Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
For USAID / FEWS-NET
February 23 – February 29, 2012

- **Tropical Cyclone Giovanna brushed past southern Madagascar causing heavy rains in the region.**

1) Below-average rains since the beginning of 2012 has led to growing rainfall deficits and degrading cropping conditions across portions of southern Zimbabwe, southern Mozambique and eastern Botswana. With light rainfall forecast, relief is unlikely during the next week.

Tropical Cyclone Giovanna avoids Mozambique and instead impacts southern Madagascar.

During the past seven days, the heaviest rainfall (> 100 mm) was located along the southern coastline of Madagascar and was associated with Tropical Cyclone Giovanna. After causing substantial damage across central Madagascar the previous week, a weakened Giovanna passed south of the southern tip of Madagascar during the past week. The change in storm path saved portions of southern Mozambique from heavy rains. Elsewhere, widespread heavy rains (> 50 mm) were observed across Angola, Namibia, Zambia, northern Mozambique and western Tanzania. The heavy rains in southern Angola helped erode substantial rainfall deficits. Conversely, light rainfall (< 10 mm) was recorded in southern Mozambique, southern Zimbabwe, South Africa and central/eastern Tanzania (**Figure 1**) continuing a dry trend seen during the past several weeks.

While the heavy rains in southern Angola and northern Namibia helped to reduce thirty-day rainfall deficits, the lack of rains in western Angola, southern Zimbabwe, southern Mozambique, northern South Africa, eastern Tanzania, and around Lake Victoria caused a strengthening of rainfall deficits. The lack of rains (25-100 mm deficits) across southern Zimbabwe and southern Mozambique has come during the middle of the cropping season causing poor soil moisture and cropping conditions. Farther west, the lack of rains in western areas of Angola during the last several weeks has caused moderate rainfall deficits (50-100 mm). Similar conditions are observed across central/northern/eastern Tanzania as moderate to locally strong deficits (50-100 mm) have begun to negatively impact maize crops. Lastly, rainfall has been limited during the past 30 to 60 days around Lake Victoria as thirty-day rainfall deficits (25-100 mm) have grown (**Figure 2**). The dry conditions, though, have been beneficial for land preparation in Kenya in advance of the long rains season.

For the next week, rains are expected to be heavy (> 40 mm) across dry portions of eastern/central Tanzania providing some relief. The heavy rains (> 40 mm) should extend to Zambia, Angola, northern Namibia, northern Zimbabwe and northern Mozambique. Light rains (< 20 mm) are expected across dry areas in South Africa, Botswana, southern Mozambique, southern Zimbabwe and around Lake Victoria.

Poor cropping conditions expand around Lake Victoria.

An analysis of vegetative conditions during the middle of February indicates that poor rains during January and February have caused below-average vegetative conditions around Lake Victoria in Uganda, northern Tanzania and Kenya as well as along the coastline of Angola. Both areas have received well below-average rain during the end of January and beginning of February. Poor conditions also persist across local areas in southern Mozambique and southern Zimbabwe. In contrast, good conditions are present in Namibia and Zambia (**Figure 3**), associated with well distributed and frequent rains.

Satellite Estimated Rainfall (mm)
Valid: February 15th – February 21st, 2012

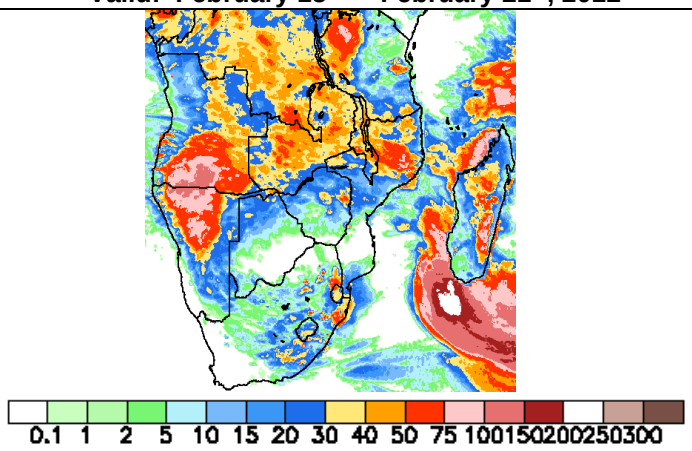

Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

Satellite Estimated Rainfall Anomaly (mm)
Valid: January 22nd – February 20th, 2012

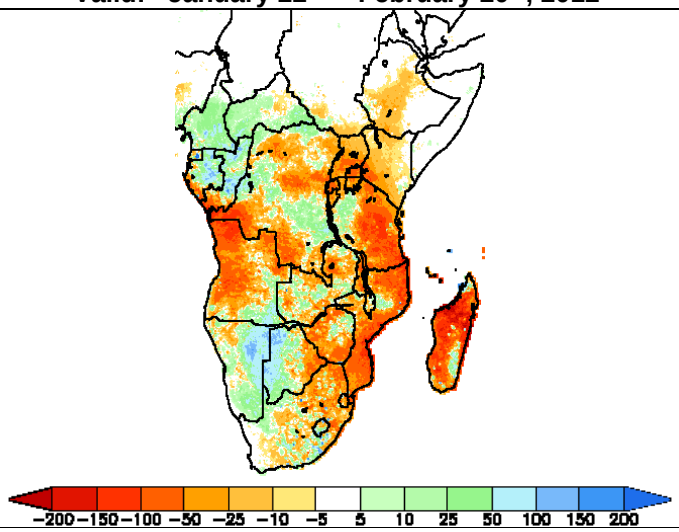

Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) Anomaly
Valid: February 11th – February 20th, 2012

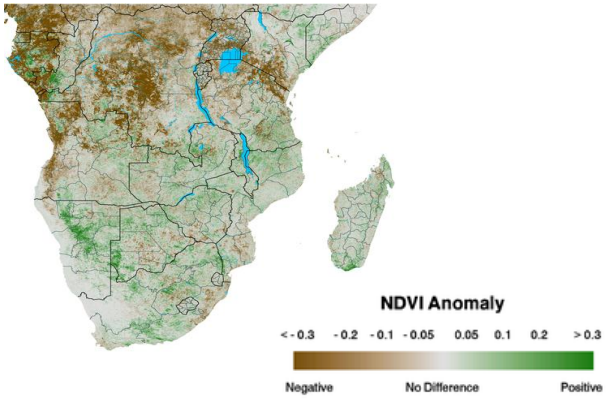

Figure 3: USGS/EROS

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.

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.