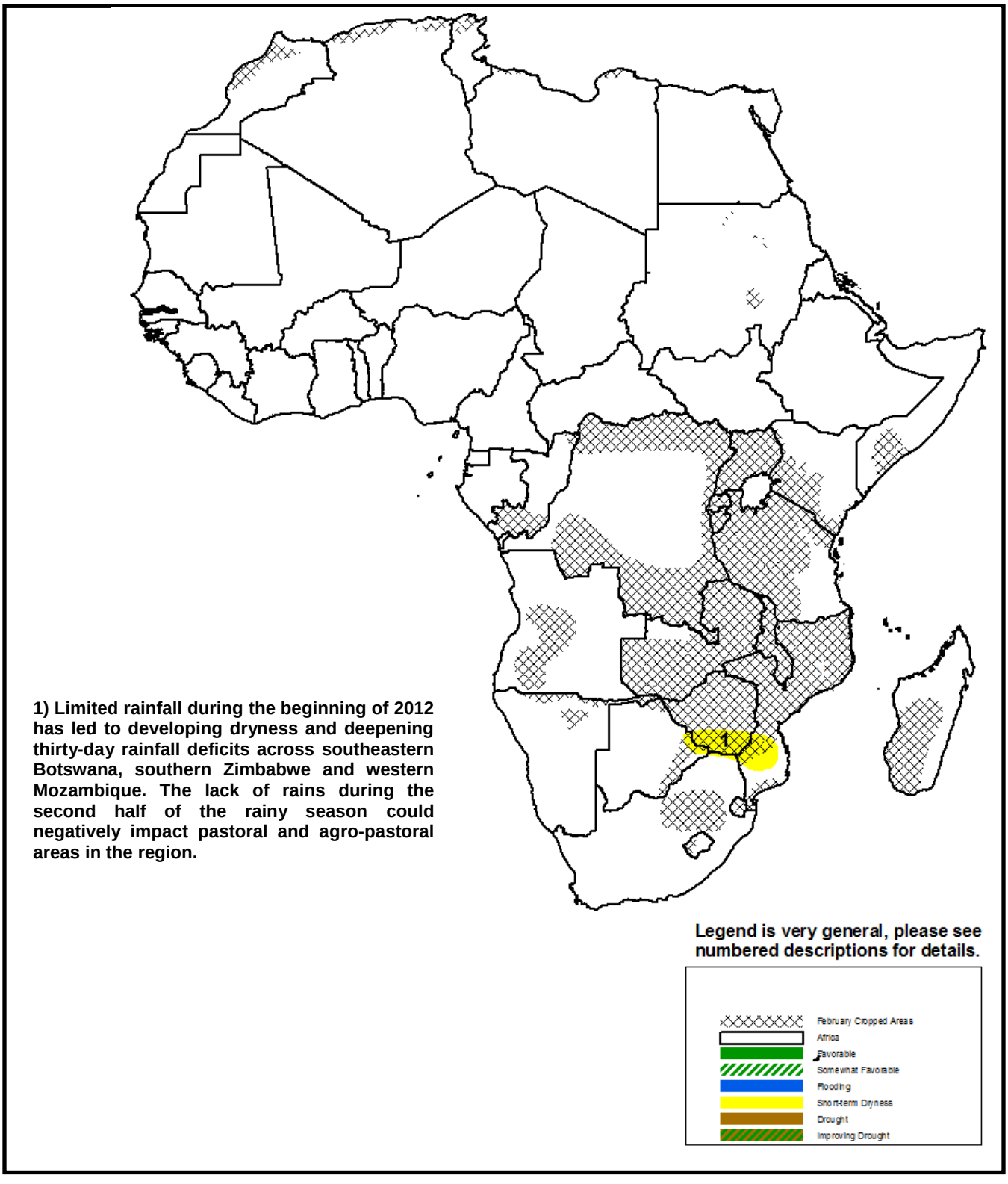
Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
For USAID / FEWS-NET
February 9 – February 15, 2012

- **Below-average rainfall was observed across much of southern Africa during the past week, providing relief to saturated areas in Mozambique.**



Below-average rains across northern/southern Mozambique brought relief to saturated soils.

During the last seven days, heavy rains (>50 mm) were observed across western and northern portions of southern Africa. The highest rainfall totals (>75 mm) were located across eastern Angola, eastern Namibia, northern Zimbabwe, and coastal South Africa. Moderate rains (10-40 mm) were observed across much of Zambia, northern Mozambique, southern Tanzania and central South Africa. While rainfall was moderate and frequent across Zambia, the weekly accumulation was below-average leading to developing rainfall deficits. The moderate, below-average rains over northern Mozambique provided relief from the heavy amounts of rain that fell during the past several weeks. Meanwhile, light precipitation (<10 mm) was observed over northern South Africa, southeastern Botswana, southern Zimbabwe and central/southern Mozambique (**Figure 1**). While the lack of rains eased flooding concerns in Mozambique, the little rainfall across southern Zimbabwe increased dryness concerns.

The lack of weekly rains across Zimbabwe, Botswana, Zambia and central/southern Mozambique increased thirty-day rainfall deficits. In southern Zimbabwe and bordering Mozambique, rainfall has been infrequent and poorly distributed leading to 50-100 mm thirty-day deficits (locally >100 mm). Further north, moderate thirty-day rainfall deficits (25-50 mm) across Zambia are the result of frequent, yet below-average rainfall. In contrast, rains have been plentiful across northern Namibia and southern Angola. Rainfall surpluses have strengthened due to frequent heavy rains over the past thirty-days. Farther east, large rainfall surpluses (>150 mm) (**Figure 2**), caused by tropical activity in the Mozambique Channel, were maintained across northern and southern Mozambique even though weekly rains were below-average.

For the next week, models suggest heavy rains (>50 mm) across southern Angola, northern Namibia, western Zambia and northern South Africa. The rains should help sustain favorable cropping conditions across southwestern Africa. Below-average and light rains (<15 mm) are expected across much of Tanzania and far northern portions of Mozambique. Lastly, there is a slight threat of tropical activity impacting eastern Madagascar at the end of the observation period with heavy rain.

Below-average January rainfall has caused degrading conditions in southern Zimbabwe.

After above-average and heavy rains were observed across central portions of southern Africa during the end of 2011, rainfall has been limited across Zimbabwe and Botswana during the beginning of 2012. The poor rains have led to degrading cropping conditions across Botswana and southern Zimbabwe while poor conditions have continued across localized areas in northern South Africa. In contrast, well-distributed and above-average rains dating back to November have resulted in favorable cropping conditions across eastern Angola and northeastern Namibia (**Figure 3**).

Satellite Estimated Rainfall (mm)
Valid: February 1st – February 7th, 2012

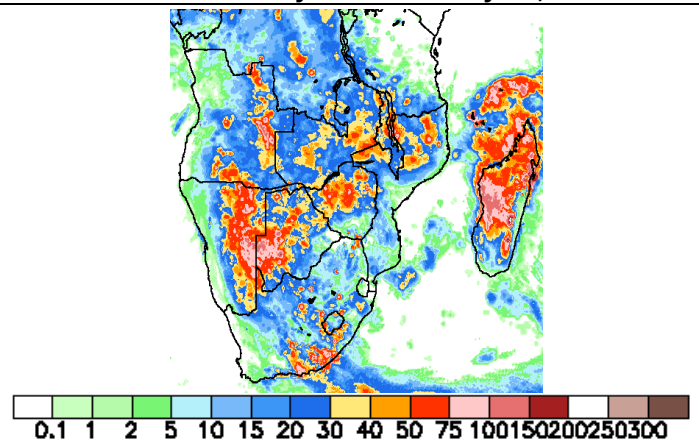


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

Satellite Estimated Rainfall Anomaly (mm)
Valid: January 9th – February 7th, 2012

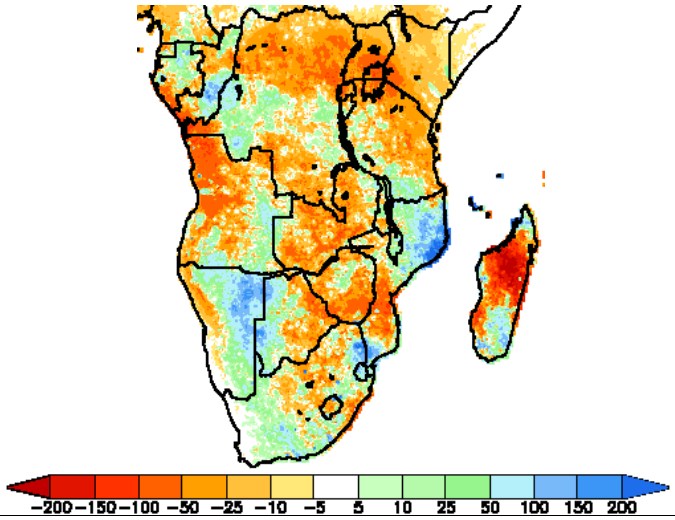


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

Water Requirement Satisfaction Index (WRSI)
Valid: As of third dekad of January, 2012

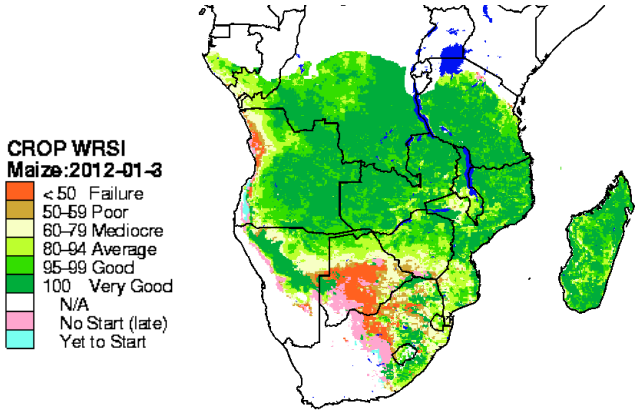


Figure 3: USGS/EROS

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.