





## Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET January 26 – February 1, 2012

• Tropical Cyclone activities have brought heavy rainfall, causing flooding, infrastructure damage, and fatalities across eastern southern Africa.



## Tropical Cyclone activities have mitigated dryness across eastern southern Africa.

Eastern southern Africa has experienced a significant increase in rainfall since the beginning of the year due to successive Tropical Cyclone activities. After the passage of Tropical Cyclone Chanda during the first dekad (10 days) of the month, Tropical Cyclone Dando made landfall over southern Mozambique early during the past observation period, bringing downpours, which had resulted in flooding, fatalities, and infrastructure damage in the southern provinces of Mozambique, Mpumalanga region of South Africa, and western Madagascar. Meanwhile, Tropical Cyclone Funso has developed over the Mozambique Channel near northern Mozambique and brought very high (> 200 mm) rainfall amounts along coastal Nampula province of Mozambigue and coastal western Madagascar during the past seven days (Figure 1). The heavy (> 50 mm) rainfall associated with the tropical disturbance has helped to compensate thirty-day rainfall deficits over many local areas of southern Africa. Further west, seven-day accumulated rainfall amounts in excess of 75 mm were also observed over southern Angola, the central and northern portions of Namibia, where flooding has been reported during the past week.

Seasonal rainfall has been erratic and poorly distributed across many local areas of southern Africa since the beginning of the season. The late onset of the seasonal rainfall during November and December had already negatively impacted agricultural activities over many local areas of northern South Africa, northern Zimbabwe, and the western and central parts of Mozambique. However, an increase in rainfall has been observed since the beginning of the year, particularly, in eastern southern Africa due to tropical system developments. Tropical Cyclones Dando and Funso over the past seven days have brought above-average rainfall, with thirty-day moisture surpluses exceeding 100 mm over portions of Zimbabwe, southern Malawi, the Nampula and Maputo regions of Mozambigue, and western Madagascar (Figure 2). While the moisture surpluses have been beneficial to cropping activities over areas that were stricken by dryness during the previous months, an addition of excessive water heightens the risks for flooding and overflow of many rivers.

For the upcoming week, model forecasts suggest a southeastward movement of Tropical Cyclone Funso, which is expected to bring heavy rainfall along coastal Mozambique and western Madagascar. Heavy rainfall is also forecast over Zambia and Malawi.

## High risk for flooding remains over Mozambique.

An analysis of the Basin Excess Rainfall Map during the second dekad of January indicates catchments of southern Africa, which have received above-average rainfall; and which could potentially experience flooding if additional heavy rainfall continues. These regions include the Nampula and Maputo regions of Mozambique and parts of the Mpumalanga region of South Africa.







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.

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