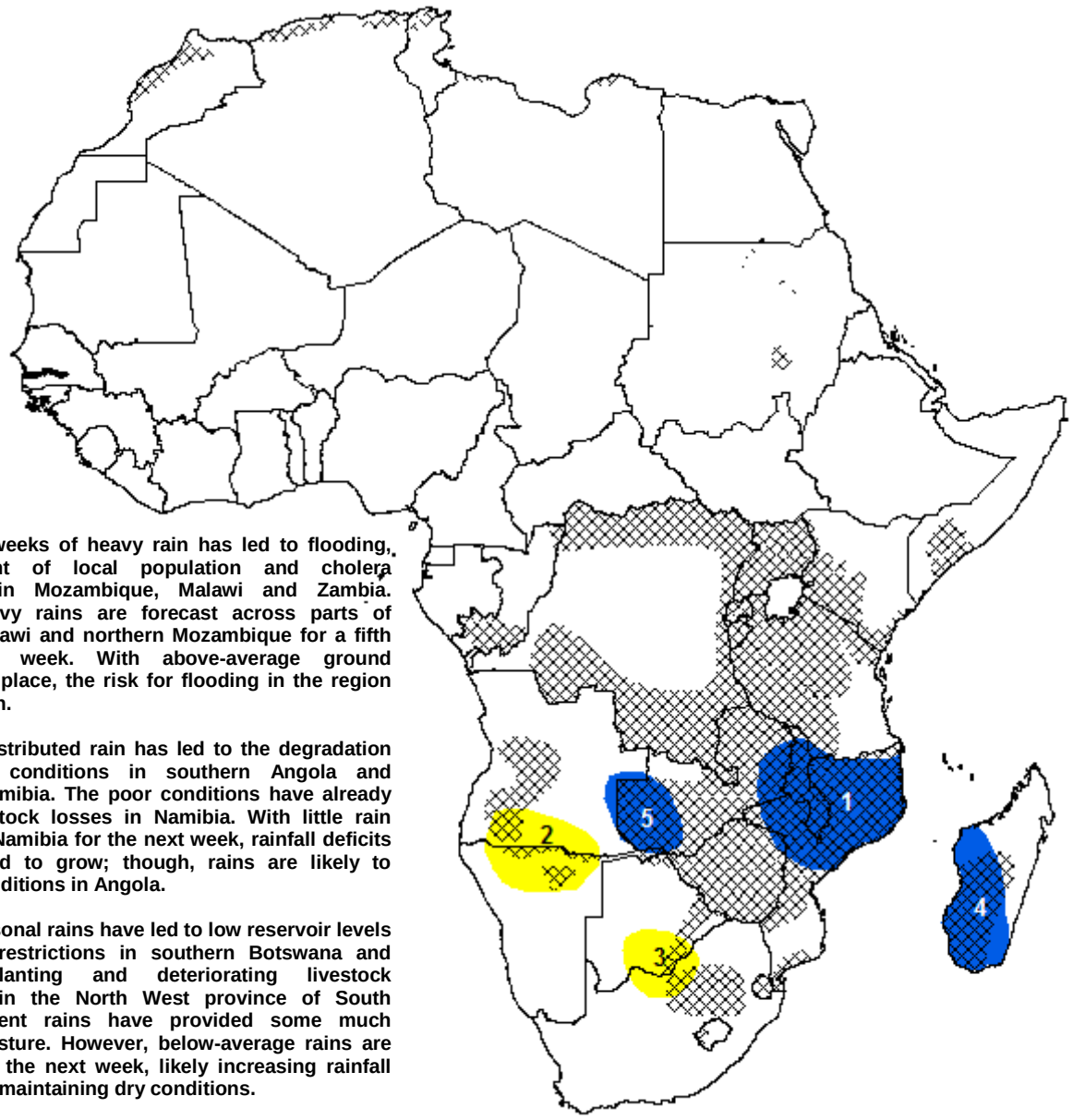
Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
For USAID / FEWS-NET
February 21 – February 27, 2013

- **During the next week, Tropical Cyclone Haruna is likely to impact southwestern Madagascar.**
- **Torrential rains continued for a fourth week across central/northern Mozambique.**



1) Several weeks of heavy rain has led to flooding, displacement of local population and cholera outbreaks in Mozambique, Malawi and Zambia. Locally heavy rains are forecast across parts of Zambia, Malawi and northern Mozambique for a fifth consecutive week. With above-average ground moisture in place, the risk for flooding in the region remains high.

2) Poorly distributed rain has led to the degradation of ground conditions in southern Angola and northern Namibia. The poor conditions have already led to livestock losses in Namibia. With little rain forecast in Namibia for the next week, rainfall deficits are expected to grow; though, rains are likely to improve conditions in Angola.

3) Poor seasonal rains have led to low reservoir levels and water restrictions in southern Botswana and delayed planting and deteriorating livestock conditions in the North West province of South Africa. Recent rains have provided some much needed moisture. However, below-average rains are forecast for the next week, likely increasing rainfall deficits and maintaining dry conditions.

4) Tropical Cyclone Haruna in the Mozambique Channel is forecast to cause heavy rains, strong winds and flooding across southwestern Madagascar. The storm is likely to linger in the Channel over the next several days before crossing over or close to southwestern Madagascar.

5) Heavy rains over the upper Zambezi River basin in western Zambia have resulted in the highest water levels since 1968 at this time of year at Katima Mulilo, Namibia, as well as an early flooding of the floodplain. With additional heavy rain forecast, flooding risks are elevated.

Heavy rains span the Mozambique Channel.

During the past seven days, torrential rains across the Mozambique Channel in both central/northern Mozambique and Madagascar resulted in weekly rainfall totals exceeding 100mm, with the highest precipitation totals exceeding 400mm in Mananjary, Madagascar. The torrential rains in Mozambique were located across a region which has received significantly above-average rains over the past four weeks and which has observed flooding during this time. Elsewhere, heavy rains (>50mm) also were observed across Malawi, western Tanzania, Zambia, central/eastern Angola, northern Botswana and northern Zimbabwe. The widespread heavy rains in central/eastern Angola provided relief from recently drier than average conditions, while the rains in western Zambia contributed to high water levels along the Upper Zambezi River in Zambia and Namibia. In contrast, little rain (<15mm) was recorded in Angola, southern Zimbabwe, southern Mozambique, Botswana and South Africa (**Figure 1**). The light rains continued dryness concerns in Botswana, South Africa and Namibia.

The past month of heavy rainfall in northern Mozambique followed significantly heavy rains in southern Mozambique during the middle of January. This has resulted in much of Mozambique recording rainfall surpluses greater than 200mm over the past 60 days. Widespread flooding has already occurred across Mozambique, Malawi, Zimbabwe and Zambia. A cholera outbreak, also, has occurred in the Cabo Delgado province of Mozambique. Moderate rainfall surpluses (25-100mm) extend west across Zambia, and Zimbabwe to eastern Angola (**Figure 2**). In contrast, while moisture has been elevated in southeastern Africa, rains have been below-average (25-150mm) in Angola, Namibia, southern Botswana, central South Africa and parts of central Tanzania. The lack of rains has worsened ground conditions in southern Angola and northern Namibia and resulted in water restrictions near Gaborone, Botswana.

Compared to previous weeks, an analysis of ground conditions across southern Africa indicates improving conditions across southern Zimbabwe and southern Mozambique, due to heavy rains in January. In contrast, due to poorly distributed rainfall, ground conditions have worsened across Namibia, Botswana and the North West province of South Africa (**Figure 3**). Drier-than-average seasonal rains will likely continue to worsen ground conditions and negatively impact cropping activities across these regions.

For the next week, Tropical Cyclone Haruna is forecast to impact southern Madagascar with heavy rain, strong winds and flooding, likely damaging infrastructure and displacing local populations. The heavy rains (>50mm) associated with the storm will extend into already saturated areas in Mozambique. Elsewhere, heavy rains (>50mm) are forecast for Zambia, Tanzania and Angola, while below-average rains are expected farther south in Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, southern Mozambique and South Africa.

Satellite Estimated Rainfall (mm)
Valid: February 12th – February 18th, 2013

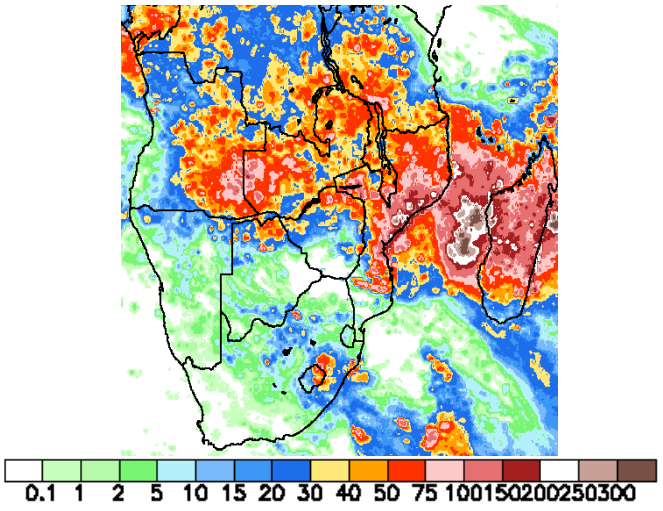


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

Satellite Estimated Rainfall Anomaly (mm)
Valid: December 21st, 2012 – February 18th, 2013

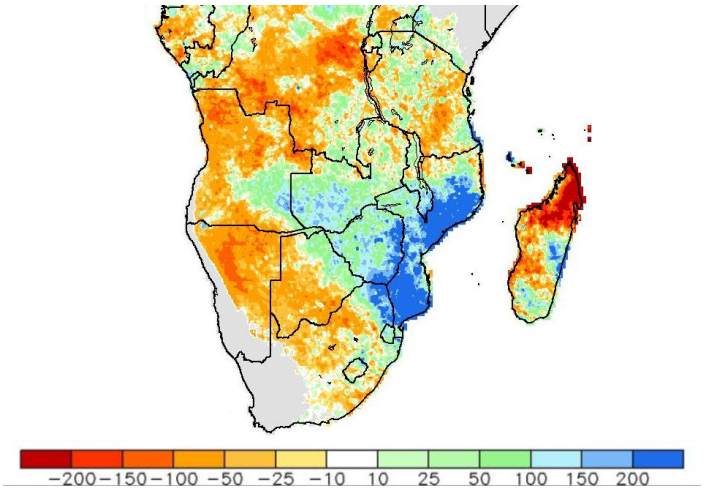


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) Anomaly
Valid: February 6th – February 15th, 2013

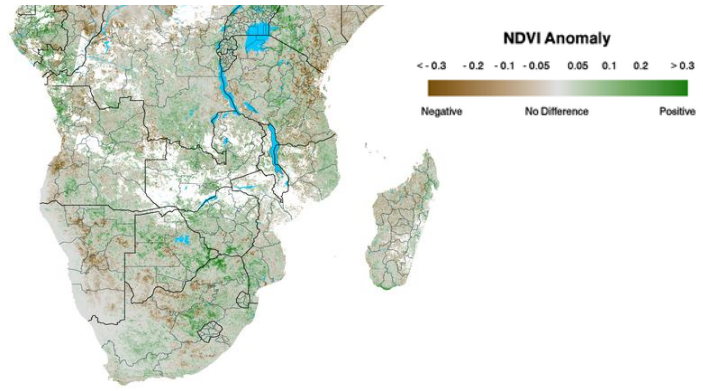


Figure 3: USGS/EROS

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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