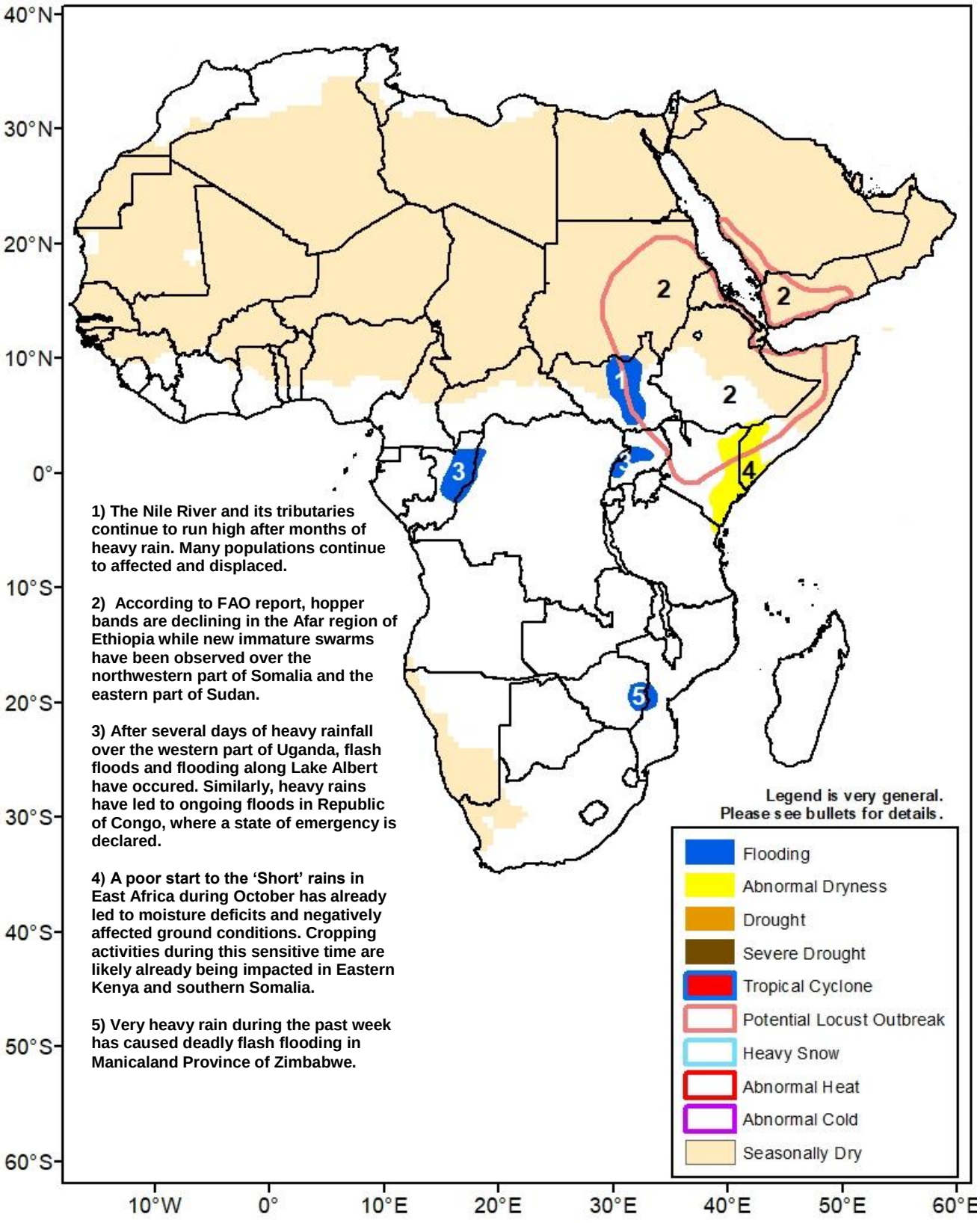
Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
November 12 – November 18, 2020

- **Localized parts of the greater horn of Africa saw an increase in seasonal rainfall.**



Some areas of the greater horn received increased, beneficial rain, while rains were below-normal elsewhere.

During early November, there was an area of heavy rain across Kenya and southern Somalia. Many places within the area received 7-day rainfall greater than 100mm (**Figure 1**). Locally heavy rains were also observed in southwestern Ethiopia, Uganda and bimodal Tanzania. Flash flooding was reported in Uganda along with high water levels in Lake Albert. Little to no rain was observed in eastern Ethiopia, northern Somalia, and local parts of Tanzania. Outside of the heavy band of rainfall, rains were broadly suppressed last week. Most areas received 10-50mm less rain than average. After the 'Short' rains began inadequately in many parts of the Horn, the heaviest rain fortunately fell over some of the driest areas. This eliminated seasonal moisture deficits for local parts of southern Somalia and central Kenya. Other portions of southern Somalia and eastern Kenya still exhibit larger deficits of 50-100mm or more (**Figure 2**). The deficits in southern Somalia and eastern Kenya, along with parts of Ethiopia's Oromia and Somali regions, correspond to less than 50% of normal observed rainfall. Negative impacts are evident from analysis of NDVI in the sensitive regions of southern Somalia and eastern Kenya, so abnormal dryness is drawn there. Meanwhile, after an abnormally wet rainy season, river flooding is still impacting many populations of South Sudan. Based on the most recent Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) update, desert locusts persist in the Horn of Africa. Conditions have improved in northern Ethiopia, but swarms and hopper bands persist in Dire Dawa and the Somali region. An increasing number of hopper bands are also forming nearby in central Somalia.

For next week, heavy and above-normal rain is likely to continue over Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, and southern Kenya. 50mm to 100mm of rain is likely. Meanwhile, a return to suppressed rains are likely in southern Ethiopia, Somalia, and eastern Kenya.

7-Day Satellite Estimated Total Rainfall (mm)
Valid: November 4 – November 10, 2020

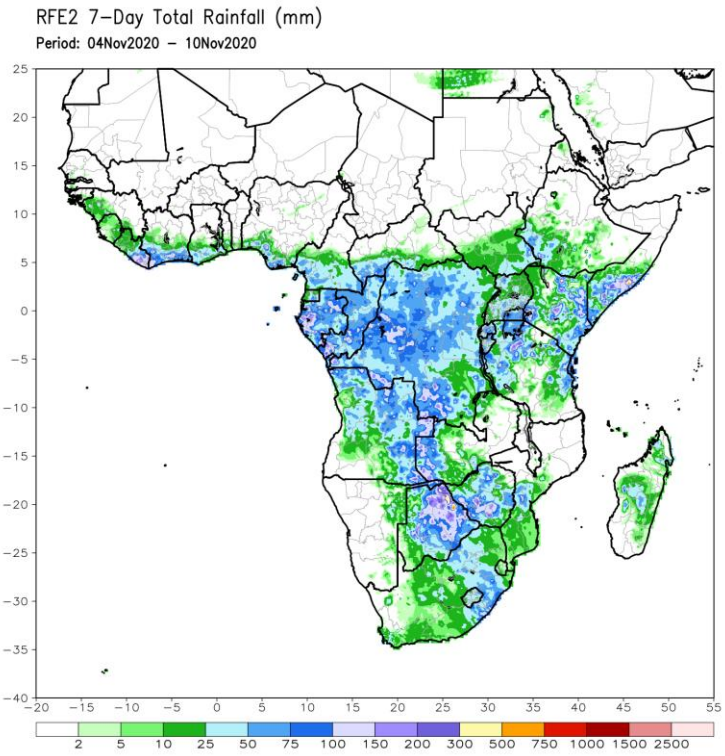


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

Very heavy rain was observed in central southern Africa

During the past week, very heavy and abnormal rains were observed in many parts of Zimbabwe, Botswana, and western Zambia. Rainfall totals exceeded 100mm and locally 200mm according to satellite estimates (**Figure 1**). Flooding was reported in eastern Zimbabwe and central Mozambique, as well as Botswana's capital region. The large totals have resulted in large moisture surpluses for the early part of the season in these areas. Lighter and more scattered rain occurred in Madagascar, central Angola, and eastern Zambia. In Madagascar and central Angola especially, rainfall is starting to lag behind where it is supposed to be early in the season by as much as 50-100mm (**Figure 2)**. In South Africa, moderate rains were widespread this week, along with heavier rain in the southeast, and early-season rainfall performance has been largely good with the exception of the eastern part of the country and neighboring Eswatini. Vegetation health is struggling based upon VHI in areas of Angola and Madagascar as expected from rainfall analysis. VHI values are also low in parts of Zambia and northern Botswana where conditions are expected to quickly improve after recent heavy rains.

For next week, above-normal rainfall is likely in parts of South Africa where 25-50mm is expected. Above-normal rainfall is also forecast for northern Angola. Meanwhile, drier conditions are expected in Zimbabwe, Botswana, southern Zambia, and the Caprivi Strip. The reprieve from heavy rain is welcome for these places.

30-day Satellite Estimated Rainfall Anomaly (mm)
Valid: October 12 – November 10, 2020

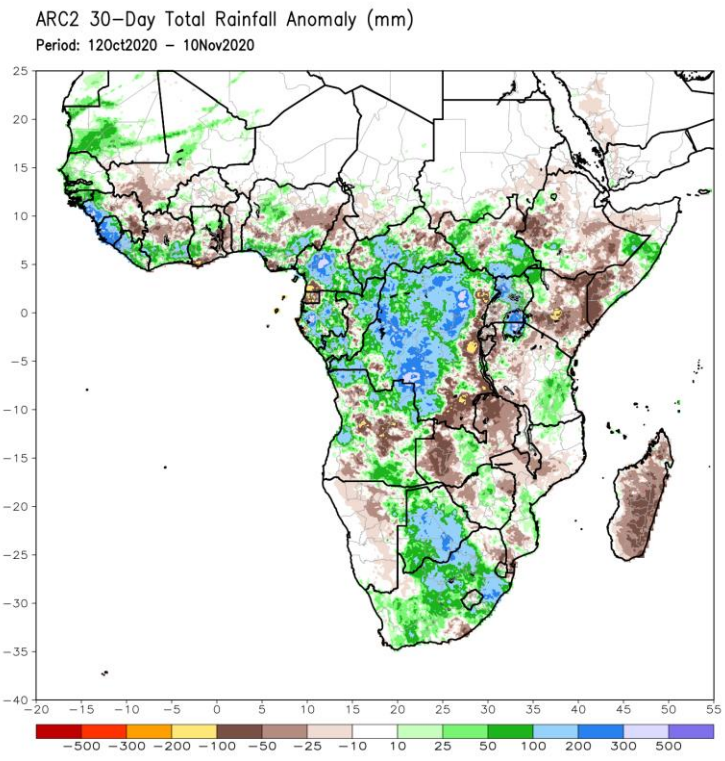


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

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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