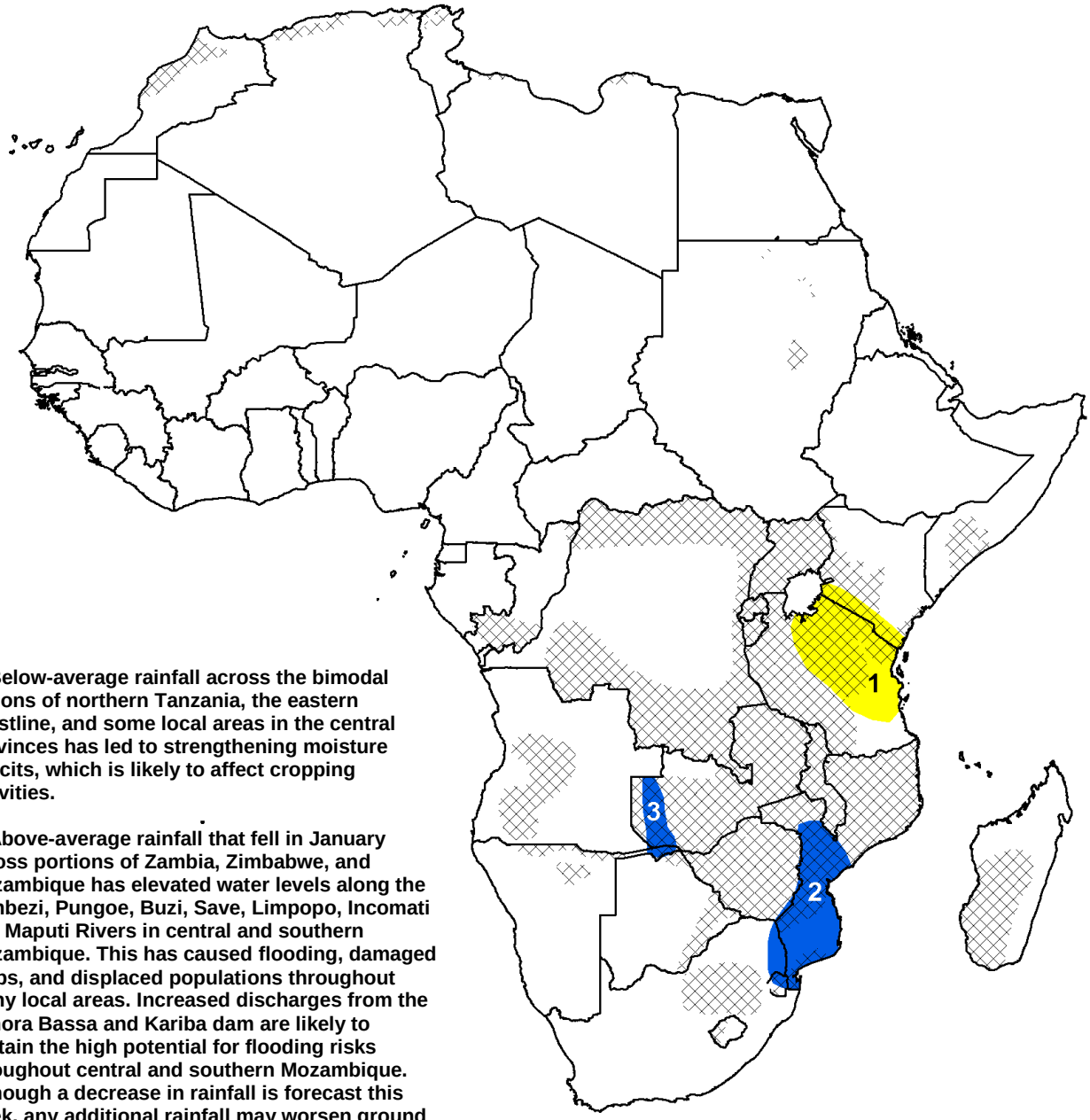
The USAID FEWS NET Weather Hazards Impacts Assessment for Africa
February 3 – February 9, 2011

- **The continuation of heavy precipitation is likely to over-saturate soils, sustain the high risk of flooding, and negatively affect crop conditions throughout many local areas in southern Africa.**



1) Below-average rainfall across the bimodal regions of northern Tanzania, the eastern coastline, and some local areas in the central provinces has led to strengthening moisture deficits, which is likely to affect cropping activities.

2) Above-average rainfall that fell in January across portions of Zambia, Zimbabwe, and Mozambique has elevated water levels along the Zambezi, Pungoe, Buzi, Save, Limpopo, Incomati and Maputi Rivers in central and southern Mozambique. This has caused flooding, damaged crops, and displaced populations throughout many local areas. Increased discharges from the Cahora Bassa and Kariba dam are likely to sustain the high potential for flooding risks throughout central and southern Mozambique. Although a decrease in rainfall is forecast this week, any additional rainfall may worsen ground conditions.

3) Due to continuously heavy rainfall in Zambia, rising river levels along the Zambezi River in western Zambia has led to elevated flooding concerns, inaccessibility, and the displacement of populations downstream near Katima Mulilo in the eastern Caprivi Strip region of Namibia.

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

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

Heavy rains continue over many flood affected regions in Mozambique.

During the last observation period, moderate to heavy amounts of precipitation were received across a number of areas in southern Africa. In Mozambique, significantly high seven day rainfall totals ranging between 75-150mm were observed in throughout the central provinces of Mozambique, as well as in central and eastern portions of Zimbabwe. The heaviest precipitation during the last week (>150mm) was observed in the Mozambique Channel and in many coastal areas in northern Madagascar. Further south, more moderate rainfall amounts (30-50mm) were received in eastern Botswana, southern Zimbabwe, southern Mozambique, and the Maize Triangle region of South Africa (**Figure 1)**.

During the last 30 days, precipitation has been well above-average across a broad region in southern Africa. Precipitation surpluses in excess of 100mm have been observed for a large number of local areas extending from Namibia to Mozambique, with many local areas receiving more than twice their normal rainfall for January (**Figure 2**). The anomalously wet distribution of rainfall in January has resulted in increased discharges from a number of local dams in Zimbabwe and Mozambique, as many rivers and their surrounding areas downstream have experienced continuing flooding conditions and displaced populations. As these above-average rains are expected to continue, there remains a high potential for worsening flood conditions and crop damages for Mozambique, Zimbabwe and South Africa during early February.

Forecasts for the next week suggest a decrease in precipitation over many areas affected by above-average rains during the last several weeks. A suppression of rains is expected over many parts of Botswana and Zimbabwe, with much higher totals (>50mm) expected for portions of central Angola, Zambia, Malawi, and northern Mozambique.

Lack of January precipitation strengthens moisture deficits in northern and central Tanzania

Following a significantly inadequate October-December rains season in the Greater Horn, poorly distributed rains across eastern equatorial Africa in the last month has led to developing dry conditions for a number of local areas in central and northern Tanzania. During the last several weeks, many local areas have received nearly half of their normal rainfall for January, which is likely to result in deteriorating soil water conditions and impede current cropping activities in Tanzania (**Figure 3**). If the suppression of rains continue, this dryness is likely to expand further westward, and impact other areas in central Tanzania during early February. Rainfall forecasts suggest light rainfall activity for many anomalously dry areas in eastern Tanzania during the next seven days.

Satellite Estimated Precipitation (mm)
Valid: January 25th – January 29th, 2011

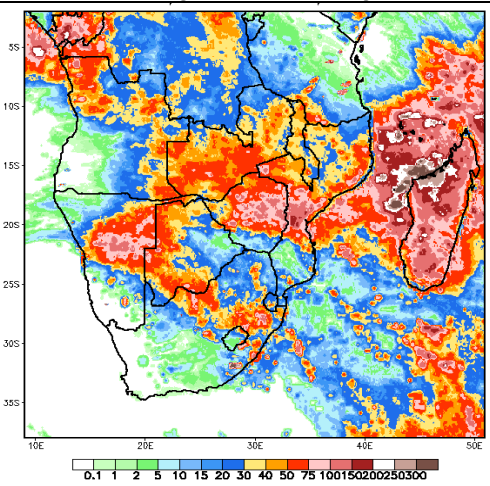


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

Satellite Estimated Precipitation Anomaly (mm)
Valid: December 31st, 2010 – January 29th, 2011

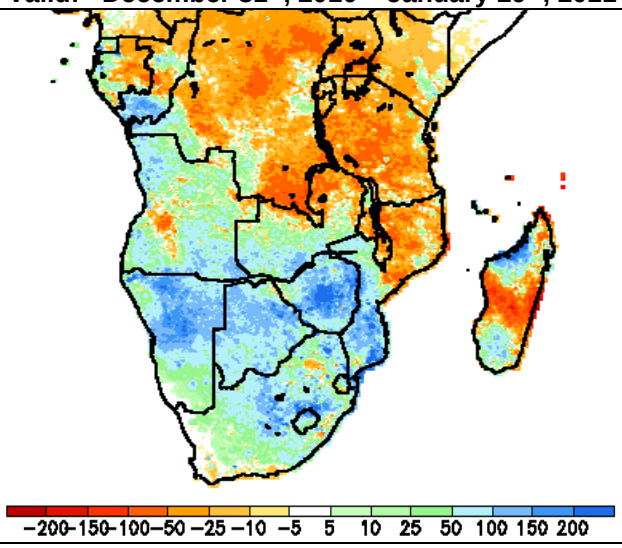


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

Daily Soil Water Index (%)
Valid: As of 29th of January, 2011

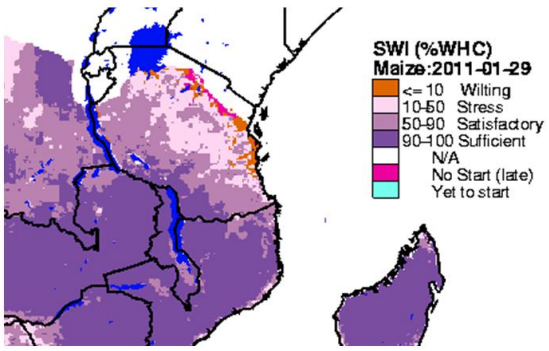


Figure 3: USGS/EROS

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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