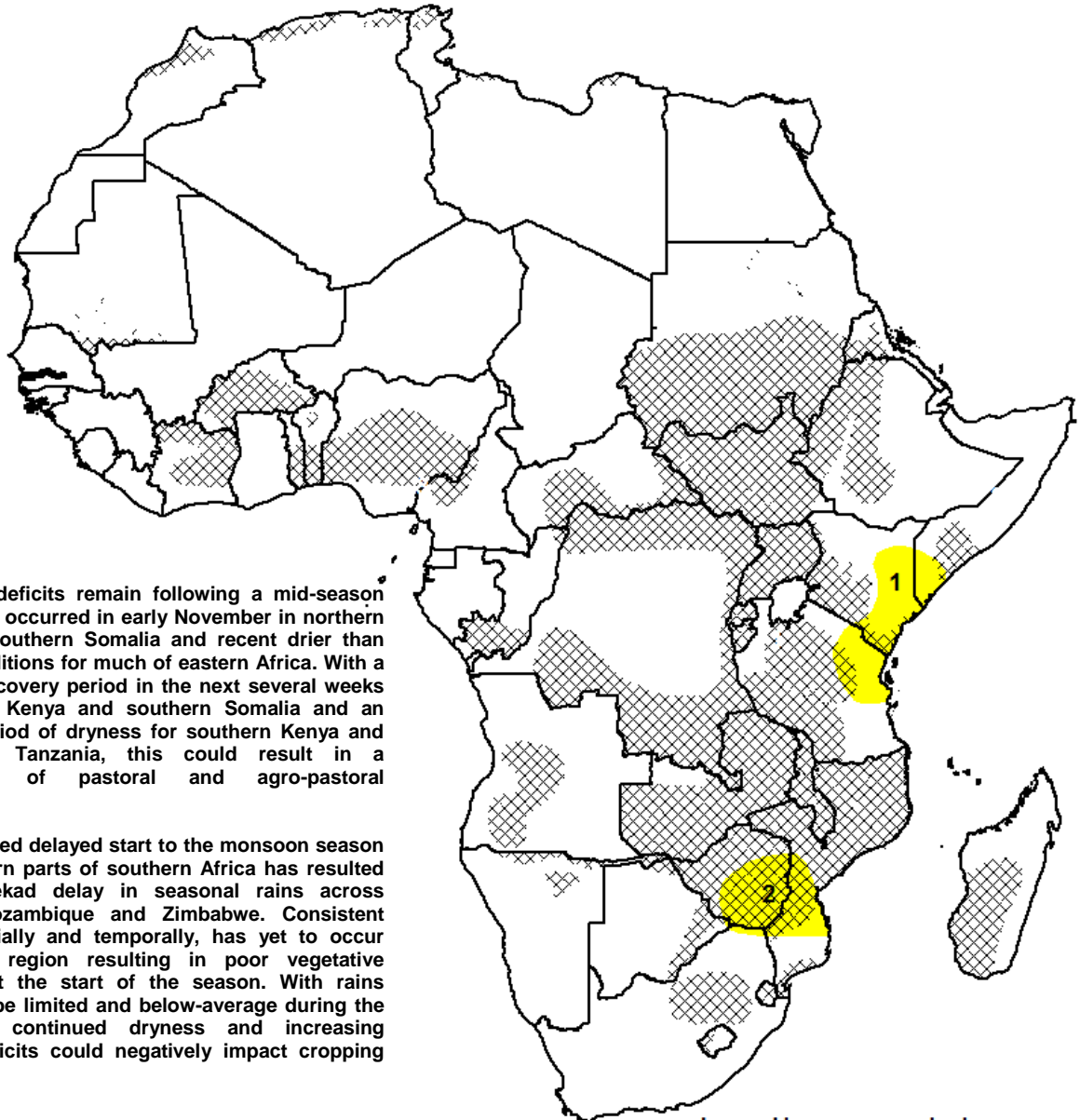


Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET December 27, 2012 – January 2, 2013

- Torrential rains continued for a second week across northern Mozambique, Zambia and Malawi.
- Locally heavy daily rains impacted parts of Kenya.



1) Moisture deficits remain following a mid-season dry spell that occurred in early November in northern Kenya and southern Somalia and recent drier than average conditions for much of eastern Africa. With a shortened recovery period in the next several weeks for northern Kenya and southern Somalia and an extended period of dryness for southern Kenya and northeastern Tanzania, this could result in a deterioration of pastoral and agro-pastoral conditions.

2) An extended delayed start to the monsoon season across eastern parts of southern Africa has resulted in a 1-3 dekad delay in seasonal rains across southern Mozambique and Zimbabwe. Consistent rainfall, spatially and temporally, has yet to occur across this region resulting in poor vegetative conditions at the start of the season. With rains expected to be limited and below-average during the next week, continued dryness and increasing seasonal deficits could negatively impact cropping activities.

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

xxxxxxx	December Cropped Areas
—————	Favorable
—————	Somewhat Favorable
—————	Flooding
—————	Short-term Dryness
—————	Drought
—————	Improving Drought
—————	Potential Locust Outbreak

Two weeks of heavy rains eliminate seasonal deficits in northern Mozambique.

Rainfall was again heavy (>50mm) across much of northern/central Mozambique, Malawi, Zambia, northern Zimbabwe, and eastern Angola during the past week. The above-average rains (10-50mm) in northern Zimbabwe have helped to further reduce and eliminate seasonal deficits that had developed due to a 2-4 dekad delay of the monsoon season. The above-average weekly rains (10-100mm) extended into eastern Angola and western Zambia, which increased thirty-day and seasonal rainfall surpluses. In contrast, light to moderate rains (5-30mm) were recorded across southern Zimbabwe, southern Mozambique and northern South Africa. The below-average rains (5-50mm below-average) (**Figure 1**) continued the well below-average start to the monsoon season in southern Zimbabwe and southern Mozambique. These areas have observed below-average rainfall and dry conditions for four of the last 5 weeks.

With two consecutive weeks of above-average rains across previously dry portions of northern and central Mozambique, it is expected that vegetative conditions will improve over the next several weeks. However, the impact from the delay start of the rains is evident in an analysis of vegetative conditions during the second dekad of December. Strong negative NDVI anomalies remain in central Mozambique and coastal locations in northern Mozambique even though rains have increased in past weeks. In contrast, poor NDVI conditions (**Figure 2**) co-exist with areas that currently are receiving below-average seasonal rains in central/southern Zimbabwe and southern Mozambique. A return to a seasonal frequency and intensity of rain is needed to help counteract the impact of the poor start of season in these areas.

For the next week, light, below-average rains (<20mm total) are forecast for Botswana and dry portions of southern Zimbabwe and southern Mozambique, likely increasing seasonal deficits. In contrast, heavy rains (>50mm) are expected in central/northern Mozambique, Malawi, Zambia, Angola and northern Zimbabwe.

Locally heavy rain observed in Kenya.

Heavy rains (>40mm) were observed across portions of southeastern and central Kenya during the past seven days related to one or two days of torrential daily rainfall. Besides the two days of heavy rain, rainfall was lighter across Kenya and Somalia. Rains, though, have rebounded across Kenya and northern Tanzania during the past two weeks from the below-average rains that occurred during the past few months. The below-average rains in southeastern Kenya had led to delayed planting and, in some instances, a below-average amount of planted areas. Moderate to heavy rains are still needed across southeastern Kenya into 2013 to help relieve dry conditions. For the next week, moderate to heavy rains (>25mm) are forecast for northern Tanzania and southern Kenya, which would help reduce seasonal deficits and improve cropping conditions in southeastern Kenya.

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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Satellite Estimated Rainfall Anomaly (mm)
Valid: December 18th – December 24th, 2012

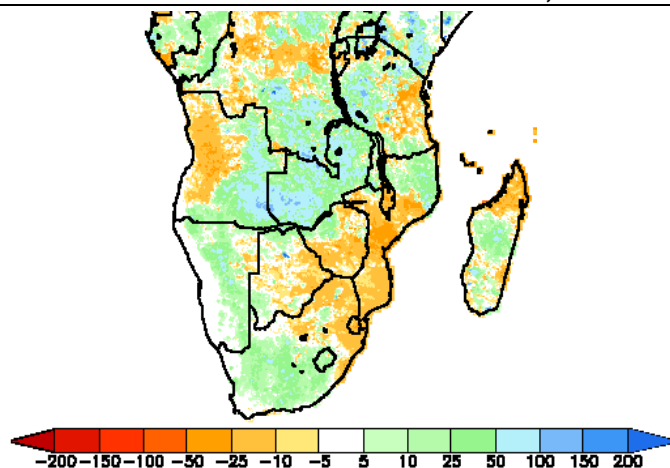


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

NDVI Anomaly
Valid: December 11th – December 20th, 2012

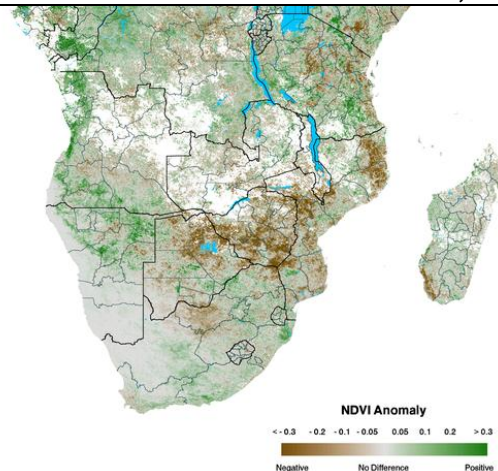


Figure 2: USGS/EROS

Satellite Estimated Rainfall (mm)
Valid: December 18th – December 24th, 2012

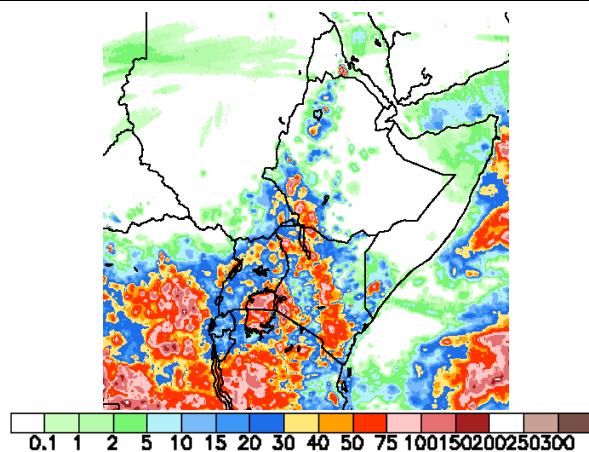


Figure 3: NOAA/CPC