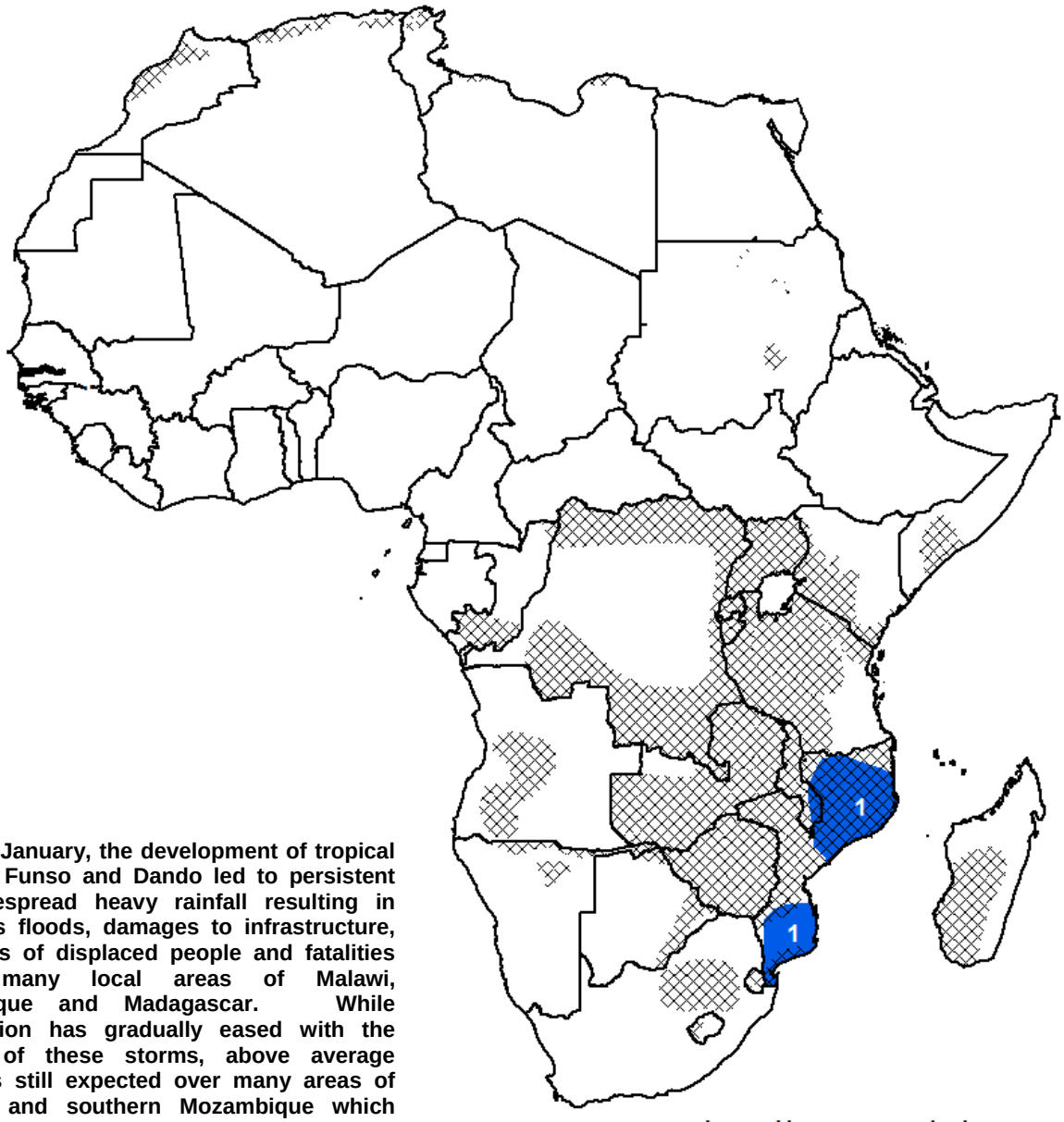
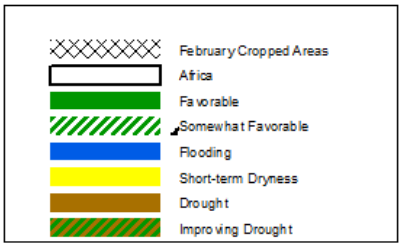
Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
For USAID / FEWS-NET
February 2 – February 8, 2012

- **Above average rainfall is expected to continue throughout portions of northern and southern Mozambique following significantly heavy rainfall from Tropical cyclone activity in late January.**



1) In late January, the development of tropical cyclones Funso and Dando led to persistent and widespread heavy rainfall resulting in numerous floods, damages to infrastructure, thousands of displaced people and fatalities across many local areas of Malawi, Mozambique and Madagascar. While precipitation has gradually eased with the passing of these storms, above average rainfall is still expected over many areas of northern and southern Mozambique which may worsen saturated ground conditions during the next observation period.

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



Enhanced rains expected to sustain threat of flooding in southeastern Africa

During the last seven days, significantly heavy amounts of precipitation were received across much of southern Africa. The heaviest rainfall amounts were associated with the passages of tropical cyclones Funso and Dando which developed over the Mozambique Channel in late January. Due to the slow movement and ample moisture associated with tropical cyclone Funso, weekly precipitation accumulations in excess of 100mm were received across Malawi, Mozambique and Madagascar, with the highest amounts located offshore in the Mozambique Channel (**Figure 1**). Further west, precipitation was more moderate, as weekly rainfall amounts ranging between 30-75mm were observed across portions of southern Angola, Zambia and the Caprivi Strip region. In the south, fair to moderate rains were received across South Africa and Lesotho.

Despite the recent enhancement in rainfall, some local areas in southern Africa are still experiencing below average precipitation over the last 30 days. Since late December, negative rainfall anomalies ranging between 50-100mm are being observed over northeastern Botswana, southern Zimbabwe, and central Mozambique. Locally, these 30-day moisture deficits stem from poorly distributed rainfall, where little to no rains was observed during the first two dekads of January. Conversely, the highest 30 day rainfall surpluses have been associated with Tropical Cyclones Dando and Funso with rainfall anomalies exceeding 100 mm over portions of southern Malawi, the Nampula and Maputo regions of Mozambique, and western Madagascar (**Figure 2**). While the moisture surpluses have been beneficial to cropping activities over areas that experienced developing mid-season dryness, the addition of excessive water in these regions sustains the risks for flooding, further damages to crops and infrastructure, and inundation over river basins.

While precipitation has gradually decreased with the dissipation of tropical activity in the Mozambique Channel, precipitation forecasts indicate the potential for additionally heavy rains in northern and southern Mozambique. These rains may worsen ground conditions from excess runoff from the Zambezi River basin. Rainfall amounts in excess of 50mm remain for the Nampula, Zambezi, Niassa provinces in the north, and Maputo and Gaza provinces in the south.

Robust early season rains lead to favorable conditions in southwestern Africa.

After a minor delay to the onset of southern Africa monsoon, well-distributed and above-average precipitation in November and December has been favorable for local pastoral and agro-pastoral areas in southwestern Africa. Satellite derived vegetation analysis show anomalously positive conditions over many parts of southern Angola, northern Namibia and the Caprivi Strip region (**Figure 3**). Rainfall forecasts show a continuation of well-distributed and seasonable amounts of precipitation for early February.

Satellite Estimated Rainfall (mm)
Valid: January 22nd – January 28th, 2012

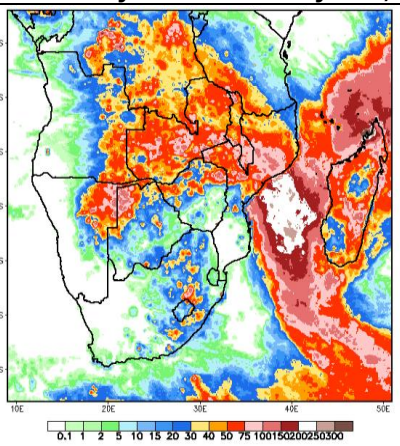


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

Satellite Estimated Rainfall Anomaly (mm)
Valid: December 30th, 2011 – January 28th, 2012

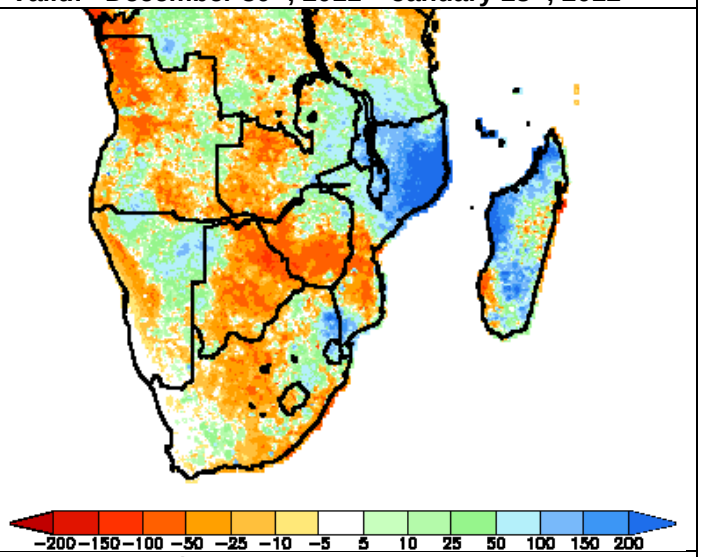


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

Normalized Differenced Vegetation Index (NDVI) Anomaly
Valid: As of January 16 - 25, 2012

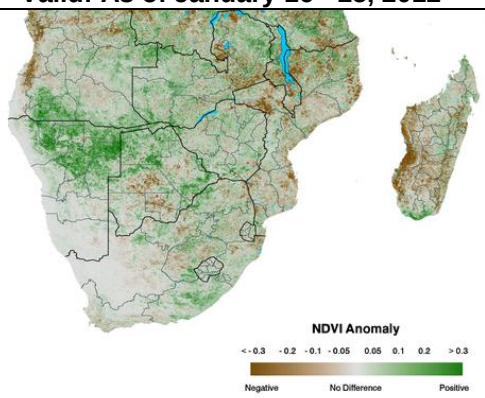


Figure 3: USGS/EROS

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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