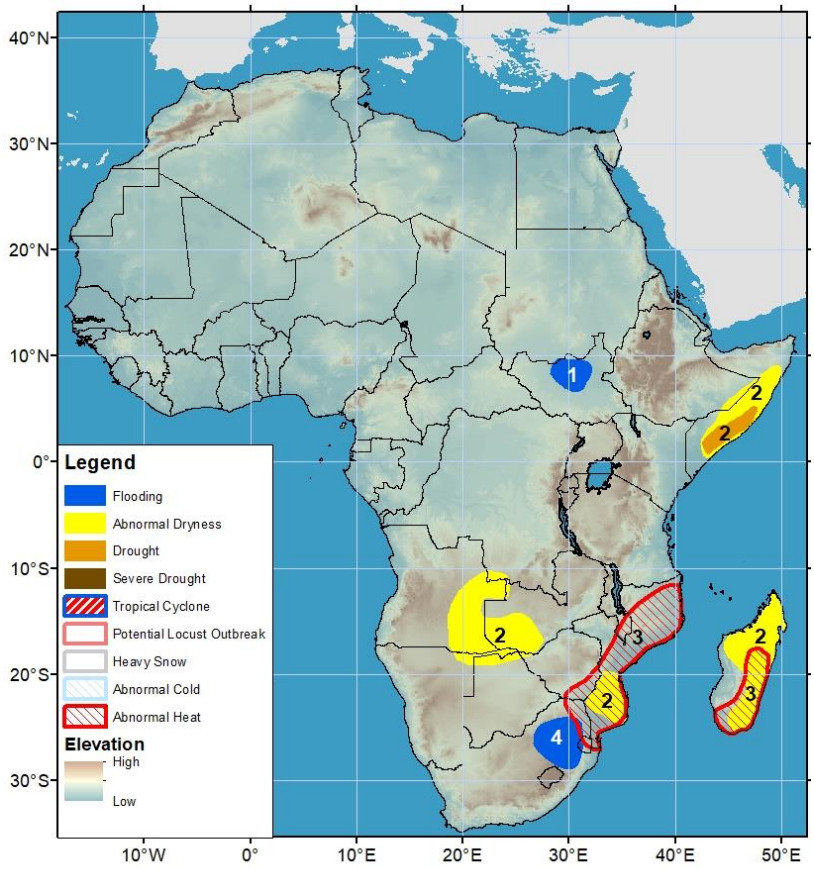
Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
For USAID / FEWS-NET
2 – 8 January 2025

- **Eastern Southern Africa has experienced hotter and drier-than-average conditions over the recent weeks.**
- **Poorly-distributed October-December rainfall has led to drought in Somalia of Eastern Africa.**



1) Inundation remains in the Sudd wetlands of South Sudan.

2) Poorly-distributed rainfall since late September has resulted in abnormal dryness and drought across central and southern Somalia. In Southern Africa, a lack of rainfall since late October has led to abnormal dryness across eastern Angola, southwestern Zambia, southern Mozambique, and Madagascar.

3) Abnormally-hot conditions are forecasted in southern Malawi, Mozambique, and southern Madagascar as above-average maximum temperatures are expected to persist in the region for three or more consecutive days during the next week.

4) The past few weeks' heavy rainfall has caused flooding and fatalities in the City of Tshwane in South Africa. Heavy rainfall is forecasted to continue during the next week, maintaining high risks of flooding in the region.

Note: The Hazards outlook map is based on current weather/climate information, short and medium-range weather forecasts (up to 1 week), sub-seasonal forecasts up to 4 weeks, and assesses the potential impact of extreme events on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed and predicted to continue during the outlook period. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at the spatial scale of the map. This product considers long-range seasonal climate forecasts but does not reflect 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 several other national and regional organizations in the countries concerned.

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Questions about the USAID FEWS NET activity may be directed to Dr. James Verdin, Program Manager, FEWS NET/USAID, jverdin@usaid.gov

Rainfall increases in Southern Africa.

During the past week, while heavy rainfall occurred in central Angola, northern Botswana, central Zambia, Zimbabwe, central and northern Mozambique, and west-central Madagascar, widespread moderate rainfall was received across Angola, Zambia, Botswana, central South Africa, and northern Mozambique (**Figure 1**). In contrast, light rainfall was recorded in northwestern Namibia, southwestern Botswana, eastern South Africa, southern Mozambique, southern and eastern Madagascar. As a response to recent weeks' consistent rainfall, 30-day negative rainfall anomalies have been eroded over portions of central Southern Africa and even turned to moisture surpluses over some areas, including central Botswana, western and southwestern Zimbabwe, and northeastern South Africa. However, drier-than-average conditions have shifted eastward to eastern Southern Africa as insufficient rainfall persisted across eastern Zambia, Malawi, Mozambique, and Madagascar over the past few weeks. Moreover, abnormally-hot conditions continued in eastern Southern Africa during the past several weeks, exacerbating dryness in the region.

Next week, rainfall forecasts suggest widespread, heavy rainfall over central Southern Africa. Heavy downpours are forecast across eastern Angola, Zambia, Malawi, northeastern Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, northwestern Mozambique, and northeastern South Africa, which may trigger flooding over many local areas in the region. In contrast, little to light (< 25 mm) rainfall is forecast along coastal Mozambique, southwestern Angola, southern and eastern Madagascar. Abnormally-hot conditions are also to continue in Mozambique and Madagascar, potentially affecting vulnerable people.

7-Day Satellite Estimated Total Rainfall (mm)
Valid: 25 December - 31 December 2024

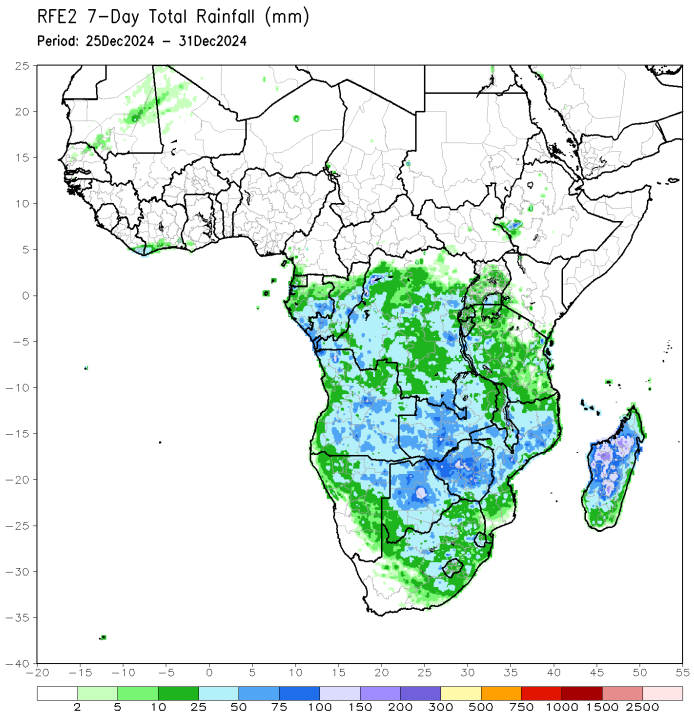


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

Early cessation in rainfall observed in Eastern Africa

An analysis of the 30-day accumulated rainfall has shown that southwestern Ethiopia, central Kenya, central Uganda, and southern Somalia received below-average rainfall, which may indicate an early cessation in seasonal rainfall in Eastern Africa during December (**Figure 2**). Rainfall deficits ranged between 25-100 mm in southwestern Ethiopia, east-central Kenya, and southernmost Somalia. However, near-average to above-average rainfall was observed in southern Kenya, northeastern Tanzania, Rwanda, and Burundi. During the past week, dry conditions prevailed as rainfall season has also come to an end over the sub-region. Overall, the October-December rainfall season was characterized by a poor performance, with below-average rainfall during October, followed by near-average to above-average rainfall in November, and below-average rainfall in December. This erratic rainfall distribution has led to moderate to large seasonal rainfall deficits, which have already negatively impacted vegetation conditions and have resulted in drought in southern and central Somalia. The latest vegetation product still exhibited poor and below-average biomass conditions over central Somalia.

Next week, dry conditions are likely to continue in East Africa. Little to light rainfall is forecast in southern Kenya, Rwanda, and northern Tanzania.

30-Day Satellite Estimated Rainfall Anomaly (mm)
Valid: 02 December – 31 December 2024

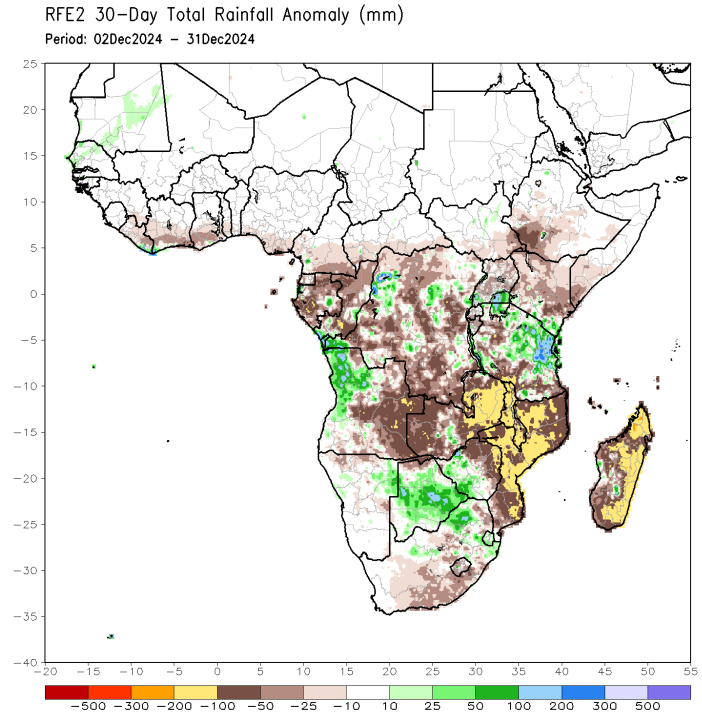
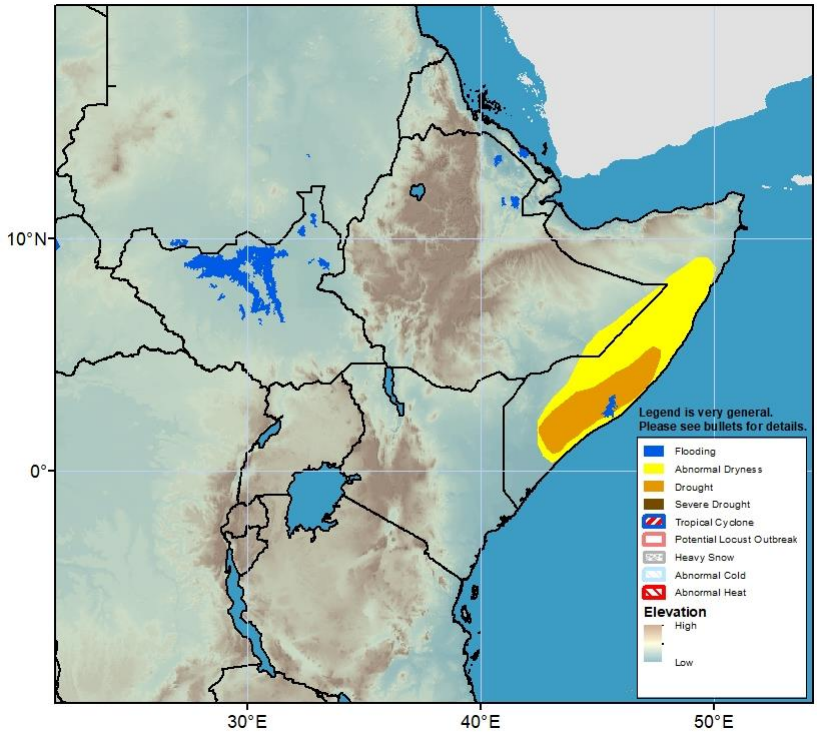
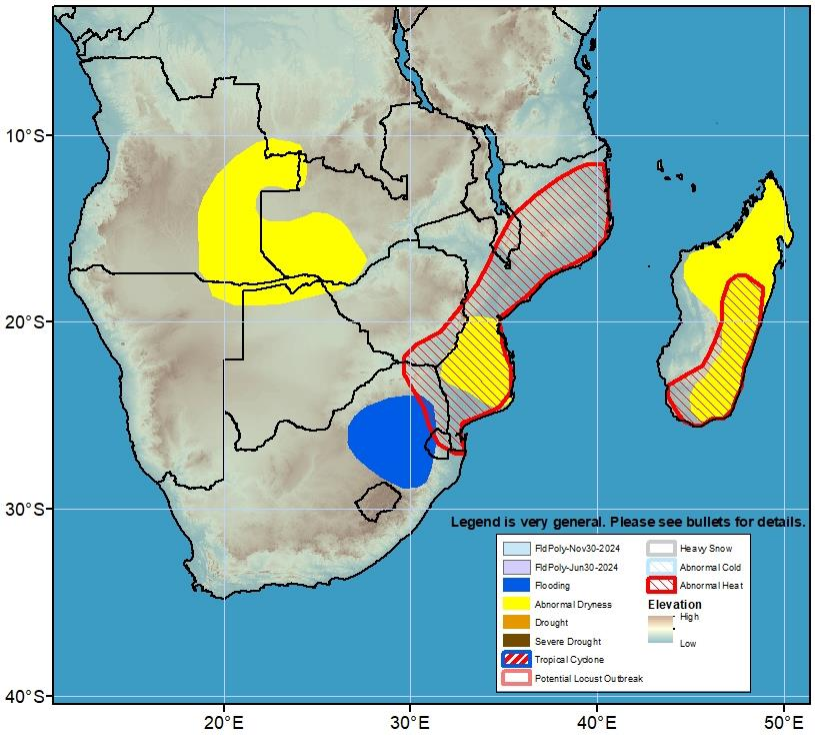


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC



Inundated areas have been persistent in the Sudd wetlands of South Sudan. There is a gradual improvement in inundation especially along the upstream White Nile. Although improving, inundation is detected in northeastern Ethiopia and Eritrea.
(Please note that the flood risk shape files are sourced from NOAA VIIRS).

Figure 3: Hazards, focused over Eastern Africa



The forecasted heavy rainfall increases the risks of flooding in eastern South Africa during the next week.

Figure 4: Hazards, focused over Southern Africa