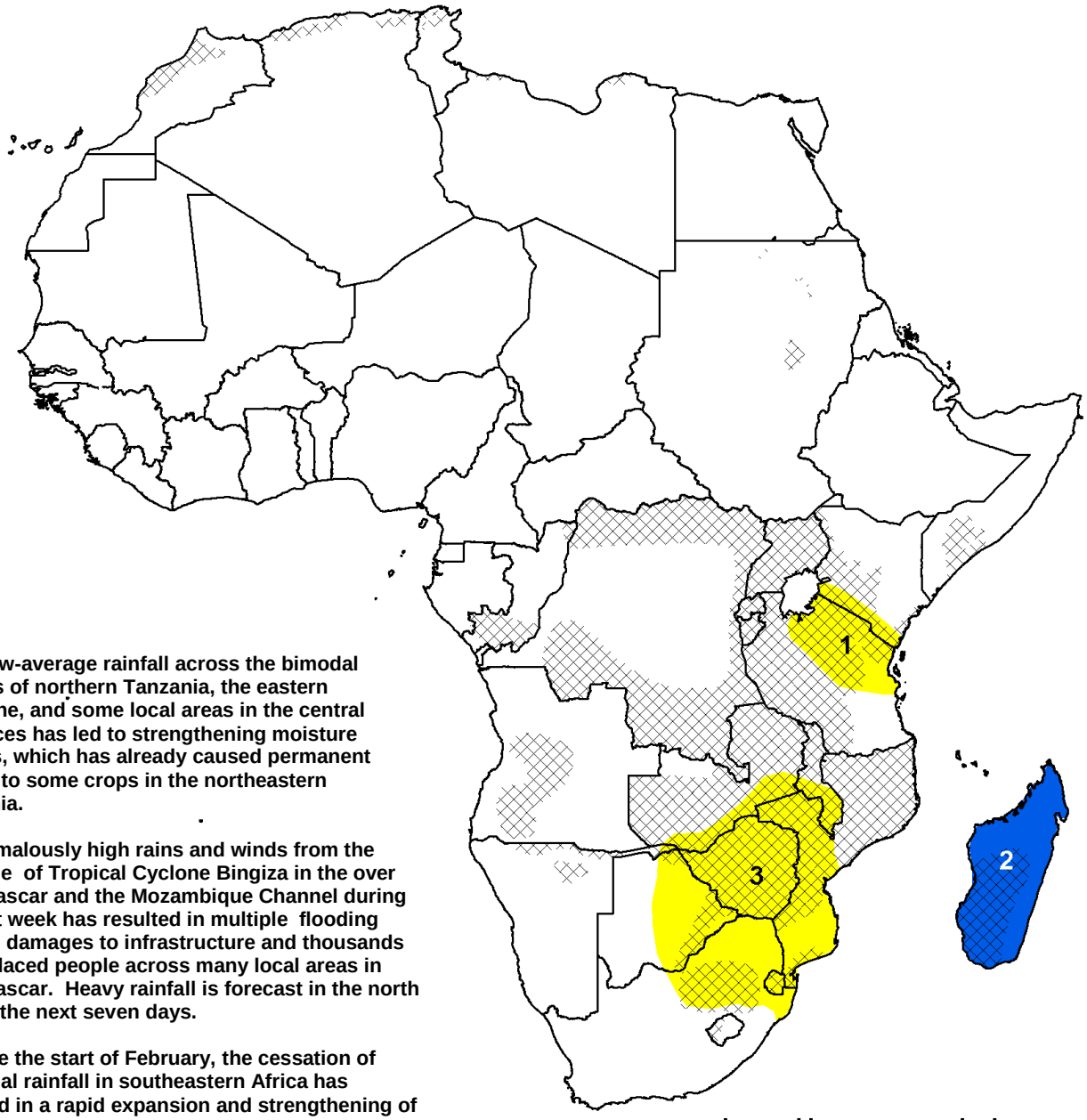
# The USAID FEWS NET Weather Hazards Impacts Assessment for Africa February 24 – March 2, 2011

- **The suppression of precipitation throughout southeastern Africa is expected to help relieve flooding concerns along the Zambezi River, but also has significantly strengthened mid-season dryness throughout many local areas in the south.**




**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) Anomalously high rains and winds from the passage of Tropical Cyclone Bingiza in the over Madagascar and the Mozambique Channel during the last week has resulted in multiple flooding events, damages to infrastructure and thousands of displaced people across many local areas in Madagascar. Heavy rainfall is forecast in the north during the next seven days.**

**3) Since the start of February, the cessation of seasonal rainfall in southeastern Africa has resulted in a rapid expansion and strengthening of moisture deficits throughout portions of Zambia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Malawi, Botswana, and the Maize Triangle region of South Africa. The onset of this mid-season dryness has already resulted in acute crop failure for many local areas, and is also likely to negatively impact crop development in other areas in southern Africa. Below-average rainfall is expected to continue during the next seven days.**

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

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

**Mid-season dryness continues in southern Africa.**

During the last observation period, a continuation of suppressed rainfall was observed across southeastern Africa with considerably enhanced precipitation observed over the Mozambique Channel and Madagascar. In the last seven days, little to no rainfall was received throughout the eastern Botswana, Zambia, Zimbabwe, southern Mozambique, and the Maize Triangle region of South Africa. Further west, weekly rainfall was generally moderate, as many areas along the Atlantic coast of southern African saw accumulations ranging between 10-50mm, with locally heavier totals (>50mm) estimated in southwestern Angola. In the east, the passage of Tropical Cyclone Bingiza during the last week produced heavy rainfall over Madagascar (>150mm), with the greatest weekly totals (>250mm) falling just offshore over the Mozambique Channel. This tropical disturbance also brought an ample increase in moisture and rains over parts of northern Mozambique and Tanzania (**Figure 1**).

In recent weeks, the suppression of rainfall across continental southern Africa has neutralized seasonal moisture surpluses; however rainfall deficits have considerably strengthened along the Zambezi River basin, as well as many other areas further south during the last 30 days. Throughout eastern Angola, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Mozambique and South Africa, negative rainfall anomalies typically range between 50-100mm, with locally higher deficits observed in parts along the Zambezi River basin (**Figure 2**). While the broad scale absence of precipitation should relieve flooding concerns along the Zambezi River, the development of mid-season dryness in southern Africa is expected to negatively impact crops during their critical stages of development in February.

Rainfall forecasts indicate another week of suppressed rainfall throughout southeastern Africa, with the potential for the heaviest rainfall to occur along central and northern portions of Angola, Zambia, Malawi, Tanzania and Mozambique during the next seven days.

---

**Path Tropical Cyclone Bingiza negatively impacts northern and southern Madagascar.**

In the last week, the highest rainfall recorded this season over Madagascar was associated with the passage of Tropical Cyclone Bingiza. After Bingiza made landfall and transected the northeastern provinces of Madagascar, this system made landfall once again over the southern provinces as the system regained some intensity from Mozambique Channel (**Figure 3**). The total path of Bingiza brought heavy rains across the majority of the island, which resulted in numerous flooding events, thousands of displaced people, potentially damaged crops, and several fatalities during the last week.

**Satellite Estimated Precipitation (mm)**
**Valid: February 13th – February 19th, 2011**

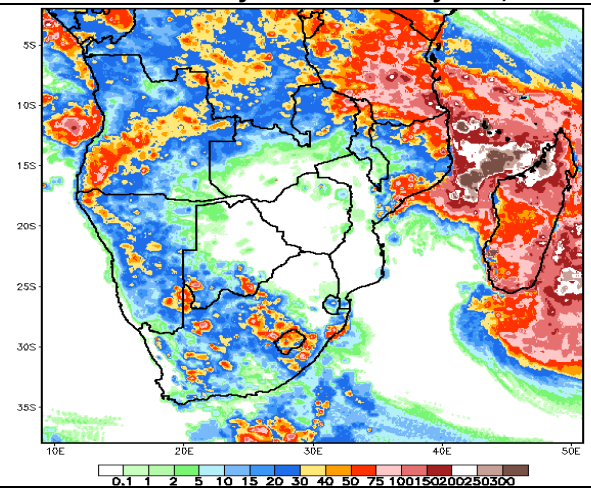



**Figure 1: NOAA/CPC**

**Satellite Estimated Precipitation Anomaly (mm)**
**Valid: January 21st – February 19th, 2011**

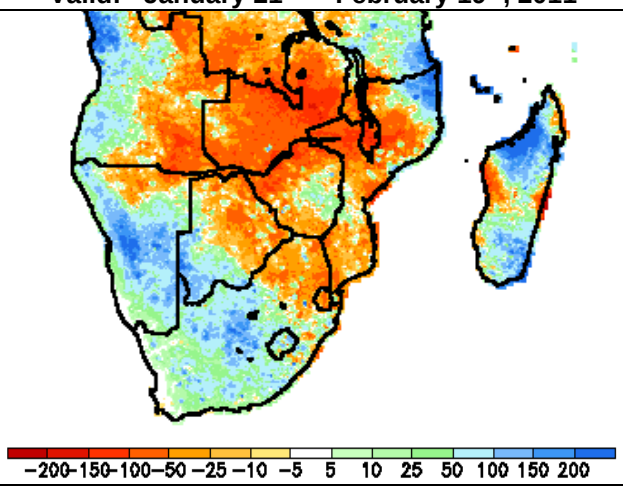



**Figure 2: NOAA/CPC**

**Path of Tropical Cylone Bingiza**
**As of : Feburary 17th, 2011**

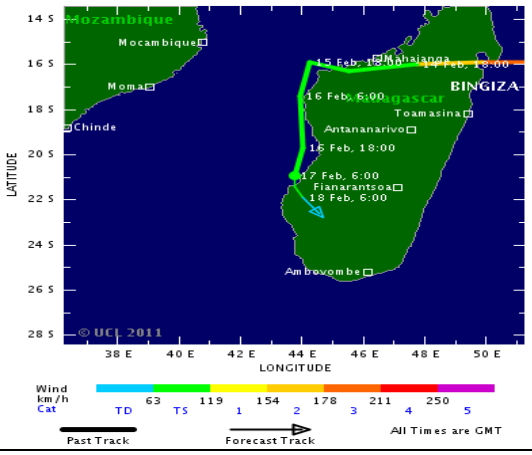



**Figure 3: Reuters**

**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.**