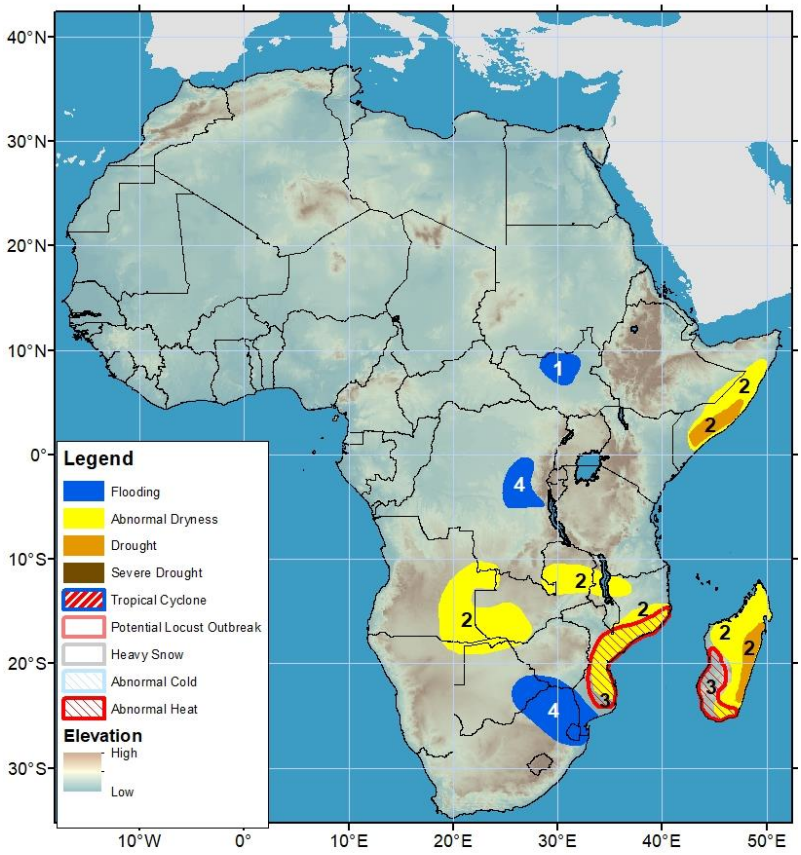
Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
For USAID / FEWS-NET
9 January – 15 January 2025

- **Eastern Southern Africa continues to experience hotter and drier-than-average conditions.**
- **Poor seasonal rainfall from October to December has resulted in 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 and northern Zambia, northern and central Malawi, northwestern, central and southern Mozambique, and Madagascar. Dry conditions have intensified in Madagascar, leading to drought along the eastern borders.

3) Abnormally-hot conditions are forecasted in central and southern Mozambique, and western 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) Since last week, heavy rainfall has impacted the central Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), especially in the Maniema province, leading to floods that have caused casualties and damage. Recent heavy rainfall has caused flooding and fatalities in Tshwane, South Africa. Forecasts predict more rain next week, increasing flooding risks in southeastern Botswana, southern Zimbabwe, southern Mozambique, northern and eastern South Africa, and Eswatini.

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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Heavy rainfall persists in central Southern Africa.

During the past week, while widespread moderate rainfall was received in the northern and central regions of Southern Africa, heavy rainfall occurred in northern Namibia, northern Botswana, central Zimbabwe, central Zambia, northern Mozambique, and the western part of Madagascar. Light rainfall was recorded in western and central Angola, southern Mozambique, western South Africa, and northern and central parts of Madagascar (**Figure 1**). Reports indicate flooding in Zambia and incidents of very high runoff in southern Zimbabwe during the last couple of days. For the past 30-days, the recent week's heavy rainfall has improved dryness over portions of central Southern Africa and resulted in rainfall surpluses in Namibia, Botswana, western Zimbabwe, northern and eastern parts of South Africa, and Eswatini. In contrast, drier-than-average conditions have continued in the eastern Southern Africa as insufficient rainfall persisted across western and eastern Zambia, Malawi, Mozambique and Madagascar over the past few weeks. The ongoing dryness has left thousands of hectares of rice fields in central and eastern Madagascar extremely dry, hindering farmers from planting rice. Additionally, abnormally-hot conditions continued in eastern Southern Africa during the past weeks, worsening dryness.

Next week, rainfall forecasts suggest widespread moderate to heavy rainfall over central and southeastern Southern Africa. Heavy rainfall is expected in eastern Botswana, southern Zimbabwe, northern and eastern South Africa, Eswatini, southern Mozambique, and the northern part of Madagascar. Moreover, little to light rain is forecast over much of Mozambique and central and southern Madagascar. Also, Tropical Depression 05, currently in the southwestern Indian Ocean, is forecast to hit northern Madagascar in the next few days. In contrast, large rainfall deficits (30-100 mm) are forecast in southwestern Angola, eastern Zambia, Malawi, much of Mozambique and Madagascar. Abnormally-hot conditions will continue in Mozambique and Madagascar, potentially affecting vulnerable people.

7-Day Satellite Estimated Total Rainfall (mm)
Valid: 01 January 2025 - 07 January 2025

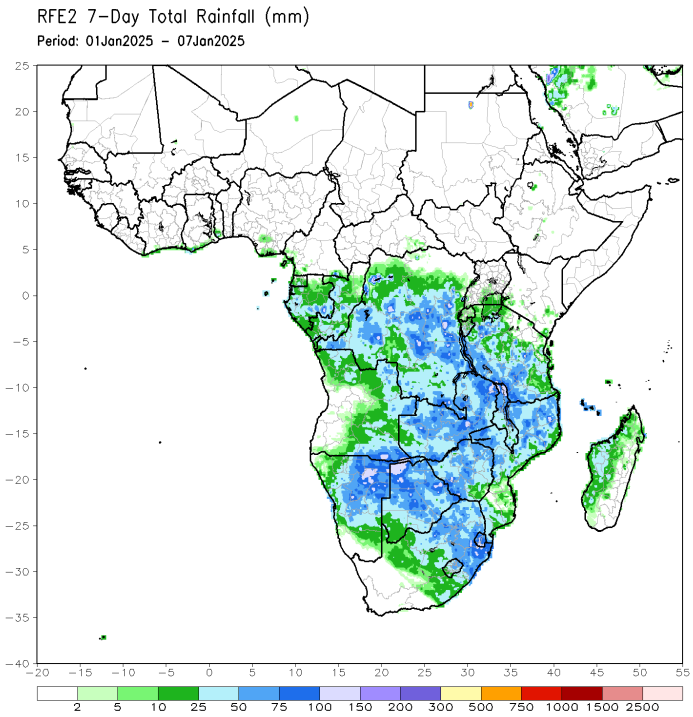


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

Early cessation of seasonal rainfall has led to ongoing dryness in Eastern Africa.

An analysis of the 30-day accumulated rainfall has shown that southwestern Ethiopia, central and eastern Kenya, central Uganda, and southern Somalia received below-average rainfall, which may indicate an early cessation in seasonal rainfall in Eastern Africa (**Figure 2**). The rainfall deficits ranged between 25-100 mm. In contrast, near-average to above-average rainfall was recorded in southern Uganda, southern Kenya, and northeastern Tanzania. During the past week, light to moderate rainfall occurred in much of Tanzania while most areas in the Eastern Africa remained dry. Dry conditions have persisted as the rainfall season concludes in the sub-region. The rainfall from October to December showed poor performance, beginning with below-average precipitation in October, transitioning to near-average to above-average rainfall in November, and ending with below-average rainfall in December. This inconsistent rainfall pattern has created moderate to significant seasonal deficits, severely affecting vegetation conditions and leading to drought in southern and central Somalia. The most recent vegetation product reveals poor and below-average biomass conditions in central Somalia.

30-Day Satellite Estimated Rainfall Anomaly (mm)
Valid: 09 December 2024 – 07 January 2025

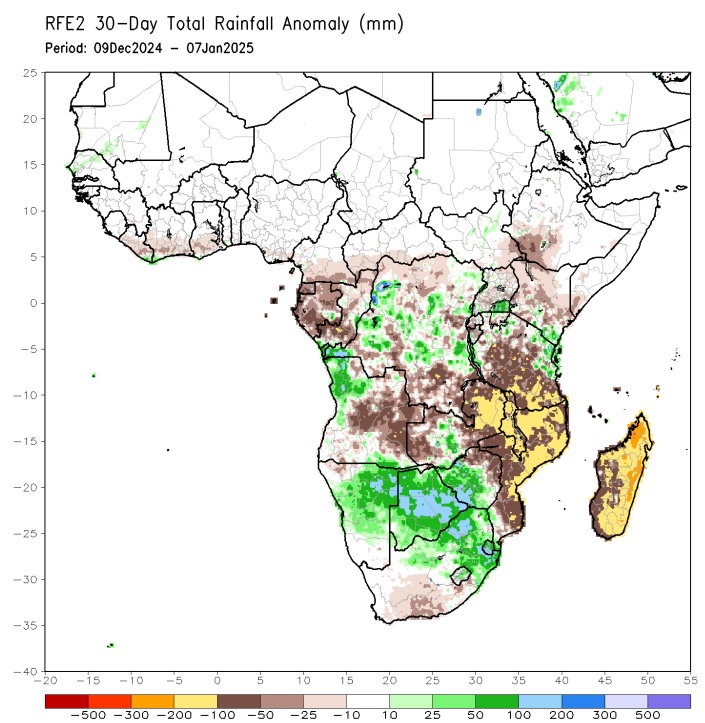
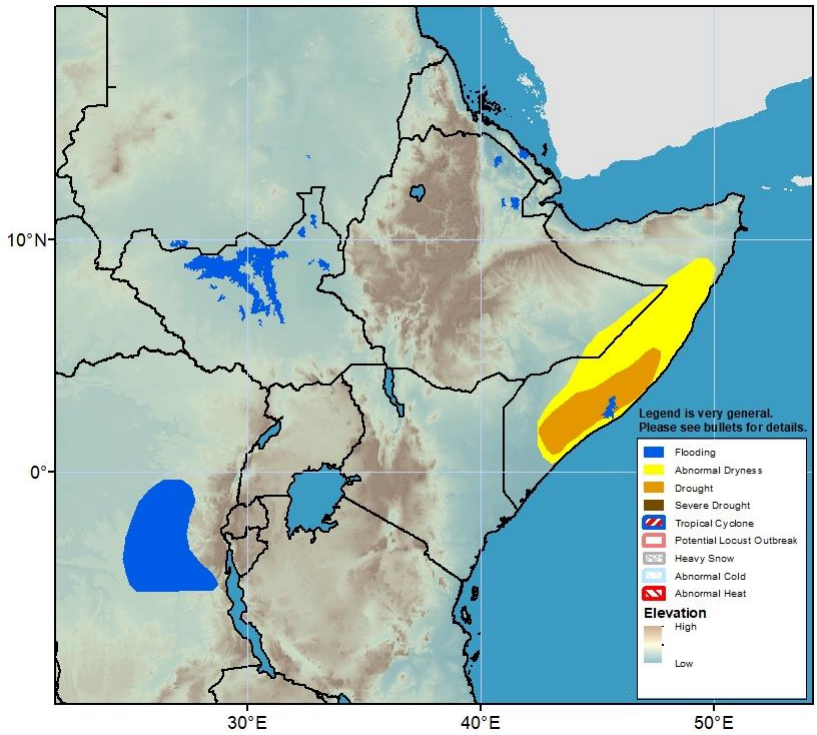


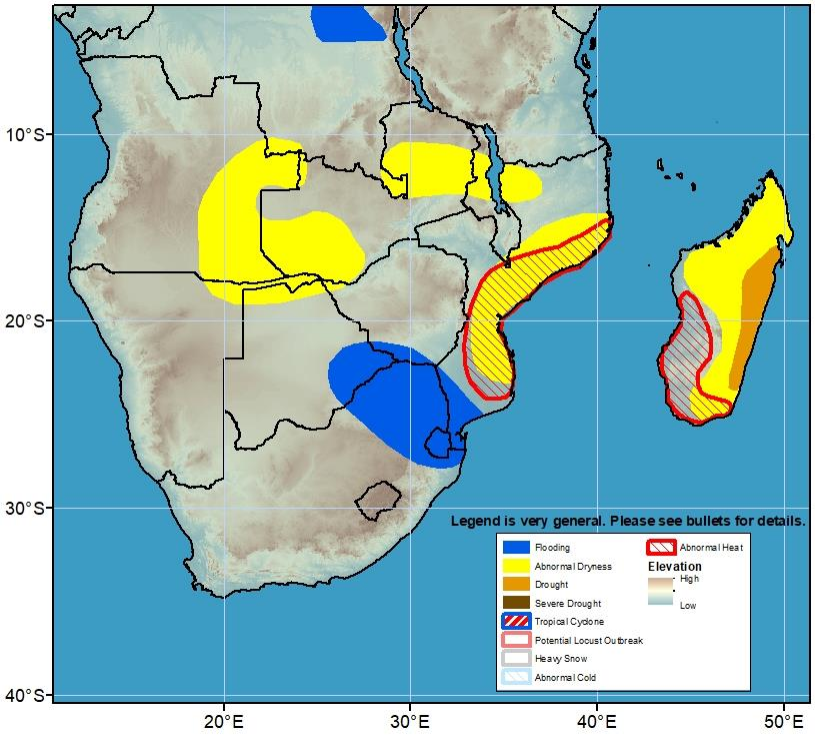
Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

Next week, dry conditions are likely to persist in East Africa. Light to moderate rain is predicted for Burundi and western Tanzania, while southern Kenya, Rwanda, and northern and eastern Tanzania may experience little to light rainfall.



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 southeastern Botswana, southern Zimbabwe, southern Mozambique, northern and eastern parts of South Africa, and Eswatini during the next week.

Figure 4: Hazards, focused over Southern Africa