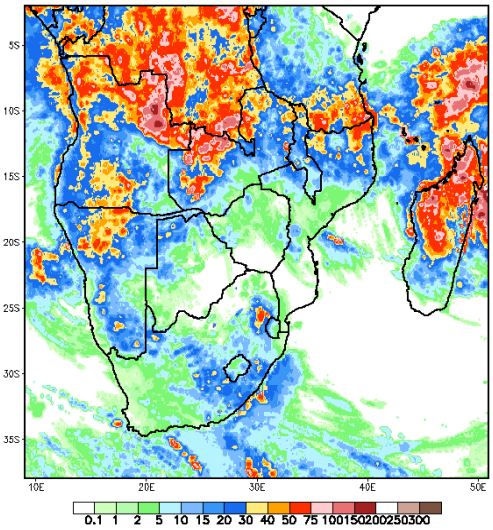


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

Daily Soil Water Index (%)
As of: February 13th, 2010

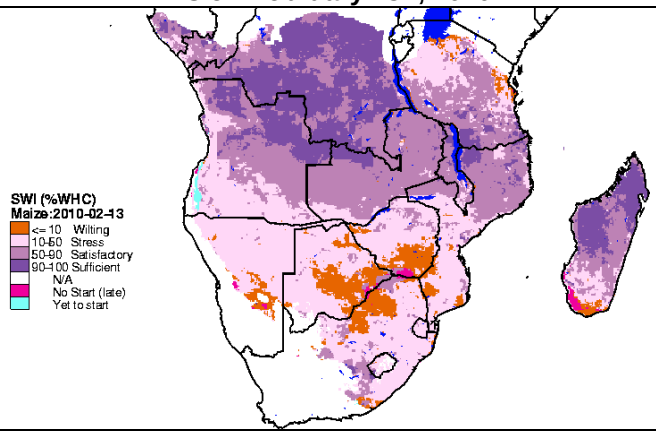


Figure 2: : USGS/EROS

Satellite Estimated Precipitation Anomaly (mm)
Valid: February 1, 2010 – February 13, 2010

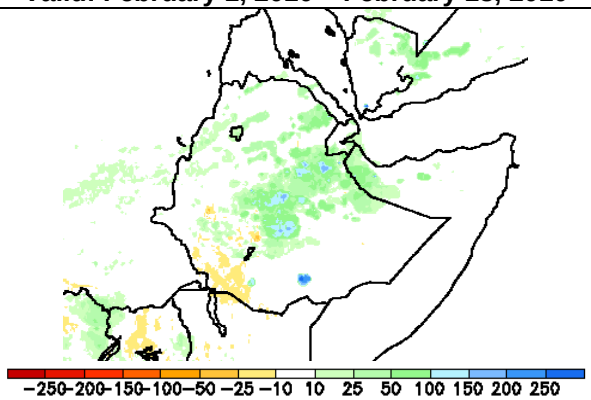


Figure 3: NOAA/CPC

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.