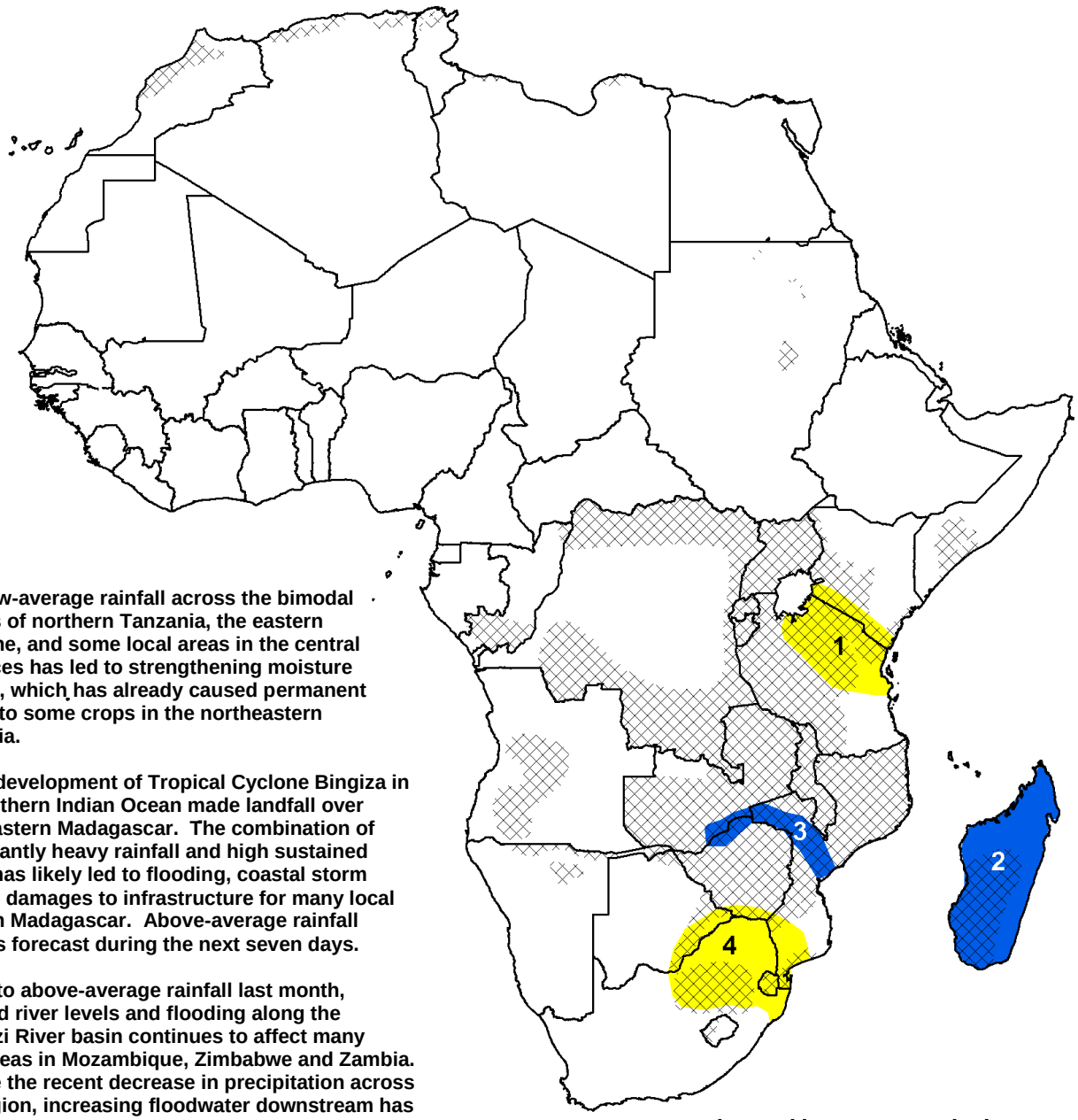
The USAID FEWS NET Weather Hazards Impacts Assessment for Africa
February 17 – February 23, 2011

- **For the second consecutive week, below-average rainfall in southeastern Africa is expected to continually help relieve flooding and rising river levels along the Zambezi River basin.**



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 has already caused permanent wilting to some crops in the northeastern Tanzania.

2) The development of Tropical Cyclone Bingiza in the southern Indian Ocean made landfall over northeastern Madagascar. The combination of significantly heavy rainfall and high sustained winds has likely led to flooding, coastal storm surges, damages to infrastructure for many local areas in Madagascar. Above-average rainfall remains forecast during the next seven days.

3) Due to above-average rainfall last month, elevated river levels and flooding along the Zambezi River basin continues to affect many local areas in Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Zambia. Despite the recent decrease in precipitation across this region, increasing floodwater downstream has resulted in displaced populations, obstructed transportation, and damaged crops.

3) From the middle of January to present, poorly distributed rainfall has been observed across portions of South Africa, Swaziland, as well as, in parts of southern Botswana, Zimbabwe and Mozambique. This is likely to result in moisture deficits during critical stages of ongoing crop development for many local areas in the region.

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

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

Suppressed southern Africa rains helps to mitigate flooding impacts, heavy rainfall elsewhere.

During the last observation period, a considerable absence of seasonal precipitation across many areas in southern Africa is expected to help relieve many areas affected by flooding and overly saturated ground conditions in Zambia and Mozambique. In the last seven days, weekly rainfall amounts were largely minimal, as many areas in southern Zambia, Botswana, Zimbabwe and Mozambique received less than 20mm of rainfall. The reduction in rainfall in these areas marks the second consecutive week where rains were well below average. Further west, however, precipitation was abundant, as portions from western Angola to the lower Congo River Basin experienced weekly rainfall totals exceeding 75mm, with some local areas receiving over 150mm. In the east, the development of tropical cyclone "Bingiza" in the southern Indian Ocean resulted in significantly heavy rainfall over the northern coastal areas of Madagascar (**Figure 1**).

The suppression of rainfall in southern Africa has helped to neutralize both long-term and short-term moisture surpluses, as well as, relieve many local areas that have experienced ongoing flooding along the Zambezi river basin in Zambia and Mozambique. In the last 30 days, rainfall has fallen below-average for a number of local areas along the Zambezi River basin, with the growing rainfall deficits ranging between 50-100mm centered over portions of eastern Zambia, Malawi and northern Mozambique (**Figure 2**). In Madagascar, a large number of areas that were seasonally dry are currently above-average due to the passage of tropical cyclone Bingiza last week.

Rainfall forecasts indicate another week of suppressed rainfall throughout southeastern Africa, with the majority of the heaviest rainfall to occur along central and northern portions of Angola, Zambia, Malawi and Mozambique during the next seven days. The remnants of tropical storm "Bingiza" are also expected to produce high rainfall amounts over the Mozambique Channel, as well as other areas in Madagascar that were unaffected by the initial landfall earlier last week.

Satellite Estimated Precipitation (mm)
Valid: February 8th – February 14th, 2011

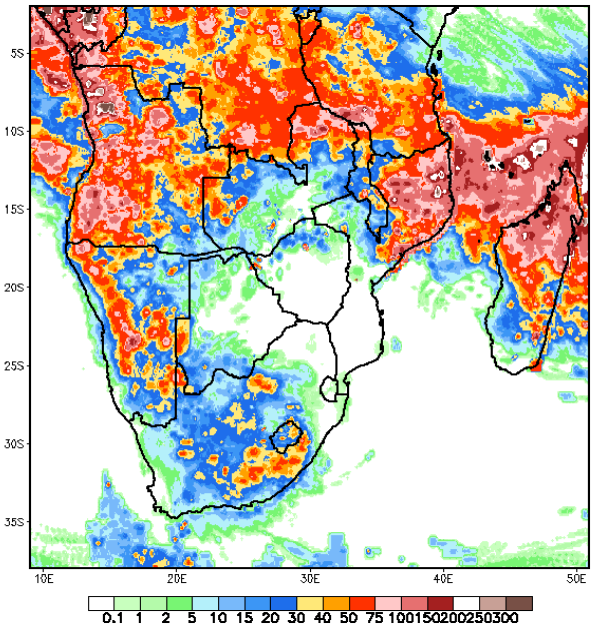


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

Satellite Estimated Precipitation Anomaly (mm)
Valid: January 15th – February 13th, 2011

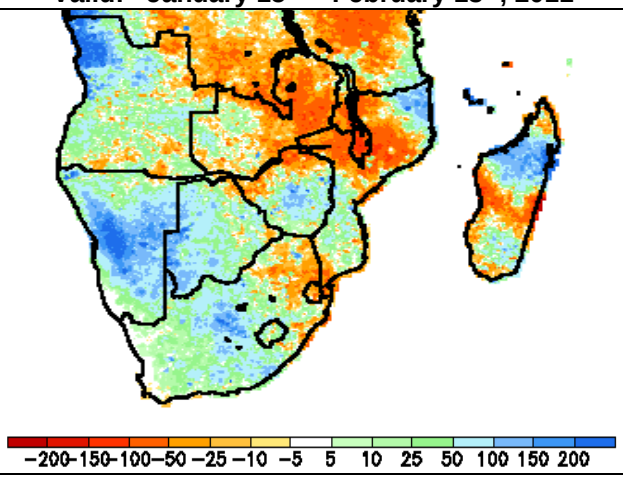


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

Deteriorating conditions continue in Tanzania.

Despite a small increase in precipitation observed over many areas in Tanzania during the last week, poor rainfall observed throughout the month of January resulted in a rapid strengthening of moisture deficits throughout the central and northern provinces of the country. The latest soil requirements analysis suggests the northern and coastal areas of Tanzania most likely impacted by this dryness, with declining conditions observed in the central provinces (**Figure 3**). If below-average rainfall continues for the remainder of February, additional crop failures and yield reductions may be expected by the end of the rains season.

Crop Water Requirements Satisfaction Index
Valid: As of 1st Dekad of February, 2011

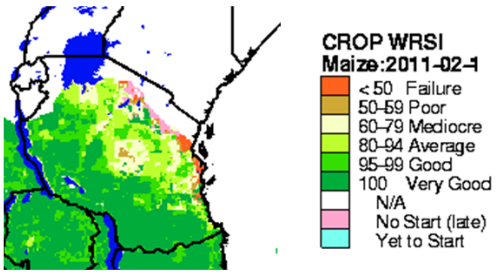


Figure 3: USGS/EROS

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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