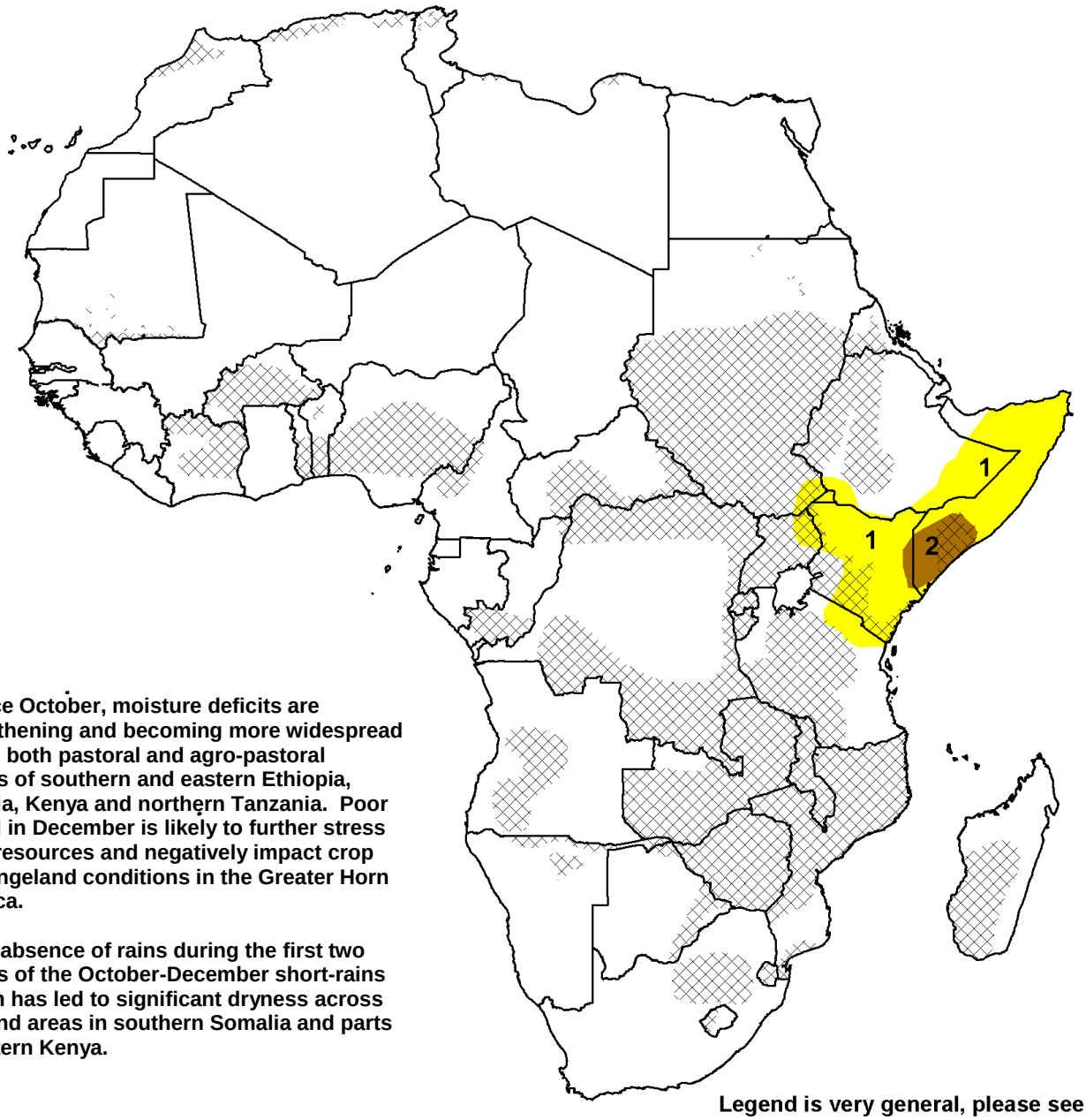
The USAID FEWS NET Weather Hazards Impacts Assessment for Africa
December 9 – December 15, 2010

- **Widespread and ample amounts of rainfall were received throughout many local parts of Mozambique, Zambia, and Zimbabwe during the last seven days.**



1) Since October, moisture deficits are strengthening and becoming more widespread across both pastoral and agro-pastoral regions of southern and eastern Ethiopia, Somalia, Kenya and northern Tanzania. Poor rainfall in December is likely to further stress water resources and negatively impact crop and rangeland conditions in the Greater Horn of Africa.

2) The absence of rains during the first two months of the October-December short-rains season has led to significant dryness across cropland areas in southern Somalia and parts of eastern Kenya.

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

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

Heavy rains observed across southern Africa expected to benefit early season cropping activities.

During the last observation period, copious amounts of rainfall were observed across a broad portion of southern Africa. Precipitation amounts ranging between 50-75mm were received across parts of southern Angola, Zambia, Zimbabwe, northern Botswana and southern Malawi. The heaviest weekly precipitation (>75mm) was observed in central Mozambique and eastern Zimbabwe, where locally intense rainfall accumulations in excess of 100mm were received across a number of local areas in the Zambezi, Manica, Sofala and Inhambane provinces of Mozambique. Further south, rainfall was more moderate, with seven-day rainfall totals ranging between 30-50mm throughout parts of the Maize Triangle of South Africa (**Figure 1**).

The enhanced rainfall over southern Africa during the last week has helped to reduce regional short-term rainfall deficits as well as strengthen moistures surpluses. In the last 30 days, a number of local areas in western Botswana, eastern Zimbabwe, and coastal Mozambique have received nearly twice their normal rainfall accumulations (**Figure 2)**. The above-average rainfall during the last month has led to a broad increase in soil moisture throughout Botswana, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Mozambique in December. This is expected to benefit early season cropping activities in southern Africa.

Precipitation forecasts suggest a continuation of above-average rainfall over southern Africa. Rainfall accumulations ranging between 50-100mm are expected throughout Angola, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Tanzania, and Mozambique during the next seven days. These enhanced rains are expected to sustain beneficial moisture conditions as well as help alleviate areas in central Angola, southern Tanzania and northern Mozambique that are still experiencing early season rainfall deficits.

Poor rains across the Greater Horn continue to worsen ground conditions in Somalia, Ethiopia, and Kenya.

Another week of poorly distributed rains was observed across Ethiopia, Somalia and Kenya. Although more favorable rainfall (20-40m) was received in parts of Uganda, southwestern Kenya, and northern Tanzania, many areas in Somalia, eastern Kenya and southern Ethiopia have experienced little to no precipitation since November. The persistent suppression of rainfall has significantly strengthened moisture deficits across eastern Kenya and southern Somalia, which has resulted in deteriorating crop and rangelands conditions with less opportunity for improvement before the end short-rains season. Precipitation forecasts indicate a small increase in rainfall over portions of northern Tanzania and central Kenya during the next week, however no rainfall is forecast throughout many areas of Somalia and eastern Ethiopia.

Satellite Estimated Precipitation (mm)
Valid: November 28th – December 4th, 2010

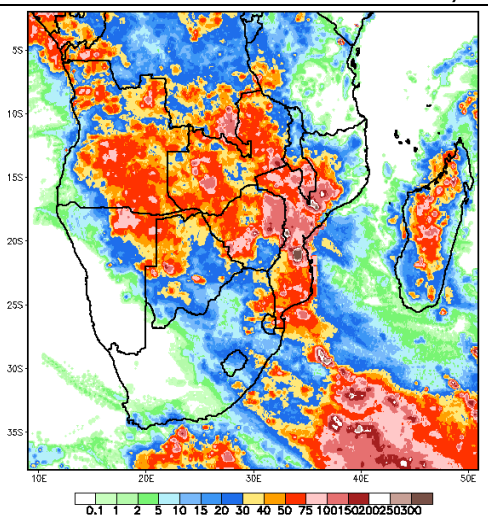


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

Satellite Estimated Precipitation Anomaly (mm)
Valid: September 24th – October 23rd, 2010

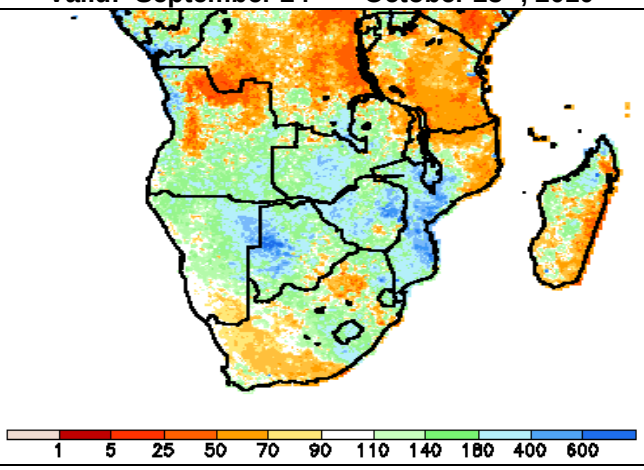


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

Water Requirements Satisfaction Index (WRSI)
Valid: As of 3rd Dekad of November, 2010

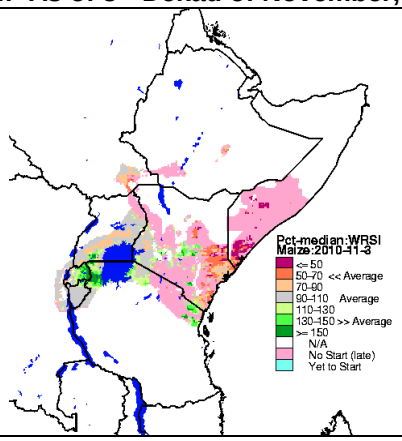


Figure 3: USGS/EROS

Note: The hazards assessment 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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