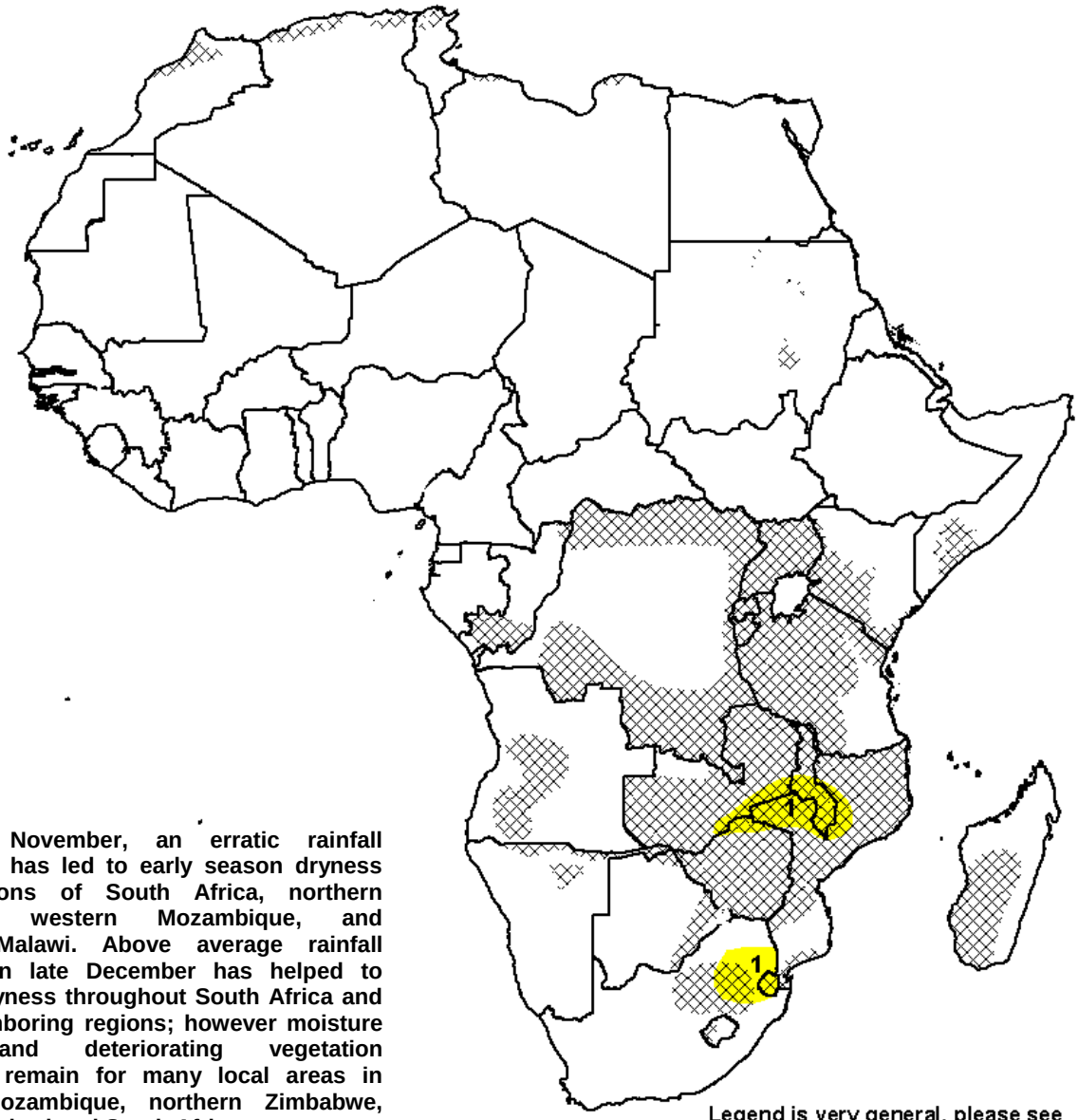
# Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
# For USAID / FEWS-NET
# January 5, 2011 – January 11, 2012

- **Despite an increase in precipitation in late December, considerable moisture deficits remain in many local areas along the Zambezi River basin and in South Africa.**




**1) Since November, an erratic rainfall distribution has led to early season dryness over portions of South Africa, northern Zimbabwe, western Mozambique, and southern Malawi. Above average rainfall observed in late December has helped to mitigate dryness throughout South Africa and many neighboring regions; however moisture deficits and deteriorating vegetation conditions remain for many local areas in western Mozambique, northern Zimbabwe, southern Malawi and South Africa.**

**Enhanced rains result in improving ground conditions across many parts of southern Africa.**

During the last observation period, moderate to heavy amounts of precipitation were received across much of southern Africa. The heaviest rains were observed throughout eastern Zimbabwe, as many local areas saw seven day rainfall amounts in excess of 75mm (**Figure 1**). Further north, locally heavy amounts (>50mm) of precipitation were also received across many portions of southern Angola, Zambia, and in the Caprivi Strip region. In Tanzania, more moderate amounts of precipitation was observed throughout the central and southern provinces of the country following extreme rains that fell during the previous week that had resulted in floods. In South Africa, seven day rains were also more moderate and better distributed compared to previous weeks in December.

The increase in precipitation that was observed throughout southern Africa has helped to relieve many local areas that had been experiencing early to mid-season dryness. Over the last 30 days, many negative precipitation anomalies have been neutralized due to above average rains observed across portions of South Africa, Lesotho and Swaziland. However, substantial precipitation deficits remain for many areas further north. Many local areas throughout western Mozambique, eastern Zambia, and Malawi have observed approximately half of their normal rainfall accumulation since December, which may impede development of crops during January. Water Requirement Satisfaction Index analyses still indicate below average conditions for current cropping activities for portions of South Africa and western Mozambique (**Figure 2**).

Precipitation forecasts suggest a more seasonal distribution of precipitation for the next seven days. Rainfall amounts ranging between 30-50mm are expected for much of southern Africa, with locally heavier amounts (>50mm) expected for portions of Zambia, Malawi and Mozambique. Average to above-average precipitation during early January is expected to continually relieve many areas affected by early season dryness and gradually improve pastoral and agro-pastoral areas.

---

**Short rains season was exceptionally above average in the Greater Horn.**

As seasonal precipitation has withdrawn from the Greater Horn during the end of December, many local areas in Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia recorded significant rainfall amounts since the start of season in October. A large distribution of seasonal rainfall surpluses in excess of 200mm were observed across the East Africa, accounting for more than twice the normal amount of seasonal rainfall for many local areas (**Figure 3**). Although the above average season resulted in several localized flooding events, the abundant seasonal moisture is expected to replenish water resources and improve many pastoral and agro-pastoral areas affected by a long-term drought in 2011.

**Satellite Estimated Rainfall (mm)**
**Valid: December 25th – December 31th, 2011**

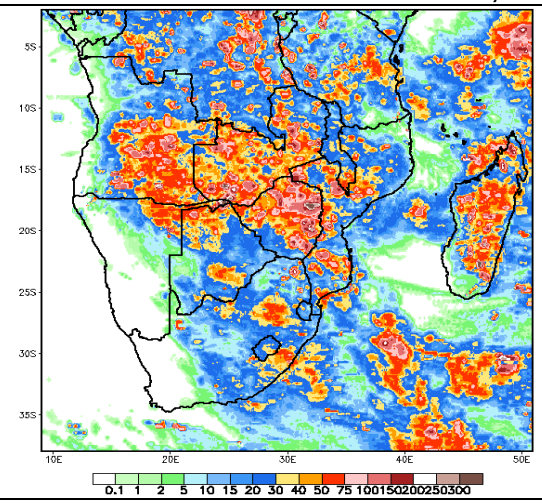



**Figure 1: NOAA/CPC**

**Cropland Water Requirement Satisfaction Index**
**Valid: As of 3rd dekad of December, 2011**

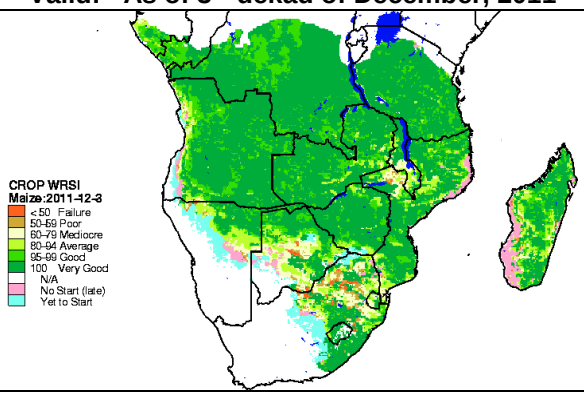



**Figure 2: USGS/EROS**

**Satellite Estimated Rainfall Anomaly (mm)**
**Valid: Oct-Dec, 2011**

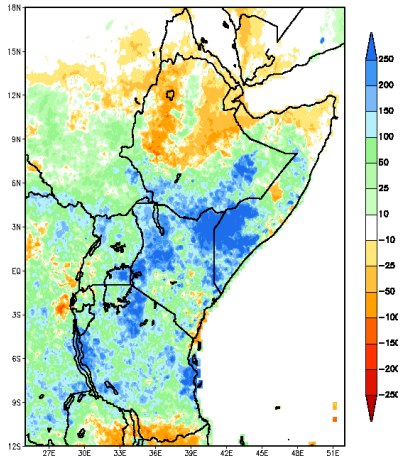



**Figure 3: NOAA/CPC**

**Note: The hazards outlook 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.**

FEWS NET is a USAID-funded activity whose purpose is to provide objective information about food security conditions. Its views are not necessarily reflective of those of USAID or the U.S. Government. The FEWS NET weather hazards outlook process and products include participation by FEWS NET field and home offices, NOAA-CPC, USGS, USDA, NASA, and a number of other national and regional organizations in the countries concerned. Questions or comments about this product may be directed to Wassila.Thiaw@noaa.gov or 1-301-763-8000 x7566. Questions about the USAID FEWSNET activity may be directed to Gary Eilerts, USAID Program Manager for FEWSNET, 1-202-219-0500 or geilerts@usaid.gov.